



The Flag and Whistle

Newsletter of the Soccer South Bay Referee Association

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www.ssbra.org

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ITALIAN FLAIR ADDED TO SSBRA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING; TOM FEELS THE PAIN; FLORIAN SAVES THE DAY

In a new twist, the 2007 Annual General Meeting and elections were held *alfresco*, which apparently is Italian for “stand around outside in the Lamppost Pizza parking lot, dodge speeding cars and avoid local homeless folks.” Actually, the weather and ambience were fine, and after Secretary **Warren Howell** certified that a quorum was present, President **Ed McClure** asked Warren to chair the election process. This he did, starting out with the one-year term for President. Ed McClure was the only nominee, and it was decided after a short discussion (**Ed Beverly** being the most vocal) to elect him via acclamation. Moving on to Vice President, **Paul Kelly** was likewise elected to a 2-year term as Vice President by voice vote. Then came the position of Treasurer, and incumbent **Tom Mallen** was re-elected to another 2-year term, also by acclamation. Not believing his good fortune in how well things were going so far, Warren moved on to the ten modifications to the bylaws. This did not go as smoothly, as **Joe Robelotto** wanted to make an amendment to the amendment submitted by **Don Young**, which Joe thought would give the Board more authority to impose disciplinary action, if needed. Some discussion followed, with Joe asking Don if he had any issues with the proposed modification. Don, with visions of Budweiser swimming in his head, was agreeable to anything by this time, hoping to get this item over with and move inside to the more enjoyable part of the evening (involving free beverages and food). After a while, Joe’s amendment was accepted,

and the ten bylaw changes were approved by acclamation (see text below – the full bylaws document will be updated and posted after the modifications go into effect July 1).

Joe wasn't done yet, as he took back the floor to announce that the Watts Games had been moved to Lancaster, which caused the crowd to go silent for a few seconds, followed by mutterings and inaudible comments. Joe asked for volunteers anew, as he had immediately realized when the change was made that the new location could be problematic. (Editor's note; The Watts Games were eventually canceled altogether for this year due to venue problems).

Before anything else could happen, Ed declared the meeting adjourned, and there was a rush to the reserved part of Lamppost Pizza, wherein a number of pizzas and pitchers of beverages were already waiting for the Members. There not being a shy Member in the crowd, these goodies, and many more that came later in an unlimited stream, disappeared as those present engaged in some serious gullet stuffing. Many stories and conversations were heard in the loud and boisterous setting, with the tales told becoming more improbable as the evening went on (see pictures below). Tom Mallen, noting that this evening cost about \$100 more than last year's event, nonetheless grimaced and picked up the tab pleased, in spite of his usual reservations about spending any SSBRA funds at all, that the quality of the vittles were superior to the last time, a fact that a number of Members commented on.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, May 17, 2007;

- On field problems with a Member were discussed
- It is time to do the rankings again for the Members past the 50th rank
- **Walt Hoovler** is recovering from surgery
- A Member missed games at Aviation Park. It was determined that this was not his fault but the result of general confusion
- Another Member declined/missed a game without adequate communications, sanctions imposed
- **Steve McCall** met with the Board as the representative of SBPSL. Because of recent incidents with two SSBRA referees in separate incidents, two players have been permanently suspended from the league. Steve also stated that SBPSL is happy with the referees it is supplied in general, but he wants the game called tighter – more fouls and cards, and less tolerance of dissent.
- An invited Member appeared before the Board to discuss recent incidents. No further action was deemed necessary.
- Applications for **Fredrik Gillette, Steve Gillette** and **Max Gillette** were approved for Membership. There are now 182 names on the roster.
- AGM discussed; one printed ballot for everything, no raffle, Warren to chair the elections
- Welcome Wagon and new Member training talked about
- A long and sometimes loud exchange of views took place revolving around assigning, State Cup and National Cup
- Informal poll results of the Members was presented in regard to availability
- It was decided that SSBRA would accept a particular league's games, if formally asked to do so
- Tom reported \$3630.86 in the treasury
- Comments on the last F&W were mentioned

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, May 29, 2007;

- Application of **Alex Mebane** was accepted for Membership

Adopted Bylaw changes, effective July 1, 2007:

Current IV(C2): Complete a referee physical fitness test each year.

Change: Referee shall maintain physical abilities equivalent to the level of assigned competition.

Current V(A): The annual dues are payable on or before July 1 of each year will be \$50.00 for all members maintaining an e-mail address, and \$60.00 for all members without an e-mail address.

Change: The annual dues are payable on or before July 1 of each year will be **\$60.00** for all members maintaining an e-mail address, and **\$70.00** for all members without an e-mail address.

Current VIII(A2): The Board of Directors shall appoint an Assignor and a Membership Chairman, and other Board members having duties as it may deem necessary..

Change: The Board of Directors shall appoint an Assignor and other Board members having duties as it may deem necessary.

Addition VIII(C3) (new): Majority vote by the Board of Directors may immediately dismiss any member of the association for just cause.

Current XII(B): Referees are to present a professional appearance with a neat uniform and shined shoes.

Change: Referees are to present a professional appearance as outlined per USSF. All current variations of the Uniform shall be complete and well maintained.

Current XII(C): A referee may wear a hat if it is an all black, baseball-type cap.

Change: A referee may wear a hat (all-black baseball-type cap) or head covering if necessary for religious or medical reasons provide that the head gear falls within the guidelines set by USSF and the level of competition.

Current XIII(A): A referee assigned to a game who fails to report without good cause or who fails to report to two assignments for any cause, shall be subject to suspension from the Association.

Change: A referee assigned to a game who fails to report without good cause or who fails to report to two assignments for any cause **within a one year period of time**, shall be subject to disciplinary action from the Association.

Current XIII(A1): Referees who are tardy in submitting game cards and/or game reports will be fined one-half fee for subsequent offenses within one year. This rule will apply to all leagues with which SSBRA has a contract specifying a time for submitting the cards and/or game reports.

Change: When a Referee is tardy in submitting game cards, game reports **or player cards** the referee will be fined **one-half of the total referee match fee** for subsequent offenses within one year. This rule will apply to all leagues with which SSBRA has a contract specifying a time for submitting the cards and/or game reports.

Current XIII(A3): When a referee fails to fulfill a commitment for a game assignment properly assigned by the Association and does not notify the Association, the referee will be fined the full game fee per assignment. In addition, the referee will pay any penalties charged to SSBRA by the league.

Change: When a referee fails to fulfill a commitment for a game assignment properly assigned by the Association, the referee will be fined **the total referee match fee** per assignment. In addition, the referee will pay any penalties charged to SSBRA by the league.

Current XIII(A5): If the SSBRA assignor makes a mistake in a game assignment, the Association will pay one-half fee to the referee assigned in error, provided the referee requests payment in writing by submitting a game report.

Change: If the SSBRA assignor makes a mistake in game assignments, the Association will pay one-half of the Referee/AR fee to the referee assigned in error, provided the referee requests payment in writing by submitting a game report within 72 hours.

Throwing and Spiking (submitted by Larry Savell)

The history of the throw-in makes it clear that it has not been looked upon as an attacking tool. At first it had to be done at right angle to the touchline. Since it was un-enforceable, (was it 89 degrees?) the directional restriction was removed in 1878. Cricket players (the summer game) were great throwers in the winter game (soccer) so in order to restrict the distance the current throw-in was introduced in 1883. History and the letter say: put the ball in play; "spike" does just that without gaining undue distance.

NEXT MONTHLY MEETING

THE NEXT MEETING IS ON TUESDAY, JUNE 26, 2007, 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 BE DETERMINED.

Under Armour Man Seen in the South Bay (submitted by W. Howell)

The time was fast approaching for a South Bay Sports 7 PM Wednesday night kickoff this month at Aviation Park, and the referee sometimes known as the Large Member was running late getting out of work. Worse, it was one of those memorably bad L. A. traffic days, so driving from the Fairfax district to his home in Culver City was slow going. Quickly changing into his attire for the 7v7 3-game set when he eventually arrived at his house, L.M. jumped into his car and endured more traffic delays down La Cienega and the 405, finally arriving at the field with just a few minutes to spare. Frustrated at the delays but grateful to have finally arrived, he popped the trunk of the car to grab his bag.....and discovered that he had left it at home in all the rush. Checking available equipment, he noted that the shoes, socks, shorts and some pocketed miscellaneous small items he had on would be OK, but the one and only Under Armour shirt he had would not be a good choice for the evening's matches. The L.M. was fortunate however in that **Florian Pop** was on the next field, who kindly offered him a spare shirt he had in his bag upon hearing of the L.M.'s plight. Alas, it was, regretfully, a couple of sizes too small for the L.M.'s middle-aged torso. Nonetheless, after much strain and effort (and swearing and sweating), he was able to get into it. The result did not look unlike a giant, over-stuffed walking yellow sausage, without even an SSBRA badge to spoil the image. However, the referee was able to console himself with the knowledge that the Assignor would never find out about his faux pas (...Oops! I guess he knows now). But by then it was game time, the whistle blew, and players and spectators alike were treated to a match, with the referee doing the best he could not to draw attention to his appearance.

What did happen then was the chance to re-learn an old lesson. While much is made of referee image and appearance (partly because they are easy to judge, I suppose), what really matters to the players is if you can do the job for that match on that day at that time. On this evening, there were a total of 9 matches at Aviation Park involving 130+ players. Each of these young adults had the pleasure of a mid-week night out, got to socialize, took advantage of the chance to get some exercise, and enjoyed the (modified) Beautiful Game in a safe and fair setting without significant injuries nor bookings, going home happy at the end of the evening. One can add the three referees present to that list, with the additional benefit of course that they left with an SBS check in their pocket. If this is not as good as it gets, then it is close enough.



Landon Donovan complains about not being able to attend the SSBRA Annual General Meeting (news photo)

Thanks to **Lee Jordan** and **Heidi Garlick** for supplying the following AGM photos.



Jon Ziegler, Bob Hildreth and Pablo Diaz are spotted enjoying the cuisine at the AGM



Ed McClure thanks voters **Brian O'Donnell** and **Scott "Scooter" Ziegler** after winning the election



Rudy Chavez is spied deep in conversation, with **Suzanne Johnson** and **Kiku Annon** ignoring him from afar



Everyone wants to get in a word or two.



Tom "T.T.T.T." Mallen, Joe Robelotto and **Dick Lujan** discuss the Watts Games, or something



Heidi Garlick and Warren try to figure out what **James Lucania**, **Gabriel Goldsman** and **Paul Kelly** are talking about