



The Flag and Whistle

Newsletter of the Soccer South Bay Referee Association

November 30, 2007

P.O. Box 10466, Torrance, CA 90505

Editor: Warren Howell

www.ssbra.org

President: Ed McClure

Vice President: Paul Kelly

Secretary: Warren Howell

Treasurer: Tom Mallen

Assignor: Bill Cook

Training: Heidi Garlick

Webmaster: Lee Jordan

At Large: Gabriel Goldsman

SSBRA BOYCOTTS PENISULA SOCCER LEAGUE OVER REFEREE ASSAULT USSF SOCKS IT TO SOCCER REFEREES DICK GETS IT RIGHT

Wasting no time whatsoever, the monthly meeting started off with the introduction to the group of **Shane Ward** and **David Khedr**, who were asked to tell us a little about themselves, and got a warm welcome in return. Secretary **Warren Howell** then said a few forgettable things about the Flag and Whistle, his hopes of receiving letters to the editor for publication for same, the current count of 169 names on the roster after the non-dues payers were purged, the 2008 USSF badges (they are really in the mail this time), and a reminder that there will be no meeting in December.

Treasurer **Tom Mallen** then had a turn addressing the crowd, who were glad to hear his words (at least at first) for he had good tidings – there is \$8451 in the bank, all those present were handed a refill pack of match reports, and door prizes had generously been donated by Member **Manny Fineberg** and Soccer One, and SSBRA has paid about \$49,000 to the Members so far in 2007. However, the mood quickly changed when Tom mentioned the upcoming \$2,000 insurance payment that was soon due and that he was in the process of preparing 1099 forms for the deserving Members.

Putting all that aside, President **Ed McClure** then encouraged Assignor **Bill Cook** to say a few words, in spite of Bill's painfully broken ribs (suffered in a recent non-soccer related accident). He announced that, on November 25, **Janet Hildreth**, wife of long-time SSBRA Member and past President **Bob Hildreth**, had passed away suddenly. Flowers and a card were taken to the Hildreth home by a couple of SSBRA representatives in order to express our sympathy. A general question, answer and comments session then took place, with **Larry Savell, Don Young, Dan Damian** and others touching on such subjects as SSBRA/high-school scheduling conflicts, Earthlink Email problems, the Chinese league (in hiatus due to lack of fields), an article in the Daily Breeze (which was passed around), and availability. Bill again told us to handle scheduling with the availability system, Emails and/or phone calls to 310-316-0808, and to look on the system (or call if you are having computer problems) for your assignments by Wednesday most weeks.

Ed McClure then wanted to talk about SBS, telling us that the new \$25 rate had gone into effect. He also told of an incident where a referee was reluctant to give a deserved red-card to a player because of the \$50 fine the player would have to pay. Ed asked that we do our job without thoughts to such things, and let the various leagues do their job as they see fit. Ed asked that we write reports word-for-word as to what was said, even, and especially, the "naughty" words, so that proper actions can be taken. As an example, he mentioned that a player was recently given an 11 week suspension for abusive language towards a referee by the league based on the report and interviews. Miscellaneous subjects were then brought up, including a reminder that there is a 5 minute suspension for yellow cards in SBPSL (keepers are exempt), 2008 USSF badges are going out, and one needs to go to the clinic to renew a grade 7 USSF badge or higher. **Veto Galati, Warren, Lee Jordan, Dan Damian, Gabriel Goldsman and Ed Beverly** also made some equally random remarks during the discussion.

The meeting then got even livelier as Ed showed us the new green color referee shirts and told about the requirement that all referees eventually buy 10 new shirts in the new style, short and long sleeves in the 5 colors. After the noise died down a bit, Manny Fineberg took the floor and shared his insight – he actually knew something about this, and pointed out that this is a new directive and that the dust has not settled yet (see article below). Larry Savell, Ed Beverly, Don Young, Lee Jordan and Dan Damian were still not pleased, and let us know what they were thinking.

Keeping everyone's interest, Ed M. then told us about the new SSBRA ranking system, wherein all the Members are put into groups per USSF guidelines, rather than in strictly numerical sequence. He also announced that all the Members had been ranked using the new system by the Board, based on their collective knowledge and observations. Some of those mentioned above had a few words to say about all this, as did **George Heggie**.

After Gabriel reminded one and all that, as Member-at-Large, he should be the first contact for Members who have problems with the Board or SSBRA, it was time for the raffle. **Keith Sena, Lee Jordan, Suzanne Johnson, Shane Ward, Bill Mindlin, Henry Gibson** and Ed Beverly all won nifty stuff, and the meeting was adjourned .

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, November 15, 2007

- Applications for Membership for **Sean Ji** and **Kevin Pineda** were accepted
- The UCLA tournament went well
- The status of Members and dues paying was discussed
- It was revealed by Warren that a long-time Member no longer wishes to receive the F&W
- An incident with a Member was discussed, no action taken
- Complaints of another Member were reviewed, and rules on how to handle similar situations in the future were agreed to
- The performance of and our relationship with a representative of a league were talked about, with a lively conversation ensuing
- The new ranking system was gone over. All the Members were ranked by the Board as a group
- Contract talks with SBS still ongoing

- No tournaments yet for the long Thanksgiving week-end
- Ideas were presented on how the appointment of a backup assignor would work
- The CSL Premier games went well, more probably to come next year
- A total of \$8443 is in the treasury
- The recent USSF grade 6 class and the 6 or so SSBRA Members present there were discussed

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, November 27, 2007

- Two applications for membership were approved
- There will be no gas money for those who did Premier games
- Five referees are to be paid for showing up at erroneously assigned matches
- Talked with Manny about a group buy for the new style shirts

NEXT MONTHLY MEETING

THERE WILL BE NO MEETING NOR FLAG AND WHISTLE IN DECEMBER. THE NEXT MEETING IS ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2008 AT 7:30 P.M. IN THE LIBRARY OF NORTH TORRANCE HIGH SCHOOL, 3620 182ND ST. (AT YUKON - SEE SSBRA.ORG FOR DETAILED MAPS), WHEREIN BEVERAGES AND FOOD ARE PROHIBITED BY THE SCHOOL. AGENDA TO INCLUDE INFORMATION ABOUT STATE AND NATIONAL CUP MATCHES, AND LOTS OF OTHER GOOD STUFF.

SSBRA Just Says No to South Bay Peninsula Soccer League O/40 Division

On December 2 an SBPSL over 40 division player, upon receiving a red card, physically attacked the SSBRA center referee. Fortunately the referee was uninjured, as the attacker was quickly pulled off by other players. The SSBRA Board was not pleased with any of this as (1) it was not the first incident of this nature in the O/40 matches, (2) SBPSL policies in place to handle such incidents were not, in the opinion of the SSBRA Board, sufficient, and (3) the immediate handling and reaction of the incident by SBPSL was inadequate, again in the opinion of the SSBRA Board. SSBRA President Ed McClure, after internal discussions took place and a consensus was reached by the Board, announced that SSBRA would no longer assign referees to cover O/40 matches until the situation had been resolved to our satisfaction. An extensive dialogue then took place between all the parties, including many of the SSBRA Members voicing their views and support for the Board's actions. SSBRA did go through with a boycott of the O/40 matches of December 9. SBPSL modified its policy and structure to handle further incidents, and has taken a number of steps to prevent any re-occurrences. The Board of SSBRA is satisfied with the actions taken by SBPSL, and has decided to resume play on December 16.

Thought of the Month (attributed to **Toini "Irja" Mikkola**, referring to aches and pains, translated from the Finnish)

"Old age does not come alone."

USSF Grade Announcement (from the Cal South USSF website)

By now most of you have received your 2008 registration instruction packet. I understand the instruction sheet that shows your ID number and grade might have the wrong referee grade listed. If your paperwork shows a wrong grade, please check the 2007 list of registered officials (found at www.casreferee.com under the registration section, towards the bottom of the page). If that list has your correct grade, please disregard the grade on the form you received in the mail. The 2007 list that is posted on the website is correct and comes straight from the USSF database. There is no need to contact me. USSF ran an outdated record when printing out the mailing.

Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Referee gets a Bum Rap (recent news article)

Robert Tustin, a women's rugby referee in England, has been suspended for 18 weeks after he dropped his shorts and bared half his buttocks near the end of a match. "I have never seen anything like it, and I never want to see anything like it again," said **Amanda Walker**, captain of Thetford, one of the teams. "It wasn't comical, it was absurd behavior."

From the U.S. Soccer Communications Center:

NEW OFFICIAL SPORTS INTERNATIONAL REFEREE UNIFORMS WORN DURING MLS CUP FINAL NOW AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

***Referee Crew Was First to Wear the USSF-Approved Green Shirt;
Old Version Still Acceptable for USSF Referees to Wear***

CHICAGO (Nov. 19, 2007) – The brand new Official Sports International uniforms worn by the referee crew during the MLS Cup this past Sunday (Nov. 17) are [now available for purchase](http://officialsports.com) at officialsports.com. The four-man referee crew was the first to wear the uniform, which was approved by the USSF earlier this year. The new uniforms feature a redesigned shirt and socks, as well as a new color option with green being added to the array of gold, red, blue and the traditional black. The new design features include an updated stripe pattern, raglan-style sleeve and a colored notch on the back collar. Also featured on the sleeve of the shirt and on the shorts is the updated U.S. Soccer Referee Program logo, which was introduced earlier this year.

Referees will have two options on the type of sock they will wear during competitions. The new sock is embroidered with "U.S. Soccer Referee" on the foot of the sock, but referees are also permitted to wear the three white-stripe sock or the black sock with the old U.S. Soccer Referee Department logo, as both are still USSF-approved. In the future, OSI will only sell the new uniforms, but the old striping pattern is still USSF-approved and acceptable to wear during games. In youth and adult amateur games, it is also acceptable for the crew to wear a combination of new and old uniforms. Referees are encouraged to purchase the new uniform when replacing their old version as the updated stripe pattern will be grandfathered into becoming the official referee uniforms of U.S. Soccer. The launch marks the first time U.S. Soccer's official referee uniform design has been changed since 1998, when an updated kit was presented after the World Cup. The last time a new USSF-approved color option was made available was 2002, when blue was introduced. The new uniforms are available for purchase at officialsports.com. Official Sports International has served as the exclusive supplier of USSF Referee apparel and accessories since 1998.

The man in the middle for Sunday's final was **Alex Prus** of Simpsonville, S.C., who officiated his first MLS Cup. The assistant referees were **Adam Wienckowski** of Elkridge, Md., and **Robert Fereday** of Laurel, Md., both of whom ran the lines in their first MLS Cup. The fourth official was 2007 MLS/OSI Referee of the Year **Brian Hall**.

- ussoccer.com -

U.S. Soccer Federation, 1801 S. Prairie Ave, Chicago IL 60616



CAL SOUTH MOURNS LOSS OF HEROS BAGHOUMIAN STATE YOUTH REFEREE ADMINISTRATOR, 1948-2007

December 8, 2007 – Cal South deeply regrets having to inform its members of the untimely passing of **Heros Baghoumian** last night (Friday, December 7) from apparent heart failure.

Baghoumian had served Cal South in the role of State Youth Referee Administrator for the past ten years. A native of Tehran, Baghoumian was featured in a recent article in Cal South Soccer Magazine (May 2007), which detailed his incredible journey from being the youngest FIFA referee in Iranian history to his fleeing the country when the Khomeini regime made things increasingly difficult for the Armenian Christian to remain there.

He and his family were allowed to travel to Austria, ostensibly for a long-term referee's clinic, but they then applied for political asylum at the American embassy. Granted admission to the U.S. in March 1985, the Baghoumian family moved to Glendale and started a new life. Baghoumian started a career working for Amtrak, but continued to referee, including NCAA Division I soccer matches, and eventually began his long tenure with Cal South. Additionally, during the most recent World Cup, Baghoumian worked as a commentator for a Persian

television station in Calabasas.

Baghoumian is survived by his wife Nancy and two children, a son and a daughter. Services will be at Forest Lawn-Hollywood Hills, 6300 Forest Lawn Drive, Los Angeles 90068, 800-204-3131. Viewing will be on Friday from 5 PM to 9 PM December 14, and the funeral will be on Saturday at 9 AM followed by a luncheon at noon at the Flamingo Banquet Hall, 7179 Foothill Blvd., Tujunga 91402, 818-352-7748. The family has asked that, in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the Heros Baghoumian Memorial Fund. An account has been set up that can be accessed at any branch of Washington Mutual Bank, number 9343095942, or contributions can be wired by using the routing number 322271627.

Cal South wishes to express its deepest condolences to the Baghoumian family, the State Referee Committee, his friends and anybody else who came to know this exceptional man.

SSBRA Members Give Their Time to a Good Cause

For the second year in a row, our Members came out on a week-day afternoon on November 15 to officiate at the local Special Olympics soccer tournament. Helping out this year were **Vince Delmonico**, Don Young, **Michael Dewart**, **Bob Slater**, **Scott Jarus**, **Kiku Annon**, **Dick Lujan** and **Lloyd Lehrer**. This was certainly a special day and event for the players, and for the officials and other participants as well.

Meanwhile, Across the Pond in Scandinavia (recent news article, translated from the Finnish)

A Danish fan who attacked soccer referee **Herbert Vandel** during a match between Denmark and Sweden was sentenced to 20 days in jail by the Danish criminal court. The 29 year old fan ran out onto the field during the last minutes of the June 2 match when a penalty kick was awarded to Sweden with the score tied 3 – 3. The referee terminated the match after the attack and Sweden was declared the winner. The fan also has to pay a 250,000 Euro (\$350,000) fine to the Danish soccer league. The fan was initially given one month's probation by a lower court, but his sentence was changed by the criminal court after protests.



It may be time for the referee to get involved here (news photo, Women's World Cup)

Let's Hope They Don't Start Testing Referees for This (recent news article)

Brazilian soccer star **Romario**, who said he tested positive for the banned substance finasteride in October, attributed his failed drug test to a substance found in anti-balding medication.

Quote of the Month (attributed to **Mark Twain**)

“Always plan for the future, because that is where you will be spending the rest of your life.”



This looks like it could hurt (**Filippo Inzaghi** at a recent UEFA match)

GOAAAAAL! Or maybe not..... (Submitted by W. Howell)

It was another beautiful Fall Sunday morning in Manhattan Beach, and even better, Dick Lujan, along with enthusiastic assistants **Mike Clifford** and W. Howell, had snagged the chance to officiate at a PSL O/40 match at the narrow but adequate Marine Park field. Having arrived early enough before the match to dispense with the preliminary chores, it all got started reasonably close to on-time, and things went well in the first half, with everyone having a good time whether they wanted to admit it or not. In the second half, the attacking team had a throw-in somewhat near the goal line in their opponent's half of the field, and made preparations to put the ball in a dangerous place for a scoring opportunity. With a mighty toss, the ball went towards the goal area, and the players all started jostling for position. Alas, with all this movement going on, everyone forgot about the ball, which, after 2 bounces, went straight into the goal without being touched by anyone. At this point everyone started voicing their opinion on the proper call, sharing their insights with Dick and everyone else in the neighborhood and surrounding areas. Knowing that Dick is a little hard of hearing, the players and coaches were thoughtful enough to use their loud "outdoor" voices, and even made a point of all talking at once, repeatedly, so that they could be sure that Dick had the benefit of their points of view. As Dick often says, there is nothing he likes better as a referee than unsolicited advice, and this day he was not disappointed in that regard. Showing the calmness and serenity in tense moments for which he is known, after awhile Dick correctly announced that there was no goal and that the restart was a goal kick. This brought down a new round of comments and thought-sharing from the same participants, but eventually, seeing that Dick was not going to change his mind no matter what was said, the game continued on to a fair conclusion.



One could think that this applies to referees too (contributed by **Jeff Schuh**)