



The Flag and Whistle

Newsletter of the Soccer South Bay Referee Association

November 26, 2002

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SMALL TURNOUT FOR YEAR'S LAST MONTHLY; CSL SEASON NEARLY OVER

A sparsely-attended last monthly of the year heard assignor **Bill Cook** report that except for 15 games on December 7, the Coast Soccer League's season is over for 2002. Of the 800 or so games we were assigned, all but a handful were with 3-man teams. SSBRA was allotted only about 15 premier games, something of a disappointment considering our exemplary record in officiating regular season games.

Few league cup games were held in the South Bay, largely due to lack of available fields, so we were shortchanged in that department as well.

Bill indicated that the J-League season is also at an endpoint: only the semifinals on December 7 and the final on the 14th are left.

He promised that we will be getting State Cup and other tournament assignments starting in January or February. The State Cup games may be in Bakersfield, Lancaster or Palm Springs, but we won't find out until very shortly before they're held.

FROM THE PREZ: ANOTHER MEMBER AT LARGE ON THE BOARD; BADGING, KUDOS

President **Larry Stern** announced that the board decided to add yet another member at large, and of the many candidates who volunteered **Brian O'Donnell** was selected. Larry thanked all the others for offering their services.

Brian claimed complete ignorance of the duties of the MAL, so it was explained that he's there to offer a fresh point of view on issues, to acquire experience on the workings of the board, and to furnish one more gourmet cook for the dinners at the board's monthly get-togethers. Brian promised to do his best. The current MAL, **Warren Howell**, is continuing in this very demanding position.

On the subject of badges worn by members during non-affiliated games, Larry reminded everyone that

USSF badges are a no-no and that only SSBRA badges are permissible. At the recent UCLA Business School tournament, he observed that some refs did not sport the SSBRA patch (redesigned last year).

He urged anyone who does not own such a patch to get one from the secretary, and a few in the audience took him up on his offer.

Next, he reminded the throng of 23 souls that we will be dark in December; the next monthly members' meeting is on January 28, 2003. Mark your calendars.

Larry asked for a round of applause for secretary/editor **Dick Eastman** for his hard work in transcribing and distributing the complete text of the great talk given by last month's speaker, **Robert Evans**. Your editor modestly acknowledged the acclaim.

Lastly, it was announced that the good sportsmanship award program instituted last year will be continued. Green cards are to be given out to all senior-level players who show both sportsmanship and soccer skill during games, and a grand prize winner will be decided at the end of the season. The prize is a cash scholarship to be used at the winner's school of choice.

THE ROSTER AND THE TREASURY

The secretary indicated that we have 88 on the roster, and the treasurer, **Tom Mallen**, that currently we have \$2043 in the bank.

TRAINING, JON ZIEGLER STYLE

In the absence of training director **Keith Gendler**, Jon was pressed into service to lead a discussion on the subject of "attitude:" What should be the mood and goal of a referee before entering a game?

Taking his cue from one of the themes in Evans' speech, Jon felt that an important goal, both for the players and the referee, was to have a good time. If you're in a bad mood on the way to your game for

whatever reason, think about why and how to change it before starting the game.

Next he asked the audience to volunteer incidents or thoughts to be shared with the group on the general theme of better refereeing.

Brian O'Donnell described how he had yellow-carded a player and then taken him aside briefly to tell him that he would be making sure he stayed in the game for the rest of the 90 minutes, advice he borrowed from Evans which worked perfectly.

Ed Beverly looked up on the game card the name of a player he was about to talk to and used it in calling the player over. He thought that the player's reaction was better than if he had merely used the jersey number.

Lilia Moncayo recommended that the referee should tell younger players what they should do on restarts and explain calls a little.

Lee Jordan described how the AR should keep sharp focus on offside in critical situations such as scrambles in the goal mouth.

Warren Howell spoke against using the reverse (right-hand) diagonal, which he had tried at the UCLA games because of poor field conditions. He found out that you may have no need for ARs at all (he kept missing their flags). Larry countered with the advice to pick a non-challenging game to practice using the right-hand diagonal.

Henry Gibson suggested talking to the coach if you smell alcohol on a parent's breath to avoid a possible problem with the parent during the game.

Marty Jeffers brought up an incident where both the referee and the AR thought a ball had *not* gone over the endline but the players all reacted as if a goalkick was in order. He suggested that perhaps the players should be given the benefit of the doubt.

Steve McCall recommended that a future door prize for the monthlies be Galaxy tickets (he actually said a season pass) for next season. Larry promised to look into the idea.

Dick Eastman offered that he might have refereed better had he used Evans' advice to listen to players who offer advice (such as "watch out for number 5").

Jon Ziegler wanted opinions on the propriety of ending a game early by (several minutes) when both teams gave strong clues that they did want an early end (one team was far ahead). Both pro and con views were expressed from the floor.

THE DOOR PRIZE GIVEAWAY WINNERS

Jon won referee socks, **Michael Dewart** a pair of AR flags, and **Bob Slater** was the grand prize winner of the referee bag.

[Now if only the door prizes encouraged better attendance at the meetings.]

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS, NOVEMBER 21, 2002

Agenda Items and Decisions:

- Warren Howell will continue on the board as member at large. Brian O'Donnell was chosen as a second MAL after some discussion.
- One referee returned game fees to both teams when he called the game due to poor field conditions. Keep the fees to avoid back and forth transactions between the teams, the league and SSBRA.
- Two referees are ineligible for games until they pay fees levied on them. Reminders will be sent by the secretary to both parties.
- The technical committee is to meet shortly to decide who will get the Web site job. The members were given ideas as to whom to pick.
- Tom Mallen reported \$2109 in the bank.
- No word received on any Thanksgiving weekend tournaments. None are likely.
- No assigning issues reported.
- It was recommended that some referees should be evaluated due to criticisms of their work.
- No word on the State Cup schedule.
- A member with past-due dues will have his games pulled if he does not pay up.

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NEXT MONTHLY MEETING

DATE: JANUARY 28, 2003
TIME: 7:30 P.M.
PLACE: REDONDO BCH. CITY
HALL EMPL. LOUNGE,
CARNELIAN & BWAY.
AGENDA: TRAINING, BUSINESS
AND ASSIGNMENTS