



The Flag and Whistle

Newsletter of the Soccer South Bay Referee Association

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www.ssbra.org

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BOARD MEMBERS ATTEMPT PRESIDENTIAL COUP AT MONTHLY MEETING LARRY MAKES A BIG COMEBACK WITHOUT STEPPING ON THE FIELD SSBRA ASSISTANT REFEREE BATTLES ASSAILANT AT PSL 0/40 MATCH

It was time for the monthly meeting to start, and most of the Board was nowhere to be seen because of some problem or other with high school games. Having waited long enough, it was decided that Secretary **Warren Howell** would chair the meeting as acting President, either because he was the largest Board Member present, or possibly because he liked to talk the most. After first expressing how pleased he was to have been promoted to such a lofty position, Warren declared that his first act would be to call on himself to take the floor and give the secretary's report. Alas, it was not to be, as at that point the late-arriving (no surprise there) Vice-President **Paul Kelly** made a grand entrance, and after an argument it was decided that he would run the meeting instead. Expressing his pleasure in securing this high post, he called for any new Members to introduce themselves. After hearing from **Marty Jeffers** about something or other, new Member **Bill Louie** stood up and said a few words, getting a warm welcome in return. Treasurer **Tom Mallen** then took the floor, and reported that there was a sum of money in the bank, though the exact amount was never made clear to the secretary and will remain a mystery forever (let's hope it was a large amount, or at least a positive sum). Tom then talked about the 1099s he is passing out, the W-9 forms needed by SBS, and his shoes.

Assignor **Bill Cook** took the floor at that point, and informed us that State Cup begins Feb. 2 and will be going on for several week-ends after that in Lancaster, with free rooms available for those wishing to stay overnight in

Palmdale. Bill went over the rules and procedures: the team roster MUST be stamped, at least one carded coach must be there for each team, Bill will be a referee coordinator this year, get coaches signature on the cards after the game, return the players ID cards to the teams after the games, no jewelry on the players, matching shirts on the referees, add time for time lost as needed, subs allowed at any stoppage of play, must sub an injured player except for the keeper, hats OK for referees only (not ARs), and payment is cash on the field. Bill also commented that some referees had gotten into the habit of being late to matches during the last month or so, and reminded them to be at every match early enough to be able to do all that needs to be done. **Steve McCall** and **Bob Slater** then shared their thoughts with the crowd too. At this point the rest of the Board arrived, and, after another argument, President **Ed McClure** took over and restored order.

Ed then invited **Bill Mindlin** to share his experiences with the new Carson 7v7 league, as he was one of the first to have the opportunity to officiate at those matches. This he did, explaining that they are just getting organized and one should be ready for a little chaos while they get settled. He had good things to say about the league, it seeming to be mostly recreational and fun. Parking at CSUDH should be paid for by the organizers when you get there. Ed added that he had not heard anything new lately about the proposed Torrance 7v7 league.

Then Ed announced that Past-President **Larry Stern**, back after recent hip surgery, had been elected as back-up assignor when Bill was not immediately available to handle some problem or other. What's more, Larry had also been nominated as the SSBRA Referee of the Year, taking the place of last year's nominee and winner **Frank Troeger**, with Ed reading the nomination particulars aloud that he is submitting to Cal. South (see full text below). All of this caused **Ed Beverly** to rise up and say a few words, after which Ed M. reminded us about the "cheat sheet" of league rules (see below) and new fee schedule that went out and that are available on ssbra.org.

It was then time for the rest of the Board to speak in turn and get feedback from the Members present. Webmaster **Lee Jordan** mentioned that the website had been updated again, talked about the new shirts (see article below), told us the USSF National camp was last week-end with 31% of the candidates failing to pass the fitness test, and that one should write the division on the envelopes when preparing game reports to mail in to SBPSL for easier handling at their end. This emboldened Bill to request (again) that Members look at the website first for information of any kind before making a telephone call, as just about everything you might need is there. Ed also talked some more about the new shirts, and then **Manny Fineberg** told us about his experiences with **SoccerOne.com** in getting the new shirts and their (lack of) availability so far. Manny also mentioned the high quality and 15% discounts available to SSBRA Members on the shirts, and the general discount given out for all merchandise. Warren then announced that a large number of Members were not yet registered with USSF for 2008 and that he has attempted to contact all of them to determine their intentions and to offer whatever advice he can, as they can not be assigned to USSF affiliated games (mainly CSL-sponsored matches) without the 2008 badges. Training Director **Heidi Garlick** then told us about the new American FIFA AR **Marlene Duffy**, and informed us that **Steve Elliot** had just been successful in earning his ninth USSF National badge, an impressive feat for which he received applause and congratulations from all those in the room. Naturally all of this could not go by without comments from the Members, and comment they did, with **Rick Gates**, **Bill Mindlin**, **Jim Lucania**, **Larry Savell**, **Bob Slater** and **Gabriel Goldsman** all sharing their thoughts and opinions.

It was then time for the formal training part of the evening, and we were not disappointed, as Steve Elliott had several items to share out of the National Camp (fitness and positioning are keys), and then showed us slides on proper positioning mechanics on the field. Putting Larry's cane to good use as a pointer (to the amusement of the Members), Steve suggested where one should be during different scenarios, and advised us, when necessary, to hide behind a defender when you are having difficulty getting out of the player's way. Several side discussions and questions were asked and answered as part of this, with Gabriel, Warren, Marty, Ed B. Ed M., **Joe Robelotto**, Rick G., Larry Savell and Bob S. all taking part, among others.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, December 19, 2007

- SBPSL boycott discussed

- Bill Louie was approved as a new Member
- The status of a retired Member was discussed
- After a discussion and formal vote, Larry Stern was elected back-up assignor
- A complaint from a Member about his ranking was discussed, no action to be taken
- After a discussion and vote, a Member was voted as the latest winner of the Center Circle Award
- Voted to become referee association of record for the new Carson 7v7 league
- New rankings, fee schedule and rules cheat sheet are complete
- Heidi is working on getting quality instructors for our monthly meetings

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, January 24, 2008

- Discussed a problem referee
- Fined a referee for being late to a match
- Accepted applications for Membership of youth referees **David Woo** and **Shane Danbeli**
- Ed talked about the Referee Association President's Meeting he attended
- SSBRA to contribute \$250 to Heros' memorial fund
- Possible youth camp nominees were considered
- Our referee of the year nominee will be Larry Stern
- Larry has accepted position of back-up assignor
- A card-filled SBPSL game and report were talked about
- New USSF shirts and colors were discussed
- Center Circle award will be made in February
- Baragon 7v7 league has started
- Warren to contact non-USSF registered Members, list of same given to Bill
- Rules cheat sheets discussed
- Talked about a terminated match
- Heidi shared her ongoing communications with possible training speakers
- Tom to write a budget for 2008, \$7968.74 in the bank
- Future of a Board Member planned, action to be taken agreed to



This A.R. is on the Job (recent interliga match action)

NEXT MONTHLY MEETING

THE NEXT MEETING IS ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2008 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 TO INCLUDE LOTS OF GOOD STUFF.



Unidentified player pleads his case (recent Barcelona vs. Real Madrid match)

New OSI Referee Uniform Frequently Asked Questions (from US Soccer)

CHICAGO (January 18, 2008) - For several years now, U.S. Soccer and Official Sports International, its referee uniform supplier have been receiving feedback that it was time for a “fresh” uniform design and more color choices. The international standard for new design and colors revolves around the World Cup and is every four years, but there are a number of countries that introduce new designs each year. Given that the current referee uniform design for the U.S. had not been changed in 10 years, and no new colors had been added in 5 years, we felt the time was appropriate for an update in the options available to our referees. After consultation with OSI, they designed a new uniform and suggested a new color (editor’s note: see the F&W of 11/2007 for a picture of the new green color). We then presented the new design and color to the U.S. Soccer Board for final approval. The new color choice was added to the list in the “Standards of Dress and Appearance” section of the U.S. Soccer Referee Administrative Handbook, and the new design was debuted at MLS Cup 2007.

As the new uniform design enters the market, U.S. Soccer has received a few questions regarding the new uniform and color, and thus we have generated the below list of answers to some frequently asked questions. We hope this information is helpful. Should you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us at referee@ussoccer.org.

Does my State Referee Committee and/or the State Association have to approve or adopt the new referee uniform?

No. As the national governing body of the sport, the U.S. Soccer Board of Directors is solely empowered by FIFA to make these types of changes. State Referee Committees and/or State Associations may not decide to “opt out” and/or not adopt the change. This is a change that is made for the all U.S. Soccer Referees across the country.

Do I have to throw out all of my referee jerseys and buy new ones?

No. The previous jersey design is perfectly acceptable. You should not feel obligated to discard these still-approved referee jerseys in order to purchase the new design. Purchases of the new uniform may be made when you need a new jersey or you want to add an additional color. This is also true for the socks.

What if I show up to a game and I have a referee jersey that is the previous design and the referee, or referees, I am working with has a referee jersey that is the new design?

You may all work the game in the jerseys you have. It is acceptable if one or two referees have the previous design and the others have the new design. It is more important that they be the same color. A referee assessor may not deduct points for a crew that has mismatched uniform designs, provided that the uniforms feature approved designs and are the same color.

Will there come a time when the new jersey design will be the only design that will be recognized by U.S. Soccer?

There is no date set, and no plans to set a date, by which the old jerseys will be “phased out.” To be clear, both the old and new designs comply with the “Standards of Dress and Appearance” listed in the referee administrative handbook – the only differences are aesthetic. For the old jerseys to be phased out, it would require a change to these Standards, and U.S. Soccer would not make such a change without providing a fair amount of lead time to the entire referee community. It should be noted, however, that OSI has ceased manufacturing the previous design.

Will the new design be the only design accepted at USYS or USASA regional and national competitions?

No. Again, the parameters for referee uniforms are set by U.S. Soccer and approved by its Board. Both the old and new design meet the standards set by U.S. Soccer, and its organizational members have a responsibility to recognize those standards.

I noticed that the referee crews on professional games and on some international games are wearing referee jerseys that are different than what has been approved for U.S. Soccer referees. Does this affect me in any way?

No. For professional games in the United States, the leagues may have sponsor commitments that require a different manufacturer to produce the uniforms, but the uniform itself must still comply with the basic standards set by U.S. Soccer. These new styles or designs should have no bearing on the standard uniform otherwise worn by U.S. Soccer referees. For international games, referees from other countries wear FIFA referee uniforms or uniforms approved by their home federation. If U.S. Soccer referees work an international game, they will wear the approved OSI uniform.

Larry Stern Nominated by SSBRA for Referee of the Year (text submitted by Ed McClure)

Larry Stern began refereeing in 1987 with AYSO in the South Bay area of Los Angeles County. Larry held various positions within the AYSO organization such as assistant Regional Commissioner, Regional Referee Administrator and Section One Director of Assessment. During this period of time he also worked his way up to become a National 2 referee. Then in 1992 Larry was asked to join the local USSF referee association. So after sending in his application to USSF, Larry joined SSBRA (Soccer South Bay Referee Association) to further his growth as a referee. As he became more proficient with his referee skills, he looked to find another venue in which to test his abilities. So, in 1996, Larry became active in High School soccer in order to sharpen his talents. It was here that he was asked to be an instructor and soon became a Lead instructor for the South Bay chapter of SCSOA. From 1998 to 1999 Larry also worked several NISOA games to round out his referee resume.

As a member of SSBRA, Mr. Stern served on the SSBRA board in several capacities; 2 years as Instructor of training, then a one year term as Vice President, which prepped him for his biggest challenge, President of SSBRA for 5 years. During his term as President, the association had lost a couple of major league contracts. The

membership began to dwindle with the lose of these leagues. But through his leadership and the combined efforts of the board and key members, the Association remained intact. Over time, SSBRA negotiated to take on new leagues and tournaments as well as increasing the amount of youth games the Association would assign referees. Today SSBRA holds a membership roster of over 170 members.

We at SSBRA recognize Larry Stern as an excellent referee, instructor, mentor and board member. For the 5 years as SSBRA President, Mr. Stern set the leadership benchmark for which he contributed to the tremendous growth that SSBRA has experienced in the past several years.

Quote of the Month (attributed to **Irja Mikkola**, referring to dissolving in the rain, and translated from the Finnish)

“Don’t worry about getting wet, we are not made out of sugar.”

Summary of Various Rules of Leagues Associated with SSBRA (submitted by Ed McClure)

SBS 7V7 COED
7 PLAYERS - 4 MALE / 3 FEMALE
5 PLAYERS MIN - 2 MALE / 2 FEMALE
TWO 23-MINUTE HALVES / RUNNING CLOCK / WHITE KICKS OFF
A GOAL SCORED BY FEMALE = 2 GOALS (EXCEPT PK,S)
5 MIN LATE/ DOWN ONE GOAL – 10 MIN / FORFEIT
ALL FOULS ARE RESTARTED WITH DIRECT KICKS.
PLAYERS 5 YARDS FROM BALL FOR RESTARTS / THROW IN (2 YD)
NO SLIDING / NO OFFSIDE / SUBS ANYTIME
PERMISSION OF REF, TAPED OR PADDED JEWELRY / CASTS
PK'S / 25 YDS FROM GOAL LINE
INJURY STOP_RESTART WITH IFK, TEAM IN POSSESSION.
PLAYER CAUTION – 2 MIN SITOUT OR UNTIL A GOAL / NO SUB,
PLAYER SENDOFF – PLAY SHORT – PLUS 5 MIN TEAM SITOUT
OTHER CAUTIONS – 2 MIN SITOUT / NO SUB,
PLAYER SENDOFF – 5 MIN TEAM SITOUT
EJECTIONS MUST LEAVE FACILITY
OVERTIME 2 - 5 min SUDDEN DEATH
6 PLAYERS / 4 MALE, 2 FEMALE - 1ST HALF
4 PLAYERS / 3 MALE, 1 FEMALE - 2ND HALF
SUDDEN DEATH SHOOTOUTS – 25 YD PK MARK, 1 FOR 1 KICK

SBS 7V7 COED SANTA MONICA
7 PLAYERS - 5 MALE / 2 FEMALE
5 PLAYERS MIN - 4 MALE / 1 FEMALE
TWO 23-MINUTE HALVES / RUNNING CLOCK / WHITE KICKS OFF
A GOAL SCORED BY FEMALE = 2 GOALS (EXCEPT PK'S)
5 MIN LATE/ DOWN ONE GOAL – 10 MIN / FORFEIT
ALL FOULS ARE RESTARTED WITH DIRECT KICKS.
PLAYERS 5 YARDS FROM BALL FOR RESTARTS / THROW IN (2 YD)
NO SLIDING / NO OFFSIDE / SUBS ANYTIME
PERMISSION OF REF, TAPED OR PADDED JEWELRY / CASTS
PK'S / 25 YDS FROM GOAL LINE
INJURY STOP_RESTART WITH IFK, TEAM IN POSSESSION.
PLAYER CAUTION – 2 MIN SITOUT OR UNTIL A GOAL / NO SUB,
PLAYER SENDOFF – PLAY SHORT – PLUS 5 MIN TEAM SITOUT
OTHER CAUTIONS – 2 MIN SITOUT / NO SUB,
PLAYER SENDOFF – 5 MIN TEAM SITOUT
EJECTIONS MUST LEAVE FACILITY
OVERTIME 2 - 5 min SUDDEN DEATH
6 PLAYERS / 4 MALE, 2 FEMALE - 1ST HALF
4 PLAYERS / 3 MALE, 1 FEMALE - 2ND HALF
SUDDEN DEATH SHOOTOUTS – 25 YD PK MARK, 1 FOR 1 KICK

SBS 7V7 PREMIER
7 PLAYERS - MIN 5 PLAYERS
TWO 25-MINUTE HALVES / RUNNING CLOCK / WHITE KICKS OFF
5 MIN LATE/ DOWN ONE GOAL – 10 MIN / FORFEIT
ALL FOULS ARE RESTARTED WITH INDIRECT KICKS.
NO SLIDE TACKING -EXCEPT GOALIE / PLAY ON GROUND ALLOW
NO OFFSIDE / SUBS ANYTIME
PERMISSION OF REF, TAPED OR PADDED JEWELRY / CASTS
PLAYERS 5 YARDS FROM BALL FOR RESTARTS / THROW IN (2 YD)
PK'S / 12 YDS FROM GOAL LINE
INJURY STOP_RESTART WITH IFK, TEAM IN POSSESSION.
PLAYER CAUTION – 2 MIN SITOUT OR UNTIL A GOAL / NO SUB,
PLAYER SENDOFF – PLAY SHORT – PLUS 5 MIN TEAM SITOUT
OTHER CAUTIONS – 2 MIN SITOUT / NO SUB,
PLAYER SENDOFF – 5 MIN TEAM SITOUT
EJECTION MUST LEAVE FACILITY
OVERTIME 2 - 5 min SUDDEN DEATH
6 PLAYERS W/KEEPER -1st Half, 4 PLAYERS W/ KEEPER - 2ND HALF
SUDDEN DEATH SHOOTOUT – 12YD PK MARK, W/KEEPER, 5

SBS 7V7 BIG GOALS
7 PLAYERS W/CARDS - MIN 5
TWO 25-MINUTE HALVES / RUNNING CLOCK / WHITE KICKS OFF
5 MIN LATE/ DOWN ONE GOAL – 10 MIN / FORFEIT
ALL FOULS ARE RESTARTED WITH INDIRECT KICKS.
NO SLIDE TACKING -EXCEPT GOALIE / PLAY ON GROUND ALLOW
NO OFFSIDE / SUBS ANYTIME
PERMISSION OF REF, TAPED OR PADDED JEWELRY / CASTS
PLAYERS 5 YARDS FROM BALL FOR RESTARTS / THROW IN (2 YD)
PK'S / 12 YDS FROM GOAL LINE
INJURY STOP_RESTART WITH IFK, TEAM IN POSSESSION.
PLAYER CAUTION – 2 MIN SITOUT OR UNTIL A GOAL / NO SUB,
PLAYER SENDOFF – PLAY SHORT – PLUS 5 MIN TEAM SITOUT
OTHER CAUTIONS – 2 MIN SITOUT / NO SUB,
OTHER SENDOFF – 5 MIN TEAM SITOUT /
EJECTION MUST LEAVE FACILITY
OVERTIME 2 - 5 min SUDDEN DEATH
6 PLAYERS W/KEEPER -1st Half, 4 PLAYERS W/ KEEPER - 2ND HALF
SUDDEN DEATH SHOOTOUT – 12YD PK MARK, W/KEEPER, 5

KICKS

BARRAGAN 7V7 LEAGUE

7 PLAYERS W/CARDS - MIN 5
 TWO 23-MINUTE HALVES / RUNNING CLOCK / WHITE KICKS OFF
 5 MIN LATE/ DOWN ONE GOAL – 10 MIN / FORFEIT
 ALL FOULS ARE RESTARTED WITH INDIRECT KICKS.
 NO SLIDE TACKLING -EXCEPT GOALIE / PLAY ON GROUND ALLOW
 NO OFFSIDE / SUBS ANYTIME
 PERMISSION OF REF, TAPED OR PADDED JEWELRY / CASTS
 PLAYERS 5 YARDS FROM BALL FOR RESTARTS / THROW IN (2 YD)
 PK'S / 12 YDS FROM GOAL LINE
 INJURY STOP_RESTART WITH IFK, TEAM IN POSSESSION.
 PLAYER CAUTION – 2 MIN SITOUT OR UNTIL A GOAL / NO SUB,
 PLAYER SENDOFF – PLAY SHORT – PLUS 5 MIN TEAM SITOUT
 OTHER CAUTIONS – 2 MIN SITOUT / NO SUB,
 OTHER SENDOFF – 5 MIN TEAM SITOUT /
 EJECTION MUST LEAVE FACILITY
 OVERTIME 2 - 5 min SUDDEN DEATH
 6 PLAYERS W/KEEPER -1st Half, 4 PLAYERS W/ KEEPER - 2ND HALF
 SUDDEN DEATH SHOOTOUT – 12YD PK MARK, W/KEEPER, 5 KICKS

SBS 11V11

TWO 35-MINUTE HALVES/RUNNING CLOCK / 10 MIN FORFEIT
 11 PLAYERS / 7 MIN / SUBS ANY STOPPAGE
 SLIDING IS PERMITTED
 PERMISSION OF REF, TAPED OR PADDED JEWELRY / CASTS
 INJURY STOP_RESTART WITH IFK, TEAM IN POSSESSION.
 EJECTION - MUST LEAVE THE FACILITY
 OVERTIME 2-5MIN SUDDEN DEATH, THEN SHOOTOUTS (5 KICKS)

KICKS

MANHATTAN BEACH 7V7

MIN 6 PLAYERS / 2 FEMALES, 4 MALES (@ ALL TIMES)
 25-MINUTE HALVES / RUNNING CLOCK / FORFEIT SCORE 2-0
 HOME WHITE, VISITOR DARK / COIN TOSS, CHOICE OF SIDE
 SHIN GUARDS NOT MANDATORY / NO SCREW-IN CLEATS
 NO GOALIES / FREE SUBSTITUTION / NO OFFSIDE.
 FOULS RESTART IFK / PK'S IFK
 RESTARTS, PLAYERS 5 YD FROM BALL
 GOAL AREA 2 YD FROM GOAL & 4 YD FROM GOAL LINE.
 PLAYER OUTSIDE GOAL AREA UNTIL BALL ENTERS
 SLIDING IN GOAL AREA PREVENT GOAL, GOAL SCORED
 FOUL 1 YD FROM PENALTY AREA, MOVE 5 YD , 2 MAN WALL
 NO GOAL ON KICKOFF OR GOAL KICKS
 GOAL SCORED DIRECTLY FROM CORNER KICK.
 NO SLIDING/SLIDE TACKLING ALLOWED

SBPSL 11V11

TWO 45-MINUTE HALVES / 10 MIN HALF / 15 MIN FORFEIT
 FIFA LAW
 11 PLAYERS / 7 MIN / SUBS ANY STOPPAGE OF PLAY
 CAUTION PLAYER - SITOUT 5 MINUTES - EXCEPT GOALKEEPER
 EJECTION - MUST LEAVE THE FACILITY

Please Remain Calm (recent news article)

Heart attacks and other cardiac emergencies doubled in Munich, Germany, when that nation's soccer team played in World Cup matches, a new study reports. The new paper included heart attacks, cardiac arrests, episodes of irregular heartbeat and activations of automatic implanted defibrillators. The researchers noted the number of cases reported in the greater Munich area during World Cup competition in Germany in the summer of 2006. They compared that with the totals for similar periods in 2003 and 2005, and for several weeks before and after the tournament. In all, the study included 4,279 patients. Analysis showed that on the seven days when the German team played, the overall number of cardiac emergencies was more than double the norm. For men, it tripled. The effect was strongest in people with known heart disease. So (when watching a game) such people and others with known risks for heart disease -- such as high blood pressure or diabetes -- should take extra care of themselves, said Dr. **Lori Mosca**, director of preventive cardiology at New York-Presbyterian Hospital.

She said that means:

- Take medications as prescribed.
- Avoid tobacco smoke and fatty meals.
- Get plenty of sleep the night before.
- Don't over-exert yourself physically.
- If you drink alcohol, limit yourself to one drink for a woman and two for a man.
- **Try "not to get too angry with the refs."** (emphasis added)



It May be Time for the A.R. to Start Waving his Flag (recent French League match)

British Scientific Study Discloses What We Already Knew; Soccer Referees are Delusional

The field of play resembles a mud bath, there are smudges of doggies doodoos as far as the eye can see. The lines are only visible if the sun is shining in the right direction. There is an odour of last night's takeaway pervading the air. The Alsatian dog in the centre circle is frothing at the mouth, when out come the 22 players with traces of this morning's fry-up on their chins, the reek of last night's beer on their breath and a look of murder in their eyes.

Our Ref is already waiting for them in his pristine uniform. Boots polished, not a hair out of place, brilliant white topped socks. Our Ref is a pillar of society, who is determined to do something, to put something back into society. Our Ref is a model for all humans to emulate. He looks as though he was standing in the middle of Wembley..... In his dreams he probably is. And is he worried? Not a jot!

The result of a study of football Referees was revealed on 14 March 2003, showing that they are the toughest people on the pitch. A psychological profile carried out by university researchers **Dr. Nick Neave** and leading sports psychologist **Dr. Sandy Wolfson** from Northumbria University showed that Referees - not the players - are cool, confident, and have nerves of steel. Some 42 Senior Level Referees outside of the Premiership replied to forms filled in immediately before and after games. The average age of the Referees was 40, and they had spent on average of 12 years as a Referee. The oldest had been in the game for twenty-five years, the newest four years.

Dr Nick Neave, from Northumbria University said, "Only the strongest characters could survive the immense stresses of refereeing. They are a very strong, robust, confident set of people who have developed a very strong set of coping mechanisms. In psychological terms, they are very tough people. They did not get nervous before games, were not concerned about sending players off or awarding penalties, and took abuse in their stride. While not immune to criticism, they seldom acknowledged being in the wrong." Dr Nick Neave found that Referees share similarities with policemen, military men and hard-nosed politicians. The research also discovered that a football Referee jogs about 10 kilometres in an average game - 47 % of that time was spent jogging, and 18% running

backwards. Referees were asked whether an improved fitness level would improve their officiating, but surprisingly, only 46% agreed with this. The average time spent in Refereeing activities was 16 hours per week. This included traveling, attending meetings, officiating, writing match reports etc. Fifty percent agreed that this conflicted with their job, and thirty-eight percent said that it conflicted with their family commitments. But every one of them thought the time spent refereeing was worthwhile. This total dedication to the game, and the commitment of Referees was a strong theme running throughout the research.

The biggest surprise came when the referees were asked about their reaction to abuse. Dr Neave added: "Referees get punched, kicked, even shot to death by players, coaches, owners and fans. But they regarded abuse as being very, very low stress, which we hadn't expected. They rarely felt stressed by their duties, though many did admit to experiencing occasional 'bad games' and being the constant target for dissent." The research shows that Referees are ultra-confident, unflappable and totally confident in their own ability when confronted by the regular abuse hurled at them by infuriated parents, managers, spectators and players. Their honesty and commitment is on a level way above anyone else's. They suffer, apparently, from "illusory superiority".

"Illusory superiority denotes an odd group of people," said Dr Nick Neave. "Most people show it to some extent, but all Referees do. It is the sort of thing you would expect to find in traffic wardens and politicians." These traits are not something that Senior Referees are born with, it comes of coping with years and years of torment that they have gone through to get there. They have had to work their way up from Sunday football, not only in managing 22 murderous players on the field of play, but also becoming more and more involved in policing difficult situations occurring outside of the game play itself. "They tend to externalise everything," said Dr Neave. "They put any hostility down to people not understanding the laws, or being biased, rather than blaming themselves... And each considered he was superior to other Referees. If they didn't have that confidence they would wilt," said Dr Neave." Their characteristics may be anti-social but they are necessary... to do their job properly."

So by concentrating on the players' emotional outbursts and the supporters' ignorance of the Laws of the Game, Referees are able to deal with the "constant negative feedback from external sources" and incessant abuse from the crowd.

Thought of the Month (contributed by Ivor Ellis)

"I can see so much to be thankful for instead of being sad."

Unforeseen Result of a Bad Call or Two (recent news article submitted by Rick Guerin)

A Scottish soccer player who was found drunk and asleep in his car in the middle of a highway offered every player's favorite excuse -- he blamed the referee.

"I recognise (sic) that footballers are role models and that, as such, they should set a positive example. On this occasion, I have failed to do that," **Rob Malcolm** wrote in an apology posted on the Queens Park Rangers website. "But I must say that I was very upset and frustrated with the poor performance of the referee in our match at Plymouth the evening before."

I see, uh, ah, (submitted by W. Howell)

The conditions were awful, and getting worse by the minute. Nevertheless, Lead Referee **Roger Stevenson** and the referee known as Bluto had taken time off from their SSBRA duties to practice their two-man skills at a recent boys varsity high school match in a downpour. The wind was blowing like a hurricane too, and things were getting worse as the rain and wind intensified, the temperature dropped and the grass field deteriorated. Both officials, coaches, and the few spectators there were all suffering as the match drug on, with Bluto being seen just turning his back to the wind and trying to hang on till the end. Suddenly, with the second half only half way done, Roger blew his whistle strongly for no apparent reason and started waving his arms around like something had happened. Calling the coaches and his referee partner to the center circle, he announced that he had seen lightning. This proclamation stunned Bluto, as he had seen no lightening and wondered what the #\$\$%^&!@* Roger was talking about. However, showing that, contrary to rumors, he was no fool, he realized where Roger was going with this and kept his thoughts to himself. Sure enough, Roger then declared that the match was being terminated due to the danger posed by the (dubious) lightening threat. The players, being teenage boys and having a great time in the rainy, muddy conditions, protested a bit, as they wanted to continue playing. The coaches, though, were in agreement that we were through for the day, and the referees quickly headed for shelter from the elements.

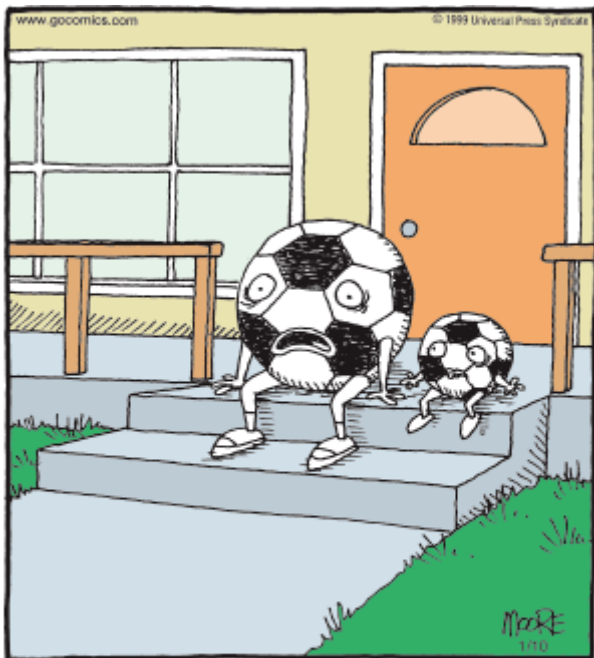


A Tough Challenge (recent Barcelona-Real Madrid match)

Some Things are Not Taught at the Re-Certification Clinics (submitted by W. Howell)

With the boycott of the SBPSL over-40 matches the week before still on everyone's mind, an SSBRA crew headed out to Manhattan Beach middle school for some PSL O/40 action on a December Sunday. Things looked good at the start, as the referee team consisted of the well-know and capable assistant Jim Lucania, the equally well-known and capable referee Lee "Gray-Beard" Jordan, and the enthusiastic A.R. widely known as the Large Member, who was patrolling the far, tree-lined side of the field. With the players and coaches being on their best behavior because of the recent controversy, everyone was relaxed and able to enjoy themselves as the game progressed into the second half. At one point the ball wound up right at the touch line directly in front of the L.M., who backed up as far as he could to get out of the way while closely observing the spirited challenge for the ball executed by several players. Since he was still less than 2 yards away, the L.M. continued to try to backup, and found himself wedged into a small opening in the vegetation and trees, while more players joined the battle for the ball and Lee became screened from play by the large number of competitors involved. The L.M.'s focus was soon rewarded, as he was able to observe the ball go briefly into touch. Having been trained for years by the likes of **Walt Hoovler**, Heidi Garlick, Larry Stern, Steve Elliott and others (but not **Billy Cooke**), the L.M. knew what to do, and quickly

thrust the flag skyward straight over his head. Alas, it went directly into the thickest part of a pine tree and was immediately caught in the pine needles and other vegetation, stuck and unmovable. Having seen the flag rise with such authority, Lee and all the players looked toward the L.M. and awaited his tilting of the flag to indicate direction. However, this was not to be, as the flag resisted all of the L.M.'s efforts and refused to budge. Seeing that everyone was growing impatient with the delay, after an interval of time and with no progress being made despite his efforts to free the flag, the L.M. did what he had to do, and yelled out "white ball, white throw-in!" in a clear voice, while continuing to do battle with the shrubbery for possession of the flag. Finding the predicament of the L.M. amusing, Lee ordered a "white" team throw-in amid the general laughter of those nearby. As often happens, the ball was almost immediately knocked back into touch after the throw-in, and all eyes turned to the L.M. again for another directional decision. With a final mighty yank and a resulting shower of pine needles and other debris pouring down over his head, it was possible for him to move the still highly-held flag slightly to one side in the tight quarters, which was done to the applause and murmured congratulations of the nearby players and referee. This time the ball stayed in play after the throw-in, the flag was eventually completely freed from the vegetative death-grip, and the game ended in due course a while later. The L.M. then took the opportunity to remove the remaining bits of vegetation from the flag and his uniform, before beating a hasty retreat from the general area.



**"It's a tough world, son. You inflate. You get kicked
around all your life. Then one day -- blam!
You deflate."**