



# The Flag and Whistle

Newsletter of the Soccer South Bay Referee Association

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P.O. Box 10466, Torrance, Ca 90505

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[www.ssbra.org](http://www.ssbra.org)

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Assignor: Bill Cook

Vice President: Gabriel Goldsman  
Training: Heidi Garlick

Secretary: Warren Howell  
Webmaster: Lee Jordan

Treasurer: Tom Mallen  
At Large: Paul Kelly

## MEMBERS ENGAGE IN MAJOR JAW-FLAPPING SESSION; NEWS ABOUT WALT HOOVLER SHARED; REFEREE SUFFERS MAJOR ON-THE-PITCH WARDROBE MALFUNCTION

Whether it was due to the holiday season, the relatively small crowd of around 50, or the inspiration of the Board, for some reason the group at the November 28 meeting were lively and talkative, with most of them speaking one or more times to the group at large. President **Ed McClure** started off the talk marathon with some words about how year 2006 had been a good one for SSBRA, with our Members in general doing a good, professional job on the pitch, the Association growing and more leagues becoming available to us. He then decided to introduce several newcomers, which were **Steve Fox** (not a relative of **Dennis Fox**), **Amanda Chavez** (definitive related to **Rudy Chavez**), and their friend **Melanie Veintimilla**. Not able to put it off any longer, Ed yielded the floor to Secretary **Warren Howell**. Warren then started mumbling that there were 166 names on the roster, the online version is now the official version, and that anyone having problems with it should contact him. He also said a few words about the Flag and Whistle, encouraging the Members to submit letter or stories, or otherwise letting their views and comments be known. Warren expressed his hope that, while the F&W is the official record of the Association and as such deals with many serious issues, it is also a way for the Membership to have some fun, and he hopes that the Members who see themselves portrayed therein in a lighthearted way will continue to take it in the way it is intended.

Having heard enough, Ed took back the floor, and started talking about how he wanted reports written for send-offs in the 7v7 (and 11v11) matches of SBS and EALA. He quickly added, before the Members could start protesting too much, that this would be difficult, given the lack of rosters and even uniform numbers in those leagues. Not being able to hold back any longer, Members **Derek Taylor, Jon Ziegler, Stuart Winter, Alan Sampson** and **Ernesto Perez** felt the need to share their views with the group, and did so to the benefit of all those within earshot. Changing topics, Ed then talked about his recent CYSA meetings. There are about 33 soccer referees associations in the general area, with perhaps 18 of those being predominantly Spanish-speaking, an observation that caused **Dan Damian** to address the gathering. Ed observed that there are, in general, too few referees to cover all the games, but that SSBRA is doing a stellar job of covering the fields it takes on, and we can anticipate all the games we can handle in the future. **Heidi Garlick** then posed a question about the extra \$15 USSF is charging for registration every year, what it was for, and if a budget was available for inspection (there is not). **Bill Mindlin** wanted to know if more higher level USSF-affiliated games would be available locally, as there is an ongoing problem with getting such games for needed maintenance and upgrade assessments. Ed had spoken to **Mr. Popejoy** of USSF on this subject, and reported that he was aware of the problem and trying to work around it as best as he could, which caused both **Ed Beverly** and **Marty Jeffers** to tell us what was on their minds.

Moving on, Treasurer **Tom Mallen** reported that there is \$5915 in the bank, with a few hundred still coming in, as SSBRA has, in some cases, paid several Members in advance of getting payment from the various leagues. As is his custom, he passed out checks to those deserving and present, and claimed that all the checks owed had been issued, leaving the Association up-to-date in that regard.

At Large Member **Paul Kelly** then gave an important speech about insurance in non-affiliated (currently non-CSL in our case) games, which are currently not covered for liability nor injury. His relentless investigation has come up with a solution: for about a \$1600 flat yearly fee, all Members could be covered for all games assigned by SSBRA. It was the overwhelming opinion of those at the meeting (a show of hands vote was taken in addition to listening to verbal comments) that this is something the Association should purchase, even if it resulted in a small increase in yearly dues. Because of the large expenditure of Members funds for this, it was suggested that an Email be sent to all the Members asking their opinion before making the commitment, while Paul continues to set things in motion. There were of course lots of comments on this, with many Members being heard, including Jon Ziegler, **Referee George Heggie**, Ed Beverly, **Brian Miller, Larry Stern, Marty Jeffers**, seldom heard-from **Pat Carlini, Lee Jordan, Suzanne Johnson**, Tom Mallen, Stuart Winter, and others. The Board promised to talk about it some more in closed session, which should guarantee that this subject is discussed into exhaustion by the time a conclusion is reached.

It was then Webmaster Lee Jordan's turn to report, in his role as leader of the ranking committee, on the progress made by that group. He told us that the first 70 or so referees had been re-ranked, and the results of this work would be presented to the full Board for approval and use for assigning – get in touch with him at [webmaster@ssbra.org](mailto:webmaster@ssbra.org) if you want to talk about your own ranking. Lee then mentioned that one could do a search of the game's database for a history of your own games etc., which caused Jon Ziegler and Ed McClure to chime in with their comments.

In the surprise of the evening, Vice-President **Gabriel Goldsman**, when given the floor, indicated that he had nothing to say, making him one of the very few there that could make such a claim that evening.

Not to be outdone, Assignor **Bill Cook** then took a turn at the talk-fest. He related for those who had not heard that long-time Member **Walt Hoovler** had suffered a stroke on the pitch this month, and only quick action by his teammates to get him urgent medical attention prevented an even greater disaster. Bill asked **Steve Brandon** to get up and tell the tale to the gathering, which he did, generously giving most of the credit for helping Walt to **Claudius Haynes** and **Musa Abdelshife**. Bill was able to report that Walt was at home going through rehabilitation. Showing that our friend still had the familiar spirit for which we have known him over the years, Bill reported that the first thing Walt said when he went to his house for a recent visit was “This su\_ks”! Bill encouraged the Members to pay him a visit and try to lift his spirits during his recovery. Shifting gears, Bill wanted to give a special thanks to those referees who participated in the Nov. 15 5v5 tournament for special needs kids. Bill said it was a joy to watch how the kids, some of whom had obviously never played before, gave it their all and enjoyed themselves to the max in the true spirit of what the Beautiful Game should be about. Those who were able to help out on a Wednesday were **Vince Delmonico, Lloyd Lehrer, Henry Gibson, Bob Slater, Larry Fuller, Jose Serrano, Rick Gates, Dean Thomas, Harry Ross, Veto Galati** and Bill.

At this point Dan Damian asked to speak to the group, and in doing so he presented an excellent and serious situation for the Members to consider. At a recent match, as an AR he witnessed the CR make a significant error on the Laws (allowing a sent-off player to be replaced on the field so that his team did not thereafter play short). When this error was clearly pointed out to the referee by the ARs, he would not budge and allowed the substitution. It was not until 10 – 15 minutes later that the situation was finally corrected. Dan’s question was, what are the AR’s responsibility when the referee has clearly made a serious error and will not accept corrective advice? Training Director Heidi Garlick took the floor to give an “official” answer; after being sure that the referee has heard you, go back to your AR position and keep doing your job, without answering sideline questions in a way to inflame the situation further (but report the incident to the Board later). Several others also expressed themselves at that point, including **Don Young**, Alan Sampson and Ed Beverly.

Continuing on, Bill Cook gave away some SSBRA badges and CSL books. He stated that while CSL and the J-leagues are done or about done, SBS and SBPSL are still going strong, and State Cup etc. will be here before you know it in February or so, to add to the 2000+ game we have already covered since September. Member **Steve Elliott** felt the need then to remind the group to not double book – if you have games from SSBRA then please block high school availability for that time, and vice versa. This inspired Ernesto and Suzanne to talk about past referee abuse incidents, for which it was suggested that you deal with it the best you can and be sure to write it up afterwards.

Steve then took the floor again for a formal training session, showing an MLS clip and discussing many points about Law 12, restarts and related stuff. This opened the flood gates of comments, with **Gene Ogle**, Steve Brandon, Pat Carlini (again!), Don Young, Brian Miller, Alan Sampson, Lee Jordan, Dan Damian, Derek Taylor, Jon Ziegler, **Kiku Annon, Keith Sena** and others all having their say.

As the Members were finally showing signs of tiring, the raffle prize of the evening was drawn, with seldom-seen Member **Paul Condran** being the lucky one having his name drawn. However, since he was not present, his prize was rolled over till the next meeting, and everyone went home.

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, November 28, 2006;**

- Three new Members were accepted; Amanda Chavez, Melanie Veintimilla and Steve Fox

- A game incident was discussed
- It was decided to remove a non-paying Member from the roster after all
- Insurance was discussed some more
- The next Board dinner to be on 12/14/2006, as decided by a coin flip between Warren and Lee due to conflicting schedules (Warren won)

### **USSF Registration Rules Explained (submitted by Penny Rehm);**

I wanted to thank all of you for your support and help in getting your officials registered again at your monthly meetings. This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> year that we have gone to the associations to help with the registration process and every year we get more officials attending to take the test and get their paperwork in. We registered over 1,500 officials at the local associations. I know this year was extremely challenging with the registration process changing from on-line to paper two weeks before we opened up the 2007 registration. With your help the last minute decision caused no impact at all to our officials.

Again, thank you, as I could not do this job without your support and help though out the year.

I have had numerous questions regarding when a referee has to be registered for 2007 in order to work USSF affiliated matches. There seems to be confusion with the June 30 deadline date. Below is directly from the current USSF Referee Administrative Handbook under the section "Referee Registration Instructions" which can be found at [www.ussoccer.com](http://www.ussoccer.com)

- Page 29, section 3 – When Referees are Considered Registered- State level referees and below are considered registered when the State Referee Administrator has received their completed registration form.
- Page 29, section 4 – Registration Deadline – **All re-certifying referees must be registered before they begin officiating games in a calendar year.**
- Page 32, section 7 – Registration Period – Referees **are registered annually for the period January 1 to December 31** Current year Referee, Assignor, Instructor and Assessor registration forms are accepted by the National Office from September 01 of the previous year to June 30 of the current year (10 months).

So in summary, even though a referee has until June 30 to register for a current year, they can not work USSF affiliated matches until they are registered for that calendar year. If you have any questions regarding the above please feel free to contact me by either phone or email.

Penny (penny@peprgraphics.com)

### **Tales from the Past (submitted by J. B. McGuire);**

Somehow, tonight, I happened to stumble across the SSBRA history on the internet. It really brought back a lot of memories. In the history, about 1/3 the way down the second page, I even found my own name, as "...one J. B. McGuire". Well, I am he.

Actually, I was both a practicing lawyer and a referee in those days. I began doing games in AYSO when my four kids were playing. As much as they enjoyed it, I really got hooked. I moved on up into high-school games, college, and semi-pro games at Daniels. Finally, about the time I became so intimately involved with SSBRA, I moved up into working NASL and ASL games.

For a short time, while George was running the show and we were working on the bylaws, I was also the SSBRA Secretary. All that came to a screeching halt when I went through a messy divorce, a wonderful remarriage, and a move to the San Francisco area. I guess the funniest part of this phase was that I proposed to my current wife one night while she was helping me address and stuff envelopes in October of 1978 for an SSBRA meeting.

I'll not bore you with any more details, but did want to let you know that some of us really old folks are still around and watching the things you youngsters are doing with and to our old organization. I recognized many of the names in the history, but I don't suppose many of them would remember me 25+ years later. On the other hand, if you run into **George**

Faragallah or Dio Cordero, please give them my very best.

Thanks for letting an old man rant a bit, and good luck. Most of all, though, have fun with the Beautiful Game!

All the best,  
J B McGuire  
[jb@jbandm.com](mailto:jb@jbandm.com)

## NEXT MONTHLY MEETING

**AS IS THE LONG-HELD CUSTOM, THERE WILL BE, ALAS, NO MEETING IN DECEMBER, NOR (GASP!) A FLAG AND WHISTLE FOR DECEMBER 2006. THE NEXT MEETING IS ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 30, 2007, AT 7:30 P.M. IN THE LIBRARY OF NORTH TORRANCE HIGH SCHOOL, YUKON AND 182<sup>ND</sup> ST., WHEREIN BEVERAGES AND FOOD ARE PROHIBITED BY THE SCHOOL. AGENDA IS TO BE DETERMINED.**

### **The Emperor Has No Clothes** (submitted by W. Howell);

On the Friday after Thanksgiving a group of SSBRA Members found themselves in the pleasant situation of officiating on two side-by-side fields at the well-run CSL Irvine Strikers tournament. As the sun went down and the lights went on, one referee team had to do a quick shirt change just before a match to avoid a color conflict, and rushed out to start the game. It was immediately noticed that assistant referee Ed McClure had chosen to keep his shirttail out completely, hanging down to mid-thigh or thereabouts all around. With Marty Jeffers being absent, no one pointed this out to Ed as the match got under way. A debate then started among a group of referees idling on the sideline (due to a forfeit on the adjacent field) as to whether someone should tell Ed to tuck in his shirt. But, since he is both The President AND a USSF Grade 5, it was thought that perhaps he had some insight into a new FIFA directive or some such, so all there were hesitant to say anything. After a while though, to no one's surprise (refer to F&W issue of 10/2006), Derek Taylor could not contain himself, and yelled "Ed, your shirt is out!" while waving to get his attention. Ed noticed Derek's gesture, and happily waved back, but kept his nightshirt-like attire unchanged. Assuming that His Highness must know what he was doing, no more was said. At half-time Ed noticed his wardrobe fault himself and started blaming all those there for not telling him and causing embarrassment - he claimed that he could not hear what Derek was saying when he shouted but assumed that Derek was only offering words of encouragement. Things did not improve much in the matches after that either, the last of the day. At half-time the tournament officials generously offered AR Warren Howell all the hamburgers left on the grill that he wanted. Warren thoughtfully grabbed all he could carry, and presented them to the resting referee teams, who quickly started chowing down. But with only a 5 minute half-time interval in effect, the Members were still eating as they rushed back to the pitch to start the second half - this included A.R. Warren, who, with the encouragement of the tournament officials and sidelines, happily restarted the match with a flag in his right hand and the remains of his hamburger in the left. Awkwardness quickly was visited upon him however, as the ball went over the touchline and he had to signal a direction to referee Gabriel Goldsman. Since he could not change the flag to his left hand (it being occupied with the burger), Warren ingeniously used the infamous George Heggie flag-arm-held-across-the-body signal. This so startled Gabriel that he actually stumbled, and only quick footwork prevented a fall and further embarrassment. Shortly thereafter, the hamburger was finished, and the game continued without further incident into the night.