



The Flag and Whistle

Newsletter of the Soccer South Bay Referee Association

April 27, 2004

Editor: Dick Eastman

P.O. Box 10466, Torrance, CA 90505

www.ssbra.org

President: Larry Stern

VP: Jon Ziegler

Secretary: Dick Eastman

Treasurer: Tom Mallen

Assignor: Bill Cook

Training & Membership: Keith Gendler

At Large: Warren Howell, Brian O'Donnell

Webmaster: Lee Jordan

3 NOMINATED FOR 2 OFFICES---BUT NOT LARRY STERN; NATIONAL CUP AND SPRING LEAGUE GAMES CONTINUE; PERSISTENT INFRINGEMENT GETS ITS DAY

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS.

President **Larry Stern** called for nominations to fill the posts of president and secretary, announcing that he himself is not running, something of a big surprise to the 39 at the April monthly meeting. He feels it's time for a change.

Keith Gendler was the lone nominee for president, while **Dick Eastman** and **Warren Howell** were nominated for secretary. Additional names may be offered for both offices at the May Election Night meeting. By tradition, this meeting starts a half an hour earlier than usual, at 7:00 p.m., to allow time for the pizza party that follows the elections.

No bylaw changes were offered for consideration next month.

Bill Cook informed the group that the National Cup tournament rounds continue; he is assigning eight G16 games this Saturday, May 1, and an equal number of G17s on Sunday, May 2 at the soccer complex in Lancaster.

In addition, CSL's Spring League staggers on with a schedule that changes teams and fields until the last minute. Five games on Saturday and eight on Sunday are tentatively scheduled.

The J-League season is also still chugging along; four games at Trident in Anaheim are on the books.

Bill indicated that we officiated at a Doxia Italia men's game last weekend.

Keith Gendler and Member at Large **Brian O'Donnell** shared the training chores at the meeting, choosing Persistent Infringement as the topic du jour.

From the Secretary.

Dick Eastman announced that the association has grown again since last month, to 114. **Jack Mardesich**, **Mark Monroy**, and **Heidi Peters** (who has rejoined) are the additions to the roster.

The Treasury.

Tom Mallen indicates that we have \$1346 in the bank. Webmaster **Lee Jordan** did *not* ask for explanations on any line items in Tom's financial report.

Tom warned that the \$50 dues for 2004-2005, which are payable on 1 July, will be deducted from upcoming tournament fees earned by those members who are renewing (and who do not have new member incentive credits).

He stated that members who are owed State Cup no-show fees are promised payment after the games are over, which may be in 5-6 weeks.

Watts Games.

Former president **Joe Robelotto** made his annual appearance at the meeting to plug for volunteers to referee at the 2004 Los Angeles ("Watts") Summer Games on June 19, 20 (Father's Day), 26 and 27, most of whom will be played at the fields on the grounds of the Home Depot Center in Carson.

He handed out availability forms to all those interested; call him at 540-0545 or 497-7753 for your copy of the form. He indicates that there will be 64 boys and 32 girls teams, for which he needs 72 referees each day. *[The math is not entirely clear on this.]*

Anyone, whether club, AYSO, or high school who can walk onto the field will be welcomed.

From the President.

According to Larry, a new policy will be in place for SSBRA's Good Sportsmanship Award this fall. Only players in club games will be eligible for the green cards which designate a player as a candidate for the end of season award. Preseason coordination of the award program is also planned.

National Cup Smackdown.

Member at Large Warren Howell gave a monolog describing his "graceful spin maneuver" to avoid the ball that landed him on the ground like a sack of potatoes. His plight elicited much sympathy from coaches and parents, but not from members on adjacent fields.

[The full, somewhat hilarious text is available from the editor upon request. Just e-mail him at rseastman@aol.com.]

TRAINING

Pointing out that Persistent Infringement (PI) is barely mentioned in the Laws (Law 12, Cautionable Offenses, item 3) and is only slightly expanded on in Advice to Referees on the Laws of the Game (paragraph 12.29.3), Keith and Brian presented a 35-minute video tutorial from the National Program for Referee Development, narrated by Esse Baharmast on this somewhat obscure and frequently ignored subject.

In attempting to clarify what PI is and how to apply it, (somewhat like explaining what pornography is: it can't be defined but you know it when you see it), Esse asks: is it for one offense? (*no*), but for a pattern of fouls against a player or for other infringements. This may be by a single perp or by a series of perps fouling a single opponent. Repeated infractions of other types also qualify.

Referees must be alert at all times to players who persistently break the laws. Citing as an example the case of Gentile (the "Butcher"), who hacked Diego Maradona repeatedly and mercilessly during the 1994 World Cup, Esse observed that Gentile was never cautioned for this behavior.

Dramatically calling PI "a cancer on the body of our game," Esse urged a three-step program of Awareness, Identification and Treatment. Awareness can be through observation as well as listening to players and coaches (but *not* parents). For Identification, one must read the game tactically, and be aware of the creative players who must be protected. For Treatment, let the

players know that we are on to this behavior by first warning that it will not be tolerated, and then carding.

PI affects everyone at all levels, not just the pros but also those youth who are the future of the game. Our mission is to protect the safety of the players, to insure the flow of the game, to be fair to all, and to preserve the entertainment value of the game.

DOOR PRIZES

The ever-popular door prizes went to **Marty Jeffers** and **Claude Haynes** (socks), **Dick Haber** (adhesive tape for his aches and pains), **Paula Borstel** (A.R. flags) and **Leslie Collins** (\$50 gift certificate at Soccer Central).

0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, APRIL 19, 2004

- Stern read a letter citing arbitrary enforcement of referee uniform rules.
- Treasury increased to \$1454 from membership dues receipts.
- Discussed keeping the roster in a single location.
- Penny to be at September meeting to process badging.
- Bill Mason may be June speaker.
- An adult league has solicited referees.
- Discussed letter complaining about a member.
- Members' rankings to be examined.
- Sportsmanship award program under review.

0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

DATE: *MAY 25, 2004*

TIME: *7:00 P.M. [NOTE TIME!]*

PLACE: *REDONDO BCH. CITY
HALL EMPL. LOUNGE,
CARNELIAN & B'WAY.*

AGENDA: *ELECTIONS, BUSINESS
AND PIZZA PARTY*