



The Flag and Whistle

Newsletter of the Soccer South Bay Referee Association

March 30, 2004

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www.ssbra.org

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Treasurer: Tom Mallen
Webmaster: Lee Jordan

MANY LATE STATE CUP REASSIGNMENTS; THE NEW GOLDEN PIGGY AWARDS; \$9800 FOR TOURNEY FEES IN; OLD AND NEW IDEAS FROM LAW 6 TRAINING

Assignor **Bill Cook** had "bad" news for the 45 members and three visitors in attendance at the March meeting: of the 144 referee slots at the Bakersfield/Lancaster State Cup games on the April 3-4 weekend, fully 60 had to be reassigned because of last minute declines!

Bill revealed that when assigning he "slides by" those who have turned down games previously. He reminded everyone that he assumes you are available if you do not state your unavailability, *in advance*.

[The form for May emphasizes the importance of notifying him before you are assigned.]

He strongly recommended going to our Web site for answers to all questions, for the availability form, last minute schedule changes, tournament rules, field locations, the Guide to SSBRA, etc., etc.

Bill then sprang a surprise: his newly-minted Golden Piggy Awards, in the form of small clay pigs, given to those who accept the most games from him at a tournament.

For service above and beyond, the first winners of the Golden Piggy awards were **Lee Jordan** (Fury Cup), **Larry Stern** (Nike Invitational, youngers), **Matt Boles** (Nike olders), **David Mallen** (Penalty Cup) and **Dick Lujan** (J-League Tournament).

Treasurer **Tom Mallen** reported the good news that he had received more than \$9800 for the several tournaments we have recently officiated, and he handed out big fat checks to those present who worked those games. The rest he gets to keep (?)

Training director **Keith Gendler's** session reviewed all aspects of Law 6, The Assistant Referees. As usual in these clinics, ideas new and old were heard from

the members on the subtle (and not so subtle) aspects of the duties and prerogatives of A.R.s.

Despite the apparently ho-hum aspects of the subject of the evening, heated debate occasionally broke out on what the A.R. should and should not do, and on the importance of the pregame conference (if there is time to hold one).

The bottom line: unless instructed otherwise by the center referee, do everything according to the Law Book as interpreted by USSF in its Advice to Referees, and forget obsolescent ideas from the past.

From the Secretary.

Dick Eastman reported another increase in names on the membership roster to 111, and three more applications were approved after the meeting.

He made one important correction to February's Flag and Whistle: he misquoted at-large director **Warren Howell**, who said at the February 17 board meeting "we're happy *gruntled* campers," not disgruntled campers. Dick apologized to Warren for ruining his quip.

The Treasury.

Tom Mallen announced that we have \$1294 in our bank account. Webmaster **Lee Jordan** asked probing questions about some line items on the financial report which Tom successfully parried.

From the President.

Larry Stern summarized some of the issues raised at a meeting he attended with Bill Cook called by the State Referee Committee.

One complaint heard from disgruntled (not gruntled) referee associations: some clinic instructors are unfairly steering (stealing, proselytizing?) newly-

minted referees to join their own associations, rather than giving them information on all available groups.

Another issue dealt with rules banning the wearing of caps, gloves and sunglasses at tournaments. It is the opinion of many that these rules are unreasonable because they do not reflect the realities of the California climate and the difficulties faced when officiating many games in a row.

Discussions with **Heros Baghoumian** on relaxing these rules were promised.

Complaints were heard about “field marshals” at state tournaments who show disrespect toward referees, who don’t know what their functions are or who don’t carry them out. This issue will be communicated to the organizers.

Three visitors (all prospective members) were introduced: **Mark Monroy, Heidi Peters** (a returning member), and **Stephan Valverde**. Also standing up to be introduced was **Sean Collins**, who recently joined SSBRA. Mark, Heidi and **Jack Mardesich** (not present) were approved for membership. Stephan’s application will be reviewed when it is completed.

In a very abbreviated door prize giveaway, Keith Gendler was the only winner, of a pair of referee socks.

THE TRAINING SESSION

The subject for the evening was Law 6--The Assistant Referees. Whereas in the past Law 6 was headed “Linesmen,” the current Law Book expanded the list of responsibilities of the guys who run up and down the sidelines with flags and appropriately upgraded their title to Assistants.

Although A.R.s still do not blow whistles or hand out cards, their duties to indicate ball out of play, off-side, CKs, GKs of TIs, and substitutions, have been expanded to flag misconduct out of the center’s view and/or closer than the center, to observe goalkeeper movement on PKs, and to enforce the 10-yard distance by entering the field. (Unless, of course, the center says no.)

In addition to the lengthy (yes!) discussion on A.R. duties, the mechanics of positioning, proper flag handling, how long to hold missed flags, and how to deal with coaches and parents, were covered.

Despite many’s early training which gave the center referee almost exclusive powers; the new interpretations in effect expect the A.R. to be much more proactive in his assistance to the referee.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, MARCH 16, 2004

- Selected winner of \$300 player scholarship.
- Process for selecting candidates not working well: separate discussions for improvement urged.
- \$1415 in treasury.
- Changed two lines on application form.
- CSL’s spring league assigning system is archaic. More discussions to held.. In interim, Cook will use SSBRA system. Also, disorganization of league continues.
- Determined that non-USSF referees should not be assigned to affiliated games.
- State is appointing new assignor for adult games; we might be in line to get some.
- Keith suggests SSBRA business cards for all members. He is to investigate and report.
- Board to review current member rankings.
- Any league that wants us to handle their games must make formal inquiry.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, MARCH 30, 2004

- Approved three membership applications.
- Received a very delinquent no-show fine.
- Discussed inviting **Bill Mason** to be a speaker at an upcoming meeting.

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NEXT MONTHLY MEETING

DATE: *APRIL 26, 2004*
TIME: *7:30 P.M.*
PLACE: *REDONDO BCH. CITY
HALL EMPL. LOUNGE,
CARNELIAN & B’WAY.*
AGENDA: *TOURNAMENTS,
BUSINESS AND TRAINING*