



# The Flag and Whistle

## Newsletter of the Soccer South Bay Referee Association

January 31, 2006

P.O. Box 10466, Torrance, CA 90505

Editor: Warren Howell

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

President: Ed McClure

Vice President: Gabriel Goldsman

Secretary: Warren Howell

Treasurer: Tom Mallen

Assignor: Bill Cook

Training: Heidi Garlick

Webmaster: Lee Jordan

At Large: Paul Kelly

### BOARD TO SPEND A BIG SUM OF MEMBER'S MONEY AND ASK FOR MORE; DAN BLAMES BILL FOR HIS PROBLEMS; GEORGE EXPLAINS

Either as a method to give the Members what they wanted to hear as soon as possible, or perhaps to get it out of the way, President **Ed McClure** started off the January meeting with the report of secretary **Warren Howell**. He didn't have a lot to say, but took some time to say it anyway, mentioning that the roster had been cleaned-up a bit for readability, and that Warren was willing to help any Member having trouble with the online system. He also shared with the gathering that he was working with assignor **Bill Cook** and Cal South to get a handle on who was (re)certified with USSF for 2007, and to help those having problems. Ed then took back the floor, and launched into a request to call the EALA, SBPSL and SBS games tighter, per the request of the players and the leagues, in the interests of safety and fairness. This was met with interest, and caused **Rudy Chavez** to share his thoughts on the subject with the group. At Ed's request, long time Member **Dick Lujan** was asked to report to the group on the progress of our good friend and fellow Member **Walt Hoovler**. We were all happy to hear that Walt is recovering well, and might make an appearance at a meeting and even on the pitch in the near future. Continuing to share in pleasant stuff, **Joe Robolotto** said to tell everyone "hi" from past Member and President **Vladimir Wergeles**, who is doing well in Florida but still thinks of his California friends. Ed then announced that our own **Frank Troeger**

had secured a nomination as Referee of the Year (see below). After mentioning that the Soccer Nation event was coming up on 2/17, Ed starting sharing the agenda items discussed when he and Bill went to the State Cup meeting recently (see below), with the highlights being to follow the team check-in procedures exactly, and to enjoy the wearing of hats by ARs and the new rate of \$1.40 a minute. Nearly everyone had an opinion on State Cup and was willing to share it, so the group had a session at this point to exchange views, with Joe Robelotto, **Kirk Zielomski**, **Derek Taylor**, **Larry Savell**, **Ed Beverly**, **Dan Ayala**, and **Larry Stern** all making themselves heard.

In an attempt to restore order, Treasurer **Tom “TTTT” Mallen** gave his report, telling us there was \$5441 in the bank. He also said that 1099/W-9 forms were now required for the first time. This news caused **Stuart Winter**, Ed Beverly, Derek Taylor and **Don Young** to share their knowledge and opinions.

After Tom’s important news, even more significant stuff was brought before the group as Member at Large **Paul Kelly** presented the latest on group liability and medical insurance. After exhaustive and exhausting research and discussion, the Board has decided to go ahead and purchase insurance for each Member out of current funds. At the June meeting, it is anticipated that the Board will ask for a \$10 increase in dues to cover the ongoing cost, an increase that must be voted on and approved by the Members. No one present had any objections, and Dan Ayala, Larry Savell, Joe Robelotto, Ed Beverly and **Dan Damian** offered their thoughts and approvals.

The referee no-show/late situation was then the next topic of conversation. The Board strongly feels that the other Members of the referee team should take action (call someone) if they see that a referee is late, including at the one-man SBS games. A recent late/no-show was then used as an example as to how these bad situations can be handled, at which point Dan Damian confessed that he was the culprit. This brought down a chorus of boos and catcalls upon Dan, who then tried to explain it away by blaming Bill for changing his assignment or something. The Members would have none of it, and a fresh avalanche of catcalls and mild insults filled the air, at which point Dan wisely decided to sit down and be quiet. Furthering the discussion, the gathering also heard from **Rick Gates**, **Steve McCall** and **Steve Brandon** on this serious subject.

Moving on to more pleasant things, **Rick Roberts** (with the help of encouraging words from **Brian O’Donnell**) stood up and outlined the start of the Mentoring program – contact him directly if you want to participate.

After the introduction and welcome of first time attendees **Ryan Cho** and **Tino Perone** (both of which were known to some of the Members already from participation in other soccer organizations), Webmaster **Lee Jordan** took a turn addressing the group. He asked those present if SSBRA should consider a group buy of matching warm-up suits so as to look more like a team at our matches. After hearing from Joe Robelotto, **Heidi Garlick**, and **James Lucania** and an informal show of hands, it was decided that a high level of interest existed and Lee would look into it some more. Heidi then spoke to the crowd in her capacity as Training Director, and encouraged all of us to always do the best we could on the pitch and raise our personal games to the next level, working on both our fitness and asking for assessments and comments from other referees as to how we can improve. As a closing note, Bill then informed us that well-known coach **Jim Lilly** had been complaining to reporters, berating players, and so forth lately, all of which is hard for the soccer community to tolerate.

And finally, Tom Mallen then drew the winning name for the raffle, which turned out to be **Harry Ross**. Alas, Harry was not present, the prize was rolled over to the next month’s drawing, and everyone went home.

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, November 9, 2006;**

- A card and flowers will be sent to Walt Hoovler’s nurse
- Proposed EALA contract discussed

- No response to the proposed J-league contract has been received
- Eleven referees assigned to the 11/15 special Olympics-related tournament
- Walt dodged a bullet, is recovering, with **Claude Haynes** and Steve Brandon saving the day. It is suggested we encourage the referee teams to look out for each other, for health and other problems
- SBPSL request discussed
- A Member will be invited to speak to the Board and explain his recent actions
- **Raffele D'Eusebio** accepted as a new Member
- Paul continues to research insurance for the Members
- Raffle discussed
- EALA payment received, recent referee complaint discussed
- Seventy Members have been ranked
- Gabriel working on activating welcome wagon
- An incident at SBS matches discussed and will be further researched

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, December 14, 2006;**

- Recent actions of an ex-Member discussed
- EALA contract should be signed soon. An EALA request was discussed and rejected, as was a similar request from SBS
- Lack of USSF affiliation in many local leagues and the effect on SSBRA discussed
- Too many referee reports are being submitted as e-mail, they should be on the proper forms
- Automatic e-mail game reminders to referees are not needed
- Frank Troeger to be nominated by SSBRA as referee of the year
- Still no response to proposed J-league contract
- Three separate cases of referee late/no-shows discussed, fines to be issued in accordance with the bylaws
- Refunds to SBPSL and SBS agreed to
- Ed wants game watches to start on time
- An application of sorts for Membership was rejected
- Paul reports that insurance research is ongoing
- SPAM discussed
- Tom reports \$5848.56 in the bank. He is working on a formal budget, and presented same to the Board
- Ranking were approved
- Up to 5 yearly visits by USSF instructors are available for SSBRA meetings
- Welcome Wagon, Green Card and Mentoring programs all discussed
- Warren to clean-up online roster
- Paul to address the monthly meeting on the evils of no-shows
- Ed complemented the Board on a good year and job well done

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, January 18, 2007;**

- 1099s to be issued for year 2006 per Tom Mallen
- EALA owes money, not been sent yet though play to resume in March
- J-league to start 2/3
- A long discussion took place relating to two late/no-show referees and their fines
- Applications for Membership for **Brian Egughi** and **Aliso Antoci** were approved
- Paul presented the low-down on the Member insurance, which was discussed at length
- Ranking of lower Members to be looked at by Lee
- **Lee Popejoy** and his instructors discussed, Heidi working with **Bob Bobadilla** to improve teacher certification situation
- Welcome Wagon and Mentoring programs were talked about

- State Cup is starting, \$1.40 a minute and AR hats to be allowed
- The Soccer Nation show is on 2/17
- Possible youth camp nominees were considered
- Bill proposed that a program to recognize senior SSBRA Members be started
- The Board heard and expressed opinions on a recent complaint against a member

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, January 30, 2007;**

- Applications for Membership for Ryan Cho and Tino Perone were accepted, bringing the total number of Members on the roster to 172

## **Well Deserved (CAL-SOUTH announcement and SSBRA nomination)**

Last Saturday we held the 2006 Recognition dinner with lots of fun, good food and recognizing excellent achievements. One of the various recognition categories was the Soccer Referee Association (SRA) Referee of the Year award. This recognition is intended to have the SRC join with each of the SRAs in Cal South in order to recognize the ROY within each SRA.

All of the Referee of the Year selections, within their respective SRAs, are excellent examples of role models to follow. They all have common qualities... significant contributions to the game, great attitude, willingness to share and help others, and just an overall good service and leadership quality about themselves. This is what made it very difficult to select the Cal South nominee for the 2006 Region IV Referee of the year.

It is our honor and pleasure to select Mr. Frank Troeger from the SSBRA as the Cal South nominee and we will forward his name to the appropriate Region IV committee. Please ask your membership to join us in congratulating all of the nominees and Mr. Troeger for their successful contributions to soccer.

Pictures and notes about the recognition dinner will be available at the SRC website, [californiareferee.org](http://californiareferee.org) soon.

Thank you.

SRC

Frank Troeger began his refereeing career in 1969 with AYSO in the South Bay. As time moved on, Frank began refereeing with USSF in 1974. As his skills increased in the 80's, Frank secured his Grade 5 badge, which he has since exchanged for a State Emeritus badge. Mr. Troeger has the distinction of being the founding President of SSBRA in 1976 for a period of 3 years. In addition to those duties, he also performed the assignor duties for 10 years - in those early "non-computer" years, paper, pencil and a rotary phone were the only tools of the trade. Frank also served USSF by being an instructor for 2 years and an assessor for 4 years. Other soccer related accomplishments: an assessor and instructor for NFHS and an assessor for NISOA. Today Frank continues to perfect his refereeing skills at the age of 75 with USSF and NFHS. He also continues to give back to the refereeing community by mentoring youth and newer referees within the association. During his 32 years of service to USSF, Frank Troeger has been, and continues to be, a valued member of the refereeing community both on and off the pitch.

## **Official 2007 State Cup Guidelines Revealed**

- Over 2000 teams will entered the State Cup Tournament
- Last year every match was covered by 3-man system
- SSBRA was one of two associations that were recognized as top level referee association at State Cup for covering all assigned games with 3-man system, keeping games on time and performing in a professional manner.

- Last years Regional Final – Cal South Referees were the most watched referees in the tournament by other referees.
- Gas reimbursement money will be give to drivers of carpool vehicles which contain (3) or more officials at the site. Over 50 miles - \$25, Over 100 miles - \$50
- All matches at State Cup and National Cup will be covered by 3-man system
- No sunglasses! – Exceptions will be accepted with doctor's note or prescription.
- For the first time, Only Solid Black (Standard Baseball type) hats will be allowed to be worn by the asst. referees only at the direction of the center referee. Here are some possibly for a hat to be unacceptable: any Logos or Trademarks showing, any embroidering of any color, colored trim, faded black, dark blue, sweat stained, etc.... Asst referees that do not conform to this request will be asked to remove the hat. Replacement black hats that meet the specified requirements will be available for sale at site for referees.
- No hats for Center Referee.
- From U13 on down, a referee may be assigned as much as 4 games max in one day, regardless if that person is refereeing for more than one association.
- From U14 and up, a referee may be assigned as much as 3 games max in one day, regardless if that person is refereeing for more than one association.
- Hotel rooms are being offer and should be coordinated with Bill Cook.
- Arrive at the tournament site in time to check-in with tournament referee coordinators, plus arrive at assigned field 30 minutes before the schedule Kick-off time.
- Late Referees may be replaced as soon as 15 minutes before Kick-off
- Perform standard team check-in using only State Cup rosters that have been stamped off by State Cup tournament officials.
- Start the Game on time and keep them on time. If you get behind schedule let the field coordinator know.
- Make it priory One to ensure that player cards are returned to the teams and to get signatures on rosters
- Pull player cards that have been issued a straight Send-off (Red Card) and fill-out referee report.
- No games on Feb 17<sup>th</sup> due to Cal South Soccer Nation Convention.

### **More Players, Less Injuries** (recent news article)

After reaching a peak....in 2000, the number of children injured playing soccer in the U.S. has begun a gradual decline according to a study..... Overall, the number of soccer injuries among children ages 2 to 18 have in fact increased....from 1990 (from 100,000 to 120,000 according to the study). But the number of players has skyrocketed: There has been a more than doubling of high school players, from 305,000 to 660,000. What this tells us is actually soccer is less dangerous than it was in 1990. According to previous studies of high school sports injuries, soccer ranks about in the middle, about equal to boy's wrestling and girl's basketball..... boys were more likely to be hospitalized than girls, with about 59% of the injuries.



**Do Not Try This at Home (Peter Crouch of Liverpool in action);**



**Soccer Referee Praised by an Unlikely Correspondent (news article by Grahame L. Jones)**

The man who produced the most noteworthy performance at the Home Depot Center on Tuesday night was not a player at all, or even a coach. It was a referee – **Toledo Baldomero**. For as long as anyone can remember, Mexico teams have complained about the quality of officiating when they travel north of the border. They believe American-trained referees appointed by U.S. soccer are inferior, do not know the nuances of the sport and all too frequently make bad calls. But on Tuesday night in Carson, Baldomero showed conclusively that not all American referees are bad. Some, in fact, are as good as or better than their Mexican counterparts. Baldomero called 23 fouls, about evenly split between Tigres and Necaxes, and did not once resort to yanking a yellow card or a red card from his pocket. Baldomero's best call was a non-call. It came in the 69<sup>th</sup> minute, when Necaxa's **Osvaldo Lucas** was bundled over at the edge of the penalty area. The ball bounced loose and **Moreno** slammed it into the

Tigres net from 19 yards out. Baldomero could have nullified the goal and awarded Nexcaxa a penalty kick, or at the very least a free kick, but his crucial split-second delay allowed a deserved goal from the run of play. Tigres players did not complain.

### **Meanwhile in Another Sport** (recent news article)

Official **Rodney Mott** was suspended three games without pay for making an obscene gesture toward a fan and also using inappropriate language. Mott made the gesture and remarks after the Portland Trail Blazers 93-90 loss to the Miami Heat in Portland. Mott, 49, is in his ninth season as an NBA official.

### **And Elsewhere at Other Venues** (recent news article)

ROME (CNN) -- Italy's cabinet will decide Wednesday on proposals that would bar soccer fans from stadiums during matches unless immediate measures are taken to ensure the safety of those fans, a government official said Monday. The plan, announced by Interior Minister **Giuliano Amato**, comes three days after a police officer was killed in rioting during and after a game in Catania, Sicily. Under the proposal, fans would not be allowed to attend games inside stadiums that fail to take heightened security measures. Instead, the games will be played behind closed doors until such measures are instituted, he said. The cabinet will also decide Wednesday when play can resume. Weekend matches were canceled in the wake of the killing.

## **NEXT MONTHLY MEETING**

**THE NEXT MEETING IS ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 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.**

### **Now it Starts to Make Sense** (by **George Heggie**, as told to W. Howell):

George and Warren, friends from many games together over the years, were once again on the pitch recently when the conversation turned to George's infamous custom of crossing his right arm (the one holding the flag) over his body to signal a direction to his left when he is performing his A.R. duties. George explained that he developed the habit many years ago on a hot day. The center referee on this day was ignoring his AR's completely, including George, acting as if they did not exist. After the third or fourth missed flag, the spectators on George's side started quietly complaining, and after a blatant missed offside flag, became even more vocal, commenting to George "that referee is stinking up the joint!" Always being an agreeable fellow, George started waving the flag back and forth in front of his body in order to dissipate the stench, a habit that remains to this day.

### **Everyone's a Wise Guy These Days** (submitted by W. Howell):

It was a fine day in January, the heart of the high school soccer season. The referee sometimes known as the Large Member was assigned to a double header at Beverly Hills High School with an old friend, **Chris Nevil**. Though not currently a Member of SSBRA, Chris is well known throughout the area both for his refereeing, and also for

his many hours of administrative service in various capacities in support of youth soccer. The Large Member, having obtained the coveted and prestigious title of **Lead Referee** for the match, arrived on the pitch a few minutes ahead of Chris, and began his officious, pompous and important pre-game duties, which included putting on a blue long-sleeve referee shirt. Chris arrived shortly thereafter, wearing his yellow shirt, and immediately started questioning the Large Member (aka L.M.):

Chris: Why are we wearing blue instead of yellow?

L.M.: First of all, I am the Lead Referee and it is my decision to make. Second, Beverly Hills is wearing their traditional orange, which is somewhat conflicting with yellow. Third, BOTH goalkeepers are wearing yellow. And finally, but most important of all, I look good in blue.

Chris: You think you look good in blue?

L.M.: Yes, actually I do look good in blue.

Chris: Would you like a second opinion?

L.M.: @#!\$%&^\$!#\*&

### **What is that Thing?** (submitted by W. Howell):

To the surprise of all those present, the teams and officials were at Manhattan Beach Middle School on a January Sunday morning to have a scheduled SBPSL O/40 match. This was unexpected, because the night before saw a downpour, and the field was a mess – unhindered by grass, drainage nor any other impediment, large pools of standing water several inches deep on top of bottomless mud were all over the pitch, which was otherwise in poor shape anyway. However, the school had not canceled the permit, and everyone showed up ready to play. The referee, Dick Lujan (with assistants **Gabriel Goldsman** and Warren Howell), called the coaches and players together, and a long discussion took place, trying to decide if the match should be played or not because of the obvious safety issues to the players on such a dangerous surface. It was eventually decided by consensus (including player Steve McCall) that the game would proceed, despite the quagmire. Dick blew the whistle, and the match started. Several minutes into the first half, Dick called for a direct kick foul near mid-field (and the largest pool of standing water). As everyone readied for the restart, one of the players started whining to Dick about something or other as he was backing away from the spot of the kick, and Dick turned his body to reply, only about 5 yards from the ball. At that moment, the free kick was taken with full force, striking Dick flush in the side of the face, the blow driving him head first into the deepest part of the puddle. Upon Dick hitting the water and muck, a fountain of mud was seen to erupt into the air, not unlike what can be viewed at the famous bubbling mud pots of Yellowstone National Park, with Dick nearly disappearing from view into the bog. To everyone's further concern, Dick did not immediately get up, making the participants think that either he was seriously injured, or perhaps he just liked wallowing in the mud like a hog. Everyone rushed to his aid, but still it took several minutes before Dick cleared his head and determined he was uninjured. With assistance, Dick arose dripping from the swamp, the sight of which suggested to some of those present of what our Sumo friends would look like if they practiced their wrestling in the mud, while others were reminded of the rise of the Creature from the Black Lagoon. After retiring to the sideline to get a new whistle, cards and other critical but non-mud encrusted equipment, the match finally continued. Fortunately, neither Assessor Larry Stern nor Assignor Bill Cook were present, or Dick would have been charged with a handful of demerits for his head-to-toe coating of Manhattan Beach muck - no amount of on-field cleaning was able to repair Dick's appearance, and he had to retire at the end of the day to his house to be hosed down in his yard. Both of the games scheduled for that field were played in full in spite of the awful conditions, with the pitch being a disaster by the end of the last match.



**Voted Best Soccer-related Cartoon of Year 2006;**



## **Sad News**

With all the sadness and trauma going on in the world at the moment, it is worth reflecting on the death of a very important person, which almost went unnoticed last month.

**Larry LaPrise**, the man that wrote "The Hokey Pokey," died peacefully at the age of 93. The most traumatic part for his family was getting him into the coffin. They put his left leg in. And that's when the trouble started...

Shut up. You know it's funny, even if it has nothing to do with soccer.