



The Flag and Whistle

Newsletter of the Soccer South Bay Referee Association

August 31, 2008

P.O. Box 10466, Torrance, CA 90505

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www.ssbra.org

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MEMBERS RATIFY BOARD AFTER BEING PAID OFF BILL SHARES HIS OPINION OF SSBRA TOURNAMENT PERFORMANCE WIFE-CARRYING AND GEEZER-CARTING ALTERNATIVE REVEALED

As is becoming a habit, Secretary **Warren Howell** took the floor at the opening of the abbreviated August meeting (held in the cafeteria), and was able to persuade a few new-comers to stand up and introduced themselves, though most of these decided to lay low rather than risk public embarrassment. Doing double duty in the absence of Treasurer **Steve Brandon**, Warren passed out a financial report, that revealed we have \$7298.99 in the bank and a lot of other details that he was not familiar with, nor that anyone else expressed interest in. Warren then mumbled something about the audit of USSF 2008 certified Members, payment status of said Members (106 out of 197 had paid), and told us that he would be pursuing the unpaid and undecided in order to get the roster up to date and the dues settled.

Tired of hearing Warren's voice, President **Ed McClure** took over the meeting, and, per the newly revised bylaws, asked for ratification from the gathering of appointed Board Members **Bill Cook**, **Gabriel Goldsman**, **Lee Jordan** and **Heidi Garlick**. The Members present were more than willing to do this, and there were no objections offered as the group was ratified by acclamation. While all this dreariness was going on, a far more interesting activity was taking place, as **Surendra Menon** and **Bill Mindlin** had volunteered (more or less) to hand out an astonishingly

large pile of checks (some of these were reduced by the amount of the yearly dues), which they did for most of the evening to those present.

Ed wasn't done talking yet though, and told us that contracts for SBS, SBPSL and the J-League were in the works, with SSBRA trying to get raises for the Members where it could (PSL had agreed to go with the same rates as CSL). Ed also said that there was talk of SSBRA getting more premier games, though that was still to be decided.

Having tired somewhat, Ed then turned things over to Assignor Bill Cook, who told us that about \$23,000 had been invoiced for our work in the August tournaments. Last week-end we covered 11 fields with 204 games, which was unprecedented (see kudos below), even though in total there were less pre-season games this year than in years past. Bill then explained that he would attend the CSL meeting the following evening, at which the fields we would be responsible for would be determined and the handbooks passed out (see him for your copy, or come to a meeting). Somehow all of this inspired **Alex Mebene** to ask to speak. This he did, telling us about some educational DVD's he was selling about the Laws of the Game and such – see him if you are interested.

That was not the end of the interesting information on this night by a long-shot, as **Manny Fineberg** got up to speak and told us about the great shirts (and great prices) that he could offer SSBRA Members through soccerone.com (look for the link also on SSBRA.org). One can get just about everything else you might need there too, including shorts, socks, whistles, game wallets, and so on, even 2-way radio sets, all of which are available through the VIP program (free for SSBRA Members to join) at discount prices for even more savings.

Having rested up a bit, Ed took back the floor and started talking again, mentioning that the Welcome Wagon and Mentoring program were going to be discontinued, and the Sportsmanship award was going to be re-worked. A discussion followed these announcements, with **Rudy Chavez, Veto Galati, Harry Ross** and **Larry Stern**, among others, sharing their views, and **Jim Lucania** telling us that the State mentoring program is now being run by **Larry Yee** and that anyone interested could contact Jim directly for more information.

Ed reminded us that we should make an extra effort to come to the September meeting, as the Cal South folks would be coming out again to help get us USSF registered for 2009. He then closed the formal meeting, and everyone started doing what they like best, talking with and enjoying the company of their fellow referees in a friendly social environment.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, August 20, 2008

- **Jorge Pierce** and **Mike Beeman** were accepted as new Members
- Only one tournament is available on Labor Day, as the number has been reduced from years past
- Three Members were late recently to various games, action to be taken
- There is \$6092.64 in the bank. It took Steve four trips to the bank to get the signature authority on the account changed, but it is done
- We are signed-up for the men's UCLA MBA tournament in November again
- J-league starts September 6, no formal contract has been signed nor do we think there will be
- CSL still owes us \$320 in single game fees. The season kick-off dinner is on 8/27 and Bill will attend
- SBS and PSL fees, contracts and game situations were discussed
- Paul to form new ranking committee
- Education (bringing in speakers for a fee) at the monthly meetings was discussed
- Drop Welcome Wagon and Mentor programs for now, rework the Sportsmanship program

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, August 25, 2008

- **Kristin Mihara, Caitlyn Scruggs, Jazmin Ponce, Jessica Ortiz, Joe Tabrisky** and **Vasilios Sakellariadis**

were all accepted as new Members

- Four Members are to be dropped from the roster

- Separate problems with four others Members were discussed, action to be taken

NEXT MONTHLY MEETING

THE NEXT MEETING IS ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 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. THE AGENDA WILL INCLUDE REVIEW OF THE CSL AND OTHER LEAGUE SEASONS SO FAR, THE PASSING OUT OF RELATED CHECKS TO THE DESERVING AND A VISIT FROM CAL SOUTH FOLKS TO GET US USSF REGISTERED FOR 2009.

USSF Revises Revised Registration Fees (submitted by Tom Bobadilla)

Referee, Instructor, Assessor and Assignor Fees

Revised 7/8/2008

Category/Type	Fee
Referee	
Grade 1	\$100
Grade 2	\$100
Grade 3	\$100
Grade 4	\$100
Grade 5	\$75
Grade 6	\$75
Grade 7	\$45
Grade 8	\$40
Grade 9	\$40
Grade 12	\$40
Grade 13	\$75
Grade 15	\$75
Grade 16	\$75
Indoor/Futsal - Grade 8	\$45
Beach Soccer - Grade 8	\$45
Instructor	
Grade 3	\$100
Grade 4	\$100
Grade 5	\$75
Grade 7	\$45
Grade 9	\$40
Grade 11	\$40
Assessor	
Grade 3	\$100
Grade 5	\$75
Grade 6	\$75
Grade 7	\$45
Grade 9	\$40

Assignor	
Grade 8	\$10

Taking Back a Card (submitted by **Alfred Kleinaitis**, Manager of Referee Development/Education)

A EURO 2008 quarterfinal match between Russia and The Netherlands (June 21, 2008) was the occasion for a referee action which many misunderstood. In the 91st minute (added time), the referee apparently whistled play stopped for a challenge by Russian player #8 (**Kolodin**) against Netherlands player #10 (**Sneijder**). Kolodin was cautioned and then, because he had been cautioned already earlier in the match, Kolodin was shown a red card.

Before the restart for the apparent foul, however, and following an exchange of information between the referee and the lead assistant referee, the second caution and the accompanying red card were rescinded and play was restarted with a goal kick. The issue was widely debated as to whether the referee could take this action in view of the fact that both cards had been displayed.

The referee's actions were within the Law. Based on information provided by the assistant referee whose position provided a better angle of view, the referee accepted two facts:

- The challenge by Kolodin to which the referee reacted occurred after the ball had left the field of play.
- The tackle by Kolodin actually occurred several feet away from the Netherlands attacker, who then tumbled over the defender's body.

From this information, the referee therefore correctly concluded that:

- the challenge (regardless of its nature) occurred when the ball was out of play and therefore the restart had to be a goal kick, and
- the challenge itself was either entirely fair or at least did not rise to the level of misconduct so the yellow card was not justified (with the consequence that the red card also was not justified).

Prior to play restarting following the display of a card, the referee can revise his decision about what he observed on the field, re-evaluate the significance of the player action, or receive additional relevant information from another official (either or both assistant referees or the fourth official). As a result of this further reflection or assistance from other members of the officiating team, the referee can:

- rescind the card entirely,
- decide that the card should be given to a different player,
- display a card to additional players,
- or display a different color card in place of the one originally shown.

As a practical matter, it must be emphasized that the occasion for such an action should be infrequent, that the need to rescind a card is reduced by having as much information as possible before displaying a card, and that referees should not be seen as acting in response to player appeals. If play has been properly restarted, any cards shown must be reported.

Volunteers Wanted (submitted by **Jen Dirksen**, jen_dirksen@yahoo.com)

Aaron Kaufman from EA said SSBRA was a good contact to see whether you might be able to help us out with our charity soccer tournament on Sunday, September 28th. I know that your people are probably inundated with games right now with AYSO kicking off, but I wanted to see whether there might be some refs available to help us out. A little about the tournament: it's 7 v 7 adult co-ed teams...40 minute games, and generally goes from about 9am-4pm. The proceeds from the tournament go to LA Scores, a non profit after-school program that combines soccer and creative writing to help educate the whole child. We currently service over 300 kids in the LA area.

Anyways, if this sounds like something that might be doable on your end, or if you know of someone who might be able to help us out, please let me know.

SSBRA Members Make an Impression at August Tournaments (submitted by Bill Cook)

Well, I have been to 15 county fairs, 9 hog roasts & 4 cow tipping contests and haven't had as much fun as I had this weekend.

I was privileged to watch some brand new faces, many old faces and a couple of really, really old faces out on the soccer pitches doing what they do best. Lots of laundry this weekend as we were changing shirt colors faster that Lee Jordan can whip out a yellow card.

Did have one crew, however, when I approached them at half time of their game to ask them if they had noticed if 11 of the players on the field were wearing bright yellow jerseys, coincidentally very similar in color to shirts all 3 of them were wearing. They sheepishly agreed that they probably would look much better in red and we were actually able to spot them in the second half.

Seriously though, SSBRA referees performed outstandingly well this weekend. Not only did everyone show up on time to keep all of the fields running on time, which amazed the Tournament people, our performance in keeping the games under control was outstanding and much appreciated by the Tournament. That's why they keep asking us back and is also why they give us their top bracketed games.

Kudos to you all, great job.

Larry Gets a Nickname (submitted by W. Howell)

It was a sunny, and beautiful, but not overly warm day, during a recent August tournament in Moorpark. Larry Stern had the honor of refereeing a GU15 consolation game on the Sunday afternoon, with **Reggie Raleigh** and the referee some know as the **Large Member** helping out. While Larry was turning in one of his well-known near-perfect efforts, the game itself was somewhat dispirited, with the players only giving it a half-hearted effort at the end of a long week-end. The losing coach on the L.M.'s side was more spirited however, but, lacking anything specific to complain about, limited himself to vague mutterings and grousing under his breath. Finally, the game mercifully came to an end, but the fun was only starting, as the coach called the L.M. over and the following conversation took place:

Coach: Hey ref, I want to talk to you

L.M.: Sure coach, what's up?

Coach: You know the referee of the match (pointing to Larry)?

L.M.: Oh yeah, known him for years

Coach: Well, I want to tell you, that he is Not Qualified to do a game at this level!

L.M.: (silently walks away)

Shortly thereafter, the post-game referee conference took place:

Larry: How'd we do? Is there anything I missed?

L.M.: Well, there is one thing.

Larry: What!?

L.M.: The coach says you are Not Qualified to do games at this level.

Larry (stunned): He said that?

L.M.: Yes, he did

Larry: And I suppose you are not going to let it go?

L.M.: Nope

Where's the Stinking Badges? (from the Cal South referee website)

If your name is listed on the 2008 list of registered officials and you have not received your 2008 badge or ID card, please contact USSF directly as they are responsible for mailing out the packets.

Please call 312.808.1300 and ask for the referee department.

This Coach Seems to Know What He's Doing (attributed to University of Kentucky coach **Fran Curci**)

"Both teams used basically the same offense, which is based on having the ball."

Referees Get a Chance to Say a Word or Three (submitted by Tom Bobadilla)

MLS via the Chivas USA and Kansas City Wizards is having another "Referee Session" after their game on September 27. Please let your referees know so they can plan on taking advantage of this opportunity to learn from the Pro officials and have a good time supporting and enjoying great soccer.

For specific questions on ticket availability, please have referees contact **Tom Rios** at 310-413-1561 directly.

Sat, Sep 27, 08 10:30 PM (ET)	Kansas City Wizards @ CD Chivas USA Home Depot Center; Carson, CA -	(R) Kennedy, Michael (AR1) Bragg, David (AR2) Monje, Emiliano (4th) Reyes, Yader (Asr) Bobadilla, Tom
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This Group Doesn't Look Bored at All (Recent Board meeting, submitted by Heidi "Honey" Garlick)



From Left to Right: Assignor Bill Cook, Incoming Treasurer Steve "Show-Me-The-Money" Brandon, Past President and bylaws committee Member Larry "N.Q." Stern, Outgoing Treasurer **Tom "T.T.T.xT." Mallen**, Secretary Warren "Jacuzzi Jack" Howell, Member-at-Large Gabriel "Mario" Goldsman, Webmaster Lee "Red-Card" Jordan, President Ed "Shirrtail" McClure, Past President and bylaws committee Member **Bob Hildreth**, and Vice-President **Paul "Mouthpiece" Kelly**.

We've All Run into Expert Referees Like This (actual courtroom testimony)

Lawyer: What about the research?

Witness: I don't think there is any research on that. There's a logical hunch that may be true, but I know of no research study that would support that.

Lawyer: What about just common sense?

Witness: Well, I'm not here using common sense. I'm here as an expert.

No Word Yet as to the Mailing of 2009 Registration Forms to Referees (Submitted by Penny Rehm)

Hi Ed -

We still don't have a date when the instructions will be mailed out to the referees. All USSF tells us is that they are working on it. You can say that I will be at the meeting (editor's note: Tuesday September 30 at 7:30 PM at North Torrance High School) to collect registration forms and answer any registration questions the group might have. I will have plenty of blank forms with me just in case USSF does not have in the mail by then.

Penny E. Rehm

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No wonder It's So Hard to Get 10 yards on a Free Kick (actual courtroom testimony)

Lawyer: Do you not recall the exact distance?

Witness: That he was from me? Or I was from him?

Finland Holds Swamp Soccer World Cup (submitted by W. Howell)

July 21, 2008 (Reuters: **Bob Strong**)

With mud up to her waist and the yellow wig hanging sideways, swamp-soccer veteran **Tuula Brocke** reached for the ball just barely a metre in front of her, but her foot would not move an inch. Playing ball in a swamp is like a slow-motion movie coming to a halt every time a player sinks in a hole, she said. "Your opponent snatches the ball right in front of your nose, but you are stuck in the mass of dung and cannot move at all," she said, while wiping dried crust of her arms and face.

Ms Brocke's team, the G-Spots, is one of 340 which competed in this year's Swamp Soccer World Championships, held in northern Finland for the 10th time in a row. Latvia, Lithuania, Norway and Russia were among the growing number of foreign teams. Organisers estimate some 10,000 people attended the event each of the three days.

A natural swamp outside the town of Hyrynsalmi Finland was converted into 22 playing fields marked with yellow tape, more resembling pig pens than a world cup site. There was no offside, no definite penalty box and unlimited substitutions were made on the fly. Even so, each team looked for their own tactic to bring the ball forward in this chaotic and largely uncontrolled game. "We have been training how to walk in the swamp on our fours and to kick from the side, that's the only way we could move it, when the ground got this soft," Ms Brocke said, adding it was guts and always a bit of luck that decided the better team.

The sport was conceived by Finnish cross-country skiers looking for a way to train during the snowless summer months. Portuguese Olympic cross-country skier **Danny Silva** joined one of the teams looking for exactly that kind of exercise. "You can't run normally, and the swamp makes your legs very heavy, that boosts your heart rate and it pumps your upper leg strength," he said, adding it was the Finnish training methodology that was the best part of it all. "Athletes get way too serious when they train, this is bizarre, but makes training so much more fun."

Shoes and socks were taped with duct tape. Supermen outfits, wigs and men in dresses were common, as were men dragging women through mud and the latter kicking back twice as hard. The swamp is much cleaner now than when it was still full of tree stumps and branches a decade ago, one player said. But bruises, cuts and strained muscles are always part of it all, especially when extreme fatigue sets in after playing several games in a row. Not drinking water from the swamp and insurance protection were rules organisers emphasized most.

For most of the team the weekend-long event was a fun mud bonanza for as long as the midnight sun shone. Winning the trophy in the men's, women's, mixed or hobby category was secondary, at least for most....



All Dressed Up.....: Two Finnish guys challenge for the ball during a Swamp Soccer match. For some reason, the guy on the left is wearing a dress.

Most Parents Can Relate to this Problem (actual physician's order, as received by a pharmacist)

“Patient may take ibuprofen 400 mg orally every 6 hours for pain provided by patient's daughter.”

Referees Get a Bit of Advice (submitted by Bill Cook)

The day before your assignments, take another look at your schedules and print off a copy to take with you to the fields.

You might also want to print a copy of the fee schedule with the money splits from our website. You will find it very helpful when splitting the fees.

Make sure to arrive at your field at least 15 to 20 minutes before the start time of the first game (30 minutes is best) so you can have time to check out the field and begin the safety check of the teams. If you haven't been to your

field then leave a little early to allow for some “getting lost” time as some of our fields are difficult to find the first time.

If you are having any difficulties, call me on my cell phone at 310/344-0856 or 310/316-0808

And just to clarify, the CSDH fields are South & East of the campus off University Drive.

Remember to pay for parking on Saturdays only at CSDH.

Some Penalty Kicks Should be Handled Like this too (attributed to **George W. Bush**)

“This case has had full analyzation and has been looked at a lot.”

Players are Encouraged to Let their Opinion be Known (submitted by W. Howell)

The summer pre-CSL season tournament season was in full swing, and the referee who is sometimes called **Bluto** was having a great time as an AR at a BU14 match. The next game was to be a GU15 final, and by a quirk of scheduling, Bluto was looking forward to the honor of doing that match as the center referee. The GU15 teams were gathering as the BU14 game continued, with one of the clubs warming up near the sideline where Bluto was stationed, and several SSBRA referees were hanging out in the same general area too waiting for their game to begin. Suddenly Bluto was shocked as he raised his flag to point direction, and the entire nearby GU15 team started cheering and chanting his (real) name loudly, and continued to applaud and shout approval of his efforts! Every call or flag movement brought more loud cheers and personal greetings from the crowd – even **Pele** never had such wild fans as Bluto did at that game! Bewildered as to what was going on, Bluto eventually spied Rudy “Chokehold” Chavez near the gathered team, with Gabriel “Mario” Goldsman and Tom “TTTxT” Mallen also nearby, laughing themselves sick. The truth was then revealed – Rudy had told the team that Bluto would be the referee of their final, and that any good words now might pay dividends later. Laughing at the joke, Bluto enjoyed all the positive attention for the rest of that game, which even continued as the other refs left to attend to their own BU17 final on another field.

The BU14 game eventually ended, the GU15 teams were checked in (with more cheering and applause for the referee team), and the final got under way. Things went well into the second half, when another round of cheering and yelling for the referee suddenly went up from the sideline – several voices could be heard shouting “good call ref!” and chanting “BLUTO! BLUTO!!” Trying to look serious (this was a final after all), Bluto cast a glance in the direction of the commotion, and sure enough, there were Mario and Chokehold, their game over, leading a cheer. Greatly amused, Bluto tried to keep a serious face and maintain a professional demeanor, but was only partially successful. After a while the SSBRA spectator refs left, and the game ended without any other unusual incidents. The team that had been cheering for Bluto all along continued to show their approval and support for his efforts after the game too, even though they lost anyway.