

Flag & Whistle

Newsletter for the BC Soccer Referees Association - Spring 2009



B.C.S.R.A.
1969-2009

*Celebrating 40 years of
assisting, supporting and
advocating for referees.*

BCSRA
1969-2009
40 Years

REFEREE AGM TO BE HELD SATURDAY, MAY 23rd ON MAINLAND SIDE

40th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF R.A.'S FORMING TO BE HELD
AT AGM

The date of Saturday May 23rd has been set aside as the date for the Annual General Meeting. The meeting is due to be held on the mainland side. A celebration of the initial founding of the association will be held by recognizing the founders on the day. Immediately thereafter the annual Jack Tinnion Memorial Shield match, otherwise known as the "604 v 250 Friendly", will be challenged by members living in the respective area codes. Last year's game was "won" by the 250 side by a score of 3-2 on a late minute goal.

The venue for both the meeting will be the Cloverdale Curling Club, 6150-176th St. in Surrey. Doors open at 9am and meeting to be called just before 930am. A light lunch for all attendees will follow after the meeting. The favour of an RSVP to indicate numbers for the lunch would be appreciated. All RSVP's can be sent to Provincial Secretary Richard Brownie (guild_ref@hotmail.com or 604-591-7621).

RA MEMBERS OFFICIATE IN CONCACAF TOURNAMENTS

Congratulations to RA members **Darren Clark** and **Paul Ward** who have recently been appointed to CONCACAF tournaments.

Paul Ward (VASRA) who has been appointed to officiate in the CONCACAF Gold Cup, due to start this summer. Paul had recently officiated in the CONCACAF U-20 Qualifying Tournament in Trinidad. This tournament is the last step for the 2009 FIFA U-20 World Cup to be held in Egypt. He also recently refereed the World Cup Qualifying match between Honduras and Mexico and the CONCACAF Champions League Semi-final on April 7th in Mexico.

Darren Clark (KSRA) has been appointed to the CONCACAF U-17 Qualifying Tournament in Mexico. He was recently on the quarter-final match Mexico v Trinidad on April 22nd. Teams advancing from this tournament will go to the FIFA U-17 World Cup to be held in Nigeria starting October 24th of this year.



Member Paul Ward inspects Mexican player (on ground) during his World Cup qualifier on April 1st between Honduras and Mexico.

ENGLISH CLUBS MENTALLY SUPERIOR, MANAGER SAYS

-Agence France-Presse (as appeared in Vancouver Sun March 14,2009)

England manager Fabio Capello has revealed why he thinks the English clubs dominated their Italian counterparts in Europe this season: physical and mental superiority. All three Italian teams who reached the Champions League second round were defeated by English opposition.

Inter Milan went down 2-0 to Manchester United, Juventus lost 3-2 to Chelsea and AS Roma were ousted by Arsenal on penalties.

"I would say that there's a big difference in mentality and normally the game is more physical

and combative (in England)," Capello told RAI.

"From this point of view, our teams (in Italy) lack something in comparison to the English," he said.

"That's something we have to improve if we want to return to the highest level in Europe."

An element of the mentality Capello believes he needs changing is the propensity to dive looking for free-kicks and penalties, rather than trying to win through what a team creates honestly.

"And then there's another problem, in Italy there are too many stoppages and too often in favour of players who simulate and throw themselves to the ground, something which is hampering our game flowing," he said.

"The referees need to let the game flow and this pattern of playing football based on blocking is why British football has a quicker more fluid rhythm to it."

English clubs are mentally superior because their home game is "...more physical and combative."

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

MR. CAPELLO, A REBUTTAL IF I MAY

Part of the reason the Referees Association exists is to speak out for referees against ill-founded statements. One method is to give rebuttals so that a balanced view can be heard, so that the profession is always treated with respect and so we aren't seen as scapegoats for problems that are not of our making.

Concerning this last point, the time has come to speak out. On March 14th the Vancouver Sun printed an article whereby English National Team coach, Fabio Capello, responded to a question from Italy's RAI Television about why English club

sides dominated Italian clubs in recent UEFA Champions League. In case you didn't follow it, all three Italian teams, AS Roma, Juventus and Serie A (the top division in Italy) champions Inter Milan, were eliminated by English sides. Mr. Capello, who also played for Italy in the 1978 World Cup (*ed. note: the same World Cup that our Life Member Werner Winsemann was appointed to*) was asked for his opinion, which he is no doubt qualified to do- he played/coached in the Serie A and is a regular spectator at English Premier League matches. In short, he said English clubs are mentally superior because their home game is "...more physical and combative."

While this was the article's main thrust, it ended with a quote concerning the play in the Italian Serie A (*ed. note: see the reprint beside this column*):

cont. pg.3 see Rebuttal

Rebuttal cont.

"And then there's another problem, in Italy there are too many stoppages and too often in favour of players who simulate and throw themselves to the ground, something which is hampering our game from flowing, he added. "The referees need to let the game flow...".

I accept the comment is one man's honest opinion and not "sour grapes." However, one cannot help but interpret this statement as an inference that referees are to blame for the simulation occurring in the first place.

Why no mention of the teams themselves? Isn't it the coaches who dictate the tactics and style the players will use? Isn't it the players who decide how they will respond to challenges for the ball? Despite all our talk about preventative officiating, refereeing is still a reactionary process to observed stimuli.

Furthermore, the English "Barclay's" Premier League features mainly European-based players who gravitate to the physical style Mr. Capello has observed. On the other hand, Italian Serie A teams have a big helping of South American players who play a more technical, ball control type of game. Anyone who has seen top South American/Central American teams knows the kind of physical contact we see in the Barclay's Premier League would not be well received in South America. Case in point, how many South/Central Americans are playing in England?

Given that type of player temperament, is there a chance that "letting the game flow" would jeopardize the one thing a referee holds most dear and is judged heavily on, i.e. game control? If so, what is the referee supposed to do? Call it tight of course! If the outcome is a less "entertaining" style of play, perhaps the clubs of the Serie A need to rethink the product they are putting on the field.

The first place is to start with the type of players they sign followed by the tactics they employ. Case in point, one recalls a certain "joke" commercial made by an English newspaper prior to Euro 2004 titled, "Italian Training Session". During the commercial a ring of players jog on the spot whereupon they all fall to the ground on command.

Lastly, the Italian Serie A has, in the past, been known as a very low scoring game. Given Mr. Capello's comments I'm surprised referees aren't blamed for that as well!

**2009 R.A. MANUAL AND HANDBOOK ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Members are to be made aware that the 2009 RA Manual will be distributed in the second half of June in order to allow the collation of names for the various positions held within the Referees Association. The 2009 RA Handbook is under review and expected to be distributed in late Summer/early Fall.

Unlike the RA Manual, which is designed as a reference book for information and contacts about the association, the RA Handbook is designed to provide useful, practical information about refereeing especially to the newer referee. The provincial executive is always looking to enhance the document to make it current and relevant. Any feedback should be directed to both RA President Elvio Chies (Lvo@direct.ca) or RA Secretary Richard Brownie (guild_ref@hotmail.com).

CANADIAN SOCCER REFEREES ASSOCIATION CORNER (CSRA)

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NEW EXECUTIVE ELECTED AT AGM

Election of Officers at the Annual General Meeting of the National RA held in Calgary on February 20th with the positions of President, 2nd Vice-President and Treasurer up for renewal. The new executive for 2009 is as follows:

President: *Joe Licandro* (Ontario)

1st Vice-President: *Tony Troughton* (BC)

2nd Vice-President: *Elvio Chies* (BC)

Secretary: *Bob Hope* (BC)

Treasurer: *Larry Eloy* (Manitoba)

All positions that were up for election were filled by acclamation and constitute a two year term. The positions of 1st Vice-President and Secretary are two year terms as well, with Mr. Troughton still having a year to go as 1st Vice-President. Secretary Bob Hope is filling the role as an appointee for the remainder of the term due to the departure of former Secretary Richard Carman of Ontario. Mr. Carman stepped down in September 2008 for personal reasons.

Flag & Whistle congratulates the members of the new executive and wishes them the best in their service to fellow referees across the country.

NATIONAL RA BY-LAWS AMMENDED TO ALLOW CITY/DISTRICT RA's TO JOIN

At the Annual General Meeting member provinces of the CSRA agreed to amend the By-laws of the association to allow City/District RA's to join as associate members. This eases the work of encouraging fellow referees across the country to congregate into a single peer society rather than solely through a provincial/territorial RA, or as a Direct member if no such vehicle exists where they reside. It was felt the work of forming such organizations is daunting even though local City/District RA's exist in various provinces. City/District RA's can now champion the cause of joining a national network of referees as they themselves will enjoy rubbing shoulders with fellow RA societies across the country.

The By-laws were carefully structured so that local branches of a provincial/territorial RA cannot split from their parent body to join the CSRA separately.

CALGARY DISTRICT EXECUTIVE ENDORSES JOINING CSRA

At its executive meeting in late February the executive of the Calgary District Soccer Referees Association (CDSRA) unanimously agreed to recommend to its members that the association become an associate member of the CSRA. The membership then unanimously ratified this recommendation at the CDSRA's Annual General Meeting on April 7th.

CSA DIRECTOR OF REFEREEING WANTS TO WORK WITH CSRA

Canadian Soccer Association (CSA) Director of Refereeing Joe Guest has responded on behalf of himself and the CSA Referee's Committee to the CSRA executive's overture to formally endorse the association. The overture came about in part due to a wish by Mr. Guest to work with a single referee body rather than individual associations. Also, FIFA has, in a memorandum sent to its national associations, asked that referees assemble together. The CSRA executive feels that a formal endorsement of a National RA, using the CSRA as that vehicle, will assist in fulfilling FIFA's mandate which the CSA is required to do. Part of the response was a request to the CSRA executive to respond to a series of questions prior to the CSA Referees Committee's meeting early June. The CSRA exec has taken the letter under advisement and intends to respond back in the timeframe requested.

MEACHIN FUND SCOPE TO BE ENLARGED

An ad-hoc committee has been struck by the CSRA executive to investigate increased use of the monies in the association's John Meachin Fund. The green light to proceed was given by Virginia Meachin, the widow of John Meachin and founder of the fund.

John Meachin was a former Canadian FIFA Referee, the association's first president and a past member of the CSA Referees Committee. The Committee is being headed by 1st Vice-President

Tony Troughton and also includes

Pat Harkness (BC), William Laidlaw (Man.) and CSRA Life Member Bill Hoyle (Ont.).

Since the fund's creation in 2002, Canadian FIFA Assistant and RA member Hector Vergara has been the only recipient.

The Fund's original intent was to further a goal of John Meachin: to allow Canada's FIFA and National officials to attend symposia and tournaments in order to obtain valuable knowledge that could be shared across the country. Mr. Meachin felt the cost of doing so was prohibitive and put Canada's referees at a disadvantage in obtaining this knowledge, handicapping their development. Based on feedback received, the timing of many events which would qualify under the Fund's criteria, amongst other reasons, have not led to great use of the fund. Since the fund's creation in 2002, Canadian FIFA Assistant and RA member Hector Vergara has been the only recipient. Also, currently Canada's National and FIFA referees have been able to travel more for refereeing purposes due to increased funds from the CSA or various top leagues such as the MLS or USL 1st Division. This led to a decision was made to investigate an increased scope of the fund.

An initial brainstorming session was held at the CSRA's recent AGM in Calgary and the comments have been passed onto the Committee for consideration. Its findings will be made to the CSRA executive by June of this year to take under advisement. Currently, the Fund's account is valued at approximately \$9,000..

CONGRATS TO BC-BASED 2009 FIFA AND NATIONALS

The Canadian Soccer Association (CSA) has announced the list of FIFA and National officials for 2009. They are as follows:

FIFA

Darren Clark (FIFA AR)

Mauricio Navarro (FIFA Referee)

Michelle Pye (FIFA Referee)

Paul Ward (FIFA Referee)

NATIONAL

Mark Budda

Kevin Duliba

Andy Foster

Martin Reid

Congratulations to all on their achievement!

PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE POSITIONS UP FOR ELECTION AT AGM

The positions of Vice-President and Treasurer/Registrar, both two year terms, are up for election at the upcoming Annual General Meeting of the association on May 23rd. Those expressing a wish to serve their fellow referees by running for a position on the provincial executive should contact the Hans Clodius, head of the Nominating Committee (iclodius@shaw.ca or 604-582-5411).

The By-laws indicate the criteria for each position which will include participation at executive meetings (usually held via teleconference due to the potential geographical distances between members) and the two RA Council meetings, Fall (usually held in the morning of a day on the 3rd or 4th weekend of November) and Spring (usually held on a day in a weekend in early or late May).

AREA ASSOCIATION APPOINTED DIRECTORS TO BE RATIFIED AT AGM

Per the By-Laws of the association, the following Area-Association appointed Directors to the provincial executive are to be ratified by the membership: Director #1-Fraser Valley and Director#3-Vancouver Island. Also, the position of Area Association-appointed Director # 4: for any other Area Association exclusive of Fraser Valley, Vancouver and Vancouver Island has yet to be filled.

Unlike the four table officers (i.e. President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer/Registrar), Area Association-appointed Directors may be members of an Area Association executive. Participation will include attendance at executive meetings (usually held via teleconference due to potential geographical distances between members) and the two RA council meetings: Fall (usually held in the morning of a day on the 3rd or 4th weekend of November) and Spring (usually held on a day in a weekend in early or late May).

WEB FORUM INTRO DELAYED DUE TO GLITCH

The introduction of the Web Forum has been delayed due to technical issues. Members can sign up to the forum (entry point is located on the BCSRA's website: www.bcsra.com) but some members have experienced problems being accepted by the system.

An official roll-out will occur in early Spring.

MEMBERSHIP GIFT FOR 2009-2010 MEMBERSHIP YEAR: 40th ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE COIN

As part of joining the RA for the 2009-2010 Membership Year each member will receive a tossing coin to help commemorate the 40th anniversary of the association's founding. The association was formally incorporated on March 29th, 1969.

Everyone is reminded that CSA/BCSA referee registration, which will occur starting April 1st, is not the same as Referee Association membership. Only Referee Association membership will entitle one to receive a coin.

The coin will first be introduced with Interior-based members renewing at the start of the Interior Membership Year which starts May 1st. Coastal-based members will receive their coin upon joining/renewing for the Coastal-based year in early Fall 2009. All members may purchase additional coins at cost until June 30th for \$3.75 plus PST/GST and applicable postage if necessary. (NOTE: Coastal members will be required to renew prior to the June 30th date in order to purchase additional coins above the one that will be distributed with membership renewal).

IFAB approves extension of additional assistant referees experiment.

(FIFA.com) Saturday 28 February 2009

The International FA Board (IFAB) convened in Newcastle, County Down, Northern Ireland today for its 123rd Annual General Meeting (AGM).

After having received a report on the experiment involving additional assistant referees conducted during UEFA U-19 European Championship qualifying tournaments in October and November 2008, the members of the Board gave permission for the continuation of FIFA's experiment with additional assistant referees, this time in a professional league.

Regarding Law 11 (Offside), the wording of the Interpretation of the Laws of the Game and Guidelines has been amended to clarify the situation where a defending player leaves the field of play placing an attacking player in an offside position. The new wording reads as follows: "Any defending player leaving the field of play for any reason without the referee's permission shall be considered to be on his goal line or touchline for the purposes of offside until the next stoppage of play."

In order to avoid unnecessary conflicts between fourth officials and coaches or other occupants in the technical area, the Board agreed that, provided they behave in a responsible manner, one person be permitted to remain in the technical area and no longer be required to return to their position on the bench after conveying tactical instructions.

(Ed. note: Members are requested not to enforce any changes until explicitly told to do so by the provincial governing body).

Another item discussed at today's meeting relates to kicks from the penalty mark. The procedure has been clarified regarding the players participating in kicks from the penalty mark if one team has a greater number of players than their opponents at the end of the match. In such a situation, the Laws of the Game now state that this team must reduce their numbers to equate with that of their opponents. In order to clarify further the process, the following wording has been added: "Any player so excluded may not participate in kicks from the penalty mark."

Other items

- FIFA withdrew its proposal to extend the maximum duration of the half-time interval
- the Board agreed that the proposal to increase the maximum number of substitutions in the event of extra time should be discussed by the relevant FIFA committees
- the IFAB agreed that its technical sub-committee will discuss the procedure that applies when players leave the field of play after treatment
- it was agreed that the concept of "Sin Bins" would not be pursued further
- Law 1 has been updated to reflected the change of designation to the FIFA Quality Concept for Football Turf

Next year's IFAB Annual General Meeting will take place from 5 to 7 March in Zurich (Switzerland).

About IFAB

Founded in 1886, the IFAB is composed of The Football Association (England), The Scottish Football Association, The Football Association of Wales, The Irish Football Association (Northern Ireland) and FIFA, and has historically held the position as guardian of the Laws of the Game. Each British association has one vote apiece, while FIFA, which represents its 204 other member associations, has four. A three-quarter majority is required for any proposal to be passed.

World's worst refereeing decisions

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By Andrew Benson

"Ed note: as a rule we don't berate our fellow officials and this story is not being presented as such. It is only being shown as food for thought since it does revolve around referees and is in the public domain."

The failure to award Tottenham a goal after Manchester United goalkeeper Roy Carroll fumbled the ball over the line has revived calls for video technology to be used in football. The demands for football to follow the lead of other sports like cricket and rugby union come after years of examples of similar injustices. FA mulls goal-line technology With help from readers on our messageboards, BBC Sport details some of the worst examples of poor refereeing decisions in football.

ARGENTINA v ENGLAND 1986 Diego Maradona sealed his notoriety with this infamous incident in the World Cup quarter-final. Maradona uses his hand to score against England in the 1986 World Cup The brilliant Argentine jumped with Peter Shilton to meet a cross in the penalty area, and used his hand to beat the England goalkeeper to the ball and fist it into the net. Maradona has shown no regret or shame about the incident, which helped Argentina beat England 2-1 on their way to winning the World Cup. After the game, he referred to the "Hand of God" being responsible for the goal. And years later, in his autobiography, he compared it with his exquisite second goal, for which he dribbled past half the England team, and said he "almost enjoyed the first one more". It was, he said, a form of revenge for the country's defeat in the 1982 Falklands War.

FRANCE v GERMANY 1982 A goal-kick was awarded after Schumacher knocked Battiston out The artistic French team led by the brilliant playmaker Michel Platini lost this World Cup semi-final after one of history's most shocking fouls went unpunished. In the second half, France's Patrick Battiston was played clean through, with only German goalkeeper Harald Schumacher to beat. Schumacher launched himself at Battiston and his hips smashed into the Frenchman's face, leaving him unconscious with a broken jaw. While Battiston was stretchered off, to spend months in recovery, the referee awarded a goal-kick.

MIDDLESBROUGH v CHESTERFIELD 1997 With Chesterfield leading 2-1 in an FA Cup semi-final, Jonathan Howard fired a shot against the crossbar that rebounded down into the goalmouth. A goal was not given even though replays clearly showed the ball had crossed the line. The game ended 3-3 and Middlesbrough won the replay to seal a meeting with Chelsea in the final.

SPAIN v S KOREA 2002 Spain had two goals disallowed on dubious grounds before going on to lose this World Cup match on penalties. Spain's players make their feelings known against South Korea The first, supposedly for pushing in the area, looked bad enough, but the second - ruled out because a linesman said the ball had gone out of play before being crossed to Fernando Morientes - was a clear error. It was not the last controversial decision to favour co-hosts South Korea. In their next match, opponents Italy had a legitimate goal disallowed for offside, appeals for a penalty rejected, and striker Francesco Totti sent off for diving. The referee of the Italy match, Ecuadorian Byron Moreno, was subsequently struck off Fifa's list.

EVERTON v BOLTON 1997 Terry Phelan clears the ball after Bolton's 'goal' in 1997 Bolton's Gerry Taggart smashed a header off the bar that bounced back down into the goalmouth. Everton's Terry Phelan cleared the ball after it had clearly crossed the line in this Premiership 0-0 draw. At the end of the season, Everton avoided relegation, at Bolton's expense, by one point.

BRAZIL v SWEDEN 1978 Welsh referee Clive Thomas caused uproar when he blew the whistle for full-time between a corner being taken and Brazil's Zico scoring directly from it with a header. The game ended 1-1.

CRYSTAL PALACE v COVENTRY 1980 Palace striker Clive Allen scored with a powerful shot that bounced back out of the goal after striking the stanchion. The goal was not given.

FINLAND v ENGLAND 2001 In caretaker manager Howard Wilkinson's only game in charge of England, Arsenal midfielder Ray Parlour struck a powerful drive that ricocheted off the crossbar and down over the line in this World Cup qualifying match. But the referee waved play on, the game ended 0-0 after an otherwise disappointing England performance, and Sven-Goran Eriksson was appointed national coach soon afterwards.

CRYSTAL PALACE V LEEDS 2003 Duberry and Mills scramble to clear the ball against PalaceLeeds defender Michael Duberry cleared a close-range shot from Palace's Tommy Black from well behind the line in this FA Cup sixth-round match. Had the goal been allowed, Palace would have taken the lead in a match they went on to lose 2-1.

BULGARIA v SPAIN 1996 Bulgaria's volatile star stiker Hristo Stoichkov scored with a brilliant scissor kick, but the goal was disallowed following a dubious offside decision. The Euro 96 first-round match finished in a 1-1 draw.

THE MOST CONTROVERSIAL OF ALL? Geoff Hurst's first goal in extra-time in the 1966 World Cup final for England against Germany hardly ranks as a poor refereeing decision because it has still not yet been proved whether the ball crossed the line. But to this day Germans argue that the linesman incorrectly gave the goal that put England into a 3-2 lead, and will point to some inconclusive enhanced footage recently produced to "prove" it. Hurst went on to score another goal to clinch a hat-trick and a 4-2 win.

LATE BREAKING NEWS: RA MEMBER TO REFEREE KEY NUTRALITE CANADA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE MATCH

The Flag & Whistle has learned that RA member Mauricio Navarro (VASRA) will be the man in the middle for the May 13th Nutralite Canada Champions League match between Toronto FC of the MLS and last year's Nutralite champion, the Montreal Impact of the USL 1st Division. The match is due to be shown on TV. Members are asked to check their local listings for time and channel.

The winner of the Nutralite Canada Champions League will go to represent Canada in the CONCACAF Champions League. The winner of that competition will represent CONCACAF in the FIFA Club World Cup in Dubai. Last year's FIFA World Club World Cup was won by Manchester United. Members will recall that Montreal did very well in the CONCACAF Champions League, making it to the quarter-finals against Santos Laguna of Mexico, only to lose 5-4 on aggregate.



New Referee Association Blazer badge order to be placed.

An order is being placed for Referee Association blazer badges that can proudly be displayed on your blazer. The cost is \$35 and can be purchased by sending in a cheque, payable to "British Columbia Soccer Referees Association to:

BCSRA Blazer Badge
c/o 8130 Selkirk St. Vancouver, B.C. V6P 4H7

Leadtime is expected to be 6-8 weeks. Deadline for orders is May 15, 2008.



**B.C.S.R.A.
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Do you have a submission for the Flag & Whistle?

Please email all material to either

jonsee@telus.net or *Ivo@direct.ca* or *F&W Staff Writer - stdy@telus.net*

Note : Deadline for submissions in the next issue will be June 31st/09

Flag and Whistle-BCSRA Newsletter

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The material presented is from contributors and the BCSRA assumes no responsibility for their contents. All submissions may be edited for reasons of clarity, brevity and taste. Thank you to all who've contributed articles and apologies to those whose submissions never made it into this edition.

REFEREES ASSOCIATION MAILING ADDRESS

All correspondence to be sent via Canada Post should be sent to:

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