



The Flag and Whistle

Newsletter of the Soccer South Bay Referee Association

October 31, 2008

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ALL SSBRA MEMBERS ARE RANKED AND RE-RANKED MULTIPLE ASSAULT REPORTS ON SOCCER REFEREES REVEALED FLAG AND WHISTLE READERS ASKED TO SOLVE A MYSTERY

After looking high and low, it was determined that President **Ed McClure** was not around (rumors abounded that he was off visiting fishing villages on the Turkish coast), and so, in accordance with the bylaws, Vice President **Paul Kelly** decided to take over the monthly meeting. Jumping right in, Paul asked for any new guys to stand up and introduce themselves. Accepting the invitation, **Mukesh Bhata**, **Barry Giberman** and **Itchel Guzman** did exactly that, and were in turn welcomed with the warm greetings and best wishes for which SSBRA Members are famous. Immediately thereafter, **Vince Delmonico** indicated that he wanted to take the floor RIGHT NOW, and, knowing that sometimes Vince packs heat, Paul was more than happy to oblige. Vince then told us the wonderful news that the various activities undertaken by the local community had netted a staggering \$165,000 for the cancer treatment for Manhattan Beach police officer **Mark Vasquez**.

Though it was unlikely that anything said for the rest of the evening would match Vince's news, the meeting went forward anyway, with Secretary **Warren Howell** saying that he had just a few "deadbeat" stragglers left in his efforts to get the dues collected. Treasurer **Steve Brandon** then had some (mildly) more interesting stuff to talk

about in regard to Association finances (see full statement below) though, alas, he was unable to tell us how much, or even if, there money was in the bank. He also said something about 1099s, which no one wanted to hear.

With that trivia out of the way, it was time for Assignor **Bill “Comrade” Cook** to take the floor and inform us that he was now receiving social security payments from our government. This news brought forth a number of comments from the Members in regard for the wonders of socialism, the inherent goodness of the U.S government and cries in support of Solidarity for the Working Class. After order was restored, Bill got down to more mundane affairs, telling us that the CSL season would be winding down over the next couple of weeks, the J-league tournament was continuing this week-end, and that the MBA UCLA tournament was coming next month.

At that point Paul asked the Members what their opinion was of the CSL “live scan” fingerprinting program, as he had gotten little response up to that point. This time those present did have a lot to say, and say it they did, often both loudly and emotionally. With people talking over each other, Paul asked everyone with an opinion to send an Email to Ed McClure (president@SSBRA.org) so that the Association could speak with one voice. Some of the concerns expressed were the cost, the security/safeguarding of the data, what was really going to be done with it once collected, why did many of us who have already been fingerprinted for other activities have to go through it again, who was insisting on this new requirement, and what it would accomplish since the contact between young players and referees was so negligible. This and more were brought up by (among others) Vince Delmonico, **Tom Mallen, Larry Savell, Alex Mebane, Bob Slater, Larry Stern, Kiku Annon, Ed Beverly, Andy Kmita and Alan Simpson.**

After everyone calmed down a bit, Paul thanked **James Marsella, Gabriel “Mario” Goldsman,** Alex Mebane and Warren Howell for their efforts in the recently-completed re-ranking of all the Members. Anyone wanting to know more about their personal ranking can contact Paul at vicepresident@SSBRA.org. Training Director **Heidi Garlick** then reported on her efforts to come up with a standard protocol to help our Members report on game incidents – we should all use the USSF forms and send them to the Board (Gabriel) instead of directly to the league, so that the Board would know what was going on. As an example, a recent case of referee assault was discussed (see below), with **George Heggie** and others wanting to know the details and express their opinions, resulting in some more spirited discussions.

With all that going on, it was hard to believe that the highlight of the evening was still to come, as **Tom Bobadilla** was on hand to offer us his insight and concepts in an informative training session. Some of the points mentioned related to being prepared, keeping safe/fair/fun in mind along with maintaining one’s integrity and honesty. The Members found his various ideas thought provoking and amusing, including his advice “don’t p--- off the Board!” and the way he deferred to Bob Slater whenever a term of a, uh, “technical” nature was called for. After going through general remarks on how to approach any match, the Members amusement increased when Tom recruited Larry “N.Q” Stern , Vince Delmonico, **Kirk Zielomski,** Alex Mebane and Warren Howell to play various roles. As expected, this group of characters did not always follow the script, and many of those Members already mentioned had plenty to say, as did **Bill Mindlin, Musa Abselshife, Richard LaGraff and Vasilos Sakeliariadis.** Finally Tom ended his presentation with a promise to come back for more later, and it was time for the raffle. Winning whistles were **Veto Galati,** Vasi Sakeliariadis and Alan Sampson. **Bob Foster** won a pair of stick-on velcro patches, and Kirk Zielomski won the grand prize, a pair of flags. Paul then adjourned the meeting, and the noise level immediately increased as the Members broke into smaller groups to greet their friends and discuss the issues of the day, or whatever.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, October 21, 2008

- Warren’s few remaining “deadbeats” were discussed and the Board approved an action for each of them
- Steve reported that there is \$7084.80 in the bank. SBPSL has paid their invoice, but in the wrong (higher) amount, which Steve has told them will be credited to future payments. A number of old, non-cashed checks will be canceled.

- Bill told us that the season is going well, with near perfect coverage and relatively few significant complaints. Upcoming events include the J-league youth and UCLA tournaments
- A match report protocol was presented, discussed and will be revised
- A serious referee incident report was reviewed and the steps already taken by SSBRA, and further actions, were talked about and clarified
- Despite a request for comments from the Members, there has been very little reaction to the CSL referee fingerprinting proposal from the Members. Paul will ask again for comments
- The ranking of all the Members by the two sub-committees were presented to the full Board. Each name on the roster was discussed, and some changes were made to the committee's recommendations and the final current list
- An incident between two Members was discussed, it was decided that no further action need be taken
- A couple of payments will be made to Members due to assigning problems/confusion
- It was agreed that Members should be able to request to be evaluated

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, October 28, 2008

- The application for Membership for **Victor Duran** was approved
- The incident reporting protocol was talked about some more
- The recent banning of a referee from a league was discussed
- Planning for "looking at" assessments of referees was discussed
- The Board decided to accept the proposed assigning referees to the January Long Beach tournament

NEXT MONTHLY MEETING

THE NEXT MEETING IS ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 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. THIS WILL BE THE LAST MEETING OF 2008, AS THERE IS NO MEETING IN DECEMBER. THE AGENDA WILL INCLUDE ASSOCIATION BUSINESS AND STUFF.



Boys will be boys (recent Champion's League action)

Thought of the Month (attributed to Aristotle)

“Without friends no one would choose to live, though he had all other goods.”

Youth Soccer Player Accused of Beating Up Referee (recent news article)

VENTURA -- A 14-year-old soccer player is accused of punching a referee during a game, sending him to the hospital.

The teen, whose identity has not been released, was cited earlier this month on suspicion of felony battery causing serious injury, according to Sheriff's Capt. **Ross Bonfiglio**. The alleged attack happened October 4 during an American Youth Soccer Organization game at Deerhill Park in Oak Park.

Volunteer referee **Gary Saxer**, 54, issued a "yellow card" warning the player about an illegal move and the teen began beating him, Bonfiglio said. Witnesses called for help.

The teen is no longer a player in AYSO, according to AYSO Region 4 commissioner **Jim Lyon**. In a written statement, Lyon said Saxer sustained extensive injuries in the alleged attack and required medical treatment at a hospital. The referee will continue to receive medical treatment in the days and weeks to come, Lyon added. He reportedly suffered a broken nose in the attack.

Saxer has been a volunteer referee for AYSO for the past 12 years, according to the statement. The case has been forwarded to the Ventura County District Attorney's Office.



Milan player **Emerson**, left, and Heerenveen player **Mika Vayrynen**, vie for the ball during a UEFA Cup match

This Sums up my idea of Refereeing (attributed to **Mark Twain**)

“All you need in this life is ignorance and confidence, and then success is sure.”

Not Everyone in England is a Gentleman (from Referee magazine)

A teenage soccer referee in Kent, England, who was working one of his first matches had to leave the game on a stretcher after a fan reportedly attacked him. **Will Sanderson**, 16, was working as a fourth official for the Andrew Samson Memorial Match between Albion Athletic and Birchington United Services Club. Sanderson was allegedly attacked after he asked fans on the sidelines to stop smoking and swearing. He was treated for severe bruising to the neck.

“This is certainly not in the spirit of the game and we hope it will not put him off (soccer) in the future,” said **Tim Amons**, secretary of the Thanet Sunday Football League.



Referee **Laurent Duhamel** is ready to take his ball and orange shirt home for the day (recent news photo)

This guy is not a fan (attributed to **Pete Thomas**)

“An NBA game was played (in October) in London, and the Daily Telegraph noted, ‘As far as value for money goes, not much can beat basketball. Nonstop on-court action breeds scores that reach triple figures, keeping you entertained every minute the ball is in play.’ In other words, it’s not the least bit like soccer.”

San Diego High School Soccer Referees Take a Stand (recent news article)

By **Ivan Orozco**, October 16, 2008

The upcoming high school soccer season could be over before it begins. That's if the San Diego Section can't find referees to officiate games. The season is a little more than a month away, and the section does not have a contractual agreement with an organization to staff varsity and junior varsity matches.

Section officials, athletic directors, coaches and representatives of the High School Sports Officiating Coalition met at the County of Education Office on Wednesday to discuss options in case a deal is not reached with the current organization that supplies officials. The Southern California Soccer Officials Association of San Diego

notified the coalition in September that it would withhold services should a mutual agreement not be met. Negotiations stalled after the HSSOC – an independent group representing schools and coaches – and the referees couldn't agree on a requested fee schedule.

Soccer officials are calling for a \$12 per game increase during the next three years, including a \$5 per game raise for the 2008-2009 season. They are also asking for a transportation fee. An increase in officials' pay means some schools already struggling to fund their soccer programs could be forced to forfeit matches because they can't afford to hire officials.

Section Commissioner **Dennis Ackerman** gave two more possible solutions Wednesday: delay the start of the season while negotiations continue, or make each school responsible for hiring officials. But coaches and athletic directors opted to back the HSSOC to pursue a new deal. “We all have to be on the same page here so there are no schools that are left out,” Ackerman said during the meeting. “We know some schools can probably pay for their own refs, but we want everyone to be on board on this.” The majority of coaches and athletic directors at Wednesday's meeting opted to have HSSOC President **Bill Stout** initiate more negotiations. “We want to come to an agreement with fees that are fair for all associations,” said Stout, who is serving as mediator between the section and the officials association. “That's the summary we had today in this meeting. We want to play.”

Stout said the HSSOC's first priority is to send the officials an e-mail summarizing the meeting and see what negotiations can be initiated. “Our first choice is to have (the SCSOASD) officiate our games,” Stout said. “We want to allow them some time to talk.” Stout said there's no specific time frame to reach an agreement or make a decision on an alternative.

SCSOASD President **Bob Petterson** didn't want to comment about the situation. He said he was aware the section met with coaches Wednesday but didn't know what was discussed. “It would be premature to openly discuss anything,” said Petterson, whose organization provides officials throughout Southern California, including the Southern Section.

The Southern Section, which includes Orange County, recently came to terms with the SCSOASD on a pay increase, prompting officials to seek similar compensation in San Diego. Some of the organization's officials are based in the Southern Section but make trips to San Diego to officiate games. Under last year's terms, fees for two-man crews in San Diego were \$57 apiece, a \$1 increase from the 2006-2007 rates. San Diego referees and schools agreed to the \$1 fee increase for both varsity and junior varsity games last year while a contractual agreement was being worked out. Schools and the HSSOC asked officials to take another \$1 increase this season, but the SCSOASD declined.

“This is a problem that began a while back,” Stout said. “We just didn't get to find an agreement on a contract. We kept it in limbo for too long. We hope to land a one-or two-year agreement. If we don't come to an agreement, we'll have to resort to other options.” That could mean looking for another official's organization or reaching out to officials who man club team matches.

The last resort? Cancel the season. If the season is annulled, some coaches would be without pay and student-athletes could resort to playing year-round club soccer. But not everyone can afford club soccer.

Oceanside coach **Frank Zimmerman** is more concerned with players missing out on important experiences. “Unfortunately, young people would be affected by decisions made by adult people,” Zimmerman said. “That always seems to be a problem for me. You only get one junior and senior year. You can't negotiate that.”

Members Come Through Again (submitted by Bill Cook)

THE EVENT:

The LA Special Olympics, for the 4th year in a row, has asked SSBRA to supply officials for the soccer portion of their Games. The soccer games are scheduled for next Friday, November 7, 2008 at South Gate Park in the city of South Gate. I anticipate needing 6 referees doing 5 or 6 games each. The games are very short, 2 10-minute halves, with a short halftime. These are Special Olympics kids with special needs and very often it is hard to tell who is winning as each team cheers just as loudly when the other team scores. They always have a great time and are just very excited to be on the soccer pitch having fun. I believe the game fees are \$20.00 per game and you fill out a voucher at the end of the day and LA Special Olympics issues you a check. Please let me know if you are interested and I will put you on the list. I believe the Games will begin around 10:00 am and end around 1:00 pm.

THE RESPONSE:

There was an overwhelming response for volunteers at the LA Special Olympics games in South Gate on Friday. I had 17 volunteers for the 6 available spots. Thank you all for your response. I will be assigning the Games later today. Those selected are: **Lloyd Lehrer**, Bob Slater, **Henry Gibson**, **Don Young**, Vince Delmonico & Kiku Annon.



Referee **Wolfgang Stark** works to restore order (Champion's League action)

State Law Concerning Attacks on Sports Officials

State	Crime	Penalty	Covered Officials	Covered Events
California Cal. Penal Code § 243.8	Battery against official during or immediately before or after an event in which the official participates and the actor knows or reasonably should know the official is performing his duties	Up to one year in jail, up to \$2,000 fine, or both	Referee, linesman, umpire, or similar official registered by or a member of an organization that educates and trains sports officials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interscholastic • Intercollegiate • Other organized amateur or professional event

BATTERY: The unlawful and unwanted touching or striking of one person by another, with the intention of bringing about a harmful or offensive contact.

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

“Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover.”

What does “sine die” mean? Is it the same as the “FIFA Five Friendly Schoolboy Rule” (whatever that is)? (submitted by Alan Sampson)

By **Roger Clarke**

Twenty two players have been suspended sine die by Birmingham County FA (England) in the aftermath of an alleged assault on a referee last season by a player who was never identified. All players who were registered with Hall Green Colts at the time have been banned until the offender is named.

Mike Fellows, the county disciplinary secretary, said the alleged incident happened in a match between Hall Green Colts and Coldlands in the Coronation League on March 2. According to the referee’s report the player concerned had refused to give his name. The player, from Hall Green Colts and wearing No 9, was dismissed after becoming abusive to the official but after initially leaving returned to the pitch and allegedly spat in the referee’s face. No match report form was submitted so the name could not be obtained from that and the club were asked for the name of the player concerned.

The club subsequently folded without revealing the name of the offending player, who was banned sine die immediately after the assault but without knowing who he is there has been no disciplinary hearing and the ban has no effect. With no player able to be charged, the disciplinary committee decided the next course of action was to suspend all players registered with the club at that time until the player concerned was identified. As a consequence all 22 have been issued with a letter at their last known address informing them of the ban and their right of appeal. The names will be circulated to all appropriate leagues in the county area and are also on the County FA web site suspension list.

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

“Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness.”

This Referee Needs to be Taken Out to the Woodshed (recent news article)

By: **Erin Murphy**, October 21, 2008

All coaches and teams have endured their share of questionable officiating. However, there are many times when one call can make or break a game, if not a season. One such discretionary call happened Sunday, Oct. 12, in a match between CV Manchester BU-14 Red and Carlsbad Wave F.C. BU-14 Black in the BU-14 AA-A North bracket of the Presidio League (San Diego).

The Manchester defense looked out of sync in the early minutes of the first half. After Carlsbad scored for the early 1-0 lead, it became apparent there were 12 Wave players on the field. Manchester coach **Steve Hill** brought the mishap to the referee's attention. The referee admitted there were 12 players on the field but he felt that it was not his responsibility to count every player before the game. Hill disagreed with that statement and felt it was dishonest.

Hill asked the referee to discount the goal and restart the match at nil-nil, threatening to take his players off the field if the referee didn't restart the game. The referee stated that was not possible, unless the Wave coach agreed to restart the game at zero-zero. Wave coach **Fernando Elizarraraz** agreed to the restart at nil-nil and shook with Hill on the agreement. The game restarted and the Wave took the 1-0 lead again. However, Manchester battled back and captured the 2-1 win. While Manchester won the game and the game card was signed, there was a discrepancy on the results page of the Presidio League website. The game that ended 2-1 in Manchester's favor was listed as a 2-2 tie.

Presidio got involved after the discrepancy appeared on the league's website. After investigating the situation, Presidio ruled that all parties involved broke a number of laws. One law of the game states that once a kickoff is taken after a goal, the goal is final. A goal cannot be taken away, regardless of whether there are 11 players on the field or 20. Another law that was broken was when they decided to restart the game. The halves were also cut significantly short, which is also illegal. It is mandatory that all games be played with equal halves. The first half only clocked 27 minutes while the second half registered 31 minutes. The last and most pertinent law that was broken was that the Manchester coach threatened to abandon the game if the match was not restarted. The referee even started filling out a forfeit game card.

Although all parties involved were at fault in the situation, the ruling comes down to what law was broken first. The referee stated that Manchester threatened to abandon the game and once a team does that, it's game over. Manchester is appealing the decision and can plead its case before the Presidio League Board of Directors, but unless Manchester can prove it did not abandon game, the ruling will stand.

XK San Diego Soccer News polled local, unbiased coaches to see what they would have done in the situation.

Coach One: "The teams kicked off after the goal was scored and didn't protest until play had already restarted, so technically that goal can't be taken away. The thing they could have done, however, is the coach with 12 players should have just let the team with the unfair disadvantage go down and score a goal, then continue from there."

Coach Two: "If the game is restarted by kickoff after the first goal, then the goal must stand by way of the laws of the game; however, the official is wrong in abandoning his or her responsibility to count the players on the field. That is one of a referee's many, many responsibilities. If I chose to restart the game, which I might have chosen, I would do so knowing that we were operating in disagreement with the laws and were perhaps susceptible to outside punishment after the fact. That being said, I would have had all three officials witness the handshake with

the opposing coach. In my opinion, a handshake is a handshake and it's not something that a coach should go back on. If I had shaken on it then I would expect the details of the handshake to be respected. However, improper procedures were followed so in that respect I'm not too sure what the laws of the game would indicate. Both teams were involved in this handshake agreement, so they're both technically at fault."

Coach Three: "The team that scored should have scored an own-goal intentionally to even the score back up since they scored having an extra player, unfair advantage. Since they shook on it, they shouldn't go back on the agreement that they had. The referee is a fool for thinking that it's not his job to count the players. That is what referees and assistant referees do prior to kickoff. "



Tottenham Hotspur's **Jamie O'Hara** receives a red card from referee **Brych** of Germany during a UEFA Cup match

Yet Another Quote of the Month (attributed to **Groucho Marks**)

“He may look like an idiot and talk like an idiot, but don't let that fool you. He really is an idiot.”

October Game Report from an SSBRA Referee (edited by the current secretary)

(During a co-ed game), in the middle of the first half, a male player of “Team A” was directly sent off for verbal abuse - "You got to f----- blow the whistle", "You f----- piece of s---", etc. A female player of “Team A” came

up to me and complained about the decision and I explained to her why he was sent off. It was obvious that she wasn't happy about it - I heard later that she was a captain.

In the second half, she still seemed not happy about my decision, and complained about some calls - "Did you see that, ref?", "That's horrible", etc. At a stoppage of play, I isolated her and told her that she had to stop complaining or she would be cautioned for dissent. She did not listen to me when I said this. So, I pulled out the yellow card for a 2-minutes sit-out, hoping she would cool down. But, she didn't even acknowledge the yellow card and ran back toward the other players, saying some bad words that I didn't hear well. At that point, I decided to send her off, pulling out the red card. All of sudden, she turned around and rushed at me swinging at my face. The punches barely missed my face, but she pushed and knocked me down to the ground. Then, she kicked my lower back from behind (while I lay on the ground protecting myself as best as I could). Others stopped her, and I was told that she took off right after that.

A report was made to the (local) Police Department, and a policeman came to the field later. He said that she could either get punished within the league system without filing a charge, or get arrested for a misdemeanor (battery). At that point, I decided not to file a charge against her. But, I might change my mind if I think she didn't learn a lesson from this. The only reason I gave her (another) chance is that she is a mother of kids and has never done that kind of thing before, based on what I heard from my fellow referees who have known her. She made a big mistake and I hope she learns something from this (editor's note: a police report was later filed, and the player, with the assistance of SSBRA, has been banned from all leagues in our area, a punishment that she acknowledged and accepted in her written apology letter).



"That's my mom. The restraining order won't let her get within shouting distance of the ref."

Treasurer's Report (submitted by Steve Brandon)

As of October 27th, the cash balances for SSBRA's account with Western Federal Credit Union are outlined below:

	9/30/2008	10/27/2008
Savings	\$ 2,925.65	\$ 4,003.65
Checking	\$ 4,058.83	\$ 1,960.89
Petty Cash	\$ 100.00	\$ 71.00
Totals	\$ 7,084.48	\$ 6,035.54
MB Advance:		
9/15 - 10/10	\$ -	\$ 3,250.00
Total Adv.	\$ -	\$ 3,250.00
Savings	\$ 2,925.65	\$ 7,253.65
Checking	\$ 4,058.83	\$ 1,960.89
Petty Cash	\$ 100.00	\$ 71.00
Adj. Totals	\$ 7,084.48	\$ 9,285.54

2009 Membership dues payments are comprised as follows:

SSBRA Dues Paid Thru 10/27/08		
	Count	Fee
Waived Dues	12	\$ -
Regular Dues	130	\$ 7,800
Non Internet Dues	1	\$ 70
Bank Deposit Error		\$ 5
Total Dues Paid	143	\$ 7,875

All monies due for the Manhattan Beach 7v7 Summer Season have been collected and deposited. The totals for the Manhattan Beach Summer Season are as follows:

Category	Totals	Cks Issued
Total Games	200	
Referee Fees	\$ 5,800.00	70
Assignor Fees	\$ 500.00	4
Treasurer Fees	\$ 117.00	4
Postage	\$ 28.56	n/a
SSBRA Payment Totals	\$ 6,445.56	78
Billed To Manhattan Beach	\$ 6,500.00	
Net Surplus to SSBRA	\$ 54.44	

On October 11, 2008 I once again issued referee payment advances, from SSBRA's savings account, for the Manhattan Beach 7v7 league. Specifically, I issued Fall Season checks for 100 matches to 30 referees and SSBRA's Assignor and Treasurer totaling \$3,198.00 for match dates 9/15/2008 thru 10/10/2008. Accordingly, I have invoiced Manhattan Beach Parks & Recreation Department for \$3,250.00. Once Manhattan's payment is received, the savings account will be replenished and I'll issue the next round of advance payments for matches after October 10th.