

FLAG & WHISTLE

BCSRA NEWSLETTER

April 2007



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REFEREE ASSOCIATION SPRING COUNCIL MEETING/AGM TO BE HELD SATURDAY MAY 5th IN VICTORIA.

Members are hereby notified that the Spring Council and Annual General Meetings of the Association will be held in Victoria on Saturday May 5th. The purpose will be to:

- a) officially recognize members Len Bridgeman and Tom Reakes with the association's Long and Meritorious Service award.
- b) continue the brainstorming of retention and recruitment started at the Fall Council Meeting
- c) set a budget for the 2007-2008 fiscal year
- d) elect a slate of officers for the 2007-2008 year.
- e) consider any other matters deemed necessary for the functioning of the association.

The positions of Vice-President and Treasurer, both two year terms, are up for election. A nominating committee headed by Hans Clodius (iclodius@shaw.ca) and Fred Linz (lkyu@shaw.ca) are tasked with interviewing both the incumbents and prospective candidates. Area Association-appointed Directors to the Provincial Executive from the Fraser Valley (FVSRA) and Vancouver Island Area Association (VISRA) are to be ratified at this time.

An proposed agenda will be sent in early April to Area Association executives, Life and Direct Members, heads of Affiliated Groups and concordant bodies. Included on the day will be a vote on the proposed amendments to the By-Laws of which a Notice of Motion was made at Fall Council.

For those members travelling from the mainland, all delegates will be departing on the 7AM ferry from the Tsawassen terminal and will be picked up at Schwartz Bay terminal by the VISRA-affiliated members. A favour of a reply to Provincial Secretary Richard Brownie (guild_ref@hotmail.com or 604-591-7621) is appreciated on/before April 25th.



Canadian FIFA Referee Hector Vergara shown here with Werner Winsemann, the only other Canadian FIFA official to be appointed to two World Cups.

DARE TO DREAM - THE HECTOR VERGARA WORLD CUP STORY (The Director's Cut)

The following article originally appeared in the March 2002 issue of The Soccer Paper. It is presented here along with tidbits "from the cutting room floor".

Anyone who is of the opinion that a referee is not an athlete or thinks refereeing is only about running around and blowing the whistle should think twice before talking to Canadian FIFA Assistant Referee and World Cup official Hector Vergara. Speaking to a capacity crowd at the Holiday Inn Vancouver this February, as the guest speaker at the Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Soccer Referees Association, Hector's told of how his journey to the top of the beautiful game has meant a lot of personal sacrifices to his life, family and body in order to chase the dream of appearing in the biggest sporting spectacle on the planet. Hector was appointed to the last two World Cups, the first time a Canadian has done so since Vancouver-resident *Werner Winsemann* "did the double" with appointments in the 1974 and 1978 final competitions.

(cont. pg.2 see Vergara)

(Vergara cont.)

It has been a long way since he started refereeing in Winnipeg at the tender age of 16. Entering the 21st Century, with the status of Canadian referees hanging in the balance, the pressure was on to ensure he performed to near perfection. Anything less and the international community would not hesitate at dropping the idea of using a Canadian for the final competition again.

Ironically, the dream almost didn't happen...twice.

An ankle injury leading up to the 2002 World Cup required facing the possibility of declining an important international match. Although one would be in the right to cry off, Hector felt it would be suicide to do so. He attempted a risky move which, if it went wrong, might do him irreparable damage to his international career. However, he felt he had no choice.

"If I didn't accept the appointment I might not have been given another game. So I had the ankle taped so it wouldn't move."

Completing the match in pain Hector performed without any controversial issues. He made it home without anyone knowing he was injured. The rest, as they say is history: six appointments including working with Italian FIFA Referee Pier-Luigi Collina and the 3rd Place Match between S. Korea and Turkey. Officiating with Collina was a unique experience especially his pre-game.

"Usually, we (in Canada) say our pre-game discussion should be as short as possible. Collina had a two hour pre-game-and it was fantastic. He didn't talk about how to hold the flag but rather he would mention things like, 'watch this guy because he usually traps the ball on his chest and quickly turns around to place it on the wing so there could be an off-side coming out of it.' "

After all was said and done at the 2002 World Cup, Vergara was faced with the possibility of not returning for Germany 2006. As Canada is not favoured as a soccer nation, his chances were immediately slim at a repeat performance.

Still, Hector dared to dream.

"I decided to do everything I could so FIFA could not afford to say no to me."

What followed was a training regimen which he stuck to so religiously that he was in danger of peaking too early. His wife, a Paralympian herself and whom Hector calls his greatest supporter and greatest coach, warned him not to overtrain in order to maintain his fitness. Hector summarized his work following "The 3 D's: Desire to go back to another World Cup, Determination to be the best I could be, Dedication on a Regular Basis."

But he had to push himself as performance through assignments were also part of the equation. Fortunately, appointments in the 2003 Gold Cup Final and 2004 Olympics, qualifying matches for the upcoming World Cup and the final of the World Club Championship between Liverpool and Sao Paolo of Brazil would put himself over the top.

By now, FIFA had changed the way officials would be appointed for Germany 2006. Instead of individual appointments as in Korea-Japan 2002, "trios" officials from the same country or region would be used. Hector, with his bilingual Spanish and English capability, was teamed up with referee Carlos Batres of Guatemala and Francisco Ramirez of Mexico. This trio would be called upon to officiate the crucial final between the European and South American champions. However, before the match, tragedy would strike.

Carlos Batres sustained a knee injury due to an accident which required surgery. He was replaced by Archundia of Mexico and while Hector would be called upon to make 3 crucial decisions in the World Club Championship final, all vindicated by TV replay, the question of the FIFA fitness test now became paramount. By the world governing body's own rules, should any member of the trio not pass the fitness test prior to the World Cup the entire trio would be disqualified. The trio were summoned to Germany for the run of their lives.

Alas, Batres would not pass the test. Hector remembers receiving a call from Batres after the trio completed the evaluation. Even though a year has passed, and despite experiencing the pressure of the world stage with millions criticizing your every move, the memory of the call is still vivid enough to move him to tears. In the culture of refereeing there are not two teams on the field but three. Batres had called to apologize that he "had let the team down."

CONCACAF, the Caribbean/North and Central American equivalent to Europe's UEFA, would eventually find a way to include Hector on another trio. History shows he was fortunate to officiate in another five matches including the Italy-Germany semi-final.

And each World Cup, Hector found out, is different from the last. In addition to the "trios" concept, there was a new fitness test to master. Hector vividly remembers the bus ride to the training site on the morning of the test. It was deathly quiet- no one uttered a word. The return to the hotel was entirely different. Relieved at passing the test, the mood was almost comic with banter flying back and forth.

(cont. pg. 3 see Vergara)



Hector Vergara's Presentation, February 17, 2007, at the Holiday Inn in North Vancouver

(Vergara cont.)

A new communication system for the on-field officials was introduced where by the referee and his two assistants could talk to each other with a voice-activated microphone (the Fourth Official could not talk directly and was required to press a button whenever he needed to relay information). The headset was designed so the referee's whistle could not be heard through the headsets. Hector noted that the other assistant in the trio had a habit of talking to himself while the play was going on, basically doing a "play-by-play" when the ball was on his side of the field. The referee and Hector had to train the other assistant to keep the volume down while play was going on.

Security is always a big issue and Germany 2006 was no exception. FIFA had posted security detail even in the elevator of the hotel and every guest was queried. At the end of the post-game debriefings, FIFA had a team of psychologists ready for anyone who wanted to use them. Some officials had a hard time dealing with the criticism that was given while in front of their peers.

At the moment, there is down time but a new goal has emerged: becoming the first Canadian to be appointed to three World Cups. Hector intends to chase it with the same desire and determination as his last two experiences. Will third time be a charm? We shall wait and see. In the meantime, Hector dares to dream.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The Culture and Circle of Refereeing Life – Have You Got Heart?

When those of us who have been refereeing for a number of years harken back to the early days of our career I'm sure one of the thoughts that comes up is something like, "I never would have guessed there was more to refereeing than just running around and blowing a whistle." In fact, there is both a refereeing culture and a circle of life to the profession. Each feeds off the other.

We often say "You don't referee for yourself but for the guy that comes after you" or put another way, "If you don't do your job (on the field) the next guy that has that team is going to have to clean up the mess you left behind." We also say, "There are not two teams on the field but three- we are the third team." This is part of the culture of refereeing: we don't officiate in a vacuum but as part of something that is greater than ourselves.

How does one feel this? How does one really get to make it part of our psyche, in our blood? The only way is to get to know our fellow colleagues, to immerse oneself in gatherings of one's peers. After all, supposing you knew your friend would be refereeing a future match featuring one the two teams in your match this weekend? Would feel you "let the team down" if you didn't send off Player X for Serious Foul Play? Would feel bad that now you put your buddy in hot water? Only if you considered him your buddy and only if you took the opportunity to get to know him, like the camaraderie that soldiers feel for members of their own regiment. Remember the scene from the movie "A Few Good Men" where Demi Moore says, "Watch out, these Marines are crazy about being Marines"?

As audacious as this may sound, for all the work that governing bodies do to set the standards for refereeing performance, the one thing that is, by definition, beyond their grasp of the powers is the development of a referee's heart and soul. Not surprising when you think about it. Governing bodies are involved in ensuring the structure of the game is in place, a structure which touches all segments of the sport and thus efforts are spread a mile wide and inch deep. The task of opening a referee's heart is a tougher job and one which must be done elsewhere.

We in the Referees Association have chosen to take this on by our continuous effort of bringing referees together. Sadly, many new recruits who stick with the profession fall into the trap of "when's my next game" - i.e., they perform the act of refereeing, but can they ever call themselves a Referee? Furthermore, there is a need for continuity. The mentors, instructors and assessors that are here today will be gone tomorrow. Where will new ones come from, especially when the local scene is happy to accommodate those that wish to continue playing versus Father Time? By developing the heart of a referee, we can instill the calling to continue the life of refereeing, helping those that come after us long after we have blown for our final whistle. Our legacy is to instill the passion for the game and one's colleagues so they too will "grow up" and do the same, ensuring the circle of refereeing life continues.

As Crosby Stills Nash and Young said, "Teach your children well...And feed them on your dreams, The one they picked, the one you'll know by."

REGARDS FROM ENGLAND by Nick Hawley

The photos are of me with Andy Woolmer (ref), Simon Barrow (4th), John Farries (AR), Stephan Cook (AR) and my son - Fred Hawley (class 4 ref). I arranged to meet Andy before the Wolves/Barnsley match on New Year's Day. He met me at 12:30 and took me down to the referees room - furnished with fridge, kettle, tea and coffee making facilities, table and chairs for the pre-match as well as the usual changing and washroom facilities. Once all the officials had arrived he took me with them to inspect the pitch (a 30,000 seat arena - that was already starting to fill up). Then back to the refs room where I got a lesson in working the electronic board! Then up to the referee's lounge where they had a TV, sandwiches, tea coffee and a bar (with barman!) . Up here the referee's coach and the assessor met us along with a couple of friends and family of the referees. We chatted for about an hour then my son and I were invited to join the referees for their pre-match briefing in the referee's room. After that, Fred and I went to our seats and watched the refs go through their warm up prior to the match (which Wolves won 2:0). After this I am now really pumped and ready to referee - it's amazing how being a part of such a big game can incite you to go out and do a great job on the local parks - I recommend it for anyone. / NH



(Pregame notes cont. from pg. 5)

4th Official

28. Steve – look after the managers, talk to them, be firm, I don't want any of us having to take any c**p from anyone. But if you call me over it's to send someone off – are you ok with that?
29. Be strong, if you enter F.O.P there has to be a dismissal I won't allow them being abusive to assistants – it'll mean removal, anything less – you deal with it
30. Steve – I want you to control the subs – the last thing we need is a sub telling Geoff he's got an offside wrong. Be on the look out for that, know where the subs are all the time. It's a big ground with lots of space, so they don't need to be anywhere near Geoff.
31. Bleeding. Shirt / Shorts make sure you get them changed. You tell me when it has stopped.
32. You know me, I don't like time wasting – in the last 10 minutes I'll be hurrying them up and keeping things moving. That means I'll have to go into the corners and chase them around. So I want you watching my back. And if they start any of that taking the ball into the corners I'll be calling a foul – I don't care whether it is or isn't, I'm not having them starting something in the corners. Can you two do that two OK?
33. At the end of the half Steve – I want your eyes on me for the last 10 minutes, don't take them off me – because I'll be giving you the time signal, it'll be the usual duck flap, ok?

Questions

34. He asked if anyone had any questions (including me – I asked what a duck flap was)
35. He asked the assessor if he wanted to add anything
36. He then said – right, we're a good team, we're in a big ground with a good crowd – lets make sure we enjoy ourselves. / NH



NOTES FROM PHIL JOSLIN PREMATCH

-by Nick Hawley

Phil's overall presentation was incredibly upbeat and inspiring. You could see that his intent was to bond the team together and build confidence. He had only got the appointment earlier that morning when the original referee (Kevin Friend) had had to cancel due to illness. The ARs were Bill Smallwood and Geoff Law, the 4th official was Steve Castle. Phil started by saying: "when I got the appointment this morning, I immediately checked up who my team was and was pleased to find that it was Geoff and Steve". He said: "we have worked together before and I remember we did a great job." He then said "I asked a colleague about you Bill and he said you are a strong AR, this is great it's going to be a good match"

The assessor sat through the whole pre-match as did my son Bill and I.

Phil covered the following points:

1. CREDIBILITY is the first word to be used. All decisions given by our team must be credible
2. Important game (All games are important)
3. We'll running left wings today, both halves – I prefer that and I'm used to it, Bill are you ok with that?
4. Be Vigilant & aware of what is happening around you from now until we depart
5. We'll be in green today – there's a keeper in black
6. Thorough inspection of ALL equipment
7. I don't want us checking the nets – we've already checked them, so get to your places quickly, with the back defender
8. Offsides – be confident, you have be doing this level long enough that you can be confident with it [note – "critical incident"]
9. Penalties As for F.K. if you want a re-take buzz and place flag in midrif. But if we go for a retake we must be consistent – if we make them retake once and they do it again we must go for another retake – be strong.
10. Cautions. Help me sell them
11. At ceremonials you take care of the ball, really important. Buzz if ball moves,
12. I want you to talk to the players, ok. I want them to know that we're a team. Geoff, are you ok with that?
13. Corners, if incorrect place buzz
14. If I am blowing for a FK in the corner area in front of you back me up please – get your flag up, but you must go with me.
15. Free Kicks: Always get eye contact, if you have better angle than I, signal
16. Don't think that you have always have to go with me on a call, If you think I've made a mistake let me know – call me over – it's about being a team and the team getting it right, it's about team credibility not me.
17. If you see something flag it, or if I'm in a bad position and you see it flag it. But if I've got it don't flag – it'll look bad as it's unnecessary.
18. Make sure you get into the corners – we've got the TV on us today – so we have to be seen to be in the right place
19. Mass confrontation – help me out, all of you. Be clear. Know what is required
20. Throw Ins. Help yourselves. Pro Active. Eye contact
21. Goal Kicks “ “ “
22. Corners “ “ “
23. Buzzers – checked that they didn't want any complicated sets of signals – just buzz me if I have missed your signal.
24. Don't let me start game if wrong in law - Removal of shirts / jumping into crowd.10 yds etc.
25. Writing – who's going to keep a book? Bill could you do that as you are on the other side – Geoff too, do what you can. We'll check them at the half. OK?
26. If you want a caution, how are you going to tell me? Geoff, Bill – what do you want to do? Geoff then said that he would put his hand over his badge. "OK – I'm fine with that" Phil said.
27. Substitutions, who is going to monitor them – Steve? OK, then make sure it is controlled as per the law". How are you going to work with Geoff? What do you want from him?



(cont. pg.4 see pregame notes)

YOU CAN'T DO THAT!

Ed note: Sometimes the calls we make as referees are mistakes in judgment. Even worse though are cases where an error is made in law. Here we present a new column with the goal of educating everyone in real-life situations that fall in the latter two categories. In all cases names have been removed to allow focusing on the scenarios.

SCENARIO#1: A referee calls a penalty and everyone, including the officials, take their positions. The kick is taken in the proper manner with no infringement occurring. The ball is struck with such force that it goes into the net and back out again. Or did it? A backstop is situated about 3 feet behind the goal to which the netting is tied to it. Did the ball go in or did it hit go wide of the goal and hit a metal post that is holding the chain-link fencing of the backstop? As predicted, one side said a goal was scored and the other said it should be a goal-kick. The referee consults his assistant situated on the goal-line who indicates he couldn't tell either. Even the trailing assistant is asked- the ball travelled too fast even for him to see. The referee decides to retake the penalty-kick.

WHY CAN'T YOU DO THAT? As the penalty-kick was taken correctly, and no infringement occurred during the taking of the kick, there is but one choice: Goal or No Goal. Retaking of the kick is not allowed in this instance.

SCENARIO#2: The referee, with his assistants, inspects the field for a Boys U-18 Cup game that is to be played at a park with field turf on it. It was entirely covered with snow and ice so the referee calls both coaches together and indicated that unfortunately, the field was unplayable and therefore he could not referee the game. One of the assistants, an adult Class 5 official, piped up and said, "I'll do the game."

WHY CAN'T YOU DO THAT? The assistant has erred on 2 points:

- 1) When officiating as a trio, remember the referee is the boss. An assistant's job is to ASSIST and NOT INSIST. If the referee indicated the game was not a go, it goes doubly for the assistants. This kind of action is potentially unethical behaviour (the assistant in this case, when faced with the facts, was quite contrite).
- 2) IN BC a Class 5 official, regardless of their age, is not allowed to referee in anything other than mini-soccer. They may be an assistant referee on other youth matches.

KNOW YOUR MEMBER

Name:

Jon Seeley, VASRA member and Editor of the Flag & Whistle newsletter.

Resident of:

Burnaby

Number years as a

referee:

20 yrs. +

Why did you become a referee?

As a player, I always had a sense of fair play and cheating annoyed me. After a serious tackle left me with a broken leg and slowed my playing career, I decided to give refereeing a try. Much to my surprise, I enjoyed it and have had the pleasure of being in a brotherhood of some of the most remarkable of people.

Most memorable moment in refereeing:

When I was a youth referee on the North Shore I was given the opportunity to referee a friendly at Kinsmen Stadium between the BC U18 Selects and Allemania Achen from Germany. A true international match! The experience was positive and gave me the confidence to move on in my career as an official.

Advice to those starting refereeing:

Dress the part! Arrive at the field early and with the proper attire in good order. If you look like a good referee, players will believe you are a good referee. Nothing will set a poorer level of respect than a referee that is improperly attired. First impressions and all that....



SHORT TAKES

MEMBERS OFF TO DALLAS CUP

Congratulations to Candace Brown (VASRA), Saad Al-Jadir (Direct) and Alain Ruch (PGRSA) who will be officiating at the upcoming Dallas Cup tournament in April. All three members will be leaving for Dallas on March 31st. The Dallas Cup is an annual youth tournament featuring many top youth teams belonging to various professional clubs from around the world.

CANADA-SCOTLAND U-20 OFFICIALS

Several members have been included on the two friendlies between Canada and Scotland's U20 sides. Martin Reid and Paul Ward will be the Assistant and Fourth Official respectively for the March 24th match which features referee Steve Di Piero from Ontario and Dave Bellieu from Quebec. Paul is set to officiate his first international "middle" on the second leg in Victoria on March 27th. Assisting him will be member Simon Fearn. Member Mauricio Navarro is the Fourth Official.

NEW AREA EXECUTIVES ELECTED

At press time, the results of the following Area Association election of officers were known:

Kamloops (KSRA): President: Darren Clark: VP: Christian Gayfer, Secretary: Brian Flamank, Treasurer: Claudio Sama, Directors: Martin Thompson and Taresa Wilk.

Vancouver Area (VASRA): President: Marc Bowley, 1st VP: Paul Walker, 2nd VP (John May), Secretary: Bill McNaughton, Treasurer: Chris Cyr (who later stepped down to attend to family matters and has been replaced by Ron Schaeffer) and Directors Mauricio Navarro and Jose Fraguas (replacing Ron Schaeffer).

THE FRASER VALLEY (FVSRA)

FVSRA recently held elections but results were not available at press time. They will be included in the next edition of the newsletter

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

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 July 31st /07**

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.