

FLAG & WHISTLE

BCSRA NEWSLETTER

June 2006



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The Whistleblower retires

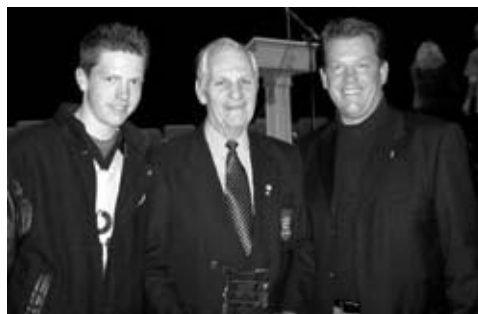
(originally printed in the Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows Times May 9/06)

Thomas Reakes has had to be fair to everyone he's refereed during the past 38 years. Even his own daughter. He remembers throwing his daughter Penny, 19 or 20 at the time, out of a game after she used language that he wasn't exactly proud of. My first red card I ever gave (to a woman) was to my daughter," he said during an interview Monday at his Maple Ridge home. A player on the opposing team had pulled on his daughter's ponytail, and his daughter responded to that, said Reakes. The other player got a yellow card. Reakes, 75, started refereeing in 1968 because there weren't enough referees when his kids were growing up. But he was certainly not reluctant to grab a whistle. The top shelf of the bookcase in his study is lined with books on soccer and refereeing, and in a net hanging in the corner contains numerous soccer balls. And the wall leading from the main floor to the upstairs has plenty of refereeing awards and pictures, including one taken with wife Chris and Pele, the legendary Brazilian soccer player, in 1992 in Vancouver. Since 1981, he has been refereeing and teaching all over the province. He's been to every single major centre - and many small towns in between - doing soccer refereeing clinics. One highlight of his long career is refereeing the Vancouver Whitecaps(sic) reserve games in the 1970s. The games were "lots of fun," he said. "Every time you change levels, you see something different," said Reakes. He said those reserve players had plenty of skill. "They were good games. That was a good time."

Throughout his refereeing career, Reakes said he was occasionally harassed, but for the most part players, coaches and parents were respectful. "Ninety-nine per cent I was treated with the utmost respect," he said. Golden Ears, he said, takes harassment seriously and backs it up. Harassment is a major issue in the soccer refereeing world. We lose about 90 per cent of new refs every year," said Reakes, adding those referees are quitting because of the harassment they have suffered. Even in minor soccer, there's a fair bit of abuse, he said. It's not fair for a 12-year-old ref to be harassed," said Reakes. "They're learning, not just the players are learning."

As for the players, he wants them to have a good time and come off the pitch saying, "That was fun." If I've got 22 players on the field at the end of the game, I'm doing a good job," said Reakes. Reakes plunges into something with both feet, said wife Chris. He was often gone - either for work or refereeing - and Chris said she sometimes resented that, as she was often left to raise their four kids on her own. But he enjoyed it, and it kept him healthy," she said.

She is proud that people often ask if she's "Tom's wife" because he's so well known in the British Columbia soccer scene. Chris was proud on May 1, when her husband received a standing ovation May 1 at the club's annual Alan Blair awards night. Reakes has now retired as the head referee of Golden Ears United Soccer Club and was presented with a plaque for his "Long and Meritorious Service to Youth Soccer, Referee Education and the Pursuit of Fair Play" from 1971 to 2006. He had "had enough" of being the head referee, a post he held for about 25 years, and he wanted to see someone else take over the duties. Tom Babic is the new head referee. But Reakes said he will remain a referee if required.



l - r , Stefan Babic , Tom Reakes, Tom Babic at the Golden Ears Soccer Club Roast for Tom

REFEREES ASSOCIATION MAILING ADDRESS CHANGED:

Please be advised the mailing address for the association has changed. All correspondence to be sent via Canada Post should now be sent to:

BC Soccer REFEREES Assn.
c/o 8130 Selkirk St.
Vancouver, B.C. V6P 4H7

Know Your Fellow Member

Name: Bryan Milner Age 17 Class-3

City of residence: North Vancouver

Years involved in refereeing: 5 yrs.

Reason you got into refereeing:

Love of the game.

What do you like most about

refereeing: To better understand the rules while playing soccer.

Most memorable moment in

refereeing: When I was 15 years old I was called to do a U-18 Gold game.

I was a little bit nervous, but really excited- everyone on the field was clearly a lot older and taller than me. I had 2 cautions and 1 red card in that game and the reason it is my most memorable game is because I felt I had control of the game through out.

One piece of advice to those

starting out in refereeing: Everyone makes mistakes good referee learns from them and moves on



Bryan Milner

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Refereeing is a family affair

There is a saying: "We don't referee for ourselves but for our colleague who comes after us." In other words, if we don't do our job in a game our fellow referee will have to pick up the slack when he sees either of the two teams we faced last week. Question is, how do we feel this in our bones? Answer: only by having that personal connection with our fellow referees. In short, our fellow colleagues must be as close to us as our own immediate family.

In our province one can obtain his referee license and never meet another referee. This is wrong! Because of this referees end up officiating in a vacuum perhaps oblivious to the ramifications of their actions on their colleagues. The end result is the profession suffers from inconsistency of performance and solidifies the disgust of many in the soccer community towards referees.

The sense of family is one of the biggest, if not the biggest, benefits from the existence of a referees association. We are an extended family of like-minded individuals. Members of a family do not go out and purposely harm their fellow members because blood is thicker than water.

I have been elected as your president for a third term. After 4 years I had planned to step aside but seeing there were no takers I have agreed to soldier on for one more term. It will be my last term, an exciting one as not only is the World Cup upon us but FIFA will be coming into our backyard next summer with the arrival of the World U-20 Championships. Let's use this exciting time to re-invigorate this sense of family. Let's build upon this time so we can leave a legacy of new blood that will rise to the occasion and carry our refereeing family forward!

MEMBERS ELECT NEW PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE

Thirty-seven years after the formation of the Referees Association in BC the members elected a new provincial executive at the recently completed Annual General Meeting on May 6th. The new slate for the 2006/2007 year is as follows:

President: Elvio Chies (by acclamation for a 2 year term).

Vice-President: Suzanne Flannigan (remaining year of a 2 year term).

Secretary: Richard Brownie (by acclamation for a 2 year term).

Treasurer/Reg'r: Robin Woods.

Fraser Valley Area-appointed Director: Ward Sirman.

Vancouver Area-appointed Director: Ron Schaeffer (as ratified by members).

Vancouver Island Area-appointed Director: Larry Cade.

Interior Area-appointed Director: to be determined.

Of note: the position of Interior Area (or per the By-Laws: "Any other Area other than Fraser Valley, Vancouver Area or Vancouver Island") appointed Director was not filled at the time elections were held. The provincial executive will be allowed to co-opt someone to fill the position.

Outgoing Vice-President Ken Montague stepped down at the end of the Spring Council Meeting held immediately before the Annual General Meeting. Ken cited personal reasons in his decision to step down at this time noting that he would like to return some day to serve as the Referee Association's Vice-President. Congratulations to all provincial executive members.

STANDARD OF CONDUCT REVISED

Council unanimously endorsed the revised Standard of Conduct for Members at the recent Spring Council Meeting held in Richmond on May 6th. The document was last revised in 1981 and was needed to be overhauled due to the change in the soccer scene. Although many of the paragraphs are similar to the Canadian Soccer Association's (CSA) Code of Ethics for Referees and also the BC Soccer Code of Ethics for Referees, some extra paragraphs were added to reflect everyone's expected behaviour as it relates to his membership.

Members are asked to become familiar with the following standard and ensure their behaviour, both on and off the field, is beyond reproach.

Standard of Conduct for Members

(NEW-TEXT)

1. Members shall at all times strive to conduct themselves with dignity and good manners, both on and off the field of play.
2. Members, if refereeing, shall in all games in which they officiate demonstrate honesty and fairness, and by their example strive to inspire like qualities and sportsmanship in players and spectators.
3. Members, if refereeing, shall strive to maintain a high level of mental and physical fitness, and a neat appearance in all games in which they officiate.
4. Members, if refereeing, shall in all games in which they officiate strive to do their best.
5. Members if refereeing, shall honour all appointments accepted by themselves, except in cases of illness or emergency.
6. Members shall refrain from publicly criticizing, by any communication means, another member of the Association in their referee performance through any form of communication.
7. Members shall declare an affiliation with any team, club or association.

NEW #8. Members shall not interfere in the duties and responsibilities of the officiating referee unless they act as an assessing authority or upon being asked by the officiating referee.

NEW #9. Members are required, at all times, to conduct themselves in a manner that does not bring this Association, its members or the game into disrepute.

NEW #10. The Members shall respect the need to follow proper lines of communication, in approved forums, before stating position on matters which affect the association unless specifically given permission to speak/act on behalf of the association including area associations.

REASON FOR CHANGE ON #6:

To ensure members realize one's conduct as a referee does not stop as soon as one is not officiating and actually carries over to other functions within the game.

REASON FOR CHANGE ON #8:

A reminder the referee appointed is in charge of the match and must pass or fail by their own actions.

REASON FOR CHANGE ON #9:

to ensure one's actions do not bring the association harm and that members always keep the integrity of the association and the game forefront in their minds.

REASON FOR CHANGE ON #10:

To ensure all members are respectful of protocol and chain of command.

CANADIAN APPOINTED TO WORLD CUP

Canadian FIFA Assistant Referee **Hector Vergarra** has once again been appointed to the upcoming World Cup final competition. With FIFA's new policy of using teams of officials there was some concern he would not be appointed as one of the three members of Hector's trio failed the fitness test (ed note: it was not Hector obviously). However, CONCACAF saw fit to include Hector on one of the Mexican trios being appointed.

BCSRA MEMBERS INVOLVED IN CANADA-BRAZIL MATCHES

The Referees Association (RA) figured prominently in the recent series of Canada-Brazil matches held in late May. Congrats to **Kevin Duliba** on his first international appointment. Kevin was selected as an assistant referee for the opening match in Edmonton and could be seen in position in the wee minutes of the game when Brazil almost tied the match. Further congrats to members **Paul Ward** and **Mauricio Navarro** who were 4th officials at the games in Victoria and Burnaby respectively and to **Simon Fearn** who was the assistant on the final match in Burnaby on May 25th.

OSIEK SIGNED AS BC SOCCER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Bjorn Osiek, son of former Canadian National Men's Team coach Holger Osiek, was officially announced as the new BC Soccer Executive Director. In his remarks Mr. Osiek thanked the BC Soccer Board of Directors and BC Soccer Past President Victor Montagiani for the opportunity provided to him.

CSRA SECRETARY FALLS ILL

Tony Troughton, CSRA 1st Vice-President, reported at the Referees Association Spring Council Meeting that **Eric Evans**, Canadian Soccer Referees Association Secretary, suffered a stroke. The result left Eric with some loss of memory. As of the date of printing of this newsletter, the situation has improved such that Eric now is understanding things and has retrieved some daily memory such as his computer password. However, he still does not talk well. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Eric and his family as they struggle with his recovery.

YOUR WORLD CUP AT SHAWNIGAN LAKE

The British Columbia Soccer Association is pleased to announce "YOUR WORLD CUP," a symposium with FIFA and 2002 World Cup Referee **BRIAN HALL**, which will take place at this year's Shawnigan Lake

Referee Development Weekend, July 6-9, 2006.

This symposium will focus on the physical, mental, and practical training a referee must undergo to prepare

for his or her season or tournament. As the symposium is taking place simultaneously with the FIFA World

Cup Germany 2006, matches from this tournament, including the FINAL MATCH, will be watched and

analyzed during the program. Instruction will also center on human relations and their importance on the

dynamics of the referee's game management, and include practical sessions on angle of view and positioning during play.

The "YOUR WORLD CUP" Symposium at the 2006 Shawnigan Lake Referee Development Weekend is

open to any and all active registered referees. If you meet the criteria to attend a Class 3 or Class 2 clinic,

you can receive clinic credit towards upgrading. Referees upgrading from Class 4 to 3 will receive the

standard Class 3 clinic package beforehand and be expected to write the Class 3 exam at a scheduled time

during the Symposium.

Check out BC Soccer web site for a link to register .

PROVINCIAL CUP APPOINTMENTS

Congratulations to all the referees appointed to the Coastal A & B Cup and Senior Provincial A Cup finals!

(ed note: Senior Provincial B Cup and Youth B Cup will be held Summer 2006. Crew listings expected to be printed in future issue of the Flag and Whistle)

Prov. A Cup-Men's: R: Andy Pinter, AR's: Paul Walker/Miroslav Sremcevic, 4th: Elvio Chies

Prov A Cup-Masters: R: Russell Carlin, AR's: Kevin Uppal/Tim Smyth, 4th: Nick Hawley

Prov A Cup-Men's U21: R: Phil Barrington, AR's: Daniel Greiner/Blair Byrne, 4th: Tom Babic

Prov A Cup-Women's: R: Jill Proctor, AR's: Romy Kozak/Michelle Pye, 4th: Phil Fasciglione

Prov A Cup-Women's U-21: R: Phil Barrington, AR's: Katie Lawrence/Candace Brown, 4th: Heather Godbout

Prov A Cup-Classics: R: Phil Fasciglione, AR's: Candace Brown/Heather Godbout, 4th: Katie Lawrence

Coastal A Cup U18 Boys: R: Nigel Colclough, AR's: Bryan Milner/John Visser

Coastal A Cup U17 Boys: R: Tim Smyth, AR's: Anthony Palmer/John Visser

Coastal A Cup U16 Boys: R: Phil Barrington, AR's: Evan Duxbury/Craig Rohla

Coastal A Cup U15 Boys: R: Alex Shipillo, AR's: Blair Byrne/Cameron Smith

Coastal A Cup U14 Boys: R: Blair Byrne, AR's: Alex Shipillo/Cameron Smith

Coastal A Cup U13 Boys: R: Evan Duxbury, AR's: Phil Barrington/Craig Rohla

Coastal A Cup U12 Boys: R: Bryan Milner, AR's: Nigel Colclough/Tim Smyth

Coastal A Cup U18 Girls: R: Isabel Nielsen, AR's: Heather Godbout/ Brian May

Coastal A Cup U17 Girls: R: Brian May, AR's: Linda Knight/Daniel Lisik

Coastal A Cup U16 Girls: R: Randy Giles, AR's: Katie Lawrence/Evan Duxbury

Coastal A Cup U15 Girls: R: Blair Byrne, AR's: Cameron Smith/Natasha Smith

Coastal A Cup U14 Girls: R: Heather Godbout, AR's: Isabel Nielsen/Daniel Lisik

Coastal A Cup U13 Girls: R: Katie Lawrence, AR's: Randy Giles/Evan Duxbury

Coastal A Cup U12 Girls: R: Cameron Smith, AR's: Blair Byrne/Natasha Smith

Coastal B Cup U18 Boys: R: Daniel Greiner, AR's: David Paydar & Phil Fasciglione (1/2 half ea) /Blair Byrne

Coastal B Cup U17 Boys: R: Phil Barrington, AR's: Darnell Smith/ Cameron Smith

Coastal B Cup U16 Boys: R: Darnell Smith, AR's: Craig Rohla/Phil Barrington

Coastal B Cup U15 Boys: R: Alex Shipillo, AR's: Phil Fasciglione/ Kyle Blaine

Coastal B Cup U14 Boys: R: Phil Fasciglione, AR's: Alex Shipillo/Kyle Blaine

Coastal B Cup U13 Boys: R: Craig Rohla, AR's: Anthony Palmer/Cameron Smith

Coastal B Cup U12 Boys: R: David Paydar, AR's: Daniel Greiner/Blair Byrne

Coastal B Cup U18 Girls: R: Jill Proctor, AR's: Daniel Lisik/Nigel Colclough

Coastal B Cup U17 Girls: R: Michelle Pye, AR's: Evan Duxbury/Christian Desharnais

Coastal B Cup U16 Girls: R: Candace Brown, AR's: Jesse Greiner/ Mackenzie Fletcher

Coastal B Cup U15 Girls: R: Blair Byrne, AR's: Kiara Jack/Natasha Smith

Coastal B Cup U14 Girls: R: Jesse Greiner, AR's: Candace Brown/ Mackenzie Fletcher

Coastal B Cup U13 Girls: R: Kiara Jack, AR's: Blair Byrne/Natasha Smith

Coastal B Cup U12 Girls: R: Evan Duxbury, AR's: Michelle Pye/Christian Desharnais

SCHOLARSHIPS GALORE

Each year the Referees Association gives out two scholarships: the Dan Kulai Memorial Scholarship (presented by the association as a whole) and the Jack Tinnion Memorial Scholarship (given by the Fraser Valley Area Association). This year's recipient of the Dan Kulai Scholarship was **David Rogers**. The Jack Tinnion Memorial Scholarship recipient was **Stephen Nicol**.



Stephen Nicol



David Rogers



Also receiving a scholarship was **Alex Shipillo**. Alex was the recipient of the Mainland League Scholarship. Here he receives the photo from BC Soccer Association Life Member **Dave Fryatt**.

SHARING EXPERIENCES WITH SCOTTISH REFEREES

By: Alex Milne, National Assessor

In early 2006 I decided to make a trip back to Scotland for a family event, which was taking place in May 2006. While the reason for the trip was immediate family I have always seen referees as a world wide family so decided to try to hook up with some of the local referees in Edinburgh where I grew up and played most of my soccer.

In today's world the Internet is our access to the rest of the world so I used it to locate the Edinburgh and District Football Referees Association and its current President Mike Tumilty. After an exchange of emails I was invited to attend their May meeting and to make a brief presentation on Refereeing in British Columbia. On the appointed evening I walked into their meeting place and was immediately greeted by the President and introduced to some of his Executive and also to my Host for the meeting, George Smith a former World Cup referee and a current member of the Scottish Football Association Referee Committee. To say it's small world is an understatement. Neil McLennon the Secretary for the Association immediately asked me if I knew our own Mauricio Navarro from Vancouver as he had worked with him at the Dallas Cup this year. Both Neil and Mike said how much they enjoyed his company and also commented on his high level of performance.

George Smith explained that in Edinburgh with a population of about 500,000 they have 350 registered referees (excluding youth) and that they have about 80-100 who attend their monthly meetings. They have a system of referee levels however unlike in Canada all recommendations for promotion are made to the Scottish Football Association. This works for them due to the much smaller size of the country and the smaller population (Scotland has about 8 million people).

cont. pg 8 see Scottish Refs

ARE YOU READY ?

by staff writer Tom Babic



“Are you prepared and ready to go?” the coordinator of the day asked as the four officials prepared for the match.

The event was the recent men’s U-21 Provincial Cup final played at Town Centre Stadium in Coquitlam. Well, my boots were clean and had a fresh coat of shoe polish. My socks pulled up with the 3 stripes all even and matching height on both legs. My uniform tucked in, watches on both wrists, and red and yellow cards in the appropriate pockets. As I was the fourth official for the match I had my whistle in my pocket and waited for the referee and two assistants to begin the march to the field.

Yes I was confident I was quite ready indeed. At this point you’re likely saying, “I didn’t hear him say he had his shorts on!” But yes I did have my shorts on, so I was more than ready!

I enjoyed the game and the opportunity to participate with my fraternity at a Cup final. Phillip Barrington, Daniel Greiner and Blair Byrne were more than worthy of being selected. I could tell that each of the three young men had prepared themselves and took the appointment as an honour.

In many ways the Cup finals parallel the World Cup. Much like this year’s World Cup referees, the officials selected to do matches during Provincial Cup play take their preparation very seriously.

I talked with some of the young guns of the referee community and they spoke of their fitness regiment. How they ensure that they routinely go for their runs or working out in the fitness center. Some follow a strict regiment of watching several matches weekly to see how other referees perform in world-class matches. Other will follow discussion groups on the Internet to keep current with Laws of the Game interpretations or better understand how comrades deal with difficult games.

I do quite a bit of the latter and like to keep abreast of the countdown to June 9th and the referees from around the world. How their fitness tests are going and who is likely to be selected to officiate the crucial matches. The pundits often focus more on the topic of the passing of Collina’s generation and the absence of Milton and Meier from Germany ’06. I prefer to think of how proud Hector Vergara must be to see his name on the final list of referees and assistants. I look forward to seeing a few of the officials I have met over the years, such as Mexicans Archundia and Rodriguez. While feeling the sting that Guatemala’s Batres must have felt when not able to recover from a knee injury.

With everything finalized and those that were fortunate to be selected being fit and ready, I decided I best check the most important of matters. My own preparation for the World Cup. Not me physically. While I’m never as fit as I’d care to be, I am sure that I will be able to easily survive watching all the matches for the duration of the tournament! No, I found my biggest failing was that a mere week before June 9, I was still without a big screen television. I cursed myself for having left things so late. In order to remain one of the most popular referees in my community, I opted for the behemoth 60-inch Panasonic coupled with a personal video recorder to enable me to not only record every minute detail of the proceedings. But to also be able to freeze the live action and replay the close calls. I’ve posted the rules of the household well in advance of the games so that my family well aware that life will not be normal for a few weeks as I prepare for an overdose of soccer. Likely my only lapses from the leather armchair will be to the soccer pitch to watch my sons play.

I had questioned their respective league schedulers why anyone in their right mind would want take their chances with their games conflicting with the World Cup. All I got were quiet stares in return. I am convinced they are baseball people when soccer season is over for them. They clearly are out of touch with world events. Why even my boss suggested that I bring my TV to work so that I not miss any of the live action. I doubt I can strap the 60” TV to the Honda Civic’s roof racks. But I commend my boss for having his priorities in order.

To answer the question from the outset of this piece, “Yes I’m more than ready to enjoy Germany ’06 and trust you will too”.

U-20 TICKETS

2007 FIFA U-20 World Championship
Tickets Go On Sale July 15th

Tickets for next year's FIFA extravaganza will go on sale July 15th and are expected to go fast. Harold MacNeil and Don Hardman, general managers for the Victoria and Burnaby sites gave an update at the recent BC Soccer AGM including a fast-paced video. Tickets will be available in a package format including 3 round-robin games and one from the Round of 16. Each site is to have about 10,000 seats with Burnaby potentially having a couple more. Centennial Stadium will be used in Victoria for the matches there while Swangard Stadium, complete with expanded seating, will be the venue for Burnaby.

For both sites, FIFA has an allotment which will be determined in the near future. Mr. MacNeil indicated that many seats in Victoria had already been pre-sold through a promotion. For Burnaby, Mr. Hardman indicated a priority would be given to those who had signed up with the Whitecaps "Win the Bid" program. Whatever the case may be tickets are expected to sell fast.

Scottish Refs cont.

The education, fitness and assessing (they call it Observing) are carried out by the local Association. Committees are set each year to support these objectives, normally headed up by a senior referee. Once a year based on the performance of each individual recommendations are forwarded to the SFA for approval. Within each Grade a referee is approved for games to a certain level. For example in the top category a referee will be approved up to a certain level of game by League. Within that Senior Category a few referees will be doing Professional games while others will only be approved for Senior Amateur Leagues. As with Canada they progress based on a Promotion by Performance program.

Having explained this the meeting started with recognition of one of their members, Douglas McDonald who had been assigned to do the upcoming Scottish Cup Final between Hearts and Greta. This was only the second time in over 100 years that an Edinburgh referee had been give this top game. Who says politics doesn't (sic) exist in our sport? They went on to acknowledge their President who had just completed his first Scottish Premier League game the previous week.

The meeting was in 2 parts, not unlike ours in Victoria. The first hour was a session on the benefits of pre and post game stretching and the use of massage both to assist in recovery from injuries but in the ongoing well being of the body when you are being called on to do a few games each week. A lot of good-natured fun was had as "volunteers" were selected and given quick test of flexibility and body alignment. You can imagine some of the comments from the group. *(cont. next column)*



(cont.)

Following this I made a brief presentation on our system in Canada and particularly the issues that we face which I found out are the same in Scotland. Both in Canada and Scotland, Recruitment and Retention are the main issues. Harassment of young referees is a major issue for them and one of the solutions some of the local leagues have instituted is a Contract of Behaviour which parents are required to sign at the start of each Season. It sets out the expected behaviours and that failure to comply will see the parent suspended from attending games and if they re-offend the child may be asked to leave the team. In closing the meeting I was invited to stay for the social hour and invited back when next I return to the land of my birth. This was further extended by George Smith, my host and also a Senior National Observer (Assessor) who offered to take me to a Premier League game as a guest Observer on my next trip back. I will stay in touch and share our educational ideas and materials along with extending an invitation to any of their members who are visiting British Columbia and would like to be hooked up with a local referee group. A great evening where I was truly a part of the World Wide Fraternity of Football (Soccer) Referees.

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 Aug.31st/06**

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.