



# The Flag and Whistle

## Newsletter of the Soccer South Bay Referee Association

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

President: Ed McClure	Vice President: Gabriel Goldsman	Secretary: Warren Howell	Treasurer: Tom Mallen
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### TOM PASSES IT UP, WHILE WARREN PASSES IT OUT STEVE EXPOSES LEE AND STU SOCCER NEWS FROM FINLAND, FRANCE, SPAIN, HAITI AND CANADA

Even though the season is temporarily winding down, forty Members still found the motivation to attend the monthly meeting on June 26, 2007. Those lucky souls were not disappointed, as Secretary **Warren Howell**, acting on behalf of Treasurer **Tom Mallen** (absent due to a minor medical issue), started handing out checks left and right. In fact, it seemed that nearly everyone who showed-up was rewarded with a payment. After opening the meeting officially, president **Ed McClure** asked Warren to address the group in his role as Secretary and also as Treasurer. Not having much to say as Secretary, he reported that there was \$5589.54 in the bank, kind of. This is because of the high volume of checks being passed out – if they were all immediately cashed, SSBRA would be slightly in the hole, as it had been decided to advance the Members all the payments due while waiting to collect a sizeable amount from a couple of tournaments. No one complained about the timely payments, but some did notice a shortage on their checks. This was caused by a \$60 deduction for dues, which are payable on July 1. Warren explained that anyone who got a payment for less than that amount had no deduction taken (either the full \$60 was taken out, or nothing). As a service, Tom will take out dues for those still needing to pay from the July and August tournaments as well, unless one makes special arrangements with him. Anyone not planning on working summer tournaments should mail a check to the P.O. box post haste.

Changing gears, it was then time to introduce prospective new Member **Amanda Stemen** to the group, who told everyone a little about herself and received encouragement and a warm welcome in return.

Warren then sat down, giving **Rick Roberts** the chance to stand up and talk about the mentoring program. He encouraged any and all interested to sign-up, either as a mentor and/or one being mentored, with **Dan Damian** and **Ed Beverly** making helpful comments. Ed M. then announced that the soccer part of the Watts Summer Games had been canceled this year because of venue problems, and asked webmaster **Lee Jordan** if he had anything to share. In fact he did, telling all of us that the re-directed Emails (for example [secretary@ssbra.org](mailto:secretary@ssbra.org)) were being removed because of SPAM problems.

Moving on, it was time for **Manny Fineberg** to address the crowd. He was very informative, explaining how SSBRA Members have the chance via soccerone.com to get the lowest possible prices on the plethora of high quality gear he has to offer to help us look and perform our best. He mentioned the possibility of yet another new shirt color, green, coming into play, causing **Steve Elliott** to comment that his understanding was that a final decision had not been reached on that yet, with **James Lucania**, **Larry Savell** and Lee also letting their opinions be known.

Ed M. wanted to talk about the AGM and get opinions as to how everyone thought it went. Dan Damian and **Pablo Diaz** seemed to speak for the group in saying that it was fine and all went well. Moving on to upcoming tournaments, Ed announced that SSBRA would be taking less games than planned at first due to limited availability of the Members.

It was finally time for more interesting stuff, as **Heidi Garlick** took over for the monthly training session. She started out with the new FIFA law changes, of which there are none of any particular interest. For the record they relate to:

- Advertising allowed in the technical area
- Don't worry about parts of the player's uniform that you can not see
- A 5<sup>th</sup> official is now allowed to help out the 4<sup>th</sup> official etc.
- No markings nor offensive lettering allowed on shirts

**Alan Sampson**, **Rudy Chavez**, **David Sena**, Dan Damian, Larry Savell and Lee Jordan also had some words to say about all this. Never one for letting things get dull, Heidi then brought up the recent deciding offside call in the US-Canada Gold match. This caused the expected uproar, with everyone seeming to have an opinion, whether they had actually seen the play themselves or not. Smoothly using this as a transition point, Steve Elliott got into his presentation. After talking the offside decision to a standstill (no conclusion was really reached), he did point out that, however you see it, you should be ready as the referee to go with your AR, or to wave him down – just be ready to do what needs to be done. Deciding to continue with the fun after all, he had everyone stand up and “play” AR through various situations, correcting those who needed some guidance. By this time, most of those mentioned above and **Don Young**, **Henry Gibson**, **Bob Slater**, **Steve McCall** and **Bob Hildreth** had all gotten in their opinions (often talking over each other), but the best was yet to come, as Steve showed us a video of Lee Jordan and AR **Stewart Winter** in action at the girls division 6 high school final game. While it was agreed that they both did an overall excellent job, Steve displayed a couple of minutes of action (the most difficult of the match) that could have been handled differently. At this point nearly everyone in the room wanted to be heard, and the sound level rose noticeably.

Having had enough, Ed M. held the raffle, with **Amanda Chavez** winning the grand prize of an SSBRA shirt, while a few other Members also won some stuff.

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, June 25, 2007**

- **Gabriel Goldsman** was elected to the position of Member at Large by formal vote
  - More feedback to the Member survey were discussed, no surprises revealed
  - The Secretary was instructed to put a long-time retired Member back on the roster and waive the annual dues
  - Availability and the idea of imposing fines for game turn-backs was discussed, no conclusion reached
  - **Juan Ruiz** was accepted as a new Member
  - Warren will give the treasurer's report at the monthly meeting in Tom's absence
  - The consensus was that the AGM went well, and that we should probably return to Lamppost Pizza next year.
- Action to take in regard to an incident with a Member at the AGM was decided upon
- Two Members, their status and on field problems were discussed. Action to be taken in one case
  - An SBS request/suggestion was brought up, no action taken
  - The details of having EALA games managed by SBS were gone over
  - Rankings and various ideas relating to them were mentioned. A sub-committee was formed to look at what to do going forward
  - Lee will turn-off the Email forwarding from ssbra.org because of excessive SPAM
  - There will be a raffle at the 6/26 meeting
  - Manny will be at the 6/26 meeting
  - A Member's habitual lateness was reported and discussed

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, June 26, 2007**

- Manny Fineberg, **Chijioke Arnotu**, Amanda Stemen and **Shahram Danbeli** were all accepted as new Members, bringing the total number of names on the roster to 189 (a new record)

## **NEXT MONTHLY MEETING**

**THERE WILL, ALAS, BE NO MEETING IN JULY NOR, TRAGICALLY, A FLAG AND WHISTLE. THE NEXT MEETING IS ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 28, 2007, AT 7:30 P.M. IN THE LIBRARY OF NORTH TORRANCE HIGH SCHOOL, 3620 182<sup>ND</sup> ST. (AT YUKON - SEE SSBRA.ORG FOR DETAILED MAPS), WHEREIN BEVERAGES AND FOOD ARE PROHIBITED BY THE SCHOOL. AGENDA WILL INCLUDE NEWS AND INTRUCTIONS FOR THE UPCOMING COAST SOCCER LEAGUE SEASON, INFORMATION ON LABOR DAY TOURNAMENTS, ASSOCIATION BUSINESS, TRAINING, MEMBER INTERACTIONS AND CONVERSATIONS, AND WHATEVER ELSE COMES UP.**

### **Haiti U-17 Team Deserts in New York** (news article)

Most of the Haitian BU17's 18 players went missing from John F. Kennedy International Airport between Tuesday night and Wednesday morning, Haitian consul in New York **Felix Augustin** said....

The players arrived from Haiti on Tuesday June 10 and were scheduled to leave early Wednesday for Seoul, South Korea, to play in a friendly tournament ahead of the U17 World Cup in August....

Speaking to a Haitian Creole-language radio station in New York, the president of the Haitian Football Federation, **Yves Jean-Bart**, warned the youngsters that they were hurting their futures and threatened to involve U.S. authorities "unless these players reinstate themselves as soon as possible."

Jean-Bart gave no indication why the players would abandon the team. But Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, and thousands of Haitians leave the country each year to escape miserable living conditions, violence and political instability. A spokeswoman for U.S. Customs and Border Protection, **Lucille Cirillo**, said the agency would help investigators in any way possible. But, she said, immigration officials would not typically become involved in such cases until the players had overstayed the time for which they were admitted, which could be up to six months.

The apparent desertions dealt a major blow to Haitian soccer, which has been experiencing a resurgence of late after years of dismal performances. The U17s qualified for the biennial World Cup for the first time in the Caribbean nation's history earlier this year, while the men's team won the Caribbean Cup for the first time in January.

### **There's More Than One Reason to Suspend a Match** (submitted by W. Howell)

An eagle owl who lives at the Olympic Stadium in Helsinki interrupted the Finland vs. Belgium qualifier (34,000 spectators were in attendance) for seven minutes on Wednesday June 6 by perching on the crossbar during the match. Finland scored right after play was resumed and went on to win 2-0. Eurasian Eagle Owls are the world's largest species of owl, with a wingspan of as much as 2 meters. This particular owl is well known locally, and has been popularly named "**Bubi**." Link below to see Bubi flying and referees conferring.

<http://www.iltasanomat.fi/videtot/?cat=1&id=1381452&ap=1>



Bubi Becomes the Center of Attention (news photo)

## Alternate Sport Available during Soccer Off-Season (submitted by W. Howell)

The annual Wife Carrying Competition will be held in July in Sonkajärvi Finland. To understand the spirit of the event, one needs to know only two things: one of the official rules is that “all participants and spectators will have fun,” and the winner’s prize is the wife’s weight in beer. In case you were worried, it is NOT a requirement that the competitors be actually married to each other, nor to anyone else for that matter. The following is from the website (link is below – entry blanks are available too, or make plans for next year).

The idea of the Wife Carrying Competition is Sonkajärvi’s very own and, in spite of its humorous aspects, it has deep roots in the local history. In the late 1800’s there was in the area a brigand called **Rosvo-Ronkainen**, who is said to have accepted in his troops only those men who proved their worth on a challenging track. In those days, it was also a common practice to steal women from the neighboring villages. In addition to the product prize, the world champions will receive the equivalent of the wife’s weight in beer, a bag full of wife carrying products and a statue with wife carrying motif. The second and the third couples, as well as the most entertaining couple, the best costume and the strongest carrier will be awarded with wife carrying products and statues. **Margo Uusorg** and **Birgit Ulrich** from Estonia hold the Wife Carrying world record of 55.5 seconds. The Finnish record of 56,7 seconds is held by **Jouni** and **Tiina Jussila** from Raisio (Editor’s note: the technique known as the “Estonian Carry” is demonstrated below).

<http://www.sonkajarvi.fi/?depid=15136>

If you can’t make it to Sonkajärvi, then consider coming to the HDC on August 25 when the Finnish National team takes time off from Wife Carrying to play and thrash the US team in an international women’s soccer friendly.



## **Some Coaches Never Learn Their Lesson** (recent news item)

Real Madrid fired coach **Fabio Capello** on June 28, less than two weeks after he led the Spanish power to its first league title in four years. Capello, who had two years left on his contract, was fired for the second time by Madrid immediately after winning the league title, the first time in 1997.

## **This is Why You Should Never Talk to the Players** (submitted by W. Howell)

With lots of folks on vacation or otherwise occupied, it was not a big surprise when the referee known as the Large Member found himself facing a forfeit on a Saturday in June at Aviation Park (SBS 7v7 match). After recording the result of the forfeit for the official record, those who were present still wanted to play, and a makeshift match was created by recruiting and shifting players around – a true friendly. The L.M. blew the whistle, and the fun began, with lots of banter and conversation, the talking and laughter also including the referee. After about 15 minutes of the first half, the following conversation took place -

20-something male player: “I need to be substituted out, I’m tired.”

L.M. (surprised): “Ah c’mon, at your age you should never get tired. And besides, look at the referees, no one ever substitutes for us!”

Player: “Yeah, but all you guys ever do is stand around in the (center) circle and never move.”

L.M.: “Hmmm, well, I guess you have a point (waves toward the sidelines for a sub).”



French League Club Soccer Spectators Light Up the Stadium in Bordeaux during Spring 2007 Match (picture courtesy of **Minna Howell**)



Canadian Gold Cup Players React to News of SSBRA Dues Increase (news photo)