



# The Flag and Whistle

Newsletter of the Soccer South Bay Referee Association

June 30, 2009

P.O. Box 10466, Torrance, CA 90505

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

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## SSBRA MEMBERS PROVE THEMSELVES UP TO THE CHALLENGE TWO-THIRDS MORE SOCCER REFEREES NEEDED AT EACH GAME YOU WANT OFFSIDE INFO? YOU GOT OFFSIDE INFO

A huge crowd came out for the June meeting, with most taking advantage of one of the three Live Scan fingerprinting stations setup in the back of the library, with **Vince Delmonico** making sure that it ran smoothly while the rest of the meeting was going on. Meanwhile **Lee Jordan** told us to look at all the new stuff on [SSBRA.org](http://SSBRA.org), **Steve Brandon** spent most of the evening passing out checks, and **Bill Cook** reported that not many games were on tap for July, though invoices had been sent out and we had done a record number of games on June 13 (see below).

The meeting had been going quickly up to this point, but then **Warren Howell** took the floor and that changed. It was all in a good cause though, as he made a presentation of a trophy and gift certificate (supplied by **Manny Fineberg** and Soccerone.com) to **Ed McClure** and **Paul Kelly**, who were leaving the Board. First up was Paul, and Warren stated that: Paul had joined the Board to help out during a major crisis, was very active in many areas during his time on the Board, setup the Member insurance program, handled a lot of the negotiations with the

leagues, took over as President for an extended period when Ed was unavoidably not available, and set a number of filibuster records at Board meetings by sharing his Golden Words far into the night. Every man and woman then gave Paul a standing ovation, with a lot of shouting of good wishes and comments. Warren was not through yet though, and it was Ed's turn: Ed took over during a crisis when a past President had to be removed, brought in the 7v7 leagues and even wrote many of the rules in use today by those leagues, secured the O/40 division of the SBPSL, got most of the league under formal written contract, changed SSBRA from a week-end only to game 7 days a week Association, oversaw the complete re-write of the bylaws, started the Observer program, and most important, revived the monthly raffle. This time the applause and shouting were earsplitting, as everyone wished him well. Not being even close to stop talking, Warren then announced that the new Board intended to appointment Vince Delmonico as the new Member at Large (replacing incoming Vice President **Gabriel Goldsman**), and that it was also intended to keep the other appointed Members Lee Jordan, Bill Cook and **Larry Stern**, subject to Member confirmation at the August meeting and joining incoming Secretary **Pika Saluja**. Showing no sign at all of sitting down, Warren then told us how there were now 219 Members on the roster, and that he had misspelled **Heidi Garlick's** name in the last F&W, though she was far too polite to mention the error herself.

Warren shutting-up was not the last good thing to happen by a long shot, as 7 new referees were then introduced to the crowd and got the traditional warm SSBRA greeting. Larry Stern then had a short presentation for us, and showed how to (and how not to) do a proper drop-ball restart. After a quick announcement that there was \$7132.30 in the bank, it was time to give **Laura Cadranel** of MLS Chivas the floor. She told us about MLS and Chivas, and invited all of us to a special referee night on August 22 at the HDC.

While all of that would have been more than enough for many Associations for one night, SSBRA was just getting started, as State Referee Administrator, former FIFA AR and old friend to many Members, **Tom Bobadilla**, had a presentation for us. Noting that SSBRA was one of only 3 local groups with a large bunch of experienced referees, he shared with us that he modified his advice for accordingly, the thought for the evening being "you can have a bad day if you let your guard down" – no matter how many games you have done, be prepared for all of them or you could get yourself into trouble. Tom then showed us a number of game film clips and invited comments from the crowd. And comment they did, with seemingly everyone having something to say.

Several remaining items included the announcement that **Shaine Danbeli** was running a line for a semi-pro game that Sunday, Ed was giving away some of his surplus referee gear, and Manny had a lot of great stuff and super prices available. The Board then quickly approved 5 new applications for Membership, waived the dues for a Member because of circumstances, and the loud and boisterous group headed out into the night.

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, June 9, 2009** (the "old" and "new" Boards in joint session)

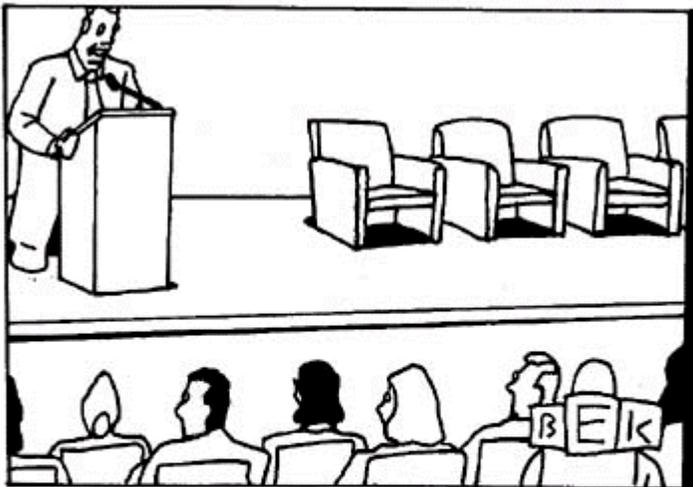
- Approved Membership applications for **Leszek Pawlif, Keifer Greenleif, Trevor Johnson** and **Sasha Stevenson**
- Status of a Member's late fine discussed
- Policy on handling late referees to SBS games was talked about
- SBPSL forfeit fee was received
- Spring league no-show and single game fees still pending
- A letter of complaint from a league official was discussed in depth
- Steve says there is "only" \$1461.12 in the bank. This is because SSBRA has advanced various game fees to the Members, while awaiting collection from the tournaments/leagues, in the sum of about \$3800
- An audit of the treasury is due per the bylaws. The Board decided who to approach to do the audit
- Yearly dues will start being withheld from the payments Steve makes
- Steve reported the cost of the AGM Lamppost party to the Board

- Gabriel Goldsman and Larry Stern have completed the training and are now officially certified USSF instructors, as is **Larry Savel**. Gabriel and Larry will hold a joint training session at the June meeting (editor's note: this was later canceled as Tom Bobadilla will be making a presentation instead)
- LiveScan is confirmed for the June meeting, **Marlene Duffy** is confirmed for the August meeting
- A Member's dues will be waived for one year because of special circumstances. The question of waiving another Member's dues will be looked into further
- Warren will setup the July Board meeting
- Bill, Larry, Gabriel and Warren will attend the Cal South Leadership meeting on Saturday 6/13
- Steve will arrange for Pika Saluja to be added as a check signor, Ed will be removed
- The Observer program is going well and will be continued

## NEXT MONTHLY MEETING

**TRAGICALLY, THERE WILL BE NO MEETING IN JULY NOR, ALAS, A FLAG AND WHISTLE. THE NEXT MEETING IS ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 25, 2009 AT 7:30 P.M. IN THE LIBRARY OF NORTH TORRANCE HIGH SCHOOL, 3620 182<sup>ND</sup> ST. (AT YUKON - SEE SSBRA.ORG FOR DETAILED MAPS), WHEREIN BEVERAGES AND FOOD ARE PROHIBITED BY THE SCHOOL. THE AGENDA WILL INCLUDE ASSOCIATION BUSINESS, CONFIRMATION OF THE APPOINTED BOARD MEMBERS, NEWS ABOUT THE UPCOMING CSL SEASON, AND A SPECIAL PRESENTATION BY FIFA ASSISTANT REFEREE MARLENE DUFFY.**

**Let's Hope the Board Can Prevent This at the Monthly Meetings** (reprinted from August 2005 F&W)



"AFTERWARDS THERE WILL BE A BRIEF Q AND A WHERE AT LEAST ONE AUDIENCE MEMBER CAN HOLD US HOSTAGE WITH THEIR BLATHER FOR WHAT FEELS LIKE AN ETERNITY."



**Keifer Greenlief, Eric Greenlief, Reggie Raleigh, Glenn Zardes and Bill Yee (seated) have things well in hand on a June Saturday at Aviation Park**

**Our Members Can Handle Anything** (submitted by Bill Cook, referring to the week-end of June 13)

Thanks to all of you who helped out with what was, without question, SSBRA's biggest weekend of games in its history. We did a total of 397 games. Almost everyone showed up on time and all the games got covered even though Copa Cabana tried their very best to see if they could reschedule enough games today to see if we were not up to the challenge. They did not succeed, we took everything they had and still covered everything.

Thanks, again, for all of your hard work this weekend.

**We May Need More Clarification After All** (Donald Trump, on a speech by George W. Bush)

"You know, the one thing I sorta liked was what they were saying about Iran. I believe you have to go in and strike Iran—not with soldiers. You know, it's not a world of soldiers anymore. It's a world of air. It's a world of different kinds of, you know, we've changed."

## **Promotion Announced** (submitted by Lee Jordan)

We are pleased to report to you that we have completed our search for the next AYSO National Referee Program Administrator. Thomas Bobadilla has accepted our offer of the position and will begin work in that position on June 23. Some of you may already know Thomas, but allow me to share a little bit more about him, particularly for those who may not be familiar.

Thomas has an MBA degree and 25 years of experience in management of projects and personnel in support of integrated information technology systems and software applications. For the last 13 years he's been the Lead Systems Engineer for Northrop Grumman, a major defense contractor here in El Segundo, California. We believe the leadership skills and team-building experience gained in that role will serve AYSO well as he transitions into the NRPA position.

On the referee side, Thomas has 30 years of refereeing experience, 7 of them in the area of referee program administration. He achieved the USSF National Referee designation in 1989 and was a member of the FIFA list as an Assistant Referee from the U.S. from 1996 through 2002. He was selected as an Assistant Referee to officiate in the 2002 World Cup in Korea/Japan.

Most recently, he travels the country as a USSF National Instructor and is a Match Inspector evaluating and mentoring MLS and International referees. For the last 6 years Thomas has also served as Chairman of the Referee Committee for the State Association in Southern California. Thomas is no stranger to AYSO though. His own children played in AYSO. Additionally, he has served as a guest instructor at the Ken Aston Referee Camp and a guest presenter at AYSO Advantage. Thomas also participated in our Spring and Fall Workshops as a representative of the USSF Referee program. Despite his top level credentials, Thomas remains focused and dedicated to the development of referees everywhere and regularly gives of his time at the youth level to mentor referees just starting out. We welcome Thomas Bobadilla to the AYSO Referee family.

### **Debbie Goodman**

Executive Assistant, American Youth Soccer Organization  
Toll Free: (800) 872-2976 x 5445

## **This is a Guy Who Should Never Keep Score** (attributed to basketball player **Dennis Rodman**)

“Chemistry is a class you take in high school or college where you figure out  $2+2=10$  or something.”

## **Come Out or Miss out** (submitted by Bill Cook, reprinted from 8/2006 F&W)

I thought you all might find this interesting. I just finished sending out invoices for two Labor Day tournaments....totaling \$11666.00 for 73 referees. I also looked at the total amount from the first tournament in June through Labor Day and the total is \$37910.00 which is an increase of over \$4000.00 from last summer. While most of us are not refereeing primary for the money, our spouses can do a lot of shopping – I know mine does.

For those of you who have been sitting on the sidelines, you may want to rethink your involvement. Aside from the extra money you could be making, I find it even more rewarding just sitting around under the tent at these tournaments getting to know one another. We have a lot of new Members and we all have interesting lives so it is a great time to share our stories with each other. And what better time than when carpooling, or sitting around after the games, when we get the opportunity to tell the biggest lies.

Those of you who are not there don't have the thrill of watching Warren Howell make change for a 20 or run a reverse diagonal, looking for but never finding his ARs. You are also missing watching Lee Jordan passing out

cards: Lee is like a Chicago voter when giving cautions, he gives them early and often. You are missing the fun of getting to use Larry Stern's or **Derek Taylor's** "special" flags.

So, quit missing all the fun and come out and join us on the pitch. We really do have a great group of people and we do a pretty damn good job of refereeing as well.

### **Those Pesky Offside Calls Rear Their Ugly Head Again** (submitted by Lee Jordan and Gabriel Goldsman)

Watching the USA vs. Italy game (June 14): In the 38th minute there is a through ball played to an offside player. The defender makes a sliding tackle to redirect the ball. Unfortunately, the keeper had moved to play the original pass and was out of position. The result is that the ball goes into the goal. But wait - there is a flag from the AR. Offside, whistle blown, no goal. Didn't we just have this discussion? The question is about the validity of the call with regard to OUR (USSF) instructions. The attacker who was in the offside position never touched the ball. Indeed, he never got near it, as the defender cleared it a good few yards before it would have gotten to him. I recall the discussion about having to wait until the player touches the ball, or at least runs on to it somehow. This seems to be the right call BEFORE the latest directives, so if that is so, are the directives only USSF?

Thanks. Lee

Lee, by our new (USSF) directives the offside flag was not correct. It is absolutely clear that the attacker in offside position (**Camorenessi**) did not interfere with play (he did not touch the ball) and he did not gain an advantage as a result of being in an offside position.

So, did he interfere with an opponent? Hardly. He was behind **Bornstein**, much closer to the touchline opposite to where the ball was coming from, and absolutely out of Bornstein's field of view. And he was WELL out to the opposite side of goalkeeper **Howard's** field of view. There is no way he interfered with any opponent.

By the new directives the AR should have held the flag until it was clear that the player in offside position either touched the ball (which was never going to happen) or interfered with an opponent (which could only have happened had he been in the same zip code as either Bornstein or Howard).

Bad call. Just my opinion, of course.

**Gil Weber**

(Editor's note: Gil is scheduled to fly in from Florida and address the Members at the October 2009 meeting)

### Offside Goal: Gaining an Advantage – Law 11 (from USSOCCER.COM)

Law 11 – Offside, provides three ways in which offside players can be declared offside (remember, it is not an offense to be in an offside position):

#### **1. Interfering with play**

An offside positioned player plays or touches the ball that has last been passed or touched by a team mate.

#### **2. Interfering with an opponent**

An offside positioned player prevents an opponent from playing or being able to play the ball by clearly obstructing the opponent's line of vision or movements or making a gesture or movement which, in the opinion of the referee, deceives or distracts an opponent.

#### **3. Gaining an advantage by being in that position**

An offside player plays a ball that rebounds to him off a goalpost or the crossbar having been in an offside position or playing a ball that rebounds to him off an opponent having been in an offside position.

Given that it is permissible for a player to be in an offside position (offside positioned players are only penalized when one of the three criteria take place), it is critical that ARs be able to consider the three aforementioned criteria. In fact, ARs must be able to evaluate multiples of the criteria at once. In close spaces, many different players may actually play/touch a ball. Each of these plays/touches then creates a new phase of play in which the AR must evaluate the actions of the offside player. Consequently, ARs need to take “snapshots” of player positions and keep that shot in their databank until a new phase of play begins and then disengage from the prior snapshot.

### **The Times They Are a Changing.....Or Maybe Not..... (Assembly Member Rhodri Morgan, Wales)**

“The only thing which isn’t up for grabs is no change and I think it’s fair to say, it’s all to play for, except for no change.”



**Kaka, Lucio, Lusi Fabriano and Filip Melo** of Brazil appeal for handball to referee **Howard Webb** during the FIFA Confederations Cup Match between Brazil and Egypt

### **Those Drives to the Tournaments Take a Long Time Too (attributed to actress Kate Bosworth)**

“There was just a study done actually, I saw it on Regis and Kelly. I can’t remember how many hours a year a person uses being in their car in L.A., but it’s, like, a lot of time.”

### **Maybe the Lack of High School Ball-Holders is a Good Thing (from Referee magazine)**

As if managing on-field actions is not enough, some soccer referees in Argentina have had to deal with rogue ball boys in recent games. Ball boys for Gimnasia-La Plata were caught hiding balls behind the substitutes’ benches to delay the game when their team was up, 1- 0, in the second half of a game. A ball boy and goalkeeper were also sent off recently in a match between Gimnasia-Jujuy and River Palte after the keeper lashed out at a ball boy he thought was delaying the game.

### **The L. A. Lakers Championship Celebrations Were Not So Bad After All (recent news article)**

(CNN) -- A man "angered" by Manchester United's defeat to Barcelona in the final of the Champions League killed four people when he drove a minibus into a crowd celebrating the Spanish side's victory, police in Nigeria

have told CNN. Ten people were also injured in the incident in the town of Ogbo, where the driver was subsequently arrested, a Port Harcourt Police spokesperson said.

"He was displaying his anger at his team losing the match. The driver had passed the crowd then made a U-turn and ran into them," spokesperson **Rita Inomey-Abbey** said. Both Manchester United and Barcelona have a large fan base across the African continent, with millions tuning in to watch European football on a weekly basis.

Meanwhile, more than 100 people were arrested in Barcelona city center in the early hours of Thursday morning following the Catalan team's 2-0 victory in Rome in the final of Europe's top club competition. Police arrested 119 young people after violence flared at a special celebration party in Place de Catalunya near the Las Ramblas thoroughfare, while 238 people suffered minor injuries. City officials estimated the damage at up to 100,000 euros (\$140,000) as the youths attacked police with bottles and damaged shops, parks and public utilities such as lamp-posts.



Lee "Red-Card" Jordan, Paul "Mouthpiece" Kelly, Pika Saluja, Bill Cook, Ed "Shirttail" McClure, Gabriel "Worst-Ref-In-Town" Goldsman, Larry "Not-Qualified" Stern, Steve "Show-me-the-Money" Brandon and Vince "Fight-Night" Delmonico are hard at work, more or less, at a joint meeting of the outgoing and incoming Boards at Ed's house in June

## **This is Also Important Using One's Leg to Kick the Ball** (attributed to sportscaster **Michael Holding**)

“The most important thing about batting is getting the bat to hit the ball.”

## **Quote of the Month** (attributed to **Winston Churchill**)

“Change is the price of survival.”

## **If This is a Problem Then How Can Their Referees Find the Center Circle?** (recent news headline)

“Oregon Searchers Look for Mt. Hood”

## **If This Keeps Up, Soon the Referees Will Outnumber the Players** (submitted by Lee Jordan)

EVERTON will be among the first teams to take part in a new refereeing experiment next season because of UEFA's decision to employ two extra assistant referees behind the goal-lines in the Europa League. It means that the Blues, Aston Villa and Fulham will play their European matches with five match officials, all communicating via headsets

The idea was the brainchild of UEFA president, **Michel Platini**. He has been championing the scheme as an alternative to goal-line technology. The scheme was tested last year in some European under-19 championship games and now Platini plans to extend it.

## **Let's Hope This Does Not Apply to the SSBRA President** (**Dave Edwards**, Radio 5 Live UK)

“People's perception of a chairman's job is not the same as they think it is.”

## **Thought of the Month** (attributed to **Mark Twain**)

“It is better to keep your mouth closed and let people think you are a fool than to open it and remove all doubt.”

## **This Could be Harder for Some than Others** (basketball referee **Cameron Inouye**)

### **Assemble a Pleasing Personality**

“Officiating is a people business. You have to know how to deal effectively with people in order to be successful. You have to know how to communicate effectively with assigners, administrators, coaches, players and fellow officials. Your personality is your greatest asset or liability in that process. But you don't need to be liked or disliked in officiating. You just have to be respected as a communicator and professional. That is where your unique personality comes into play. I have learned how to adapt to certain situations by using my personality, Sometimes I need to be assertive when things get heated, sometimes calm and sometimes just a good listener. That applies to my facial expressions, my voice, my body language, my choice of words or my use of humor – all of which make up my personality and contribute to who I am as an official and as a person.”

## **Another Quote of the Month (Coach Vicente del Bosque of Spain's National soccer team)**

“Every game is a potential banana skin.”

## **Here's Some Advice We Can All Take to Heart (actual church bulletin announcement)**

“Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our community. Smile at someone who is hard to love. Say 'Hell' to someone who doesn't care much about you.”

## **Iranian Soccer Players Have More on Their Minds Than the Beautiful Game (recent news article)**

With their country in a state of turmoil, more than half the members of Iran's national soccer team have made a remarkable show of solidarity with **Mir Hossein Mousavi**, the man who was controversially defeated in the recent presidential election.

In many countries around the world the fortunes of the nation's soccer team are followed with an almost religious-like devotion. The players in the team are national heroes, carrying the hopes and dreams of a nation when the politicians have failed to do so.

Despite their godlike status to many of their fans the truth is that a large number of professional soccer players, particularly in the major European leagues, earn sums of money undreamed of by their fellow countrymen and women and all too often they have egos to match the size of their wallets. Their only care is how and when to spend their enormous fortunes. But once in a while some individual or team will repay the fans for the faith they show in them and act in an unselfish, almost heroic, manner that can seem to justify the adulation that they are afforded.

Step forward members of the Iranian national soccer team.

(On June 18), in the South Korean capital Seoul, at least half of the eleven players who lined up for Iran in their World Cup qualifying game against the host nation sported green wristbands. Green has been the color adopted by supporters of Mir Hossein Mousavi, the man who protesters in Iran are claiming was only defeated by **Mahmoud Ahmadinejad**, the man who was seeking reelection to the Presidency, because of widespread vote-rigging.

Led by Captain **Mehdi Mahdavia**, the players sported the wristbands for the first half of a game that was being watched live on TV in Iran. Although most of the bands had been removed when the second half began, it is thought because of instructions from the Iranian Football Federation, a very important message had already been delivered.

Time magazine reports that the newly reelected President Ahmadinejad is known to be a big soccer fan, with a particularly keen interest in the performance of the national team. Therefore the sight of many of the teams' players, who he possibly considers to be heroes of his own, expressing their support for his opponent in such a public way will surely have been a particularly hard pill to swallow.

The game itself ended in a 1-1 draw and made Iran's qualification for next year's World Cup tournament in South Africa virtually impossible. However, for Iranians everywhere, including those who attended the game in Seoul carrying a banner which read "Go to Hell Dictator" and chanting "Compatriots, we will be with you to the end with the same heart" in support of the demonstrations taking place back in Iran, it represented a massive victory for the pursuit of democratic expression.

**True for Many, but a Lot of Us Actually Were** (Dem. Chairman **Howard Dean** on immigration reform)

“Most of us weren’t born in America at some point in our lives.”

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

“Humor is mankind's greatest blessing.”

**Good News for the Economy Predicted, More or Less** (George W. Bush after Hurricane Katrina)

“And I suspect that what you’ll see, Toby, is there will be a momentum, momentum will be gathered. Houses will beget jobs, jobs will beget houses.”