

Flag & Whistle

Newsletter for the BC Soccer Referees Association - Fall 2008



MEMBER GOING TO FIFA WOMENS U-17 WORLD CUP



Fifa Referee Michle Pye

Michelle Pye has been appointed to the FIFA Women's U-17 World Cup. She will be leaving October 20th for the tournament to be held in New Zealand. The Referees Association congratulates Michelle Pye on her appointment and asks all members to join in and wish her the very best. The Flag & Whistle hopes to feature a full report on Michelle's travels in a future issue. Joining Michelle in FIFA Womens' World Cup tournaments will be *Carol Anne Chenard* of Montreal. Carol Anne has been appointed to the FIFA Womens' U-20 World Cup which will be held in Chile.

FALL COUNCIL SET FOR SAT NOVEMBER 22nd IN VANCOUVER AREA

This year's Fall Council has been set for Saturday, November 22nd, to be hosted by the Vancouver Area at Richmond High School, Minoru Blvd. Call to order is 9AM.

The change in date was needed due to the conflict with provincial-wide civic elections.

FROM THE FILES: The BCSRA at 40

(Ed note: In 2009 the Referees Association (RA) will be celebrating 40 years of official existence. To celebrate this occasion, the Flag & Whistle will be publishing articles that appeared in newspapers where the RA or referees were mentioned. The first article is regarding the infamous "Referees strike" of 1967- very poignant in light of actions that occurred over the summer in Scotland).

This past summer a strike by referees was averted in Scotland that allowed games to continue as scheduled. What makes this episode interesting is that BC saw its own "referees strike" prior to the start of the 1967 winter season (see article from Vancouver Sun circa 1967).

The precursor to what we now know as the BCSRA was the Vancouver Area Soccer Referees Association. Prior to its official incorporation in 1969, the members situated in the Greater Vancouver Area called themselves "The BC Soccer Referees Association." Soccer was very different in Vancouver itself at the time: there were really only 2 adult leagues and both men's leagues at that: the Pacific Coast Soccer League (PCSL) and the Mainland Soccer League, which eventually became what is now known as the Vancouver Metro Soccer League (VMSL). Youth soccer existed, but evidence seems to point it was only for boys. There was no Over-30s, Masters or even Classics soccer. Summer soccer in the Greater Vancouver Area wasn't heard of.

cont. page two see : BCSRA at 40

BCSRA at 40 cont.

The governing body, the BC Soccer Association, at the time was known as the BC Soccer Commission. Largely an “unelected body”, as one BCSRA Life Member put it, in time it would become known as the BC Soccer Commission Association and finally, the BC Soccer Association. Unlike today, “The Commission” as it was nicknamed, looked after adult soccer exclusively, with youth soccer being handled separately by a separate entity affiliated with the governing body.

What were the main issues surrounding the strike? In discussing the issue with some of the Life Members that were around at the time, Frank Ashdown, Dante Maglio, John Morris and Werner Winsemann, there seems to be three major concerns: an increase in match fees, recognition by the BC Soccer Commission of the RA as a legitimate body and a more open, transparent scheduling of games, primarily for the PCSL

The PCSL was the top league at the time in Vancouver where one would find hundreds of spectators regularly gathering for matches at the Callister Park ground (located across the street from the Pacific Coliseum) often along ethnic lines.

Interestingly, a perusal of the archival copy of the BCSRA By-Laws from 1960 shows the PCSL, providing a match fee of \$12 a game and “linesmen” of \$6

(ed note: why it appeared, of all places, in the BCSRA By-Laws is not known and a subject for another time) and the Mainland League paid \$5 for the center. To give some perspective, a gallon of gas (about 4 litres) cost around 30 cents in those day, bus fare was 10 cents as was a copy of The Vancouver Sun.

The decision to strike deeply divided the association, turning fellow referee against fellow referee. Frank Ashdown remembers that some referees would “boo” their fellow officials at PCSL matches. The Commission also disregarded the RA’s request for recognition. “They felt we were just bunch of young guys”, said Mr. Morris. In fact many of the members were in their early to middle thirties.

While memories fade with the passing of seasons, in talking to the Life Members the length of the strike seems to have been anywhere between 3-8 weeks. Life Member John Morris remembers the cracks started to show when “the Commission” threatened to take referees’ standing away if they didn’t go back to refereeing. In the end everyone did go back to refereeing and there was an increase in match fees. No one seems to remember the outcome with respect to the association’s concern with the scheduling of matches.

And as for being recognized, the founding members of the BCSRA decided the only way to legitimacy was to formally incorporate under the Society’s Act. The official date of incorporation was March 29,1969.

The Commission also disregarded the RA’s request for recognition. “They felt we were just bunch of young guys”

My World Cup: Mundiavocat 2008 - by VASRA Secretary Bill McNaughton

“Dreams can come true, with a lot of hard work to make it so!”

Mundiavocat is a large soccer tournament that takes place every two years at a different venue in the Mediterranean area. The tournament has been running since 1983. It was conceived by Vincent Pinatel, a lawyer in Marseille fond of football and international exchanges, who decided to create and organize a World Football Cup for lawyers. All the players are lawyers from local bar associations (teams from Canada entered from Vancouver, Toronto and Quebec City). There are no national teams. Professional players are not permitted.

I refereed in the 2008 edition in Alicante, Spain. How did I get there?

I started refereeing youth soccer in 2003 but I really needed a goal. Initially I wanted to referee in Metro Youth, but that was easily achieved along with my Class 3. Media coverage in 2005 when Pierluigi Collina had to retire from FIFA at age 45 was a downer. I had started refereeing late in life: I was over 45 in my first season! Collina's retirement highlighted to me that I was never going to make FIFA, never going to make National, and likely never going to make Class 1 (now a Provincial Referee). So I set my sights on making it to Class 2 (now a Regional Referee), and refereeing adult men's soccer.

I moved from doing youth and Metro Youth into men's soccer with North Shore Sportsman's league and then into the VMSL. I passed the Class 2 course and the Class 1 fitness levels each year even though I did not need to do the sprints or the full Cooper test distance. Men's soccer was a challenge and I had a long way to go (still do) to get better. I would put in my money for the next assessment as soon as I received the report on the last one. I had a bunch of help, mentoring and encouragement even for an “old guy”.



Bill McNaughton (C) in Altea

However, I was again adrift. I was well on the way to my Class 2. What next? This was my goal and it was in reach. Then one of the lawyers I know happened to mention about the Mundiavocat tournament at the same time as I noticed my law firm had donated some money to sponsor the Vancouver team. I found out Mundiavocat used mainly local referees but a few outside referees were brought in to assist, to do games involving the local teams and to provide a senior, FIFA level referee for the finals.

I would never make the FIFA World Cup, but I since I am a lawyer and a referee why not try to go to Mundiavocat as “my World Cup”? I contacted the organizers and asked to be invited. However, I was too late for 2006. My first inquiry was in mid-March and the tournament was in early June. They were set. Fine, I would shoot for 2008 and so I kept in touch with them over the next two years.

My World Cup cont.

Not going in 2006 was a good thing. I was not ready. But now I had a goal, something to get ready for, even though there was no certainty I would get invited. A reason to do the running and the training and the extra games. A reason to get assigned to higher games in the VMSL. A reason to work harder at being a better referee, get the Class 2 certification, do lines when you would rather do middles because you can learn from the more experienced referees, and do the BCSA training sessions at Burnaby Lake put on by Jose Branco as much as possible, even though it usually meant I had to go back to work after the sessions were over.

On January 31, 2008 I got the word: I was invited to referee at Mundiavocat. The tournament would run from May 30 to June 8.

I had to pay my way to get there (I used points so the cost was minimal) but they would supply the hotel and all meals. I was to be one of five non-Spanish referees with the other four coming from France.

I was sure I would be the oldest. I set out to train hard and peak at the end of May. I did as much as work and schedules would allow. I even took a bunch of Spanish lessons.

This was the 14th Edition and the 25th year anniversary for Mundiavocat and what an organizing task! There were seventy-four teams from over thirty-five countries. Over 1600 players and guests spread out over seven or eight hotels. A fleet of buses to coordinate. Events, visas, travel problems, the Mundiavocat TV network and the weather to worry about. M. Pinatel and his staff were not only courteous and professional but also a bundle of energy.



Alicante is a jewel on the Mediterranean known for the sun and hot weather but unfortunately the first few days it rained. Games were cancelled or moved. Fields were closed. It was an organizer's nightmare. There was a big, first

They seemed to operate on two or three hours of sleep the entire ten days. This year there were two tournaments: the regular, open division called the Classic; and for the first time an over 35, Masters division. The Masters came about, I believe, as some of the longstanding players did not want to have to compete with the "youngsters". So that I looked more like a youngster I shaved off my beard (too much grey hair there!) the day I arrived.

evening party and opening ceremony with the draw for the competition groups where fortunately it did not rain. Then the next morning a big parade of all the teams where it poured!

On the morning of the first day of games, before the parade, I met the French referees: Alain Sars (ex-FIFA), Pascal Garibian (ex-FIFA), Said Ennjimi (new FIFA, who actually arrived the next day) and Benoit Bastien (a young referee who is a student of M. Sars). Our Spanish referee coordinator was Senior Antonio. We met each morning at 10:00 am to discuss the situation with Vincent Pinatel and Senior Antonio, and get our game assignments from the tournament coordinator. Our main function was to referee the games involving the Spanish teams so that the visiting teams would have no suggestion of local influence.

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My World Cup cont.

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My games were: Yaroslav (Russia) v. Tenerife (Canary Islands), Oviedo (Spain) v. Tokyo, Valencia (Spain) v. Yaroslav, Oran (Algeria) v. Tenerife, Alicante v. Casablanca and Paris v. Alicante. These games were held in Benidorm, an hour north of Alicante, in Estadio Atletismo, the eventual site of the finals in Alicante, in Villafranqueza, a suburb of Alicante, in Altea, further north on the coast than Benidorm, and in Fontcalet, just outside Alicante. Local Spanish referees were the Assistants on all my games.

I had hoped from the beginning that I might get to do a semi-final game. With Pascal, Said and Alain here they were the clear choices for the finals. At the morning meeting on the day of the semi-finals I learned Alain was leaving that day for Paris to attend an important function for his daughter. I also knew there were no Spanish teams left in the hunt for the finals. When I was assigned Paris v. Alicante I knew there was to be no semi-final for me.

I was disappointed but I had also indicated that I was interested in doing one of the lines for the finals. There was a flurry of French and Spanish at the meeting, little of which I understood. I pieced together that Pascal was getting both Masters semi-finals and then he would do the finals in the Classic. Said was getting both Classic semi-finals and then he would get the finals in the Masters. Another flurry of French and Spanish and I was asked if I would like to do a line in the Classic

finals with Pascal in the middle: yes, of course I would. A final flurry of French and Spanish and Alain Sars turned to

me and asked if I would rather do a line or do a middle. I replied: a middle. He said “of course, wouldn’t we all!” and then they asked if I would do the finals in the Masters Division!

Would I? I was delighted. What a surprise! This was beyond what I had expected. What I then picked up, what I had missed in the flurry of French and Spanish, was that Said also had to leave for Paris the next day and he was not available to do the finals. So Pascal would do the Classic final and I would do the Masters! Fantastic. What a way to finish the trip.

The finals were to be in the big Estadio Rico Perez. However, Hercules FC, the local team, was in the playoffs for a promotion spot and the Hercules coach came out in the media saying that if the Mayor allowed Rico Perez to be used for our tournament, and the pitch was not in perfect shape as a result, then any loss would be the Mayor’s fault. So the Mayor refused Mundiavocat the use of the big stadium and the finals were moved to Estadio Atletismo.

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My World Cup cont.

The final in the Masters was between Costa Rica and Buenos Aires. I was there early, met the ARs, did the team checks, did a warm-up and pre-game, and watched the prior game go into PKs. Then there was a big ceremonial start with national anthems and introductions. The game was a tight, evenly matched contest. No goals in the first half. Both teams dramatic when fouled. Yellow card to Buenos Aires for a reckless tackle at 22 minutes. Costa Rica's keeper made a wonderful save to keep them in the game. Lots of mixing up by the central midfielders and I gave a couple of verbal warnings to both sides.

A harmless Buenos Aires shot at the 54th minute was cleared by one of the Costa Rican defenders. It went off his foot sideways, past his startled keeper and right into his own goal. Buenos Aires then slowed the game and delayed whenever they could, getting a yellow card for delay at 59 minutes.

At 63 minutes a Costa Rican attacker got through and was tripped by the last defender. He was going directly to goal, he was the most skilled Costa Rican player, and he would have been in alone on the keeper. I had the red card out for Denying an Obvious Goal Scoring Opportunity and was starting to administer the card when I realized the flag was up for an offside! I had been concerned some of the midfielders were about to go after each other and had lingered my gaze on them, and given them a verbal warning, to ensure no altercation just when the attacker had received the ball, and had initially missed the flag. I confirmed the offside with the AR, rescinded the red card and restarted with a free kick due to the offside. However the Costa Ricans were not happy as they had seen me with the red card out and they did not accept there could be no DOGSO if they were offside. Despite a big push, Costa Rica did not get another shot on the Buenos Aires goal and lost 1 to 0.

In the Classic final it was Mexico City v. London. Very entertaining game won by Mexico City 1 to 0 on a penalty kick from a trip in the box midway through the first half. I thought Pascal did a great job.

There was a big closing ceremony that night at a huge film studio on the outskirts of Alicante but I only attended the start, as I had to catch a plane home. I had had "my World Cup"! What a great tournament and a great experience for me.

Highlights and interesting moments:

- The local Spanish referees were great, very friendly and most accommodating of my poor Spanish. Generally they had little English but we got along really well.
- The game prior to my Oviedo v. Tokyo game was called seven minutes into the second half when the referee was threatened. I was changing and did not see the incident. However, that Spanish referee was one of my ARs, so I had to get him settled down, out from all the fuss that was swirling around and his head into my game as he was determined to continue.
- On the Oran v. Tenerife game, after the halftime break, I asked the young AR where the other, older AR was as we were ready to restart the game. Turned out he had gone to have a smoke, and we found him in the cantina/restaurant beside the stadium, flirting with the waitresses and having a glass of wine!

My World Cup cont.

- I went by taxi to one game rather than on the bus with one of the teams, and twice the taxi got lost. The 15-minute ride turned into 50 minutes but my panic was eased as the prior game went to PKs so I did not delay the start of my game.
- The field at Fontcalent was like the baseball diamond in the cornfield in the *Field of Dreams* movie. A better pitch than any of the others I had been to, extremely well cared for but out in the middle of nowhere, all on its own behind a cement factory. Turned out it was the practice field for Hercules FC, the local professional team.
- I had great discussions with Pascal, Alain, Said and Benoit over breakfast and lunches but we never got together for dinner as we were scattered doing games.
- The quality of the soccer varied considerably, especially in the group stage games but it was excellent as the playoffs progressed.

If you get the chance to do an international tournament then go for it! What a learning experience and what fun. My thanks to Vincent Pinatel and all the Mundiavocat staff for a great job and such a wonderful opportunity, and Pascal, Alain, Said and Benoit for the camaraderie. Now with “my World Cup” over and that goal achieved what is there to shoot for? Well I never thought before that I could make it to a Provincial Referee (former Class 1), but now? Why not!

Bill McNaughton



Bill McNaughton (C) at Finals

FRASER VALLEY & VANCOUVER AREA CHRISTMAS PARTY DATES SET

Fraser Valley SRA President Dave Miller invites all members to attend the **FVSRA** Christmas Party on Saturday, December 6th. This year the event will return to its roots: The Canadian Forces Station (CFS) Aldergrove. Cost for tickets is \$35 per person or \$70 per couple. Because of the nature of the venue, all those attending must confirm with the executive as their names will need to be added to the list at the front gate. Tickets can be obtained by contacting any member of the executive:

President: Dave Miller: (dave_miller@translink.bc.ca)

Vice President: Martin Reid (martinreid@shaw.ca)

Secretary: Torb Lindhede (torb@telus.net)

Treasurer: Mike Perko (pasta29@yahoo.com)

Directors: Phil Fasciglione: phil.fasciglione@gmail.com

Paul Toop: (paul.toop@gov.bc.ca)

The Vancouver Area Association (VASRA) has announced their Christmas Party will also be held on Saturday, December 6th at Lochdale Hall in Burnaby (corner of Sperling and E. Hastings). Tickets can be obtained by calling President Marc Bowley at 604-278-9302 or via email: marcbowley@primus.ca.

Know Your Fellow Members

A Balancing Act - From Gina Neumann and MK Battle

As young female referees, it can be very difficult to keep school work, a job, and perhaps a social life, afloat. There is a point when we find something that we truly enjoy doing and we stick with it. For us, it's been soccer, more specifically, refereeing. We love the fact that we are paid, and respected to run around on a field with a whistle. When the two of us discovered the VASRA we decided, what better place to meet and learn from more experienced referees? So every last Monday of the month, we skip doing math homework, and come to a meeting that will better our skills as a referee and get us noticed on the field (for good reasons, not bad). We learn everything from positioning to offside procedures, with the knowledge of some of the best referees around. It can be difficult sometimes to balance out everything in our lives, but one thing for sure, the monthly referee meetings have helped us to grow in the field of soccer officiating.



Q: Name? Gina Neumann

Q: # of years as a Referee? 5th year refereeing

Q: Why did you become a referee? I loved the game, yet couldn't play due to an injury, plus every twelve year old wants some pocket change :)

Q: Most memorable moment? I love it when people tell me that I did a good job, those are the best memories

Q: Words of advice for beginners? Keep with it, the first year is the hardest, and then you learn.



Q: Name? Mary Katherine (MK) Battle

Q: # of years as a Referee? 5 as of this year

Q: Why did you become a referee? I thought that I knew everything and tended to yell at referees. I went to a course and realized that I didn't know everything.

Q: Most memorable moment? I think my most memorable moment has either been at the Florida North American finals back in November 2007 where I gave my first red card, or at beach blast this past summer where a team from Mexico started asking for my name.

Q: Words of advice for beginners? I would probably give a new referee the advice of "sell the call." When doing your pregame, avoid using words such as "uhhh..." and "ummm..." because a player can smell fear a mile away. As well, don't just stop in your pre-game, have a strong whistle getting captains out as well. If you show confidence, only a very foolish player would mess with you

Stop in the name of the law: The Ref got it right -by Rob Hughes

As published: September 16, 2008 in the International Herald Tribune.

What in the world constitutes serious foul play? On Tuesday, the English Football Association, one of four governing bodies that make and maintain the laws under which soccer is played worldwide, over-ruled a referee who had sent off the England captain John Terry in a league match for Chelsea on Saturday. The association announced that an independent regulatory commission upheld Chelsea's appeal that Terry was wrongfully dismissed, despite the fact that he hauled down Manchester City's Brazilian forward Jo. This committee room justice will have ramifications wherever soccer is played: A referee's decision, and his credibility, have been overturned and a player who is a figurehead to millions of impressionable youngsters has evaded due punishment for premeditated foul play.

The act for which Terry was red-carded was a rugby tackle from behind. It was as blatant and as cynical an abuse of the laws as it is possible to get. It was not the worst thing that happened over the weekend on England's soccer fields, where so-called professionals play for the highest salaries known in this sport. In the final minutes of Newcastle United's 2-1 home loss to Hull City, the Hull winger Craig Fagan tried to waste time by shielding the ball at the corner flag, and a Newcastle player, Danny Guthrie, kicked him, twice.

This was not a tackle but an assault causing bodily harm. The second kick broke the tibia in Fagan's right leg. Hull's medical staff estimated that he will be out of action for three months and, as it now stands, Guthrie will miss three games. That is the global rule: a three-match ban for a straight red card. Guthrie's contrition, his stated intent to visit Fagan and express apologies, will not repair the damage. Nor would a handful more matches added to the ban.



Referee Mark Halsey

The issues in the Newcastle incident are beyond dispute. Guthrie behaved like a common thug. Losing his temper put a fellow professional's livelihood at risk and his penalty should be something more draconian.

This columnist has advocated before that where there is malicious foul play the remedy is to punish the perpetrator by preventing him from playing the game until his victim is fit and well enough to do so.

With such eye-for-eye retribution, it is perhaps as well that I have no powers of administration. But Phil Brown, the Hull team coach, says of the violence: "It cannot be tolerated. It needs to be kicked out of the game. When you see that the end product is to put a fellow pro in a cast, it's just not right." There was no comparable end product to what Terry did and what Guthrie did.

But neither foul should be acceptable, and by overruling the referee, the soccer authorities compound another ill in the modern game. Terry's foul was reckless rather than dangerous. He was beaten for pace and skill, but Chelsea was ahead 3-1, and there were possibly two defenders who could have caught Jo before he could score. If Terry was aware of all this, why did he kick out at Jo as the Brazilian passed him? Why did he then grapple at Jo from behind, dragging him to the turf with an arm around his waist?

Why, why, why did five Chelsea players - Frank Lampard, Ashley Cole, Deco, Ricardo Carvalho and Nicolas Anelka - join Terry in confronting the referee, Mark Halsey?

The professionals have been asked this season to observe more respect for the match officials. The FA has especially tried to prevent Chelsea, Manchester United and Arsenal from having their players surround the referees like backstreet mobs. Chelsea came perilously close to breaching that code.

A former Chelsea player, Craig Burley, is now the voice of reason for Setanta TV, and on Saturday, Burley's instant comment was that the referee made a horrendous decision with the red card. When Burley was told moments later that the fourth official on the sideline confirmed that the card was for serious foul play, he retorted: "It wasn't serious, it was cynical. There's a difference."

Ref got it right cont.

Full marks to him for the cynical bit. But players on the field, and old pros behind the microphone, should know the laws and know something about fair play. Debate continued to be polarized on Web sites, on television and in print. Even a former referee, paid to comment on his fellow arbiters, stated that Halsey had given a red card where a yellow would have sufficed. I disagree. Whether Terry was the last defender or not is irrelevant. He is paid close to \$250,000 a week to play this game under the rules of association football, not rugby union football. He knows, and the world surely knows, that he was cheating against an opponent whose skill and pace outclassed him. To bring down that opponent in full flight, from behind, is serious foul play.

This ref got it right. Authority failed to back him.

Why did Chelsea appeal to higher authority? Chelsea will meet Manchester United this Sunday and would rather have its most formidable defender on the field than banned. Clubs are serious businesses these days,

and the points at stake against Manchester United could determine who wins the Premier League. The way of the world now is to seek any advantage, fair or foul. There is another reason: It is the mass ignorance of players at the very top level of the laws of their game. Lampard has played 570 matches in the most intensely fought and marketed league in the world. He is one of the more intelligent and articulate of modern pros. Yet he railed at the referee on Saturday, and he insisted publicly: "It was just a block-off challenge. If you start giving red cards like that, you'll have four or five in a game." "It's not a red card when there's two men behind the ball - hopefully, they'll look at it again and make it a yellow card," he said.

Lampard's defense of a colleague is flawed. If he regards Terry's action as merely "blocking off" Jo, he cannot have seen the foul. It was from behind, and the law on serious foul play is explicit on a red card for using excessive force or brutality from behind. Moreover, Lampard and Chelsea view the foul as worthy of a yellow but not a red card. They should know that the FA does not have the power to change the color, or the mandatory three-match punishment, unless the referee himself admits to getting it wrong.

This ref got it right. Authority failed to back him.

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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 Dec.31/08

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.

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