



The Flag and Whistle

Newsletter of the Soccer South Bay Referee Association

February 29, 2008

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HEIDI HAS TO AD-LIB IT AT THE MONTHLY MEETING ADAM TELLS IT LIKE IT IS DOWN SOUTH SURENDRA AND GABRIEL LOSE IT AT STATE CUP

In anticipation of the special speaker Training Director **Heidi Garlick** had arranged, President **Ed McClure** opened the meeting and tried to get through the regular business on Feb. 26 quickly in order to leave him plenty of time for his presentation. Secretary **Warren Howell** was glad to cooperate with this effort, and introduced newcomers to the meetings. They were **Sean Danbeli**, **Dennis Kindig** (who recognized a few familiar faces he spotted in the crowd), and **Kevin Pineda**. Naturally, after encouragement from the Members, each got up and told a little about themselves, getting a warm welcome from the crowd in turn. That out of the way, Warren reminded everyone to sign the roster, announced that there were now 181 Members on the list, offered to answer any questions (there were none), and sat down quickly to a smattering of applause.

Treasurer **Tom Mallen** was not to be so swiftly silenced, and presented the group with a balance (\$8216) and a Budget. The Budget was a marvel of sophistication, with prior year expenditures and revenues, current year non-realized expenditures, unpaid debts, expected and projected revenues, accrued future expenses, and other wonders galore. All of this was, no doubt, of great fascination to some of the Members but, alas, the secretary was unable to identify any such Members, and there were no questions. Tom will, however, go over the figures again if asked by anyone interested.

It was time for Assignor **Bill Cook** to speak about more interesting stuff, and he did not disappoint. He told us how **Larry Stern** has been helping him do some of the assigning lately, so that Larry can get a feel for how it is done and help out later if necessary. Bill told us there were 106 State Cup games assigned so far, and talked about the \$25 gift card available to those who go up to Lancaster etc. in a 3-person carpool. State Cup for the olders will start in April and take place in Bakersfield, the announcement of which caused **Ed Beverly** to say a few words about the adventures of SSBRA the last time we went up there. Bill told us how many young and female referees were in Lancaster, some of which were being mentored, including **Ernesto Perez**. He also said we were a top association in Lancaster, with about 12 associations taking part altogether. Bill then announced that a couple of new men's games would be opening up for us to cover on Sundays, in La Mirada. A few other Members had stuff to say too, including **Jim Lucinda, Dan Damian** and **Steve Brandon**.

At this point Ed McClure decided to talk a bit, and announced that a bylaw review committee was being formed, with Past Presidents Larry Stern and **Bob Hildreth** being the first two named to serve on that group. He then clarified that the SBS 7v7 leagues had gone to 25 minutes halves (with Warren adding the comment that it was hard to get that much playing time in the available time slots – start your watches on time whether the teams are ready or not). Then Ed made a nice gesture by recognizing those referees who, for the good of the game etc., had taken games that ran into the Super Bowl parties on a recent Sunday. Those mentioned were **Alex Mebane, Amanda Chavez, Andrew Brandon, Bob Slater, David Lanoye, David Sena, Ed Beverly, Gabriel Goldsman, Jay Foster, Kiku Annon, Lauren Copely, Marty Jeffers, Michael Copley, Michael Dewart, Mike Clifford, Rudy Chavez, Scott Tomlinson, Sean Ji, Shahram Danbeli, Stephen Copley, Steve Brandon, Steve McCall** and Warren Howell. Ed went on to remind us that the deadline was coming up for the Sportsmanship award. **Bill Mindlin** then started talking about something or other, but then changed his mind and sat down after a word from **Manny Fineberg** of soccerone.com fame.

It was then time for the formal training part of the evening to start and, for once, we were disappointed, as the fancy speaker that Heidi had arranged from the State Committee was a no show (curses!). Actually, our disappointment was short lived, and Heidi used the unexpected opportunity to talk to us about always being professional, in both our words and actions, when on the pitch. This developed into an interesting session of story telling and lesson giving, with many of the Members participating (seemingly most of the 49 who signed the roster), including **Larry Savell, Mike Clifford, Bill Cook, Steve Brandon, Ernesto Perez, Tom Mallen, Alex Mebane, Rudy Chavez, Dan Damian, Veto Galati, Joe Robelotto, Jim Lucania, and Suzanne Johnson** all saying a word or more. Joe Robelotto, as the meeting was winding down, mentioned that the Watts high school games were a few months off, and told us he would not be assigning them this year.

It was time for the raffle, and a number of winners received nifty prizes. These were Ed McClure, **Allen Dawson, Larry Savell, Kevin Pineda, Reggie Raleigh** and Tom Mallen. Disaster was averted when it was discovered afterwards that Ed McClure's personal jacket was raffled off in error when his back was turned, but was won by Tom Mallen, who surrendered said jacket to Ed after some cross words were exchanged.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, February 21, 2008

- **Andy Kopulski** (returning), Dennis Kindig and **Jeff Brandon** were accepted as new Members
- A Member was fined for being late/no-show to some matches
- Two Members missed/late the first State Cup match of the day, Warren to handle
- Complaints about a referee were discussed, no action taken
- Complaints about another referee at State Cup were discussed, Heidi to handle
- Honorary plaque is ready for presentation
- Tom presented a budget, \$8200 in the bank
- A suggestion proposed by a Board Member was rejected by the Board
- A new Member was to be added to the roster after some confusion was cleared up
- Another suggestion made by the same Board Member was also defeated

- New bylaw review committee discussed and is being formed
- A problem referee was discussed, Gabriel has handled
- Bill commented on the many female referees that were seen at State Cup. SSBRA doing a good job at State Cup based on what he saw
- Heidi arranging for a guest speaker at the next monthly meeting
- The Korean League is coming up 3/15 and 3/27 for the fifth year, pay again to be Galaxy tickets and scarves (!)
- An internal Board matter was discussed for about 2 hours

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, February 26, 2008

- Kevin Pineda, Sean Danbeli and **Alex Shaw** were accepted as new Members
- A returning Member was added back to the roster
- The need for a 1099 administration fee was discussed for the leagues to pay because of the work involved for SSBRA. No decision made.
- An internal Board matter was discussed



No, it was not quite this cold in Lancaster during the recent State Cup matches (news photo)

NEXT MONTHLY MEETING

THE NEXT MEETING IS ON TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 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 ASSOCIATION BUSINESS, TRAINING AND LOTS OF TALK.

Thought of the Month (from the papers of **George Washington**)

“Every action in company ought to be done with some sign of respect to those that are present.”

Mexican women's soccer team gets its footing

By **Adam Rose**, Special to the Times, reprinted with permission of the author
February 22, 2008

Soccer moms aren't common yet in Mexico, but that doesn't mean they aren't a force to be reckoned with. In fact, in a country that's slowly becoming a force on the international sports scene, few teams have risen higher and faster than Mexico's women's soccer team. And to get there, they've had to beat more than just their opponents on the field. They've also had to overcome insufficient funding, a lack of infrastructure, little support and centuries of ingrained social teaching. "Machismo in Mexico is nearly impossible to remove," Mexico Coach **Leonardo Cuellar** said. "It's part of the culture. There will always be detractors for women participating in the sport."

All of which makes the Mexican team's success under Cuellar all the more impressive. Mexico comes into Friday's 7 p.m. exhibition at the Coliseum -- against defending national champion USC -- ranked 22nd in the world, its best ranking ever (editor's note -- Mexico won, 3-1). Mexico has reached the medal round in three consecutive Pan American Games -- winning once -- and is the first team from a Spanish-speaking country to qualify for either the Women's World Cup or the Olympic Games. It did both. And with a good showing in April's Olympic qualifying tournament, Mexico could be heading to this summer's Games in Beijing.

"Women's soccer in Mexico is still in its infancy," said USC women's Coach **Ali Khosroshahin**, who is also an assistant with the Mexican team under Cuellar. "It's a real political issue. Soccer in Mexico is political. . . . [It] is a man's sport. But their eyes have definitely been opened." Much of the credit for that goes to Cuellar, a former member of Mexico's men's national team who took over the women's program in 1998 and had it in the World Cup a year later. "He's done a great job with the program," said UCLA Coach **Jillian Ellis**, whose team played Mexico to a 1-1 tie last week. "It's such a male-dominated sport that socially you have to change the culture a little bit. That's definitely happening with more visibility from the women's team."

Interestingly, the expansion of women's sports in the United States has also fueled the growth of women's sports in Mexico. Guadalajara's **Lorena Ochoa**, for example, the No. 1 women's golfer in the world, honed her skills for two years at the University of Arizona before turning pro. And 10 players on Cuellar's first World Cup team came from U.S. colleges, led by 29-year-old **Laurie Hill**, who played for UC Santa Barbara and whose mother is Mexican.

In Mexico, the practice of offering college scholarships to athletes is relatively new, and players competing for Mexican schools are forbidden from playing for the national team. In the United States, meanwhile, soccer is poised to pass basketball and volleyball as the most popular college sport for women. And more than 1.5 million girls are currently playing youth soccer in the U.S., 10 times the number of women and girls playing organized

soccer in Mexico. "We are in transition to create those programs," said Cuellar, himself a product of the U.S. collegiate system, having coached the men's team at Cal State L.A. Cuellar remembers a time not long ago when it would be common to see a 12- or 13-year-old girl in Mexico on the same team with a 38-year-old woman. That wasn't good for developing new players. "Now we have [an under age 12], U-14 and U-17 national championship. Every state puts a team together for that," he said. "We see more parents involved and supporting, going to see the games and helping [the girls'] confidence."

That has even caught Mexican soccer officials by surprise. When Cuellar's team played Japan at Azteca Stadium in a run-up to the 2003 World Cup, nearly 100,000 fans showed up. Organizers, who were expecting only a fraction of that, opened only one gate, leaving tens of thousands of spectators stranded outside when the match started.

But as women's soccer has taken root in Mexico, the country has begun to produce its own players, such as **Maribel Dominguez**, who, in 2005, became the first Mexican woman to sign with a men's franchise, only to have the contract voided by FIFA, world soccer's governing body. So now, instead of waiting for an invitation from Cuellar, many U.S. collegians with ties to Mexico are openly seeking a spot on the national team -- so much so that USC freshman **Ashli Sandoval**, one of four Mexican Americans on the Trojans' roster, views tonight's match as something of an audition for the Olympic squad. But if Mexico is weaning itself from dependence on U.S. colleges, it's not quite ready to cut its own path just yet. "They don't have the infrastructure or organized leagues down there to really develop talent," UCLA's Ellis said. "But they watch the game and they're very sophisticated about the subtleties of the game."

The style of play is distinct on each side of the border. However, it's no longer a given the better players will come from the north. "The girls from Mexico develop their touch and notion of the game much better than the girls from the U.S. In Mexico, it's more of a certain style of possession of the ball and having that technical ability," said Mexico's **Marlene Sandoval**, who played soccer at Cal State Fullerton. Cuellar, whose team has already beaten Arizona State and will follow Friday's match with games against Illinois, Michigan State and Notre Dame, has noticed the change. "Coming to these colleges, we used to be on the losing side," he said. "Then we got ties. Then we started winning."

Another Thought of the Month (from the papers of George Washington)

“Let your countenance be pleasant but in serious matters somewhat grave.”

To Whistle or Not to Whistle (FIFA whistling guidelines, from Referee magazine)

MUST

- to start/restart play at the beginning of the first and second half, and after a goal
- to stop play, during instances such as free kicks and penalty kicks
- to stop, suspend or terminate the match
- to restart play with a ceremonial free kick
- to restart play with a penalty kick

MAYBE

- goal-kick, corner-kick or throw-in (when players are unaware the ball has passed out of play)
- Goals, if it is a tight decision
- restart for free kicks, goal-kicks, corner-kicks and throw-ins



Mirror Mirror on the Wall.....Rudy Chavez likes what he sees during a recent break from State Cup action (photo courtesy of Gabriel Goldsman)

Proper SSBRA Meeting Behavior Clarified (from the papers of **George Washington**)

“Sleep not when others speak, sit not when others stand, speak not when you should hold your peace, walk not on when others stop.”

You Must Be Kidding (recent apparently true news article)

Michelle Campbell, a high school basketball official in Kansas, was "dumbfounded" to learn she would not be allowed to ply her trade in a game because she was a woman. The Kansas City Star reported that an official for St. Mary's Academy, a private school north of Topeka, said he could not allow a woman to be put in a position of authority over boys, as it was contrary to the beliefs of the school....."I was upset," **Darin Putthoff**, Campbell's fellow ref, told the Star. "So I said, 'You're telling me you don't have any teachers at the school who are women?'" The Principal, Father **Vicente Griego**, was unavailable for comment.

Fitness Level of Certain Referees Thrown into Doubt (attributed to President **George W. Bush**)

"Iran is a country where people are not free to exercise."

Almost Perfect (recent observation of NFL official **Jim Tunney**)

.....claiming he got the highest score ever on the referee's entrance exam. "I got 98 out of 100 right," he said. "The only two things I failed were eyesight and judgment."



Lauren Copely and Amanda Chavez enjoy a night on the town in Palmdale during a recent State Cup week-end (photo courtesy of Gabriel Goldsman, who has been told not to give up his day job to become a photographer)

SSBRA Referee Team Confronts State Cup Official, Sends Him Packing (submitted by W. Howell)

It was a fine, sunny day on a recent Lancaster State Cup morning, and referee **Surendra Menon**, aided by Gabriel Goldsman and the Member known as Bluto, were officiating and enjoying a spirited match. Surend, per instructions, was legally wearing a plain black baseball-type hat to keep the bright sun out of his eyes. But at half time State Official **Hector** approached the referee team and politely asked that the hat be removed, as they were

forbidden. While assuring Hector that the ref team was more than willing to obey the rules, the official directive was to the contrary, and Bluto showed him the written list of rules that had been received, which stated that hats were OK. Upon seeing this, learning that we were SSBRA officials, and then finding out that the missive was written by none other than the Very Important and Distinguished State Cup Referee Coordinator Bill Cook himself, a concerned Hector reached for his phone to try to get a clarification. He was able to reach Bill, who, along with **Gary Thompson**, was relaxing inside the Eastside headquarters building, safely isolated from the weather, angry parents, and any other unpleasantness. After talking with Bill for a few minutes, Hector handed the phone to Bluto, and the following exchange took place;

- Bluto to Bill (on the phone): "...your Email says hats are OK, but Hector says no..."
- Bill to Bluto (on the phone): "Yeah, they changed that yesterday, all hats are forbidden now"
- Bluto (to the group on the field): "Bill says they changed it, hats are not allowed"
- Gabriel to Bluto: "Ask Bill about underwear"
- Bluto to Bill (on the phone): "How about underwear?"
- Bill (catching on right away) to Bluto: "There are not too many restrictions, but they have to be black"
- Bluto to the group: "Bill says they have to be black"
- Bill to Bluto (still on the phone): "And thongs are not allowed"
- Bluto to the group: "Thongs are not allowed. Gabriel, you will have to change"

While this was going on, one could see the look on Hector's face change from mild concern to total bewilderment, as he did not see how any of these rules made sense. But then looking at the faces of the referee team (who could no longer keep their serious expressions), Hector also started smiling and with a muttered "Aw, you guys..." shared a good laugh with the group, showing he was both a good sport and knew how to enjoy a joke, even when it was at his expense. After a bit, having had more than enough of SSBRA Members for that day, but still laughing to himself, Hector was seen shaking his head and walking toward the headquarters building. Likewise, after making adjustments to their uniforms, the referee team headed to the center circle to start the second half.



Let's hope we don't see this in any of our matches (news photo)

Quote of the Month (FIFA President Joseph "Sepp" Blatter)

"FIFA's rules are practically perfect. What is the problem with football today? It's not the rules. It is the refereeing."



Surendra Menon and Warren Howell are seen staggering out of Karen's Kitchen #2 in Palmdale on a recent State Cup morning (photo courtesy of Gabriel Goldsman)

On the Other Hand, This Guy Does Not Need to be Close to Play (actual court testimony)

Attorney: So you saw that, did you?

Witness: Yes I did.

Attorney: That was pretty far from you. How far can you see?

Witness: I can see the moon, how far is that?

This Explains It, More or Less (soccer manager Glenn Hoddle)

"But he was a player that hasn't had to use his legs even when he was nineteen years of age because his first two yards were in his head."



This is How They Handle Dissent in the Other Football (NFL official **Jim Quirk** and a Green Bay Packers player)

Assistant Referees Get Center Referee's Attention (submitted by W. Howell)

An early State Cup Sunday morning in February found the SSBRA referee known to many as the Large Member on the pitch in Lancaster and who, after a couple of previous week-ends at GU11 and BU12 matches, was ready for the GU13 elimination round games to come that day. Fortified by a generous breakfast of famous Hobo Eggs at the equally famous Karen's Kitchen #2 with his fellow referees earlier that morning, the L.M. was only moderately impaired by the Antelope Valley revelry of the night before. Aply assisted by Surendra "The Doctor" Menon and Gabriel "Mario" Goldsman, he confidently blew his whistle to get the match started on time. His confidence seemed well-placed, as a spirited but well-managed contest unfolded, with the first half going well, and the same continuing well into the second half. Pleased with the good job he was doing, at the 30 minute mark of the second half and the score 2 – 1 (no overtime!), the L.M. signaled for 2 additional minutes of stoppage time due to a delay earlier in the half. After the 2 minute period, there was a goal-kick to be taken, and as the team that was behind was dawdling in setting up for the restart, the L.M. blew his whistle to end the match before the GK could take place, inwardly congratulating himself for a job well done. At this point, to his great surprise, both Surend and Gabriel ran onto the field shouting, waving their flags furiously, and in general dancing and jumping around as if they had lost their minds. The L.M. was at a loss as to what was going on – could it be that they were both under the influence of some psychotic drugs? Were they being chased by swarms of angry hornets? Did they have ants in their pants? Regardless, using his well-known deductive powers to ponder their continuing antics, the L.M. decided that something was wrong! Conferring with his agitated ARs, the referee concluded, alas, that he had ended the match about 5 minutes too soon for this age group, and that Surend and Gabriel were indeed following correct FIFA procedure in pointing the error out to the referee. Calling the teams back onto the field, the L.M. explained the problem, took responsibility for the incorrect time keeping, and re-started the game with the GK. Five minutes later, with no goals being scored nor any other incidents having occurred, the L.M. signaled for the end of the match again, this time correctly and finally. Of course he then went over to the coaches on both sides to apologize for his error. The winning coach took it in stride with no hard feelings at all. The losing coach was also a

happy camper and showed no ill-will, perhaps because of his own kind and forgiving nature, the graciousness of the L.M.'s words, or maybe he just did not want to come back and play another game that afternoon.

In any event, it was then time for the next GU13 elimination match, with Surend taking his turn in the middle. Thanking the two of them for their help in the prior game, the L.M. offered to try to be as helpful in Surend's game, in particular offering to keep back-up time, an offer that Surend pointedly (and rather rudely) declined. This was perhaps an error on Surend's part, as he was unable to avoid overtimes and PKs before the winner was decided in another spirited and competitive match. Having made it to the mid-day break, Surend, Gabriel and the L.M., along with Steve Brandon, Andrew Brandon and Rudy Chavez from the next field, retreated to Karen's Kitchen #3 for lunch and conversation. Much was indeed discussed, some of which covering topics that can not be printed here in a family-oriented newsletter, and then the referee teams returned to the fields for the afternoon matches. Both of these turned out to be entertaining and hard-fought, with the carpooling teams finally heading back for the surprisingly easy and fast drive into town at the end of the day. On the drive back the events of the day were rehashed of course, and Gabriel, Surend and the L.M. speculated if there would be State Cup games available the next weekend and the opportunity to do it all over again then.