



# The Flag and Whistle

## Newsletter of the Soccer South Bay Referee Association

April 30, 2009

P.O. Box 10466, Torrance, CA 90505

Editor: Warren Howell

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

President: Ed McClure   Vice President: Paul Kelly   Secretary: Warren Howell   Treasurer: Steve Brandon  
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### NOMINATIONS MADE FOR THE PLETHORA OF AVAILABLE BOARD POSITIONS TOP CALSOUTH OFFICIALS CONVERSE WITH SSBRA REFEREES AT MEETING MEMBERS USE RINGERS IN THE BIG MATCH

President **Ed McClure** was once again off on some secret mission (or perhaps he just forgot about the meeting), so Vice President **Paul Kelly** presided at the April gathering. Reminding us that the LiveScan session had been postponed until the June meeting, he turned the floor over to **Joe Robelotto**. Joe told us the sad news that long-time official **Tony Smulders**, an old friend of many of the Members, had passed away.

Moving on, newcomers **George Anthony**, **Graham Roe**, **Ariel Ku** and **Carlos Ramirez** were introduced to the crowd, each standing up to tell a little about themselves and getting a warm welcome from the members in return. It was then the turn of Secretary **Warren Howell** to start talking, and he jumped right in at the opportunity. He told us that our longtime Cal South contact **Penny Rehm** was no longer working in the position of registrar and that it was unclear as to who to contact in her place. After thanking and encouraging all of those who had made contributions with articles and letters to the newsletter, he then told us there were 211 Members on the roster (57 of who signed the attendance sheet at the urging of **Vince Delmonico**), while there were 188 at this time last year. At that, Warren announced that he would stop talking and sit down, which brought a cheer from the back of the room.

Inspired by Warren's example, Treasurer **Steve "Show-Me-the-Money" Brandon** could hardly wait to take the floor, and told us there was \$8689.09 in the bank (see full report below). He also reminded us that it was that time of year when he would start to deduct the yearly dues for 2009-2010 from any future checks he would be giving out. Not to be outdone, our Assignor "**Comrade**" **Bill Cook** started talking, and told us a recent story about how a player in a GU11 match refused to take out her earrings. Doing what she had to do, **Deepika "Pika" Saluja** insisted that she could not play, and stuck to her guns, even when the player's father started complaining. Later the same father called Bill, talking about racism, lawsuits and injunctions to shut down all soccer matches in North America, or something, none of which impressed Bill in the least. The point of the story – for all SSBRA officiated youth games, there will be NO JEWELRY. Bill then told us in general about games just past and upcoming, with **Ralph Quirox**, Vince Delmonico, **Ed Beverly**, **Tom Mallen**, **Carlos Jimenez**, **Larry Savell** and others also saying a word or two.

Unable to resist, Paul recognized that **Pat Carlini** was in attendance, and that she was part of the Law-5 SBS team that had recently been victorious in a recent finals match, though rumors abounded about special referee calls to help them along (see below). It was also rumored that **Paula Borstel**, Pika Saluja, **Rudy "Chokehold" Chavez**, **Steve LaGraff** and some other Members are part of the team. Bill then decided that he wanted to say a few more words, and told us about how **Fredrik Gillette** went out of his way to support youth referee **Melisa Tallis** in a recent match. After that he asked **Shaine** and **Shawn Danbeli** to stand up and told us that they had been chosen to work Regional games later in the year, causing the Members to applaud and shout out their congratulations. Bill then went on to encourage all of us to support our youth referees, and to come out and watch them on the field, as they do a great job.

In a big surprise, Paul then told us that **Lee Jordan** had somehow arranged for FIFA AR **Marlene Duffy** to come speak to us at the August meeting, a very special event indeed that should not be missed.

It was time to talk about the elections at the AGM in May. Ed McClure is resigning as President effective July 1, so that office will be up for election. The Vice President's spot will also be up in the normal cycle, and Paul will not be running for another term. Likewise it is time for the Treasurer to be elected, and Steve Brandon has agreed to run for re-election. Warren Howell has been nominated for President, and if he wins, he will resign his current position as Secretary, effective July 1, so that a replacement can be elected. Nominations were made (more nominations can be made just before the elections in May), and they are as follows:

- **President** (one year term): Warren Howell
- **Vice President** (two year term) Vince Delmonico
- **Treasurer** (two year term): Steve Brandon (incumbent)
- **Secretary** (provisional one year term): ---

Note that **Larry Stern** was nominated for Secretary, but upon further reflection declined later in the evening in order to concentrate on his Training Director's duties.

Paul Kelly then offered a proposed change to the bylaws in writing. It is of a technical nature, and reads:

"Amend Section VII-E. All non-elected Board Members shall be ratified at the next membership meeting after their appointment. Said Members shall serve until the first board meeting after July 1 of each successive year."

At this point **Bill Mindlin** had a question about the SSBRA mentoring program. Paul and Bill Cook answered that it had been replaced by the "observation" program, wherein Members are observed and informally assessed as needed. A number of these have already been done and more were planned, with both new Members, youth/inexperienced Members and others who are looking to get better being targeted and looked at by senior Member referees.

Though it took awhile to get there, it was finally time for the main event of the evening. The new head of Cal South referees **Larry Yee** was there to talk with us, as was long-time administrator **Tom Bobadilla**. Tom explained how the organization was going through some changes as it was taking over the running of various men's leagues and trying to encourage more of them to become USSF affiliated. State Cup late round assignments would be done on a merit basis, as we can see by the appointment of Shawn and Shaine (see above). Larry complimented SSBRA on the good job it does at State Cup ("be on time, look good, do good"), apologized for any rude behavior the Members received from State officials, and promised to look into it so that it would not happen again. There was a period of general discussion, with Tom wanting to stress mentoring, upgrades and training for the referee community. The remarks were wide ranging and covered various topics, with Rudy Chavez, **Carlos Jimenez**, Larry Stern, Warren Howell, Larry Savell, Ed Beverly, **Bob Slater**, and **Mike Clifford** expressing their thoughts and asking questions, the most popular answer from Tom Bobadilla seemingly being that the 2010 badges will be available without the usual delay and will have Velcro on the back(!).

Paul told us that the AGM meeting in May would be at 7 PM in the parking lot of the usual Lamppost Pizza joint (see below), and then Steve Brandon held the raffle, with Ariel Ku drawing the winning tickets. All the prizes were either purchased or donated through **Manny Fineberg's** soccerone.com, and Steve noted the excellent service and fast delivery of same. A DVD was won by **Alan Sampson**, whistles were won by **Rick Gates** and Rudy Chavez, **Joel Areliano** won some write-on cards, and the grand prize, a fancy watch, went to Pat Carlini, causing much comment. Vince won nothing.

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, April 21, 2009**

- Five applications for membership were accepted
- We need to encourage new Members to go to clinics, get USSF certified, etc.
- Two somewhat late arrivals were discussed, no action taken due to circumstances
- Steve says there is \$8689.09 in the bank
- Ideas on how to manage the Treasury balance were discussed
- Bill reported that there were still lots of games coming up, and that he had to turn back games at Bakersfield due to lack of referees.
- A long discussion took place about rude treatment of Members by State officials at State Cup
- LiveScan will be in June, not April
- Larry Yee will be at the April meeting
- Upcoming insurance payments were discussed
- Referee development in general was talked about, with two Members in particular discussed
- The Observer program will be ongoing
- AGM, elections etc. were discussed far into the night

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, April 28, 2009**

- Four applications for membership were accepted
- Larry Yee's and Tom Bobadilla's remarks were recapped and discussed
- Larry Stern decided to decline the provisional nomination for secretary to concentrate on the training program

## **NEXT MONTHLY MEETING**

**THE NEXT MEETING IS ON TUESDAY, MAY 26, 2009 AT 7:00 P.M., WHICH WILL BE THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. THE LOCATION WILL BE AT THE LAMPOST PIZZA AT CRENSHAW BLVD. AND ROLLING HILLS ROAD, 2955 EAST ROLLING HILLS, TORRANCE 90505,**

**310-325-4864. THE ELECTION PART OF THE MEETING (PRESIDENT, VICE-PRESIDENT, TREASURER, SECRETARY (PROVISIONALLY) AND BYLAW CHANGES) WILL BE HELD IN THE PARKING LOT. AFTER THE ELECTION WE WILL GO INTO THE RESTAURANT AND HAVE OUR ANNUAL PARTY, HOSTED BY SSBRA (SSBRA MEMBERS ONLY PLEASE AT THE PARTY, NO FAMILY OR OTHER NON-MEMBERS). NOTE THE EARLY START TIME AND CHANGE OF LOCATION.**



**Surendra Menon** stops eating for a moment to better concentrate on the fascinating conversation of **Karen Beverly**, **Ed Beverly**, **Ralph Quirox** and others (off camera) during a State Cup dinner in Bakersfield (photo courtesy of **Gabriel “Ben Gay” Goldsman**)

**Quote of the Month** (from broadcaster **Vin Scully**)

“If there’s one thing I’ve learned, don’t ever waste your time trying to figure out life.”

**Everything You Need to Know About Diving** (from Referee magazine)

By **Al Baer**

**Caution.** The rules have been modified to make diving a cautionable offense, although in practice it is far from automatic (FIFA 12; NFHS 12-8-1f 9; NCAA 14-14e). Recognizing dives is not always an easy thing to do. Some coaches teach players to make it look good. Referees should discuss when players are most likely to dive and the

techniques they use to make the contact look like fouls.

**Location.** Players seldom simulate in their defensive half. There is no tactical reason to do so. Players seldom dive in the transitional middle of the field. There may be a few players who might exaggerate the seriousness of a foul or fake an injury, hoping to get the opponent a misconduct card. Those are different from a dive. A dive is done in order to earn a free kick, one with a chance to score. You seldom see a dive near a corner flag-post. You tend to see a high percentage of dives within a few yards of the top of the penalty area or arc. The closer you are to the penalty arc, the more likely you are to see a player initiate a dive — a reward of a free kick in that area is tempting.

**Reasoning.** Players tend to dive when their skill and a strong defense cannot produce a good opportunity. If players beat their markers, have space around them and close possession of the ball, they are more likely to take the shot. If they can't get by their markers, have two or three defenders around them and are losing control of the ball, they are more likely to dive. Many players, with a good opportunity, won't gamble it away hoping for a penalty kick call. Those same players, if the scoring chance isn't there, might take the gamble by going down.

**Techniques.** One of the better techniques players use for diving is to trip themselves. While the player is running, he will plant the front foot and bring the trailing foot across the planted leg. It looks like a trip — because it is a trip, just not by an opponent. It is difficult to see, particularly in a crowd, where it often happens. It is difficult to recognize, because it looks realistic. Other clues are there, such as the sound of two shoes coming together.

A more common technique is for the attacker to initiate contact with the defender. There are several variations. The first is to run into the opponent's upper body — and fall down. Another is to see the opponent standing with his legs apart and run over an outstretched leg or flexed knee — and fall. A third variation is to run between two defenders, bumping both — and falling. None of those are fouls, and in most cases, the attacker should be cautioned for unsporting behavior (simulating a foul).

**Recognition.** The best way referees can spot simulation is to be close to play. Sound effects from divers, such as screams and groans, are added to get the referee's attention. Sometimes players will yell when in pain, but many consider themselves too tough for those sounds when they're really hurt. They do it only when they want a call. The second best is to visualize whether the player really had an opportunity or was just trying to create one. That second one involves guesswork, which is not good.

**Exaggerating.** Exaggerating an average foul to have your opponent cautioned is becoming more commonplace. One method players attempt is to roll over several times when tripped (jokingly expressed as “three times for a caution; with five, you get red”). Players who are hurt will not intentionally roll over, because that increases pain. (With high-speed falls, it may take one or two rolls to slow the momentum.) Some players will thrash their limbs about, but if the player is really hurt, it causes more pain.

**Options.** One option for dealing with theatrics is to ignore what is going on. Some referees tell the player to get up. You might warn the player or the team captain. The rules allow you to show a yellow card. Referees at the top level seem to caution the most flagrant cases only. Examples of those are dives in the penalty area and those where the victim makes a big commotion or wants to argue about not getting the call.

My preference is a sharp warning in the lesser cases of a player taking a dive, and a caution for the more serious. If there is no penalty for their theatrics, they will not stop. Diving has become a problem at the youth and high school levels. Players see the pros do it on television in such competitions as the World Cup. Referees can do their part to make it go away by disciplining the misconduct when they see it. Ignoring it will not make it go away.

**Another Quote of the Month** (author unknown)

“Never argue with an Idiot. They will drag you down to their level and then defeat you with experience.”



**Kiku Annon** looks like she has her doubts about the oxtail stew at Norriega's in Bakersfield on a State Cup Saturday night (photo courtesy of Gabriel Goldsman)

**Law-5 Team Wins Big Match With a Little Help From Their Friends** (submitted by Rudy Chavez)  
(SBS 7v7 results: note that the Law-5 team consists mostly of SSBRA referees who think they know how to play)

Law-5 wins semi-finals 5-2, earns berth to finals

Law-5/South wins finals 3-0: The other half of our team are former players from South High School.

**I Don't Think So** (attributed to tennis player **Maria Sharapova**)

"I'm a Renaissance woman: I love tennis and fashion."

**Call It Like You Know What You're Doing** (from Referee magazine)

Written by **Ken Wikle**, Clarkston Mich.

An appearance of decisiveness is important to round out players' impressions of you as an official. One impression

of decisiveness is the timing of your decisions during the game.

Your refereeing decisions are given two ways: with your whistle and with hand/arm signals. A loud whistle and firm signal are necessary. But they are not the entire package an official needs to deliver.

For good game control, a technique that helps is to make foul signals and out-of-bounds calls in the same tempo as that in which the game is being played.

Doing an open-division amateur game (19-30 years old) or an upper-division youth game, the teams play at a very rapid pace. Decisions should be rendered at the pace of the game. Players don't want to wait after a foul is committed or when a ball goes over a boundary line for referees to make up their minds. If your decisions are being made with even a slight delay, that leads to frustration and could lead to dissent. Referees may be 100 percent correct in their decision-making, but waiting for the decision may become a problem. If the players have a chance to say something between the time a foul has been committed and when the whistle sounds, dissent may creep into the game. Get a feeling for the pace of the game and match your decisions to that pace. Even if the game pace is somewhat slow, it doesn't hurt to make your first few decisions quickly to sell yourself to the players.

**Use assistants.** Sometimes you need to make use of an assistant's opinion to make a call. That necessarily causes a delay as you make eye contact. Getting that delay reduced as much as possible depends on exceptional cooperation and the ability to quickly make eye contact, the assistant to give a flag signal and the referee to render a decision. Getting that as close to the same tempo as the other calls is always a challenge. Good assistant referees actually anticipate that the referee needs quicker assistance and speed up their signaling to cut that time down further.

Imagine a foul by a defender in the penalty area. If your vision is screened or you are simply asking for a "second opinion," the assistant needs to respond even quicker than usual. A late decision for a penalty kick is harder to accept than a quick one.

Many referees may think: "Better to be late and right than too quick and wrong when calling fouls." While that has merit, my personal impression is that it is much better for the referee to be quick and correct as often as possible. That enhances game control.

How many times have you heard players complain, "Referee, that was a late call?" Why do they say that? They are really saying, "Referee, are you sure of that decision?" They are voicing their underlying need for you to appear decisive when making critical decisions. Sell your call by offering quick, accurate decisions.

### **International Tournament Canceled Because of Safety Concerns** (recent news article)

Concerns about swine flu prompted CONCACAF to cancel the rest of its under-17 soccer championship in Mexico, the epicenter of the outbreak. Costa Rica, Honduras, Mexico and the U.S. had cinched spots in the semifinals of the tournament in Tijuana. All advanced to the U-17 World Cup starting Oct. 24 in Nigeria. CONCACAF, soccer's governing body for North and Central America and the Caribbean, also postponed until May 12 the second leg of its Champions League finals between Cruz Azul and Atlante.

### **On The Other Hand, This Guy Does Not Want to Commit Himself** (actual courtroom testimony)

Question: How long have you been married to her?

Answer: Nineteen years.

Question: Is that your only marriage?

Answer: Yes it is, that I know of.





**Scandinavian Ladies Challenge for the Ball** (Finnish Clubs PUIU versus Ilves in match action)

### **Here are Some Excuses for Being Late that are Guaranteed Not to Work**

1. My heat was shut off so I had to stay home to keep my snake warm.
2. My husband/wife thinks it's funny to hide my car keys before he/she goes to work.
3. I walked into a spider web on the way out the door and couldn't find the spider, so I had to go inside and shower again.
4. I got locked in my trunk by my son.
5. My left turn signal was out so I had to make all right turns.
6. A gurney fell out of an ambulance and delayed traffic.
7. I was attacked by a raccoon and had to stop by the hospital to make sure it wasn't rabid.
8. I feel like I'm in everyone's way if I show up on time.
9. My father didn't wake me up.
10. A groundhog bit my bike tire and made it flat.
11. My driveway washed away in the rain last night.
12. I had to go to bingo.

**This Excuse Is Not Going To Work Either** (Rep. Dana Rohrabacher (R-California), during a congressional hearing on the global warming and climate change report, which concluded for the first time that there was an “unequivocal” link between human behavior and rising temperatures)

“We don’t know what those other [climate change] cycles were caused by in the past. It could be dinosaur flatulence. Who knows?”

**He Must Have Been a Referee at One Time** (Prince Philip to Paraguayan dictator **Alfredo Stroessner**, 1962)

“It’s a pleasure to be in a country that isn’t ruled by its people.”





**You Make the Call** (recent WPS match action, N.Y. Sky Blue versus L.A. Sol)

**Lots of Noise and Comments Here** (submitted by Surendra “Jorge” Menon)

By **Urmee Khan**

The referee decided the Chorlton Villa player made the noise deliberately and the spot-kick, which was saved, was retaken. The second time it went in. Then Villa's goalkeeper was sent off for saying the referee was "the worst he had seen in years". Minutes later another Villa player was dismissed for questioning the earlier decision.

Despite finishing down to eight men, thanks to another dismissal, Villa beat International Manchester 6-4 in the amateur match in Stretford. The club now faces fines of £97 for three dismissals and two bookings.

The referee, who asked not to be named, said: "The players who I sent off did obey my instructions and left the field. They were not a nasty lot. It was just a normal day at the office. No one physically assaulted me and they took the sendings off." He said all three players had been sent off for using abusive language. "It's the swearing that is the problem. The player who made the noise was booked for ungentlemanly conduct – trying to put the other player off," he told the Manchester Evening News.

**Ian Treadwell**, Villa's manager, said: "This club had an exemplary record before this game. It was a mistake for any of my team to get involved. The referee has applied the letter of the law to the absolute button. What you would hope for is that there can be room for some common sense as well," he said.

**They Need to Get Their Stories Straight Before Running for SSBRA Offices** (from actual resumé)

EXPERIENCE: Sous Chef. Quit after nervous breakdown.

EXPERIENCE: I am a very capable proofreader.



**Wolfgang Stark** makes a gesture during a recent UEFA match

**Don't Let This Guy Keep Score** (Lakers broadcaster **Mychal Thompson**)

“Kobe Bryant needs to concentrate on getting eight points a quarter. You do that, that’s 24 points right there.”

**NASO Steps Up to Help Referees** (submitted by Lee “Red Card” Jordan)

Attached is a copy of the Brief of Amicus Curiae that NASO recently filed with the Fourth Court of Appeals in San Antonio, Texas. In brief this case involved a collision between a wing official and an assistant coach during a high school football game in Texas. The coach, **Terry English**, was in the "officials' box" on the sidelines when the unfortunate accident took place. The official was properly running down the sideline to keep proper position in covering a play happening at that time. His attention was and had to be focused on that play.

The official, **Charlie Harpole**, was knocked out but fortunately did not sustain serious, lasting injury. The coach sustained permanent brain damage. His insurance company, Midwest Employers Casualty Company, in an effort to recoup expenses it has paid and continues to pay to cover Mr. English's medical treatment and care, sued the officiating crew.

Midwest sued on the basis that coach English was not "warned" to stay out of the officials' box, that Harpole was

not "looking where he was going," and that the crew did not enforce the sideline rule as it should have. Midwest also named the Texas Association of Sports Officials in the original suit. TASO was severed from this suit but this claim is pending as separate litigation. The officiating crew was not dropped. The attorneys for the officiating crew then successfully argued in trial court for summary judgment as a matter of law. Midwest did not accept that court ruling and appealed.

Mr. Harpole is not a NASO member. When the attorneys for the officials approached NASO to file a "friend of the court" Brief in support of the officials in this case, NASO's board reviewed the matter and unanimously decided to ask attorney **Alan Goldberger** to author and present a Brief of Amicus Curiae on behalf of the officials. The Brief was filed with the court on April 10, 2009. This has been done completely at NASO's expense.

We at NASO feel the matter at stake is of significance to all officials, football and all other sports. We feel it is vital to prevail upon the appeals court on the basis presented in this Amicus. I urge you to review the attached Amicus. If you want to discuss any aspect of this matter please do not hesitate to call me. I can also put you in touch with Alan Goldberger if a legal perspective is desired. If you feel this effort is worthy, please feel free to circulate the Amicus or present information about it to the officials under your jurisdiction.

Sincerely,

<[http://www.naso.org/email/amicus/Barry\\_Sig.jpg](http://www.naso.org/email/amicus/Barry_Sig.jpg)>

**Barry Mano**

President, National Association of Sports Officials

**Yet Another Quote of the Month (George W. Bush, on Sen. John Kerry's proposal to rescind tax cuts for the wealthy)**

"The really right people know how to dodge taxes anyway."

## **TREASURER REPORT, April 27, 2009**

SSBRA's Checking and Savings accounts were reconciled for the month of March 2009. In addition, the March transaction registers for Petty Cash and Postage Stamps accounts were prepared as well.

SSBRA's dues payments for Fiscal 2009 are as follows:

SSBRA 2009 Dues Paid Thru 04/27/09		
	Count	Fee
Waived Dues	16	\$ -
Regular Dues	150	\$ 9,000
Non Internet Dues	1	\$ 70
Bank Deposit Error	-	\$ 5
Total Dues Paid	167	\$ 9,075

The cash and related account balances as maintained by the Quicken database are summarized below.

SSBRA Cash Balances		
	3/31/2009	4/27/2009
Checking	\$ 1,794.41	\$ 991.09
Savings	6,772.38	6,772.38
Petty Cash	95.00	95.00
Stamps	27.30	23.52
Totals	\$ 8,689.09	\$ 7,881.99
Advances:		
Manhattan Bch	\$ -	520.00
PSL	390.00	260.00
Total Adv.	\$ 390.00	\$ 780.00
Checking	\$ 2,184.41	\$ 1,771.09
Savings	6,772.38	6,772.38
Petty Cash	95.00	95.00
Stamps	27.30	23.52
Adj. Totals	\$ 9,079.09	\$ 8,661.99

I issued the final installment of Manhattan Beach checks for the Winter Season on April 11<sup>th</sup>. Totals for Winter are as follows:

Manhattan Beach Parks & Recreation		
Category	Winter Season Totals	
Games		237
	\$	Cks
Referee Fees	\$ 6,873.00	87
Assignor Fees	\$ 607.50	7
Treasurer Fees	\$ 147.00	4
Postage	\$ 28.56	n/a
SSBRA Payment Totals	\$ 7,656.06	98
Billed To Manhattan Beach	\$ 7,702.50	
Net Surplus to SSBRA	\$ 46.44	

During the month I used Treasury monies totaling \$390.00 to pay referees for 3 sets of PSL matches that were canceled and/or forfeited. Payment from PSL was received for 1 set and I must now collect on the remaining 2 sets.

Steve Brandon, SSBRA Treasurer