

# MINUTES OF THE VANCOUVER AREA SOCCER REFEREES ASSOCIATION

Held: Monday, April 27, 2009 at South Burnaby Metro Club, Burnaby, B.C.

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**Call to order: 7:18 p.m.**

**GUESTS WELCOMED:** Neil Ellett, Henri Bouwens, John Jukes (MWSL)

**NEW MEMBERS WELCOMED:** None

**ADOPT AGENDA:** On motion by John May, seconded by Werner Winsemann, M/S/C

**MINUTES OF March 2009 MEETING:** Minutes of the March 2009 meeting were previously circulated by email and were adopted on a motion by Werner Winsemann, seconded by Claudio Agostino, M/S/C.

## **BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES:**

- Letter of thanks has been sent to Todd Wawrousek and the Vancouver Whitecaps for Todd's presentation last month.
- As a result of the presentation and a call for donations some items had been brought in for Tanzania. Marc Bowley called on members to donate more of their old or unused kit. Richard Brownie pointed out people could also donate some of their unused / surplus Beach Blast uniforms. Bring in items next meeting for Tanzania!

**EDUCATION:** Paul Ward did a presentation regarding his recent activities:

- Paul attended the U20 World Cup Qualifying Tournament in Trinidad & Tobago. He did the game between El Salvador and Jamaica. Both teams needed a win to advance. The game started at 4:00 p.m. which meant it was very hot. There were three red cards in a 14 minute span from the 30<sup>th</sup> minute to the 44<sup>th</sup> minute. All were individual isolated incidents. The first red card at 30 minutes: an El Salvador player kicked the face of a Jamaican attacker. It wasn't that much excessive force but it clearly called for a red card. In the 35<sup>th</sup> minute a Jamaican player shielded the ball, swung his arm and punched one of the opposition players in the face. In the 44<sup>th</sup> minute there was an elbow in the face by a Jamaican player so he was sent off. The result was a game with 10 men for El Salvador against 9 for Jamaica through the whole second half. There weren't really any problems in the second half. Jamaica won with 9 men. It was interesting for Paul that most of the game was, even between the players, communicated in English. Paul did not stay for the further rounds of the tournament and isn't sure if this is because of the three red cards in one game.
- On March 29 Paul did the MLS game in Dallas between FC Dallas v. Chivas USA. The game was not overly intense. Chivas won 2 – 0. There were two yellow cards.
- However, on April 1, two days after the MLS game in Dallas, Paul did the World Cup Qualifier between Honduras and Mexico taking place in Honduras. This was intense. Paul arrived on March 30. When he came out of the passenger area at the airport there was a lot of media there to "greet" him and take his picture. The photos ended up all over the newspapers. There was nothing unusual or untoward, it's just the level of attention the game was getting. It was a bit overwhelming. Also, on March 30 the referee team had a technical meeting with the team reps. to go over various items. On game day, April 1, it appeared the whole country stopped to watch the game. The 40,000 seats in the stadium were full two hours in advance. Even though the referee team arrived well in advance the fans were already all there and completely hyped up. It was great for Paul that Hector Vegarra was

there because with his experience Hector was able to give some good advice on how to handle things. As an example, they checked the field, even though they had checked it the day before to make sure that everything was okay, and the people were going wild in the stands at them on the field. When the referees came out to do the warm up: even though they were going to be starting slow, the energy in the stadium with all of the people hyped up meant a transfer to the referees and the first jog across the field wasn't a jog at all but a sprint. Hector got everybody to slow down, and absorb some of the atmosphere, and warm up at a normal pace.

- The moment of truth in the Honduras v. Mexico game came at 1 minute 40 seconds into the game. There was a push at the top (outside) of the box. Paul called the foul and thought that if he did not then the players would think they could get away with anything for the rest of the game. This game was not so much worrying about flow and managing the players (which is a big item for the MLS due to the entertainment aspect) but more a black and white application of the laws. With the foul call less than 2 minutes in many players rushed at Paul to confront over this situation. Paul could have shrunk back, but decided he had to stand strong or would face problems later. That foul then resulted in a requirement to manage the wall on the free kick. Paul insisted that it be done right as he assumed that if he did not then he would have an incredibly difficult time for the rest of the game.
- The first goal was scored by Honduras. There was a bit of excessive celebration but Paul decided not to issue a caution as he wanted a strong card for the first caution that he issued in the game (that came a few minutes later against Honduras on a hard, late tackle). Paul did speak to some of the Honduras players about their celebration and after their second goal they were quite a bit more careful as to the level they took the celebration.
- In the second half Honduras was up three goals. There had now been four or five cautions issued. There was some flow to the game. Paul was feeling good. In minute 80 there was a scramble in the Honduras penalty area. A tackle occurred from behind. Paul awarded a penalty kick and Mexico scored. No red card was issued as it was too much of a scramble so no D.O.G.S.O.
- At minute 88 there was again a scramble in the Honduras area. Paul was in deep with them. The ball squirted out to the midfield and, as often happens when you have to be in tight but you have very good players who can hit the long crosses, Honduras played a long ball out with the result that Paul was stuck and scrambling to get back into position. There was then a tackle in a one-on-one situation and a hard foul. This is the kind of situation where the referee must rely on the assistant and the assistant in effect becomes the referee for those calls, because the man in the middle is caught deep in one end. Hector confirmed for Paul that "yes it was a red card" as Paul came in from about 20 yards away. Red card given.
- There was a minute where Paul lost some concentration when an injury had taken place. He did not realize at first that the Honduran player had not left the field although the Mexican player did. The Honduran player should have left the field because the trainers had come on. As a result Paul tried to wave the Mexican player back on as fast as possible in order that the teams were at even strength rather than Mexico playing down one man. A good lesson that you have to keep your concentration up at all times.
- On April 6 Paul was in Mexico City to do a game between Cruz Azul v. Puerto Rico. This was the second leg of a qualifier. Puerto Rico was up two goals from the first leg so they started delaying right from the very start. A red card was given to Cruz Azul. Paul initially intended to give a yellow card because of a challenge on the Puerto Rico keeper but the offending player grabbed Paul's arm and accordingly was shown a red card. Cruz Azul worked hard and tied up the game on aggregate goals. As a result the game went into overtime. There was a goal early and then a goal by the other team late with a result the aggregate score was tied after extra time. Into penalty kicks and Cruz Azul won the game.
- Paul gave an example of an injury management item. The player was "injured" but then got up to go off the field and sprinted hard so it was clear he was really not injured seriously but had been faking it to get a call. Paul held him off the field rather than letting him get back immediately, despite him jumping up and down and trying to get Paul's attention to indicate that he was ready to come back on. Paul was sending a message but interestingly the assessor later said it was a situation where he could have just given a yellow card.
- There were a lot of questions for Paul on these various matches and the meeting thanked Paul for his presentation.

**LEAGUE ITEMS:** John Jukes for Metro Womens Soccer League had a handout at the meeting re: their spring season which starts May 4 and runs to June 26. Contact MWSL for more info: [www.metrowomenssoccer.com](http://www.metrowomenssoccer.com)

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Ron Schaeffer advised our current account situation was: Chequing Account \$6,086.57 and GICs \$5,500.00.

### **REFEREE ASSOCIATED REPORTS**

#### **BCSRA EXECUTIVE:**

- Elvio Chies reminded all that Saturday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> is the Annual General Meeting for the BCSRA and the Mainland/Vancouver Island (604/250) soccer game. The meeting will be held in Surrey. Richard Brownie will take registrations so contact him ([guild\\_ref@hotmail.com](mailto:guild_ref@hotmail.com)). Blazer Badges are available for \$35, let Elvio know if you want one as an order will be going in.

**CSA REFEREE COMMITTEE:** No Report.

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

- Provincial Cup appointments: José expressed how pleased he was with how the referees have been doing. There was a situation where a young referee was thrown into a senior game because of a mix up and he did very well in that game.
- A regional level referee course is coming up shortly to be held May 29-31 in Burnaby and again June 5-6 in Kelowna. A provincial level referees course will be held in Ontario on May 22 to 24 by the CSA. BC Soccer is sending five people to Ontario for this clinic. Selection is fully performance based.
- A number of VASRA members attended in Dallas, Texas at the Dallas Cup. These were people who were doing the referee training on Tuesday and Thursday nights in Burnaby. BC Soccer was able to send six referees this year. Dallas Cup is a very high level youth tournament. There are high level teams and lots of good exposure. Lots of teams from around the world come to this tournament. Even within the officials there is a lot of competition to try and get finals. Our officials were able to get on two finals and a semi-final. José presented a number of photographs from the Dallas Cup.
- The BC Soccer conference takes place May 1 to 3, see the website for details. José mentioned the guest instructors which are coming out to the conference.
- As a result of contacts from the Dallas Cup, José received from Japan the JFA (Japan Football Association) referee training videos. These are very high quality materials (and in English!) provided to BCSCA as a result of contacts and discussions with the Japanese referee who attended Dallas Cup.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- José Fraguas has again organized the referee recreational soccer matches for Thursday nights at Burnaby 8Rinks field (#2 or 3), the kick off each Thursday to June 25 is at 7:00 p.m., come out and have some fun.
- Werner Winsemann has forwarded a list of available officials for a tournament on May 23 & 24 to Udo Waechter who is running this German tournament and any further inquiries re the tournament should be directed to Udo at email [uwaechter@shaw.ca](mailto:uwaechter@shaw.ca).
- Marc Bowley reminded all that we also need players for the 604/250 referee game after the AGM on May 23.
- The 50/50 raffle was held and the meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

**NEXT REGULAR MEETING WILL BE HELD: MONDAY, May 25, 2009 @ 7:00 P.M.**  
**AT THE SOUTH BURNABY METRO CLUB**