

# FLAG & WHISTLE



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## BCSRA NEWSLETTER

JAN. 2004

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Seeing that it is a new year it wouldn't be out of the ordinary to make some resolutions. Rather, I would like to make some goals for this year and years to come.

1) To increase our involvement in mentoring in the youth side of the game. Historically, our existence came out of senior soccer. But we have yet to truly penetrate the youth side of the game. I would like to see ourselves work with Youth clubs to provide "satellite" meetings whereby we can preach the refereeing gospel in settings that are non-intimidating for the younger official.

2) To create a more personal touch with members. All our efforts come down to two words: "Pride" and "Comraderie". Making people feel like they belong brings us closer to this goal.

3) To form one new Area Association in the Interior of BC. There is a whole "undiscovered country" just yearning to be part of the refereeing family. It is our mandate in the Referees Association to "create referee societies where none exist."

4) To increase membership to 1000 by the end of World Cup 2006. This would mean 50% of all licensed-officials in the province are members of the Referees Association. Currently, we stand at almost 700. Surely, this is in our grasp.

5) To pave the way for an office. We have reached the end of the line as a volunteer organization. If we want to get things done we need to look at having a fully-staffed office that can take the work off the kitchen tables and turn ourselves into the professional organization we want to be.

A prosperous and Happy New Year to all members in this year of Euro 2004 (which Italy will win this time).

Regards,  
Elvio



### FRANK ASHDOWN LATEST BCSRA LIFE MEMBER

Council agreed at the Fall meeting of the BCSRA to induct Frank Ashdown as the association's latest Life Member. The nomination was put forth by the Vancouver Area Soccer Referees Association (VASRA). Frank has spent almost fifty years in soccer and refereeing. His accomplishments include:

- Started refereeing in 1954, attaining Provincial Class 1 by 1960.
- Chairman of Vancouver Juvenile & Junior Soccer Association (1949)
- Lead Instructor, Shawnigan Lake Referees Academy (1982-1992)
- On BCYSA Board of Directors 1951-1955
- N. Shore Youth Referee-in-Chief, 1980-1985.
- Author of 2 publications: Common Sense Refereeing & Know Your Soccer



Simon Fearn , Kevin Stott and Chris Strickland at FIFA U20 in UEA

### CANADIAN FIFA A/R REPORTS FROM UAE

#### Referee Committee Members:

#### FIFA World Youth Tournament UAE 2003

Dear Members

After just returning for the most enjoyable and exciting time of my soccer-refereeing career as yet, and after waiting almost a year from my first call of the appointment, I'm home with lots of memories.

The journey started November 21, 2003 with 18 hours of flying time to the United Arab Emirates. Not only did I have to prepare myself for the long haul I also had to prepare for a 12-hour time difference. This can be very hard on your body; your body is thinking about bed while everybody in UAE is getting up and starting their day.

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## Report from UAE cont.

I arrived at 12am and left the Dhubi International airport at 1am after awaiting passport check and other officials to arrive. About 12 people piled into 2 minivans with our luggage in another, now we have a 2 hour drive to Abu Dhabi to our hotel. On the drive I was amazed to see some construction crews working at 2am and of course, sand everywhere. On getting to the hotel at 3am we were told of a 9am meeting, which would last most of the day. I was up by 8am for breakfast the next morning where I got to meet some more of the referees and then we were off to the meeting. We were introduced to all of the technical and fitness instructors that we would be working with and then got into the education part of the meeting . Conversation revolved around what was expected from the referees and asst. referees. The focal points included jewelry, encroachment on free kick with a huge emphasis on penalty kicks, and of course unfair tackles. We were also told about the following days on the field education, and the dreaded procedures of the cooper test the day after that. The first day's education went well but lasted 8 hours, followed by a quick dinner and early to bed. Day 2 consisted of fieldwork with referees and asst. referee in separate groups so we could each work on our area of expertise. As AR's we worked on offside situations and free kick situations followed by medium training levels for about an hour. We had the rest of the day off to relax before the fitness test the next day. The fitness test on day 3 had been bumped up from 9am to 8am because to the heat of the day. There was increased pressure on the test because the warm up had to be done as a group as per instructions, and it was understood that if one member of the team of three failed, all three would go home. It took almost 3 1/2 hours to complete the test but happily I had performed by personal best, running 3100m. That night we were told that we had all passed the test and the game appointments were hence disclosed. With more officials than games, I was very pleased to be appointed to the November 29th game of England vs. Japan in Dhubi. On field education and training continued over the next few days. There would be no training the day of the game, just a 2 hour drive back to Dhubi. We stayed in a hotel in Dhubi for 3 hours before the game so we could get some rest and stretch our legs a little from the drive. At the Game it went very well, speed of the game is what I expected and the atmosphere was fantastic, I have heard soccer songs in English and Spanish now I have heard them in Arabic. It is 1:00am and we are back to the hotel in Abu Dhabi. The morning following a game consisted of light recovery training, consisting of gliding, fast walking, cycling, stretching, hot tub and massage (my favorite). The following days were alike with fitness sessions lasting all morning approximately 8:30 to 11:30 and more on-field education. After lunch was reserved for post game debriefing sessions. The instructors utilized this time in order to break the game down play-by-play, using video clips, in order to evaluate and judge one's decision making. When the subtitle "offsides" came up on the screen a couple of my calls/non-calls were brought forth, at this point I was sweating bullets. After review and analysis, the panel agreed with my decisions, what a great feeling.

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## SHORT TAKES

### GAME FEE VOTE AT BC SOCCER SEMI-ANNUAL

The Leagues in membership have voted to increase Referee/Assistant Referee game fees for senior soccer matches from \$40/\$20 to \$50/\$25. At the same time, it was announced that due to budget constraints game fees for matches of senior provincial cup matches would not increase for this year's playdowns. A motion was put forth by Burnaby Youth Soccer Association to ask for a proposal to have Match Fees for games in youth soccer standardized, in time for the BC Soccer Annual General Meeting in June. While this requires a request to BC Soccer by Burnaby Youth, the provincial executive will work to make this proposal a reality.

### HALL OF FAME REJECTS WINSEMANN NOMINATION...AGAIN

BCSRA Life Member Werner Winsemann was not inducted into the Builder's category of the BC Sports Hall of Fame. The nomination, submitted on the Referees Association's behalf by the BCSA, must now go through a 1 year dormancy period before possible renomination in 2005.

### BCSRA AROUND THE WORLD

The Flag and Whistle congratulates those BCSRA members who were appointed to international matches or tournaments:

**Gerry Proctor:** appointed to World University Games in South Korea.

**Mauricio Navarro/Martin Reid:** appointed to Olympic qualifier in Panama.

**Jill Proctor:** appointed to upcoming Four Nations Women's Tournament in China.

### REFEREE DEVELOPMENT TO GET \$50K FROM GAMING FUNDS

BC Soccer Executive Director Keith Ryan announced at the BCSRA's Fall Council Meeting the provincial governing body has secured \$50,000 in funds from gaming revenue to assist in the provinces Referee Development Program. Applications were submitted to assist in areas of Player, Coaching, and Referee development with the Referee Program receiving more funds than the other two areas.

## SHORT TAKES cont.

### BCSRA MEMBERS HONOURED

**Mauricio Navarro** is one of three finalists for the Sport BC "Official of the Year" award, to be finalized early March 2004. At the BC Soccer Association Awards Banquet, **Paul Ward** was honoured with the provincial governing body's "Official of the Year" prize at the Awards Banquet on January 10,2004. The BCSRA congratulates both members on their accomplishments. BCSRA at Canada/El Salvador OlympicQualifier Many thanks to BCSRA Direct Members **Saad Al-Jadir** and **Arnar Bernhardtsson** who continued the Referee Association's tradition of hosting visiting officials during their brief stay in our area. Saad and Arnar looked after the needs of US FIFA Referee Brian Hall and his crew for the November 19,2003 Olympic qualifier in Kelowna. They also managed to get five young, local referees to rub shoulders with the match officials prior to the game.

## GLOBAL VIEW

**Search for the perfect ref will never end**  
by Paul Gardner, World Soccer

This sounds like a pretty horrible idea to me. The English Premier League has decided to make referees more accountable. So now each referee performance will be subjected not only to a review by former referees, but by a new body made up of former players and coaches. All that, mind you, on top of the much more public and more sensational dissection of their performances that goes on in the media, particularly television.

Question: what is the point of all this overseeing? Is it an attempt to, somehow, ensure that referees make fewer mistakes, the time-honoured search for refereeing perfection? Or is it nothing more than a primitive desire to see that referees get punished for their mistakes? I hope it's the former-but I fear it'll turn out to be the latter. Basically, we're to get former players and coaches telling referees how to do their job. Problem with that is so glaringly obvious that I am quite dumbfounded at the gall of the Premiership people in coming up with the idea at all. It's simply this: after decades of talking with coaches and players my own experiences convinces me that both groups are usually ignorant-sometimes staggeringly so- of the rules of the game.

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## Report from UAE cont.

Afternoons were pretty well free and most of us spent this time at the beach across the street in the 32 degree heat, swimming in the Persian Gulf to cool off. It sure is a culture shock, a lot of the men in the white dress and women in the black from head to toe, some with only their eyes showing. I asked a security guard one day why most of the stores were closed at 2pm, his response indicated that stores open from 8:00am-12:00pm then close and re-open again from 5:00pm-12:00am because of the heat. In the evening the streets came alive with people and many families could be seen having picnics in the park, some until 12:00am. My 2<sup>nd</sup> appointment was December 2, 2003, Mexico



Mexico vs Saudi Arabia, Match Officials (l-r)  
Simon Fearn (CAN), Frank Debleeckere (BEL)  
Kevin Stott (USA) and Chris Strickland (USA)

vs. Saudi Arabia in Al Ain another 2-hour drive to the game. The game was very much like the first, fast, hard fought game, tight offside lines and tough decisions for the referee. Again there was recovery training and after lunch debriefing. The instructors were very insistent about jewelry on the field and how it would not be tolerated. It was understood that if a referee allowed a player with jewelry onto the field of play, that referee could consider that match his or her last of the tournament.

Two days later 15 officials, who were not working the next day, were told they would be doing another fitness test. This is the test FIFA will probably be adopting next year and we will be running it in the near future. The test focuses on agility for the referee and a different test for the asst. referee, also consisted of 40m sprints and a Beep or YO-YO elimination test to conclude. We were very proud of our North American team, as we were the last three runners in the test. Saturday December 6 we all went on a site seeing trip back to Dhubi, where we saw some great sites and had a short shopping spree on the way back to the hotel. When we returned we were asked to go directly to the dining room for an announcement. This was the time we had all feared - some referees would be going home. After a few kind words and expressions of praise for everyone's performance they had chosen 12 officials to go home, I was one. This is probably one of the toughest moments of my career, having to say goodbye to some great new friends and wondering why me? With only 5 hours before my plane departs, I start packing my bags and leave the hotel back to Dhubi for my long flight home. On the ride to the airport we have time to reflect on what we have been a part of for the last 17 days, the bus is quiet, we all are sad but happy that we were involved in a FIFA tournament of this caliber. An opportunity any official in the world would have been happy to be a part of. Thank You for the Opportunity

Yours in soccer

Simon Fearn

FIFA Asst. Referee Canada



**CSRA AGM Report** - January 10, 2004

We were at the Empress Hotel in Victoria for the CSRA AGM which started Friday night with a small meeting that discussed game fees in different provinces. This was followed by a social hosted by VISRA. Martin Reid and Pat Harkness were in attendance from the Vancouver/Fraser Valley area. We met Virginia Meachin as well as other CSRA and Provincial members in attendance. On Saturday morning, we were in the Balmoral Room for 10:00 am. Mark Bowley from VASRA joined us. We heard reports from the Provinces who were represented at the meeting and as there weren't many there, this is a short report. CSRA - reported the same membership. Their web-site is now up and running thanks to Mary Sawtell and Rick Firestone. The John B. Meachin fund was \$6,300 plus interest. **Manitoba**- reported the same membership, more teams and not enough referees. They have a good education policy in place. With the indoor game, there are no set rules across the city in the various leagues. They are introducing a strong recruitment drive for 2004. **Alberta** - 1,200 referees in the province with only 270 SRA members. **Ontario** - have negotiated 50% game fee and travel expenses to be paid to referees when games are cancelled. Good retention rate of existing referees. There are 2,637 new referees up to Class 1 and 59 Class 1 referees for a total of 9,000 officials. Asked for referees in all provinces to be mandatory members of referee associations. Those were the brief reports from around the provinces. We then had the election of officers for the CSRA. Tony Troughton was re-elected as 1st Vice-President and Eric Mason was re-elected as Secretary. The position of 2nd Vice-President was open for 1 year and the position was offered to members. Andrew Foster stepped forward and after no opposition, was appointed to the position for one year. Under Other Business, Rick Firestone (VISRA) put forward a motion for the CSRA to ask the CSA to make it mandatory for every province to have a referee association. The motion was seconded by BC and Ontario. Pat Harkness introduced Virginia Meachin, wife of the late John B. Meachin, who will be presenting the award which was set up to promote Canadian officials abroad and help with education, travel and to upgrade & improve soccer on and off the field. The winner of the 2004 inaugural award is Hector Vergara to help him attend a symposium in Peru. Hector sent his apologies for his absence as he would be away refereeing. We then adjourned for lunch, which was followed by an afternoon of education by three guest speakers - Simon Fearn (FIFA A/R), Alex Milne (nominated National Assessor) and Bill Hoyle (filling in for Hector Vergara). The first speaker, Simon Fearn, was appointed by FIFA for the Youth Championship 2003 as an A/R. Simon travelled to the U.A.E. after delays caused by the war in Iraq. He spoke and showed slides and gave us the fitness requirements the officials had to meet for this tournament. All in all, this was a good presentation and gave a good insight of the level of fitness, match control and application of laws expected and is met and would be a good benchmark for new and young referees. The next speaker was Alex Milne, a nominated National Assessor who spoke on calls to make, positioning (he showed video clips on this) and use of signals for the advantage law and how the assessments were to be made more uniform to improve consistency levels of officials. Last, but not least, was Bill Hoyle, who stood in for Hector Vergara at the last minute. He spoke of referees being prepared not just physically but also mentally, thinking of situations that may arise beforehand and dealing with each incident as it happens with confidence, and how one must act early on to deal with persistent infringement. It was a good, but long day. The weekend was finished off with a dinner and good conversation in our wonderful surroundings. On behalf of BCSRA, I would like to thank the VISRA members who took part in organizing this event on a job well done.

Ken Montague  
V/P BCSRA

**GLOBAL VIEW cont.**

The ignorance may be just that, or it may be something much more insidious: an unconscious distortion to suit their own requirements. John Barnwell, the chief executive of the League Managers' Association, says that one of the things that the new vetting group will focus on will be a referee's "man-management skills". Let's take a look at the extreme test of that: a multi-player melee on the field. Those situations are more than likely to be blamed on the referee. "The referee lost control," they say. By "they", I mean the players and the coaches-who are much more responsible for the mayhem. It is the players who "lose control", and it is their coaches-the men who have these players under their direct control in and day out- who have failed to ensure that control is a priority. Blaming the referee for player indiscipline is an easy get-out. How many coaches condemn their own players for acts of outright violence, or for overtly physical and provocative styles of play? Condemn them, did I say? Such acts are much more likely to be excused-that is, when they are not being openly praised. A case can surely be made for a new panel-maybe even made up of ex-referees-to assess coaches' man-management skills on a game-by-game basis. The view from the dugout is always distorted, and when the facts on the field are so obviously contrary to what the coach wants them to be, then we get a different type of view from the dugout: no view at all. We get "I couldn't really see from here-we have the worst seat in the house you know." These guys have spent their careers judging referees by one over-riding criterion: if his decisions favour my team, he gets good marks. I am not exaggerating-you can hear them by the dozen, being interviewed after games every week. The country, the level, the language make no difference. The viewpoint is the same. Nor is there anything wrong with that. It's difficult to see how it could be otherwise. But to imagine that those deeply ingrained and biased views of what makes a good referee belong on any sort of official review panel is deeply worrying.

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## BCSRA Fall Council Mtg.

### BCSRA TO PURSUE ON-LINE MEMBERSHIP OF APPLICANTS

In an effort to ensure the Referees Association does not lose out on potential new members, Council voted to work with the BC Soccer Association to allow applicants to join on-line through the same web page that houses BC Soccer's referee registration. BCSRA Treasurer Ed Custer has been tasked as the liaison between the BCSRA and Enrollnet, the company handling the transactions for BC Soccer, to get the process up and running in time for when Interior members will have to renew their referee registration. By doing so, it was felt this would continue to give the Referees Association the presence it requires and not leave itself in the cold when individuals renew their referee registration. In explaining the system, BCSA Director and BCSRA member Bruce Yule indicated, "Everything has been setup to allow this to happen. In addition, the cost of designing the BCSRA's portion has been absorbed by BC Soccer." Key to incorporating the new system will be allowing for, from a user's perspective, single-point transaction. Currently, the applicant would enter his referee registration and then, after the transaction was completed, submit a separate application for the Referees Association. According to BCSA Executive Director Keith Ryan in attendance at the meeting, combining the two transactions as one from the user's perspective could be done in the background. Citing the need to keep finances separate and Sport BC funding requirements, both Mr. Yule and Mr. Ryan indicated transaction costs could not be shared between BC Soccer and the Referees Association. Current transaction online cost is \$3 plus 2.5% credit card charge (see related story "Membership Fees Stay As Is for now").

### MEMBERSHIP FEES STAY AS IS FOR NOW; BCSRA REFEREE JERSEY BADGE TO BE REVIEWED

Citing a healthy balance in the General Account, Council voted to keep the existing membership fee structure in tact until a review of the impact that both proposed on-line membership, and current material items, including the status of the BCSRA referee jersey badge, that are distributed with membership can be determined. Council voted to pursue on-line membership to both 'test the waters' of this new avenue for collecting memberships and to ensure the Referees Association did not lose any potential marketing avenue. Currently, membership fees account for almost the entire revenue for the General Account. The General Account, entrusted to the BCSRA Executive, is designed to assist in matters benefitting all members allow the Executive sufficient funds to carry-out business at the provincial level. The Executive and Area Association Presidents will meet in a teleconference call early in 2004 to investigate the matter. Among other items to be discussed will be the status of the BCSRA annual, referee jersey badge. With the BC Soccer Association requiring all officials to wear the provincial governing body's badge prominently on the front of the referee jersey, the Referees Association badge has been allowed to be worn by members on the left sleeve. A reduced version of the current annual Referee Association badge will be discussed which would be approximately 7.5cm by 9 cm in size and include a velcro patch for suitable application.



### GLOBAL VIEW cont.

There is already too much leniency on the part of referees towards the players, much too readiness to excuse violent and reckless play. Example: the farce that gets enacted, week after week, in which a referee dishes out a yellow card, the same player then commits the same, or worse, foul... and the referee goes over and talks to him-and doesn't send him off as the rules demand. Referees have the rulebook as their infallible guideline-but they are not free to enforce it. To keep their jobs, they will referee in the way that the people who run the sport want them to. Should they start enforcing rules strictly-say, for argument's sake, the so-called ban on the tackle from behind-they will be roundly condemned as "too strict" or "a martinet". And we'll get the "can't play like this", "ruining the game", "too many stoppages" comments.

It will be argued at a coach's biases-ignore our fouls but punish theirs-will neutralise each other, leading to a balanced view. Very doubtful. How many coaches can you think of who would vote for a literal, rather than a lenient, application of the rules? Leniency always means favouring defensive play as it is defenders who commit most of the fouls. A coach-approved version of football means more defence, more fouls, fewer goals. The real answer here is for all these panels and committees to agree that the rules mean what they say and should be consistently and fairly enforced. Instead of former players and coaches sitting in judgment on current referees, a much better idea would be to have former referees giving regular clinics to current players and coaches-explaining to them what the rules say. A good starting point might be to explain why the eternal plea "I got the ball, ref," does not excuse a violent foul. The perfect referee does not exist, we all know that, so the best we can hope for is to get as close to perfection as we can. But it needs to be acknowledged that it is neither physically nor psychologically possible for a referee to concentrate on what is already a very difficult job and look over his shoulder at the same time.



## Who's the babe in the black?

Move over Collina-there's a new celebrity ref in town.

by Celso de Campos Jr in Sept 2003 FourFourTwo Magazine.

It's a cold, rainy Saturday afternoon in Sao Paolo, but 70,000 fans have packed the Morumbi Stadium to see arch-rivals Corinthians and Sao Paulo battle it out for the State Championship. As the clock ticks round to the 90th minute of a tense encounter with the scores deadlocked at 2-2, a wild cross from the left finds Liedson unmarked in the Sao Paolo box. The Corinthians centre-forward heads down to Jorge Wagner who bangs home the title-clinching goal. Instantly, Sao Paulo players race towards the assistant referee to protest against Wagner's apparent offside position. Ignoring the horde's pressure, she runs back to the halfway line and confirms the goal. Yes, that's right: she. As the melee continues, TV replays show that **Ana Paula Oliveira's** judgment was flawless. Move over, Robinho: a new Brazilian football star is born. "I knew if I had made a mistake there, my career would be over," says the 25-year-old. "But I was kind of relaxed because I was sure the player was not offside. When the cross came, I predicted Liedson would pass to Jorge Wagner, so I kept one eye on Jorge Wagner right from the beginning."

A top-level lineswoman for two years, Ana Paula nevertheless saw her life turned upside down after the State Championship final. Press, radio and TV all came clamouring. "I guess I made the right call at the right time and at the right place," she laughs, slightly bewildered by the whole experience. Of course her popularity can't be explained only by one good call. Brazilian football has had female referees before, but no one quite like Ana Paula. Her slim, tanned body, long legs and girl-next door appeal now means that wherever she officiates, fans chant her name in songs that contain words seldom before addressed to referees. Words like 'hot' and 'yummy'. But when three adult magazines got in touch to propose a nude photo shoot, she didn't even want to hear how much they would pay. "It's out of the question," she says, covering her face in embarrassment. "It might jeopardise my career. Besides, imagine if I did it and then a player came to me and made comments about the pictures! No way!" Ana Paula took her first steps in officiating at the varzea-Brazilian football's minor leagues-where her father, Joel used to take her to see the games he officiated; when they needed someone to help out at the referees's desk, he suggested his 14-year-old daughter. "I come from a modest family and I knew that the money would really help us. That's why I took the job in the first place. But I was soon really enjoying it." Brazil's varzea is where football is played in its rawest state. "One time a fight broke out on the pitch, and I saw the referee was going to be hammered by one of the players," she recalls. "I left my desk and crossed the field to stop the guy, but he got me on his shoulders and took me back. He said, 'You stay right here, I'll go back there and beat the hell of that bastard.' Fortunately, by the time he got back, the referee was safe." After two years behind the desk, Ana Paula started to be called to replace referees or linesmen who hadn't turned up for games. Soon she chose to switch positions. In 1995, she attended a refereeing course in Sao Paolo, and since then has been officiating games from all divisions at state and national level.

This year, she hopes to get onto the FIFA roster to work in international games-her goal is to make the Olympics in 2004. "I couldn't make it as a volleyball player, as I dreamed when I was a child, so I hope I can make it as a lineswoman," she smiles. The experts see a bright future for the girl. "She's a great professional. Pretty and competent," says Arnaldo Cesar Coelho, the Brazilian referee who officiated the 1982 World Cup final and is now a TV pundit. And apparently the admiration carries through to the players. In the Corinthians-Sao Paulo match, touchline reporters claimed that World Cup winner Ricardinho told her "that's what happen when you give a woman a man's job", but she says otherwise. "The Sao Paulo players were pretty upset, but I really didn't notice anything offensive. There was so much noise, I couldn't hear anything."

And, she says, being a woman can help. "In one game this year, after I called an offside position, a player ran towards me with a really angry face. But when he got closer, he stared at me and said, "Never mind, teacher." Maybe he changed his mind when he saw the golden dolphin around her neck. Or the matching earrings and the red lipstick that she always wears on the pitch. Yes, she uses a woman's touch. "I say things like, 'No my angel, you were offside, I'm sure,' or 'Yes, dear, you touched the ball last.' The pros never take those phrases the wrong way. The guys from the young sides are different. They always try to make a pass at me. It doesn't matter though. Actually, it's kind of fun!"



### 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 in this edition.