



# The Flag and Whistle

Newsletter of the Soccer South Bay Referee Association

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

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## SSBRA TOP 10 LIST REVEALED; SOCCER NEWS FROM CROATIA; YOU WANT PICTURES? YOU GOT PICTURES

Secretary **Warren Howell** started off the monthly meeting by stating that there was an error in the last F&W. This fact apparently did not surprise **Derek Taylor** in the least, as he started in on his usual complaints about the newsletter. On the other hand, **Kiku Annon** chose earlier in the evening to take a different tack than Derek, scoring points with the Board by telling the current secretary that she read and enjoyed the F&W every month that it came out. In any event, the misinformation was that the term of President at the May AGM election will be for a one year term only, not two. Moving on, Warren then introduced prospective Member **Nina Keifer** to the crowd, who received the usual warm SSBRA welcome and encouragement.

Continuing with more good things, **Rick Roberts** then presented **Bridgette Barden** (see picture below) the annual Sportsmanship award and a \$150 check. She seemed pleased and thanked SSBRA warmly, with the Members rising as one for a standing ovation.

It was then time for the new Center Circle Award presentations, honoring long-serving and well-deserving Members for their service to the Association and soccer (see pictures below). The three honorees are:

- **Joe Robelotto:** As **Gabriel Goldsman** pointed out, Joe moved to California from New York in 1969, where he earned a USSF grade 5 badge, served as President of the high school group, as President and Secretary of SSBRA in the early years, and continues as a certified USSF Assessor. Nowadays he arranges the assigning for the Watts Summer Games, which he immediately made a pitch for (causing some in the crowd to groan and make good-natured protests). **Dan Damian** also had to make a comment, though not before the Members gave Joe a long and loud standing ovation.

- **Frank Troeger:** Started refereeing back in 1968, eventually earning a USSF grade badge 5, Frank is a former President and Assignor of USSF, and has been involved in various functions in support of the Beautiful Game for decades. The Members again rose as one for a warm ovation to honor our friend as President **Ed McClure** gave him his plaque.

- **Billy Cooke:** Introduced by his long-time friend and student **Heidi Garlick**, Billy's career is almost bigger than life, including as it does a USSF grade 3 rating, numerous top level professional matches, and long time live-in manager duties at the Nansen facility. Though he took the occasion to announce his retirement from active games, the crowd would not be dissuaded from once again rising for an ovation.

Taking back the floor after all the celebrations, Ed McClure announced that the AGM and elections on May 29 would be in the parking lot of a Lamppost Pizza (see below for details), followed by the usual party and carryings on inside. Inspired by the news, Dan Damian, Derek Taylor, **Rudy Chavez, Ed Beverly, Marty Jeffers** and **Vince Delmonico** decided to address the gathering, though it was unclear if anyone was really listening to whatever it was they were saying.

Treasurer **Tom Mallen** informed us that there is \$2587.08 in the bank, with EALA owing us a goodly sum even though SSBRA was no longer doing games for them. He talked about some EALA checks being due Members while SSBRA had fronted most other payments, insurance payments, raising dues etc. (Editor's note – EALA did pay all the monies due a few days later).

General discussion on various topics then ensued, with the 19% Soccer One discount, embroidered warm-up jackets (at \$40 a bargain for the whole outfit, which has proven to be both warm and water-proof), referee development program being now on the website, and lack of interest in the Welcome Wagon program. Several of the Members shared their views again, among them Derek, **Pablo Diaz, Larry Savell**, and Rick Roberts.

The ever-popular Assignor **Bill Cook** then took a turn addressing the crowd, thanking those who participated in the recent State Cup matches. He stated that “we must be doing something right,” as SSBRA was given a number of finals, including GU18, BU19, and U14/U15 matches to cover. National Cup matches were coming up also this weekend. In other news, Bill told us that we have lost the EALA league, as they in turn have lost their field, but SBS now has matches for us to cover 7 days a week, with a 7v7 league in Torrance starting up soon and a Sand tournament in June. Memorial Day tournaments are also coming, with plenty of games available this summer. Bill stated that there are as many games to be had out there as our Members want, just let him know how many to commit to by keeping your availability up to date both through the regular system and via e-mails as needed. This resulted in several comments and questions from the Members as Bill spoke: Dan D, **Veto Galati** and Rick Roberts all addressed the group.

Taking the floor again, Warren presided over the nominations for office. One nomination each was recorded for the three offices up for election:

- President; Ed McClure
- Vice President; **Paul Kelly**
- Treasurer; Tom Mallen

Having heard enough from Warren, Ed M. took back the floor, and talked about a number of proposed bylaw changes (see full text below) that would be voted on in May, with the most interesting one being the \$10 increase in annual dues. Naturally this could not go by without discussion, with Dan D., Vince, Ed B., Joe R., Rudy, Warren, Pablo, Larry Savell and **Ryan Cho** letting their voices be heard.

Editor's note; An amendment to the bylaws was submitted in writing by Ryan Cho, which would have lowered the minimum age of Membership to 12 from 14. The Board researched this issue, and after discussion voted unanimously that they could not support it due to concerns about the true status of 12 year old independent contractors, the lack of matches they could be reasonably assigned to, etc. Ryan was told this, and also told that he could go forward with his amendment anyway, as Board approval is not required. However, after discussion and reflection, he decided to withdraw his proposal. It is not published here, nor will it be voted on at the AGM in May.

In the monthly effort to teach new tricks to old and young dogs alike, **Heidi Garlick** then took over the meeting, and encouraged any of us who come up injured, sick etc. when assigned a game(s) to give Bill a call and seek a replacement, rather than try to drag yourself through the game and give a sub-par performance. Of course sometimes a replacement is not available and one has to limp through as best as you can, but at least give Bill a call when things go bad. **Steve Elliott** then began one of his enjoyable sessions, encouraging and getting a large amount of interaction with the referees on hand. Videos, still pictures, penalty kicks, trifling fouls, stopping the game for bookings, trickery and "letting the punishment fit the crime" were some of the things talked about and on display, with **Dave Dillard, Ralph Quiroz, Steve McCall**, Larry S., Bill Cook, Derek, Vince, Rudy, Dan D. and Ed B. all sharing their experience, knowledge and opinions too.

Bringing the meeting to a close, Tom M. held the newly revived drawing. The lucky winners were:

- Vince Delmonico, a whistle
- **James Lucania**, a whistle
- Tom Mallen (!), a whistle
- Marty Jeffers, a whistle
- **Bill Mindlin**, a stylish SSBRA shirt

That ended the formal meeting, with the noise level immediately increasing dramatically as it always does at this point of the evening because the Members got down to what they were really interested in - socializing with friends and having a good time while doing it.

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, April 11, 2007;**

- The activity level of the Members was discussed
- The pros and cons of the 7v7 game format were brought out
- Four Center Circle awards are to be given on 4/24 for Joe Robelotto, Billy Cooke, Frank Troeger and one more
- The new 37 page Welcome Wagon manual was presented and changes proposed
- The rewrite of the Sportsmanship award rules were gone over
- It was decided the issue of Members missing monthly meetings to do games would be handled on a case-by-case basis
- What, if any, extra authority a Board Member has on the pitch as compared to another Member was talked about
- The insurance policy was approved and the payment check went out
- No new Member applications were presented
- **Lee Jordan** explained that Soccer One sponsorship of SSBRA is now in place, with the Members automatically getting the 19% discount without having to pay the \$12 initial fee
- The warm-up jackets are to be embroidered the same as the shirts have been

- The banner website ads for Soccer One were not acceptable
- An incident with a Member and hats at State Cup were discussed
- A member was fined for a no-show incident
- The Sand 5v5 tournament will use SSBRA referees if it takes place as planned on 6/16 – 6/17, with referee parking etc. to be supplied
- Negotiations continue with the proposed new Torrance 7v7 league
- Bridgette Barden to get the Sportsmanship award at the April meeting
- EALA owes us about \$2000, efforts to collect are ongoing
- There is about \$2500 in the bank
- Proposed bylaw changes were presented by Ed and squabbled over
- The term for President at the next election will be for only one year. Gabriel does not wish to run for Vice President
- Lamppost Pizza proposed for the location of the May AGM
- Heidi reported that there are no certified USSF instructors in SSBRA. To be certified someone would need to take a class, of which there are none.

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, April 24, 2007;**

- Applications for Membership were approved for **Nick Smith, Walter Hastey, Terrence Finn** and Nina Keifer
- A problem with a Member was discussed and a plan on how to handle the situation was created

### **Proposed Bylaw changes:**

1. (C2). Complete a referee physical fitness test each year.

**Reason for Change:** The only current requirement for physical testing is for USSF Grade 6 and above. SSBRA does not provide testing sessions for it's membership which holds a Grade 7 or lower. Plus, ranking committee does not required physical testing data.

**Suggested Change:** Referee shall maintain physical abilities equivalent to the level of assigned competition.

### **V FEES AND DUES**

2. (A) The annual dues are payable on or before July 1 of each year will be \$50.00 for all members maintaining an e-mail address, and \$60.00 for all members without an e-mail address.

**Reason for Change:** Due to membership insurance, increase of \$10 per member is needed.

**Suggested Change:** The annual dues are payable on or before July 1 of each year will be **\$60.00** for all members maintaining an e-mail address, and **\$70.00** for all members without an e-mail address.

### **VIII BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

3. (A2). Other Members: The Board of Directors shall appoint an Assignor and a Membership Chairman, and other Board members having duties as it may deem necessary.

**Reason for Change:** The board has not appointed a Membership Chairman for sometime. If needed in the future, one shall be appointed. Training Director is a well proven position for the good of the membership. Webmaster is tied to current web based assigning system and has been entrusted with maintaining up-to-date information on the association's website.

**Suggested Change:** The Board of Directors shall appoint an Assignor and other Board members having duties as it may deem necessary.

4. **Reason for Change:** The board has no direct means by which to dismiss a member for just cause.

**Suggested Change:** C3 (new). Authority: Majority vote by the Board of Directors may immediately dismiss any member of the association for just cause.

## **XII UNIFORMS**

5. (B). Referees are to present a professional appearance with a neat uniform and shined shoes.

**Reason for Change:** As we have all seen, the uniform will continue to change. We should follow the suggested guidelines by USSF on a year-to-year bases.

**Suggested Change:** Referees are to present a professional appearance as outlined per USSF. All current variations of the Uniform shall be complete and well maintained.

6. C. A referee may wear a hat if it is an all black, baseball-type cap.

**Reason for Change:** Some levels of competition require referees to not wear hats. USSF also provides opinions on the use of hats by referees

**Suggested Change:** A referee may wear a hat (all-black baseball-type cap) or head covering if necessary for religious or medical reasons provide that the head gear falls within the guidelines set by USSF and the level of competition.

## **XIII GENERAL OPERATING PROCEDURES**

7. (A). A referee assigned to a game who fails to report without good cause or who fails to report to two assignments for any cause, shall be subject to suspension from the Association.

**Reason for Change:** Clarification

**Suggested Change:** A. A referee assigned to a game who fails to report without good cause or who fails to report to two assignments for any cause **within a one year period of time**, shall be subject to suspension from the Association. Submitted by **Don Young**

8. (1) Referees who are tardy in submitting game cards and/or game reports will be fined one-half fee for subsequent offenses within one year. This rule will apply to all leagues with which SSBRA has a contract specifying a time for submitting the cards and/or game reports.

**Reason for Change:** Clarification

**Suggested Change:** When a Referee is tardy in submitting game cards, game reports **or player cards** will be fined **one-half of the total referee match fee** for subsequent offenses within one year. This rule will apply to all leagues with which SSBRA has a contract specifying a time for submitting the cards and/or game reports.

9. (3). When a referee fails to fulfill a commitment for a game assignment properly assigned by the Association and does not notify the Association, the referee will be fined the full game fee per assignment. In addition, the referee will pay any penalties charged to SSBRA by the league.

**Reason for Change:** Clarification

**Suggested Change:** When a referee fails to fulfill a commitment for a game assignment properly assigned by the Association, the referee will be fined **the total referee match fee** per assignment. In addition, the referee will pay any penalties charged to SSBRA by the league.

10. (5). If the SSBRA assignor makes a mistake in a game assignment, the Association will pay one-half fee to the referee assigned in error, provided the referee requests payment in writing by submitting a game report.

**Reason for Change:** Clarification

**Suggested Change:** If the SSBRA assignor makes a mistake in game assignments, the Association will pay **one-half of the Referee/AR fee** to the referee assigned in error, provided the referee requests payment in writing by submitting a game report within 72 hours.

# NEXT MONTHLY MEETING

**THE NEXT MONTHLY MEETING WILL BE THE AGM HELD ON TUESDAY MAY 29, 2007 AT 7:00 PM AT THE LAMPPOST PIZZA IN ROLLING HILLS ON CRENSHAW BLVD. AND ROLLING HILLS ROAD. THE ELECTION PART OF THE MEETING (PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT AND TREASURER, AND BYLAW CHANGES) WILL BE HELD IN THE PARKING LOT. AFTER THE ELECTION WE WILL GO INTO THE RESTAURANT AND HAVE OUR ANNUAL PARTY, COURTESY OF SSBRA. PLEASE NOTE THE SPECIAL TIME AND PLACE.**

## **Maybe MLS Should Try This to Increase Scoring** (recent news article)

**Ivica Supe**, who plays for a third-division soccer team in Croatia, has received 16 sheep this season from a local shepherd – one for every goal he has scored. Said Supe: “I was really shocked and I have no idea what to do with so many sheep because I plan to score more goals.”

## **SSBRA Top Workhorses Named** (submitted by Ed McClure)

Recently Ed used the SSBRA assignment system database to determine who had officiated the most games from April to April 2006 – 2007. This included 7500 games and 150 referees, but ONLY for those matches assigned on the SSBRA system. The CSL games (and there are hundreds of those) were not included – anyone wanting to volunteer to make a manual count can contact Ed at [president@ssbra.org](mailto:president@ssbra.org). Also, 11v11 center referee and assistant referee assignments, as well as 7v7 matches, were all given equal weight. With that aside, in reverse order, the top ten are:

10. **Reza Pazirandeeh**
9. **James Marsala**
8. **Stuart Winter**
7. Vince Delmonico
6. Steve McCall
5. Warren Howell
4. Dan Damian
3. Rudy Chavez
2. Ralph Quiroz

.... and the number one referee is.....

Ah c'mon, we're not going to make it that easy. If you want the name, send an e-mail request to [secretary@ssbra.org](mailto:secretary@ssbra.org), and you will be informed in confidence.

**All of the following pictures are courtesy of Heidi Garlick** (see following pages)

**Teresi Barden** and **Lee Barden** look on as Bridgette Barden is presented the annual Sportsmanship award by Rick Roberts



**Great Scots!** (“Handsome” **George Heggie**, “Doctor” Billy Cooke, Steve “Red-Card Wizard” McCall)





**Don't Mess with These Guys** (Billy Cooke, Heidi "Honey" Garlick, Frank "Yes-That-is-How-I-Spell-my-Last-Name" Troeger)



**Cooke Gets in a Word or Three** (Pablo joins Billy and George)



**One President to Another** (Ed McClure gives Frank his Plaque)



**It Looks Like Both These Guys Need Reading Glasses** (Joe Robelotto is presented his plaque by Gabriel "Worst-Ref-in-Town" Goldsman, while various characters can be seen in the background)

