

MINUTES OF THE VANCOUVER AREA SOCCER REFEREES ASSOCIATION

Held: Monday, March 30, 2009 at South Burnaby Metro Club, Burnaby, B.C.

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Call to order: 7:13 p.m.

GUESTS WELCOMED: Neil Ellett, Todd Wawrousek (Vancouver Whitecaps), John Jukes (MWSL), Robin Woods (now refereeing in Fraser Valley)

NEW MEMBERS WELCOMED: Anis Ali

ADOPT AGENDA: On motion by José Branco, seconded by Werner Winsemann, M/S/C

MINUTES OF January 2009 MEETING: Minutes of the February, 2009 meeting were previously circulated by email and were adopted on a motion by José Branco, seconded by Werner Winseman, M/S/C.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES:

- Re: Christmas Party: there was a motion passed in February to try to continue the party. The Executive will call on people to assist.
- VASRA Library: Sandro Giardi mentioned he has room to store the materials in a warehouse. Nick Hawley volunteered to take over as the VASRA librarian. Nick and Elvio will work out getting items copied to DVD in order to reduce the volume.

EDUCATION: We had two presentations, one from Todd Wawrousek of the Vancouver Whitecaps and one by John Neilson.

- Todd Wawrousek kindly attended from the Vancouver Whitecaps and spoke about their trip to Africa. Tanzania, on the southwest coast of Africa, is a 21 hour flight from Vancouver and when they got off the plane they were hit with 100% humidity and 90°F at 7:00 am. Todd explained about some of the living conditions in Darasalam which were fairly incredible. There were two turf fields in the city and one stadium with a grass field. On their first training when they arrived at the stadium it was 135°F at the surface and 110°F in the air at 10:00 am. After that they switched their training times to 6:30 am.
- The Whitecaps met many people and did some camps. The people were amazing, enthusiastic, so thankful for the clinics that they were putting on. A number of the kids were playing with balls that were plastic bags wrapped in tape. The Whitecaps left over a dozen balls which were treated like gold. Lots of people came out to watch. One young boy who spoke English had obviously prepared and presented a thank you. A number of letters of thanks were given to team members.
- In their first game there were 10,000 to 12,000 people. The first tackle kind of set the tone: it seemed to be quite a set up with a two footed tackle coming in, up high with cleats, which missed the Whitecaps' player but the Whitecaps' player landed on the tackler with the result that the Whitecaps' player was ejected. The Whitecaps

lost that game 3 to 1. The second game they won 2 to 1. Their last game against the national team was interesting when the game was moved from the evening to 4:00 pm so that it was in the oppressive (to the Whitecaps!) heat.

- There were many great experiences and Todd told a number of very interesting stories. The country is a great football nation. Even out on the road in little villages all of the people knew that they were the Whitecaps and were there visiting. They visited a traditional Massii village which was an amazing experience. Most remarkable for Todd were the people. They have almost nothing from a material perspective and look very stoic and hard but they light up, smile and are the most friendly people when you get to know them. Todd strongly suggested that if you can do it, get in an exchange in a foreign country as you will have a great experience.
- Todd took a number of questions concerning the trip and some concerning the Whitecaps upcoming season. The meeting enthusiastically thanked Todd for his presentation.
- John Neilson presented a series of clips for review and discussion as follows:
 - Fulham v. Manchester United. It was 2 – 0 at the 88th minute when a red card was given to Wayne Rooney. Rooney already had a yellow card. He threw the ball at (or, depending on your point of view, back to) the referee. It was clear he was upset. The question was should you give him a second yellow (which results in a red card) or a direct red card? The second yellow was appropriate and then the red card. The referee here had to react as this was too public to ignore or deal with through just talking to the player. It called for a card.
 - Westham v. Arsenal at 30th minute with the score tied 0 – 0. The ball comes in from a corner kick. The player receiving the ball comes off the goal line and gets the ball a few yards away. He was offside but this is something that is rarely called. John used it as an example of something that assistant referees have to be careful to watch for.
 - Hull v. Manchester United: A free kick is set up. A player picks up the ball and then sits it right back down in the same spot. The free kick is then quickly taken. Is there anything wrong (with him picking up & placing the ball)? No, this is feinting. No advantage was gained. The ball was set down in the same place. The free kick was properly taken.
 - Roma v. Chelsea at the 80th minute with the score 3 - 1: There is a foul and a free kick is given. The referee appears to have said “wait for the whistle”, but it was not done clearly with a clear reference to the whistle. The player took a fast free kick. The referee called it back, gave the player a yellow card and, since this was his second yellow, the player was sent off. John’s point here is that this was a weak yellow card. The situation was not clear. The referee created the problem. If you’re going to give a second yellow card and send off a player it should be a clear offense and a deliberate decision. There was not good mechanics to ensure that all knew that the kick was ceremonial and remember that the team who has been fouled has the right to take a fast free kick. The referee should not impose a ceremonial free kick unless it’s requested or it’s clearly required.
 - Chelsea v. Hull: There’s a clear handball. It was deliberate. The player however holds his stomach as if he had been hit in the stomach by the ball. This is gamesmanship by players which occurs all the time on all kinds of calls. Referees need to trust their vision. Do not be influenced by the gamesmanship which players will attempt. On handballs it’s appropriate to use your voice and tell players if it’s not a foul (“ball to hand guys!”, “not deliberate, play on!”, “no intention there”) or to call the foul if warranted.
 - Arsenal v. Blackburn Rovers at 22nd minute: There is a slide tackle directly onto the keepers ankle. There was no play on the ball. There should have been a direct red card given but there was not. The clip then plays on showing a number of examples of the problems that the failure to give a deserved red card causes later in the game. Referees must be strong and give cards (including red cards!) when they are warranted.
 - Manchester United v. Derby at 37 minutes: The assistant referee is not sure on an offside and does not put the flag up immediately. Later he calls the offside. This was the right call but it looks bad and the call was not sold well. A lot of pressure results on the officials. At 43 minutes in the same game he misses another offside. Why would this occur? Because of the pressure from the first near miss perhaps? There is a loss of concentration by the officials. Important to focus and keep that concentration through the entire game even if, or perhaps especially if, a call is missed. Do not miss the next one!
 - The meeting enthusiastically thanked John for his presentation

LEAGUE ITEMS: John Jukes for Metro Womens Soccer League expressed his thanks to all the referees for their work this season. A great job was done on the finals on March 29th. Their spring season starts shortly.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Ron Schaeffer advised our current account situation was: Chequing Account \$6,026.67 and GICs \$5,500.00. Income Statement and balance sheet are drafted and out for audit, they show a surplus for the year of \$2,089.18. This is largely because of the cancellation of the Christmas party and the fact we did not have to pay any penalties.

REFEREE ASSOCIATED REPORTS

BCSRA EXECUTIVE:

- Elvio Chies provided a written report to the people at the meeting (attached with email as a PDF) and also mentioned that Saturday, May 23rd is the Annual General Meeting for the BCSRA and the Mainland/Vancouver Island (604/250) soccer game. The meeting will be held in Surrey.

CSA REFEREE COMMITTEE: No Report.

BC SOCCER REFEREE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: José Branco reported as follows:

- Referees are registered this year until April 30th because of a computer problem, as opposed to registration expiring April 1st. As of April 1st you can go online to register with BC Soccer. You must have attended a refresher course in order to get registered.
- The BC Soccer conference takes place May 1 to 3, see the website for details.
- Provincial Cup starts this coming weekend (April 4/5) and appointments will be out shortly.
- Upgrade courses are coming. Emails will be coming out early in April. A regional clinic will be held May 29-31 in Burnaby and again June 5-6 in Kelowna. There will be a fitness portion of the clinic.
- A provincial referees level course will be held in Ontario on May 22-24. People selected for the course will be sent there by BC Soccer. Selection is fully performance based.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Werner Winsemann has been recruiting officials for a tournament on May 23 & 24. This is the German International tournament being held at Newton Athletic Park. The tournament will run from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm and will be affiliated. It is an international tournament. There are 42 games per day. A number of referees are needed. A list of available officials has been forwarded by Werner to Udo Waechter who is running this tournament and any further inquiries re this tournament should be directed to Udo at email uwaechter@shaw.ca. Referees get \$50 per game. Assistant referees will be on the over 35 division. There's also an over 45, over 55 and over 60 division. Note this is not the long weekend so please contact Udo to make yourself available. Werner is no longer involved with this tournament as he was only asked by Udo to provide possible names of officials.
- Marc Bowley gave notice to the meeting that he has been receiving some complaints from coaches about how referees are dressed. Referees have been showing up to games wearing ski jackets and ski pants. This is not appropriate. It's important for referees to be dressed and look professional. Those that aren't dressed properly hurt the reputation of all of us. Please ensure that you, and mention to others that you observe, are dressing in the appropriate kit.
- The 50/50 raffle was held and the meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m. **NEXT REGULAR MEETING WILL BE HELD: MONDAY, April 27, 2009 @ 7:00 P.M. AT THE SOUTH BURNABY METRO CLUB**