

FLAG & WHISTLE

Official publication of the B.C. Soccer Referees Association
Summer 2007



Members honoured For Long & Meritorious Service

MEMBERS ELECT A NEW EXECUTIVE

At the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday, May 7th in Victoria, the membership of the Referees Association elected a new provincial executive. The new executive is as follows:

President: Elvio Chies

Vice-President: Suzanne Flannigan (elected to a 2 year term)

Secretary: Richard Brownie

Treasurer: Robin Woods (elected to a 2 year term)

Directors:

Vancouver Island: Larry Cade (elected to a 2 year term)

Vancouver Area: Ron Schaeffer

Interior: Alain Ruch (ed note: Alain has since stepped down due to his move to Vancouver).

Fraser Valley: to be appointed

The membership acknowledged the service of Fraser Valley President Ward Sirman who stepped down. As there was no appointee the provincial executive is now allowed to appoint a replacement. The discussion to amend the By-Laws was tabled until the fall. The Fall Council Meeting will be held Saturday, November 17th, tentatively hosted by the Fraser Valley. The meeting adjourned to the annual Jack Tinnion Memorial Shield match between the 604's and 250's which was ably refereed by the newest Long & Meritorious Service Award inductee, Tom Reakes. The final score was 2-0 in favour of the 250 squad (see photos inside).

What's inside:

- Tom Speaks!
- Don't Blame the Ref!
- My Trip to Dallas Cup
- Collina named Chief Ref

The Flag & Whistle congratulates Len Bridgeman (top photo) and Tom Reakes (lower photo) as the latest recipients of the association's Long & Meritorious Service Award. Both men were officially bestowed with the honour at the Annual General Meeting of the society by RA President Elvio Chies.



CONGRATS TO MEMBERS MAURICIO NAVARRO AND PAUL WARD FOR THEIR APPOINTMENT TO THE FIFA U-20 WORLD CUP.

Due to press deadlines, their recollections of the tournament, along with members fortunate to volunteer for the event, will be given in the Fall issue (estimated date of distribution: September 10-15, 2007).

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My Trip to Dallas -by Candace Brown

The Dallas Cup, one of the largest youth tournaments that showcases the top teams from u13 to u19 boys from across the globe. And I, Candace Brown, along with three other referees from British Columbia were about to embark on a week long journey to Dallas for this beautiful sport that unites and connects people together-but we of course were going to control these emotional matches to our best ability.

Once again I packed my bag for another soccer tournament that I was excited and nervous to attend. For this soccer adventure I needed a current passport for my journey to Texas, however, that proved to be an adventure itself with the new infamous minimum three-hour line for an application. It was well worth the wait for this huge boys youth soccer tournament.

I arrived at Vancouver International Airport early for my flight on March 31, 2007 in my 'Grey's and Blues' feeling very professional and ready for a week of intense soccer. Joining me were three other fellow referees from British Columbia. Alain Ruch from Prince George and Saad Al-Jadir from Kelowna are both witty, charismatic young men who proved throughout the trip to provide a good laugh and excellent moral support when needed. Jose Branco, BC Soccer Referee Development Coordinator in British Columbia acted as chaperone and organized the trip for us three, young candidates to gain and grow from this prestigious youth soccer tournament. The four of us would become known as "The Canucks" to our neighbouring refs in the United States as we made new friendships on and off the soccer pitch with referees from around the world.

After our four hour flight to Dallas we were picked up by a volunteer for the tournament and shared a ride back to the hotel with one of the American FIFA referees, Terry Vaughn. From

him I learned how to pack light (he had a compact little suit case) compared to our luggage that barely fit in the mini van. It forced Alain to be buried underneath it all while we drove to Addison, a suburb of Dallas where the host hotel was located that we stayed at throughout our trip. Upon arriving we were greeted by the Executive Director of the tournament, Gordon Jago who made an attempt to greet and talk to each person involved with the tournament as they arrived at the hotel. Later Randy Jones, the Tournament Manager who wished us well in our games, greeted us.

The first night was a meet and greet, first of International Referees and then afterwards all of the referees involved with the tournament. As there were many from the United States, this seemed to be an event where young and upcoming referees attended to be assessed and show case their skills and potential.

When we arrived at the hotel we also checked in with the registration volunteers where we received our assignments for the first five days of the tournament. Everything was very well organized with friendly faces to help

I was assigned middles on both the first

2007 Jack Tinnion Memorial Shield

This year's installment of The Jack Tinnion Memorial Shield (otherwise known as the 250 v 604 Grudge Match) was held at the Gordon Head Clubhouse with the 250's prevailing (again). Below we present the noble warriors and the fruits of their labour.



Above: Referee Association Vice-President Suzanne Flannigan presents 250 Captain and VISRA VP Ryan Perkins with the coveted Jack Tinnion Shield. Suzanne was forced to presenting the award as RA President Elvio Chies was too busy defending himself from his 604 teammates. Seems they attempted to pummel him into the ground for flagrantly breaking the Laws after he picked up the ball as the 604 keeper from a deliberate kick by one of the 604 defenders (The ensuing free-kick resulted in the winning goal). The injury VP Flannigan sustained in the photo is a result of being caught in the way of the above ambush.



Above: The noble members participating in this year's main event: FRONT (L-R): Dieter Trenkel, Mike VanInsberge, Jon Seeley, Terry Russell, Elvio Chies, Dean McGeogh, Graham Hill, Brian Burger, John May. REAR (L-R): Harry Sommerfeld, Blair Byrne, Rick Firestone, Tom Babic, Tom Reakes (Match Referee), Ryan Perkins, Ron Schaeffer, Scott Bakker, Richard Brownie, Hans Clodius.

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and second days of the tournament. The first game was the Bermuda U13 National Team vs the DFW Tejanos Premier. I arrived at the field with plenty of extra time as my fellow Canadian colleagues all had their first game 2 hours before mine began. This gave me time to soak in the tournament atmosphere and assess the games and referees at Pizza Hut Park, where most of the games were being played. Throughout the tournament there was an energetic atmosphere. After watching the beginning of the first games I went back to the referee tent at the entrance of the huge soccer complex to meet my fellow referees for my first game, David Tokerud and Shelley Finger, who are local referees of Pizza Hut Park and were also my assistants. David gave me helpful hints of the American team and what to expect of the location, (we had a pond on one side of the field with a high fence). It was nice to work with people who were comfortable with their surroundings being their local park.

My second game was a Mexican and American match up at the U15 level. I think I approached this game with more confidence and was more comfortable with my officiating team. However, I could have maintained more consistency throughout the game with respect to fouls.

Aspects to improve:

1. Show more confidence when first meeting officiating team
2. Be more consistent with foul calls throughout game

Aspects I thought I did well in:

1. Dealing with a language barrier. On numerous occasions I dealt with teams that had a language other than English as their main language. I dealt with this by using eye contact, clear appropriate gestures and body language to express myself.
2. Having a strong presence at the beginning of the game (I just need to maintain it throughout entire match)

This was my first high level all boys tournament and I think I did well. There are always aspects to improve on but I walked away knowing what I wanted to improve for future games.

Throughout the trip Jose gave each of us individual written exercises for some of the games
SEE "DALLAS CUP" on page 6



TOM SPEAKS

"In the opinion of the referee."

A line often repeated in our game. I caught myself thinking that as we walked away from the park. My son, also a referee and one that I hold in high regard, told me I call too many things when I officiate. He told me this after we had been neighboring officials at a pair of matches.

"You should let them play without so many stoppages." He was not only speaking his mind as a referee when comparing the number of calls I make but he could make the comment as a player. That's why I hold him in such high regard. He not only officiates more capably than me but he plays a tremendous game too. I feel that makes him that much better than most referees.

Not only can he use his opinion from two vantage points but he commands a degree of respect from the match participants that know he is a worthy player. That's a huge advantage over a fellow like me that only watches in awe when others do magic things with the ball.

That being said, I can take his opinion and weigh it out, discuss it with him and maybe improve my outlook. Perhaps improve the next effort I put out as a referee. Sounds pretty far fetched to most referees, I'm sure. Why would one comment or one person's opinion sway my style in the next game? But isn't that what we are meant to do as referees? Just as players constantly strive to improve their skills on the ball, we should be looking to improve our approach to officiating.

So many times when watching my two son's games I am in that precarious position. Father of the player, spectator with an opinion and referee watching a colleague ply his trade. It is a balancing act to support my son's efforts, respect the referee and bite my tongue. Because let's face it, I have an opinion of the job the referee is doing each and every game. Only a saint would be able to always keep his opinion to himself. I'll admit it, I'm no saint!

But rather than critique the performance of the referee, I suggest that the referee do that for himself and for the game. Step back and think of your officiating this past year

(see "TOM SPEAKS on pg 6)

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Collina named refs chief

World's former top official tipped to earn over half million

(ANSA) - Rome, July 6 - Refereeing great Pierluigi Collina is poised to take over as the ref selector for Italy's top two soccer divisions.



Cesare Gussoni, the president of the Italian Referees' Association (AIA), has confirmed that Collina's appointment will be officially announced between July 13 and 16.

Collina, whose bald head and penetrating stare helped build his celebrity status, retired from refereeing in 2005. He is considered by many to be soccer's greatest ever ref. He is respected here for his impartiality and his appointment should help restore faith in Italy's referees, damaged by last year's Calciopoli scandal.

Juventus were relegated and AC Milan, Lazio, Reggina and Fiorentina were deducted league points for alleged attempts to arrange 'friendly officials' for their games. Top ref Massimo De Santis and former ref selectors Paolo Bergamo and Pier Luigi Pairetto were banned from soccer for their involvement in Calciopoli. Voted the world's best ref a record six times, Collina has officiated some of the sport's biggest games. These include the 1999 European Champions League Final between Manchester United and Bayern Munich and the 2002 World Cup Final between Brazil and Germany.

According to reports in the Italian media, the AIA have agreed to pay Collina a 550,000-euro salary.

Collina, who is married with two daughters, is a graduate in economics. The 47-year-old is an accomplished linguist with good French, English and Spanish. As well as running his own business as a financial advisor, he has also parlayed his high soccer profile into lucrative ad deals around the world. He has appeared in adverts for gorgonzola cheese, Opel cars, sports equipment and Japanese octopus hamburgers..

What's more, his trim figure and masterful personality have made him a sex symbol for many women. Collina's distinctive bald head was caused by a bout of alopecia at the age of 26.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER: WHY SO MUCH FOCUS ON HIGH LEVEL GAMES?

From time to time we hear members come up with the above comment along with, "The majority of us will never reach that level." Certainly, the focus isn't done to degrade our local game, which is of course our bread and butter. But the reason why many articles, in fact many discussions in our referees' society, focus on incidents in the international and professional arena can be attributed to the following:

STORIES FROM PRO LEVEL ARE EASIER TO COME BY. We want to promote the happenings and members' accomplishments in the local game. However, the information is not as readily available as you might think. To put this publication out in a timely fashion those involved in the local game need to be get better at making this information more readily accessible to us and provide it in a timely fashion.

STORIES FROM THE PRO LEVEL ARE OF PRO QUALITY. This is certainly true with video clips of games -you can't beat the broadcast TV. Again, they are very easy to come by, although with the advent of YouTube, the gap may be narrowing (the quality of the clips on YouTube however...). With print media, stories are created by people who do this for a living.

CHANGES TO THE LAWS OF THE GAME ARE DONE WITH THE PROFESSIONAL GAME IN MIND.

While the International Board always ensures changes to the Laws are done so they can be applied at the amateur level, the reality is changes occur because of incidents in the professional game (hence the need to watch these games,

albeit with an eye of how to interpret incidents for our local parks).

LOCAL PLAYERS COPY WHAT THEY SEE ON TV.

Have you ever had a player, usually a youth player, come up to you and say, "Hey, did you see that game on TV...?" Local players will copycat what they see on TV into our local scene - ask any police officer how worried they get about Hollywood movies. As referees we need to watch these games in order to stay one step ahead of the players.

The editorial staff is always looking for, and encouraging, local content BUT IT TAKES PEOPLE TO HUNT FOR THE STORIES! Why don't you become a Flag & Whistle Staff Writer? Those interested should express their interest to the BCSRA President, at Lvo@direct.ca.

Don't blame the ref

Posted in [Dick Howard FIFA U-20](#)

Posted by howardd on July 17, 2007 11:36 AM | [Permalink](#)

(Ed note: Dick Howard was one of the colour commentators on CBC's recently completed FIFA U-20 World Cup broadcasts).

The [accusations of racism](#) made by the Nigerian coach following the enthralling quarter-final game against Chile Sunday in Montreal should not detract from some fine officiating in the tournament.

It is certainly not the first time and will definitely not be the last time that a coach has blamed the match officials for a defeat. It is, however, great cause for concern, given that Howard Webb, a Premiership referee in England, had in the eyes of many observers given "a clinic in the art of officiating."

Clear, concise decision-making and effective player management should not have resulted in the verbal tirade from coach Ladan Bosso at the press conference following the game.

It is even more ironic, given that the 36-year-old Webb is a police officer in Rotherham, has officiated in hundreds of games involving players from many ethnic groups, and is one of the rising stars in English football following his appointment to the FIFA ranks.

The truth of the matter is that a Nigerian player was caught out of position in trying to execute the offside trap. All indications were that the Chilean players were onside prior to the goal being scored. It also brings into question how Bosso and his staff could make such a strong statement given their position on the sideline.

On a separate but related note, it is to be hoped that sanctions will also be made against officials from the Nigerian FA who allowed the players to wear t-shirts with religious statements under

their game jerseys. A clear violation of the regulations of the tournament that state "Players and officials are not allowed to display political, religious, commercial or personal messages in any language or form on their playing or team kits ..."

It was a sad end to an exciting game that featured some great attacking play by both teams (47 shots on goal) and fine goalkeeping by Ikechukwu Ezenwa (17 spectacular saves). Great entertainment for yet another large and passionate crowd in the Big O.

In the final analysis, match officials deserve more respect at all levels of the game. They are human and do make mistakes, but far too often they are made the scapegoats for defeats rather than the actions of coaches and players. How best to describe the amazing miss by Adrian Lopez in the Spain-Czech Republic game or the poor clearance by Uruguayan goalkeeper Mauro Goicoechea that resulted in a penalty kick and a red card in the game against Zambia.

A final word: It is great that four Canadian referees (Steven DePiero, Mauricio Navarro, Silviu Petrescu and Paul Ward) and two assistant referees (Joe Fletcher and Hector Vergara) have been involved in the tournament. The future looks bright.

Sonia Denoncourt, who was one of the top female officials in the world, is working for FIFA at the tournament and Joe Guest is bringing his experience in English football to the referee department of the Canadian Soccer Association.

R-E-S-P-E-C-T. A song for Aretha Franklin and a statement for match officials.

Platini wants two more referees per game

Reuters

PARIS — UEFA president Michel Platini has said he wants two more referees in each soccer match to reduce the number of controversial decisions.

"My idea is to increase the number of referees," Platini told French magazine France Football in an interview released on Tuesday. "Refereeing with three people is obsolete. Three referees can't see everything."

In addition to the referee and the two linesmen, Platini wants two more officials who would stay next to the goals and could monitor what happens in the penalty areas.

"I propose two more referees, who would be over 45 and would not have to run because they would stay next to the goals," the former France playmaker said.

"We have to show the world that we're against unfairness and want to move towards fewer errors." Platini said he was against the use of electronic devices and video to assist referees.

"There is a risk with electronic systems to dehumanise soccer," he said. "If television channels want to be the bosses of refereeing, they can stand for election," he said.

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**KNOW YOUR MEMBER
WILL RETURN NEXT ISSUE**

DALLAS CUP (from pg 2)

we watched as a group at the Stadium. Earlier in the week I had difficulty in catching a players number in an obvious foul and possible caution. The exercise I did for that game helped me focus on getting the number, something I clearly needed to practice after missing the caution in the previous game. He also provided each of us with helpful hints after our games that he was able to watch to help us improve in our refereeing careers as we each strive to learn from each games' experience.

I also ran-the-line in five games ranging from the U19 group to U12. I was consistent with my lateral movement and called fouls when needed. I was Fourth Official on three games which I felt I performed competantly. One main issue was once again the language barrier. However, I found that if I explained to the coaches at the beginning what expectations were of warm up, subs, technical area ect...that it made my job much easier and I only had to point to the line and the coaches knew I wanted them in the technical area.

The opportunity to go Dallas was an excellent start for a week of learning. Such a high level and intense tournament can only provide one with countless incidents to learn from-being their own or others. Most of my learning came from on field experience.

The tournament was also an excellent way to meet referees from around the world. Evenings provided a chance to let the referees enjoy the social aspect after a hard day of games at ease. They were well spread out throughout the week with a welcoming night dinner, a barbeque dinner and then a casino dinner. I am sure the good bye party was another success, but I was already on my way home with my group. After working with someone it is nice to get to know them on a more personal level at a location other than the soccer field.

The games that I worked on at Dallas Cup taught me how to deal with high level competitive teams with excellent skill level. The skill level made the games fast and a good challenge to give me more experience. Working with other referees from all over the world was another highlight that one can not achieve by just refereeing in British Columbia, and for that reason I am great full for being able to attend Dallas as not only do you work with the people on games, and become friends afterwards and make connections all over the world. I recently just saw Lorraine Clarke from Scotland and visited her in her hometown while on a family vacation. Without Dallas I would not have met her and had the same experience in Scotland. It was a memorable experience with many learning moments throughout the week that I have been able to apply in my games back home.

TOM SPEAKS (from pg 3)

or month or the last match you refereed. Did you do the game justice, are you fit for the caliber of play, were you fair in your application of the laws, did you learn something from each match? All simple questions but how many referees really take the time to ask themselves?

That topic aside, next time let's discuss the sad theatrics that some players displayed in an attempt to take the shine off three amazing tournaments this summer. Gold Cup, Copa America and the U-20 World Cup. As much as we were thrilled by the amazing talents of so many bright stars of the soccer world, we really must do something to lessen the onslaught of diving, simulation and embellishment in the game. What are the chances that we can do something before the start of the Women's World Cup in September?

NEXT ISSUE:

-FIFA U20s:

Our Members Remember

-Retention & Recruitment Part2

-Getting it wrong & Losing It

-Focus on Howard Webb, FIFA and English Premiership Referee.

-Tom Speaks!

-Know Your Member

-Area Updates

Editorial deadline: September 1st. All submissions must be sent to both Editor Jon Seeley (jonsee@telus.net) and RA President Elvio Chies (Lvo@direct.ca).

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.