



The Flag and Whistle

Newsletter of the Soccer South Bay Referee Association

May 31, 2008

P.O. Box 10466, Torrance, CA 90505

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www.ssbra.org

President: Ed McClure	Vice President: Paul Kelly	Secretary: Warren Howell	Treasurer: Tom Mallen
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BOARD MEMBERS ELECTED, BYLAWS CHANGED & REFEREES FETED NEW F&W FEATURE: GUESS WHO'S THAT REFEREE SSBRA REFEREE DECLINES A TEMPTING OFFER

Showing that it knows a good thing when it sees it, the Association repeated it's actions of last year's AGM by holding the 2008 Annual General Meeting in the parking lot of Lamppost Pizza on May 27. With a quorum present and the Members more or less comfortably positioned so as not to miss any of the proceedings, President **Ed McClure** called the meeting to order. After being encouraged to do so by Secretary **Warren Howell**, new Member **Rudy Mendez** was introduced, and after telling us a little about himself, received a warm welcome to SSBRA. Up next was Treasurer **Tom Mallen**, who informed us there was \$5185 in the bank and then told us about some other unremarkable stuff.

At this point it was time for elections, with Vice-President **Paul Kelly**, being the only Board Member not up for election, taking over. After explaining that the offices of President, Secretary and Treasurer (for a one year term only) were up for election, and that there were bylaw changes to be voted on, he got things rolling. He first asked if there were any nominations for President in addition to Ed McClure. Since there were none, Ed was elected to another term as President by voice vote. Paul then asked for additional nominations for Secretary. Since there were none, the only candidate, Warren Howell, was re-elected by voice vote. Mentioning that incumbent Tom Mallen had resigned as Treasurer effective July 1, 2008, Paul threw open the floor for other nominations in addition to

Steve Brandon. There were none, and Steve was elected to a one year replacement term as Treasurer by voice vote.

Next came time for the bylaws. The rewrite done by the committee headed by **Larry Stern** was briefly discussed, and then, since there were no objections, was passed by voice vote. Up next was the amendment previously proposed by **Ed Beverly** that touched on referee assignments for Board Members. A discussion on the proposal then took place, with Ed, **Jon Ziegler**, **Bill Cook** and **Suzanne Johnson** all sharing their views. It was decided to withdraw said amendment, and the voting was done for this AGM. All of the Members present then applauded Tom Mallen in appreciation for his many years of selfless service, and retired inside for food, drink and merriment.

The Board that evening was able to meet and approve the applications of **Jeremy Gerson**, **Pedro Ohms**, **Eder Juarez** (provisionally) and **Yadira Juarez** for Membership, bringing the total number of names on the roster to 196.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, May 19, 2008

- **Miles Dawson** was accepted for Membership
- Fees for SBPSL forfeits will be collected
- There is \$4948.97 in the bank with no debts outstanding and no 2008-2009 dues collected. Simi Valley tournament checks have all been created and mailed
- No one was paid for SBS games this week-end, as **Dennis Fox** was out of town (editor's note: checks did arrive in the mail a few days later, please inform the Board if you are still owed).
- Tom's name will have to be removed from the bank account after July 1 and the new Treasurer added
- Ed Beverly's bylaw amendment was discussed
- Ballots and mechanics of the AGM voting were decided on
- AGM meeting location was approved
- It was eventually decided to provide an opportunity for a candidate's statement to be sent out to the Members prior to the AGM if so requested (editor's note: such a statement was sent out for the candidacy of Ed Beverly for Treasurer)
- SSBRA is being asked to do the youth part of the COPA Sand tournament. Bill will find out if there is enough Member interest to participate
- Positive feedback about a Member's performance at a recent match was received and discussed
- A referee association's President's meeting will take place 5/23. Ed and Larry Stern will attend
- Paul will discuss the Cal South survey results at the June meeting
- An incident of extraordinary referee verbal abuse in an SBS match was discussed and follow-up is to take place
- Incidents reports in general were discussed
- Memorial Day week-end game schedule has been received
- **Heidi Garlick** led a discussion on REF COM devices
- YOUTUBE video use at the monthly meetings was discussed
- Heidi will go to Hawaii for the USSF Regionals

NEXT MONTHLY MEETING

THE NEXT MEETING IS ON TUESDAY, JUNE 24, 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 IS TO INCLUDE ASSOCIATION BUSINESS, TRAINING, RAFFLE, SPEECHES AND CONVERSATIONS COVERING VARIOUS TOPICS.



Members seriously consider important SSBRA issues in the parking lot at the 2008 AGM

Who is This Guy? (submitted by **Steve Tandburg**)

The following letter was recently received by the Board, and refers to an SSBRA Member. Guess who it is (the answer is below).

Guys:

I know there's been a lot of talk about the referees lately at the Saturday 7v7 league -- but I would just like to add that we had a ref yesterday that could have officiated a Premier League game....he was **that good**.

Older English guy. Totally calm. Totally in control. We played a very tough and physical match, but never once did it get anywhere near out of hand. Perhaps you should assign him to games where there might be a lot of tension (teams competing for top spots?) instead of games that are being played without anything at stake - where the players are a little more relaxed.

Wherever you found that dude, see if he has three brothers and even a few sisters. May be the best ref I've ever come across, and I'm an old timer!

Cheers



Some of the Members make various gestures during a lighter moment at the AGM

Thought of the Month (submitted by **Michael Dewart**)

Excellence is an art won by training and habituation. We do not act rightly because we have virtue or excellence, but rather we have those because we have acted rightly. We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act but a habit.

Aristotle

You Can Feel This Way After Getting Hit in the Head With the Ball (actual courtroom testimony)

LAWYER: Do you recall telling the police that you passed out at that time?

DEFENDANT: I passed out, yes. I passed out. I think I blacked out. I passed out, but I don't know if I was really out. I just remember blacking out and I assume I passed out. If I didn't pass out, maybe just my mind blacked out.



Tom Horowitz stands out from the crowd at the AGM

Cal South Survey Results and Future Plans Revealed (submitted by **Tom Bobadilla**)

.. as promised, attached are the survey results... We thank **Penny Rehm** for leading the effort and the team members, **Rick Rehm**, **Bob Karmann**, **Fran Karmann**, **Jeremy Swan** and **Ron Berkowitz** for their time and effort. We learned about some of your needs and challenges as well as reinforced some of the knowledge we have about the referee issues. As a result of the surveys, the SRC will start some projects to address the key issues identified via the surveys. And additional projects will be started later as soon as more information/planning is collected.

The goal is to get the referee associations and others involved in these projects in order to end up with solutions and improved services that impact most or all of our referee community. We have identified high level objectives/projects that can be started soon and we're in the process of selecting individuals to lead some of these efforts. The members of the Retention/Recruitment committee will be given a chance to volunteer as leaders as they have generated a momentum and acquired knowledge of the issues identified. If you would like to nominate a person(s) within your association, to participate on any of the projects listed below, please email me with their contact information.

Please share the general outcome from the surveys with your referees but more importantly, share the information on the new projects. Below we included some key points that you can share.

Again, we thank the R/R team for a good job and we THANK you all for your support and participation. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact me right away.

Tom Bobadilla
(310) 547-4198

Current Referee Survey - Points to share

- Typical reasons for becoming a referee, including making extra money :)
- From the volunteers that started with AYSO and Recreational leagues, your association can recruit more referees.
- Referees enjoy officiating so keep them busy.
- At least half of the referees think about upgrading. The SRC will provide more information on how to upgrade and please share it with your referees.
- Direct your referees to the SRC website so they can get more information about the SRC and the services offered.
- The SRC is looking to add more instruction/clinics/training, especially in areas away from L.A. or targeted to all referees.
- For now take advantage of the SRC offer to send an instructor to at least two of your RA sessions for free.
- These instructors will present topics related to the Points of Emphasis such as player management, which are essential to refereeing.
- Also, contact Tom Bobadilla if you have a tournament where your referees can be mentored.

Association Survey - Points to share

- Mentoring - the SRC can provide assistance with setting up a program, including training potential mentors.
- Mentoring - to be effective, each Referee Association has to have a mentoring program, not so formal but one that facilitates mentoring.
- Additional/improved training on "Dealing with Sideline Behavior" will be targeted soon.
- Good things that some of the Associations are doing and need to be shared with other associations
 - Some have effective mentor programs in place. Ex: San Gabriel Valley SRA.
 - Sharing referee performance when it is excellent/outstanding to motivate the individuals as well as their peers.
 - Most Associations recognize the Referee of the Year and others achievements.

Projects to be started as soon as a leader is identified:

- Improve upgrade information: Penny, with the help of the SRC is developing a presentation with upgrade information. The SRC will share the presentation with the Referee Associations. The content will also be posted in the SRC website.
- Add instructional information to the website (Tests, Contests, Videos, Links, etc.): More content and links will be added to the website, connecting with existing items that already address this need.
- Update information on webpage: Assign a person to "go after" content updates for the website.

Quote of the Month (attributed to Yogi Berra)

"If you don't know where you are going, you will wind up somewhere else."



Bill Cook sets **Gabriel Goldsman** straight about a thing or two

Change of Instructions – New AIG (submitted by **Lee Jordan**)

....**Gil Weber** is one of the authors of the AIG - additional instructions guide, so take this as gospel...

A new AIG just went out to the States this month. Note new mechanic for AR when flagging for PK:

We no longer put the flag straight down between the legs. Now we hold it parallel to the ground below the waist. (So it's like the signal for substitutions, but held low).

Gil Weber

Maybe They Should Have Gone Ahead and Played the Match (recent news article)

(In Bosnia-Herzegovina) demonstrators trashed shops and smashed windows at the headquarters of the country's soccer association to protest the firing of the national team's coach.

Police said they arrested as many as 35 people. Two officers were slightly hurt. The association said it fired **Meho Kodro** last week because he refused to let the team play a friendly match against Iran.



Tino Perone shows he knows how to have a good time at the 2008 AGM

Cop Seriously Injured in Clash With Fans (recent news article)

PARMA, Italy (May 18) - A police officer was in serious condition with spleen wounds following clashes with Inter Milan fans Sunday, local reports said. Another officer was slightly injured in the clashes before Inter's game with Parma, the ANSA news agency reported.

Inter fans were barred from attending the game, which Inter won 2-0 to clinch the Italian league title.

The clashes involved fans without tickets attempting to climb over fences to enter the stadium. One Parma fan was slightly injured, ANSA reported. Despite the ban, about 1,000 Inter fans still managed to attend the match.

After the game, Inter fans heavily damaged a school near the stadium, ANSA said.

I've had Some Games Like this Myself (attributed to sportscaster **Murray Walker**)

“We now have the same situation as we had at the start of the race, only exactly the opposite.”



Heidi Garlick needs a refill

Important Soccer Referee Info is Only a Click Away (submitted by Reza Pazirandeh)

Not sure if this has been discussed at any of our meetings, but there is some very useful instructional material on US Soccer Website (<http://www.ussoccer-data.com>) which I would strongly encourage all members to read on a regular basis.

The material contains a discussion and review of MLS games from refereeing view point on a weekly basis. Even though the material is about MLS, I have found it very useful and most of it relevant to the games we do. The reports discuss fouls, bad offside calls, good offside calls, what to do and not do in certain game situations, etc. And many times there is a video clip to show what they are talking about.

Click on <http://www.ussoccer-data.com/> , click on “Topics of Interest” and “Get Topic List” buttons. You will then see a list of topics and position papers and also topics named like “Referee week in review - Week 8, 2008”



Kiku Annon and **Veto Galati** get into the spirit of the evening at the 2008 AGM

At Least 8 Suffocate at Soccer Match (recent news article)

MONROVIA, Liberia - At least eight people suffocated at an overcrowded stadium during a soccer match between Liberia and Gambia on Sunday, a doctor and an aid worker said.

The 33,000-seat Samuel K. Doe stadium in Monrovia was packed beyond capacity for the World Cup qualifying match. The rowdy crowd pushed up against a metal bar, causing the bar to snap and sending dozens of people careening onto the floor below. They fell onto others at the game, crushing them. "Spectators tried all sorts of means to save (them), but could not help," said Liberian Red Cross rescue worker **Emmanuel Johnson**.

Hours before the start of the match, United Nations peacekeepers had closed the gates of the stadium when it became clear that the stadium was already beyond capacity. Thousands of people entered using fraudulent tickets, stranding real ticket holders outside. Stadium officials could not differentiate between the real and fake tickets and already had allowed too many people to enter before they realized their mistake.

Another Quote of the Month (attributed to **Jason Taylor**, after finishing second in Dancing with the Stars)

"If you've got to finish anywhere besides first, second place is the best you can get."



Sheila, Shaine and Shawn Danbeli make some gestures of their own at the AGM

No thanks, I Don't Know Where It's Been (submitted by W. Howell)

After several week-ends of poor weather, featuring both extreme cold and heat, an SSBRA team of referees were happy to find themselves in Moorpark for a recent youth tournament under perfect weather and field conditions. For the last game of a three game set before another SSBRA crew was to take over the field, Gabriel "Mario" Goldsman was doing the honors as center referee, with the very capable **Valle Altobelli** doing an excellent job as one AR, and the referee known to many as the Large Member doing the best he could as the other AR. Alas, it was obvious from the start that things would not go smoothly in the GU13 match, due to the coach on the LM's side. Though obviously exceptionally, even remarkably, fit physically, she was displaying a poor mental attitude from the very beginning, spreading negative energy all around, even when she was not complaining about the referees. In the second half, she finally lost it altogether and started jumping around, screaming and ranting at the top of her voice, completely out of control. Gabriel knew what to do of course, sent her off and tried to restore order to the sidelines. After awhile he was able to do just that, with an assistant coach taking over and the miscreant headed toward the parking lot complaining with a more reasonable voice. But for some reason, as the game restarted, she then became re-agitated and started screaming again at a high decibel level. The LM tried to help and told her to be quiet and keep moving towards the parking lot. At this, she screamed at the LM for all to hear "And you can kiss

mine too!” Startled and knowing exactly which well-shaped body part she was referring to, the LM nonetheless decided to decline the offer, even though Gabriel offered to suspend the game for a few moments if the AR wanted to take advantage of the opportunity (biting was also mentioned). At this point, going above and beyond the call of duty to help out their fellow referees, members of the Danbeli family (waiting to take over the field for the next match), standing shoulder to shoulder, formed an arc on one side of the Screamer and started edging her again towards the parking lot. Though it is unclear to this writer as to what experience they have in this kind of maneuver, it looked very much like a scene out of the Old West, where mounted wranglers would encourage stray cattle to rejoin the herd. Experienced or not, the Danbelis were successful in herding her out of the area, and the Screamer was seen no more that day.



Jim Lucania and Eric “Slammer” Takaki have a few things to say at the AGM

Answer to Guess that Ref: Our very own older English guy, **Steve McCall**.