

# FLAG & WHISTLE

BCSRA NEWSLETTER

Oct. 2007



## FALL COUNCIL MEETING SET FOR SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17<sup>th</sup>

*Fraser Valley Area to host semi-annual meeting in Langley*

The Fall Council Meeting of the association will be held at the Langley Legion meeting room on Saturday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, hosted by the Fraser Valley area association in the traditional turn of rotation. As usual, due to the time of year, the meeting will be strictly a morning session starting at 9:45am and over before 12 noon. Doors open at 10am.

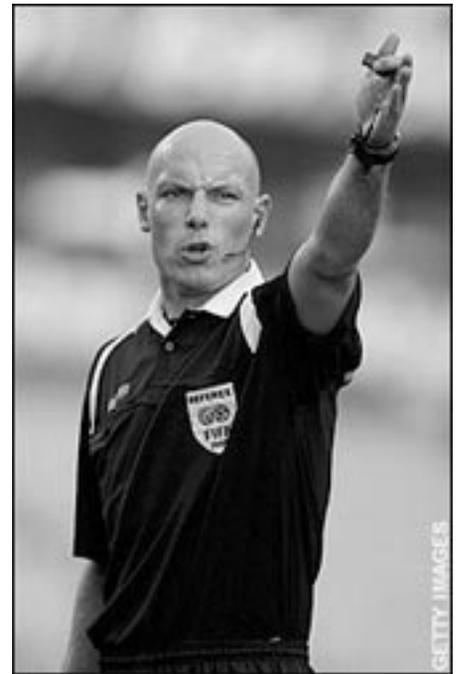
The thrust of this year's meeting will be concentrated on three areas: Continuation and review of ongoing brainstorming concerning retention and recruitment, a decision of the association's membership year and the yearly confirmation of membership fees.

The decision on the association's membership year comes about due to the new mandate by the Canadian Soccer Association (CSA) to require all referees to be registered from April 1<sup>st</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup>. Historically, the Referees Association (RA) has always matched the referee registration year of BC Soccer. With BC Soccer now having to follow the CSA mandate, a decision of what timeframe the RA wants its own membership year to be is required.

The provincial executive will also be putting forth a By-Law amendment to allow the yearly confirmation of membership fees to occur at any meeting called to address this issue. Currently, the confirmation must be done at Fall Council. The rationale in allowing membership fees to be set by Council at anytime is to give the association greater flexibility to respond to changing conditions in the soccer scene as they occur.

## WORLD-WISE WEBB KEEPS THE PEACE - By Sue Mott

There is this small, but persistent, fantasy. Jose Mourinho is prowling the touchline - or Paul Jewell, or Sam Allardyce, or any one of the serial referee baiters who inhabit modern football with their one-eyed epithets and "son of a bitch" in Portuguese - when suddenly he is confronted by a 6ft 3in hulk in black, holding a can of pepper spray and an extendable baton.



"Do that again, Mr Mourinho," says Howard Webb, politely, "and I shall be forced to give you a squirt." Whereupon our histrionic manager collapses

like a half-baked soufflé and scuttles back to the dugout. This vision has irresistible allure, especially in a week in which the Chelsea manager has excitedly impugned the integrity of English referees by claiming Manchester United receive favourable treatment over penalties while Chelsea are deliberately robbed. If only Webb, on behalf of himself and his beleaguered colleagues, could bring some of the tools of his trade - he is a sergeant in the South Yorkshire Constabulary - into the football workplace. What a different world it would be. "What did you call me, Wayne?" might have an entirely different response if delivered while swinging a set of handcuffs and - barely - restraining a slavering alsation. It is typical of Webb, however, a mild-mannered Yorkshireman (but rather like Clark Kent you feel there is steel underneath if not quite Superman's red underpants) that he yearns not to inflict necklocks on his co-workers. By and large, he likes footballers. "I don't get players looking at me with disdain or hatred at all. Far, far from it.

(cont. page two, see Webb)

**(Webb cont.)**

Obviously there are occasions when the standard of behaviour falls below the acceptable level, but we try to differentiate between immediate, genuine frustration and something much more calculated."The referees' chief, Keith Hackett, has a neat way of describing the role of his men: that every week they go out to control about £300 million worth of assets on the pitch, all of them used to getting their own way. "I agree," said Webb. "With their job as a footballer comes wealth, fame, adoration everywhere they go, and for 90 minutes we're expected to go out there and control their egos. Which is not easy." Sometimes. "You've got to go out there and not be seen as an equal but in some way you have to gain their respect. By being accurate more often than not and speaking to them in the right way. Players actually want you to be firm. They want you to be strong and confident. They don't want you patting their backsides, ruffling their hair, that sort of thing. They actually want you to be the referee. They don't want you to be their mate." It is this understanding and the natural authority that comes from policing Sheffield city centre on a busy night, not to mention weighing well over 14st, that has lifted Webb in the referee ratings and earned him a trip to Zurich this weekend as the only Briton on a training camp with FIFA. (One of the tests was to make sure he can speak English. "I hope I passed that one," he said.) With the state of the England football team, Webb, 35, is obviously our next best chance of making the 2010 World Cup final. You'd never know it. He picked me up from Sheffield station driving a small firm's car (a plain one, no flashing blue light), his knees tucked up under the steering wheel. He is unpretentious to the point of charming and even offered to pay for lunch when the restaurant's credit card machine broke down. "If we haven't got enough cash between us, we'll have to go without paying," he said, which was practical policing of the highest order. Unlike some referees, he doesn't enjoy the theatre and the greasepaint, darling. His is not the star turn and doesn't seek to be. When he goes to watch his beloved Rotherham, he wears a woollen hat pulled down over his eyes, even in sweltering heat, and sweats in anonymity. His idea of a fine match is one in which he is barely noticed. So the Carling Cup final wasn't one of his highlights. This was the match that rocketed him to notice this season when a small war between Arsenal and Chelsea broke out in stoppage time. In the middle of a spiteful mass ruckus featuring Toure v Mikel, Eboue v Bridge with Fabregas v Lampard on the undercard and Emmanuel Adebayor going singularly potty, was the imposing figure of Webb, calming things down, dealing out cards and identifying John Obi Mikel as a miscreant by the simple means of holding on to his shirt. More practical policing. You're not getting away from me, son. "My first reaction, being quite a big lad who's not that unfamiliar with violence and disorder, was to get in the middle of it and try to pull people apart before it escalated. But, on that occasion, it didn't calm, so I had to step out of it - partly for my own safety, but mainly so I could see what was going on." There was some argument that he had mistaken Emmanuel Eboue for Adebayor, accounting for the African's violent outbreak of rage, but it was generally agreed he acquitted himself well in the circumstances. Even Sepp Blatter, the FIFA president, this week marked out the game as one in which the referee performed well in the midst of disgraceful mayhem. Webb met Adebayor at the subsequent Football Association hearing, and the striker put an arm round the referee and declared no hard feelings. He was equally measured in response. "I would expect players to react to a certain extent. The game's massively passionate but there's a line you don't cross. If I reacted to all the abuse I get from spectators I wouldn't last very long. You block it out. It's not personal. "It's a safety valve to blame the ref. Absolutely. If a team's not playing well, the referee is the manager's easy target and we accept that. So much of what we do is subjective, which means you can bring opinion into it. We don't have much of a right of reply. "But do not for one minute think referees drive away from games and forget all about it. I care massively. If I make a mistake that costs a team points or turns the game, I struggle for days. I'll fall out with the wife, if I have a bad weekend." After the Blackburn v West Ham game this season in which he allowed goals that should have been disallowed for handball (arguably), offside and not crossing the line, he was hardly civil to his wife for three days. Even when he could blame his assistants for two out of three of the errors. Referees traditionally cop it. For being too portly, too slow, too biased and, above all, too blind. Since turning professional and being kindly allowed to earn the same amount in a year as players in a week, about £70,000, there has been a visible improvement. They run an average of 12km a game, and burn off about 3,000 calories, so they must be doing something busy if not always right. But Webb has a further advantage. He has seen human outrage in many forms, and, by no means, are footballers the worst he has confronted. "Numerous times I've had knives pulled on me. In 14 years in the service, I have yet to see a firearm, but you regularly come across groups of youths squaring up when I work on the public order vans in the city centre. I enjoy that. It's an interesting place to be. "I learnt early. Within weeks of being on the job, I'd gone to a domestic incident between a married couple. She called us because of her husband's behaviour. We started to arrest him at which point she decided she didn't want him locked up after all, so she goes to the kitchen drawer, pulls out a carving knife and starts running at us. We got ourselves out of the way, behind the sofa, quick. Nowadays, we've got pepper spray which we could use. That's better than whacking somebody with an extendable baton. But in those days, we just had to get ourselves out of the way, and then deal with it.

( cont. pg. 3 see Webb )

## SHORT TAKES

### Member appointed to Super Y Finals in Florida

Congratulations to Vancouver Area-based member Mary Kay Battle who will be participating in the Super Y finals in Florida later this Fall.

### Looking for old Kamloops Exec Members

Martin Thompson is compiling a list of past Kamloops area association (KSRA) exec members. Specifically, he is missing information before 1999 (except 1986-1989 and 1996). Anyone who has any information should contact Martin ([martin\\_thompson@telus.net](mailto:martin_thompson@telus.net) or 250-579-8306).

### New Appointments

Mike Perko has been appointed as the new Treasurer of the Fraser Valley area association (FVSRA). Congrats to Mike.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Fraser Valley Area Life Member *Rob Brown* just stepped down as the referee scheduler for the Fraser Valley Soccer League, a position which he took over from his GRANDFATHER!

### (Webb cont.)

"There is a massive correlation between reffing and it's probably no coincidence that of the 18 senior referees who regularly handle the Premiership, four of them are in the police force." Obviously pepper spray is not an option - yet - for referees in Carling Cup finals. Is this a regret? "Yeah, one of my police colleagues did ask me afterwards if I'd thought about putting one of them in an arm entanglement and I've often wondered what I would do if a spectator or player tried to hit me on the field. I think I'd leave it to the guys trained to do the job on the day." He will never know. Even Adebayor's not that crazy.

Webb did not plan to be a referee. Who does? It is hardly the most glamorous of career options to teenagers who find no special appeal in being abused, spat at, punched, kicked and mown down by cars driven maniacally across the pitch by the striker you've just sent off - all fates that have befallen officials in the lower leagues. Every year 7,000 new referees are recruited, and 7,000 retire hurt, bruised and demoralised. Webb is the antidote to such stories. He was persuaded to take up officiating by his dad, who was a referee at semi-pro and local level. He had watched his son's career as a Rotherham footballer founder on the fact that his reading of the game at centre-half was not quite matched by his dancing footwork. Webb, pragmatically, gave up his dream of League football and now he's playing in the Premiership.

"The first game I ever did was a kid's game. A parent on the sidelines was hurling abuse and I told him to be quiet. He said: 'If you take another step I'm going to knock you out.' I thought, 'oh marvelous.' I was only 18, I'd just qualified, but I said, 'don't be silly' and kept walking towards him." He has been walking towards trouble ever since. Webb isn't a hero, but he is braver than most of us who would not normally choose to risk a tirade from Sir Alex Ferguson. Plus, he is at French evening classes, baffling the teacher by asking the translation for "offside" while his other classmates, with second homes in Brittany, want to know the words for "plumber", "builder" and "I know snails are a wonderful delicacy but have you got any baked beans?" This is commitment. Something Arsene Wenger appreciates. Perhaps the Arsenal manager now regrets his outburst, calling one of the Carling Cup assistant referees a liar following the turbulent events. Webb wasn't impressed by that. "If there is one thing all match officials hold dear it's their integrity. We're offended if our honesty is called into question. You can accuse us of incompetence all day long, but I have never come across in my life any kind of corruption among referees in this country. And I'd swear that on the life of my children.

"No one I know would be tempted. Because it's not the money, is it? What you do it for is the privilege of walking out with the ball under your arm at five to three at somewhere like Goodison Park where the atmosphere is intense and 40,000 people are singing their hearts out. It's such an honour and you've worked bloody hard to get there, too, so it's satisfaction as well. It's such a buzz that sometimes you have to pinch yourself that you're actually there in the middle of it all." It can only be good to meet a referee so human. "Of course we're human," he said. "Some more than others."

## Getting it wrong and losing it

Dave Roberts

I know it is hard to believe but we referees do have bad days, occasionally. Mine came eighteen months ago in an S-League game between the top two professional teams in Singapore. Poor Craig Thomson, his match-to-forget came just a couple of days ago in the UEFA Under-21 Championships shown live around the world on ESPN. This time of year UEFA give their 'Elite' officials a rest, the Merks, Cantalejos and De Bleeckeres are allowed to sooth aching legs after enduring punishing Champions League and European Championship campaigns. So the B-list officials get their run out and up stepped Thomson, a Scottish referee obviously keen to impress after living in the shadow of Hugh Dallas. Israel against Belgium U21s should not have caused any problems, but as the eyes of the world watched on, it did. The problem was typical of what happens to the best in the business; in the best competitions, more of that later. Thomson's first yellow card on twelve minutes to Belgium's Marouane Fellaini was harsh but not too early. There is a refereeing train of thought that a very early card sends out an equally early message to players that you will not stand for any nonsense. Personally, I cannot subscribe to this as I think you are provided plenty of opportunities in most games to pull out a card, so why go looking for them. After all if you are consistent, as players and managers demand, and give them cheaply you will end up with a sack full. But alas the bed was made for the Scottish referee and he was about to lie in it. The same player made an even less innocuous challenge just 6 minutes later and instead of common sense prevailing with the muttering of 'You've just been booked and you're still at it. Stop it, or next time you will be off' Thompson went by the book. Immediately, the red card cost him far more than he could know. All respect from those around him evaporated like a snowball in a volcano, he had lost control of the game, and more tellingly himself, on just eighteen minutes. The tackle warranted nothing more than a warning, but somehow his 6th sense failed him at the moment he so badly needed it, foresight. There are key times in a match when even in these days of black and white interpretation of the laws of the game you have to protect what is in front of you, the match. You have to feel its pulse. Thomson knew a yellow card for that challenge was not mandatory, but he still pulled it out. His real mistake was failing to consider what effect the card would have on his match control. The thought takes only a split second but it can save your bacon. He fired too quickly from the hip. You could see his eagerness to pull the cards out, to impress those who need to be impressed. These were the first of ten yellows and one red, well, two red cards if you count the one he showed by mistake to Belgium midfielder Anthony Vanden Borre. Proof, if proof was needed, that he had lost it personally. This is the reason why in England referees have used an almost circular red card. If you are the type of official to keep both cards in the same pocket, and that is not advised, you can feel which to pull out first \_ but that is another story. Back to Thomson. Now do not get me wrong here, I'm not for one moment suggesting referees should shirk their duties to make their lives easier. When tackles are reckless they deserve a yellow card, followed by a red if the player has already been cautioned. After all I write as a referee who sent off a goalkeeper in the 88th minute with his side trailing 6-0. He had committed the so-called 'professional foul' denying an opposing striker the chance to make it seven. It was so tempting to agree with the players and coaches that the game was over and I should be sympathetic. What I'm saying is there are many situations, 'opportunities' I like to call them, where not everything is black and white. The grey area allows experienced referees to assess what the game and its players need and if that simple assessment dictates whether a card is needed or not, that is good officiating. What Belgium v Israel certainly did not need was such a petty dismissal by such a senseless officiating. What it produced was typical; a powder keg waiting to explode. Fortunately it did not, though that had nothing to do with the subsequent officiating, but by the self-control of the players. A frightening scenario. So why did Craig Thomson do it? He probably knew the consequences, but thought being only an U21s match he could go on and control it. I touched on why earlier, 'pleasing the men upstairs'. The very same reason refereeing in World Cup Finals changes mid-tournament. Do you remember the farce of France 1998 where referees dished out cards like confetti in week one? Players, coaches and the public rightly complained, even current UEFA president Michel Platini at the time stepped in. After the furore dissipated much more sensible officiating was seen. One or two over officious officials were sent home. It is also the reason Graham Poll was so annoyed at his 'three card trick' in Germany last summer. All referees want 'a final' and if the paymaster was to instruct the men in black/ blue/ yellow to say 'Wear a blonde wig', the response would be 'For how long?' Thomson knew to progress in the tournament he had to do it by the book. If not he would scupper his chances of 'a final' and also his progression to UEFA's Elite List. Think about it; big nights in Moscow, Athens, Paris, Munich in the confederations elite competitions... yes, I would wear the wig too. The unfortunate thing in all of this is that the referees at this level are great officials but when we come to the big stage the rules change. The very thing a referee has consistently done to get right there at that very moment is simply thrown away. Special directives are issued before tournaments like this: 'Clamp down on shirt pulling', 'Come down hard on tackles from behind', 'Punish reckless play', referees are driven by the very people who appoint 'the final' to officiate in robotic style 'for the good of the game'.

## **Why Be a Soccer Referee?- (Summary of discussions on Retention and Recruitment from 2007 Spring Council Meeting) - by BCSRA Vice-President Suzanne L. Flannigan**

More often these days, it seems, we are hearing stories in the news and in our sporting circles about abuse of referees. These stories are important and valuable in that they remind us that we must work toward a zero tolerance of abuse and violence directed at officials in all sports. But, these stories are also challenging because they can often have a negative impact on individuals who might be interested in refereeing. In this article, I would like to focus on why individuals might choose to be soccer referees, drawing on experiences graciously and generously shared with me by BCSRA members at our last meeting.

Perhaps not surprisingly, most referees officiate soccer because of a combination of several things. They perceive that they provide value to the game and a contribution to the players' development. They get involved in and give back to their soccer communities and they find tremendous growth opportunities as individuals on and off the field.

For soccer enthusiasts, the greatest motivator is to provide value in some way to the game they love. For referees, a primary contribution is the provision of structure and boundaries for the game, which allows players to play in a safe, fair and nonviolent environment. By applying the laws consistently and correctly, referees reinforce respect for the laws of the game and lay the foundation for the spirit of the game to flow among players, coaches and fans. Furthermore, when referees control the game using both the laws and the spirit, they give voice to fairness on behalf of the players—penalizing those who have not followed the laws and rewarding those who have been unfairly treated. Referees also have the capacity to provide an environment in which not only the players, but also the coaches and the fans can learn about what constitutes fair play and good sportsmanship.

By virtue of their knowledge of the game—its laws and limitations—and the continuous learning that is necessary because of the evolving application of the laws, soccer referees have a natural opportunity to immerse themselves not just in their passion for the game, but also their passion for sharing the game with others. Often these referees have been (or still are) players and as a result, their technical understanding of the game is extensive. Highly experienced referees can be valuable assets to their soccer communities, acting as mentors and role models for new referees, assessors for keen referees looking to progress toward more challenging games, and educators for those in their communities wanting to learn more about the game.

And, for those who choose to referee, there is a tremendous personal growth opportunity. There is no doubt that referees face challenging and sometimes highly stressful situations on (and off) the field which require correct, calm, confident and decisive action. It is these very situations that many referees find compelling. They have an opportunity to better themselves in the process of handling these situations. And, when they have successfully applied the laws, maintained the spirit of the game and the players and coaches have appreciated their fair, consistent and correct approach to the game, these referees leave the field with a sense of pride, a sense of accomplishment and a memory that they can take into their personal or professional lives. They know that by making the choice to become a referee, and to step onto the field of play, that they have taken on a responsibility to be a role model in the application of the laws of the game. When they can leave the field at the end of the game knowing they have done this, they know they have, in their way, contributed to the good of game.

Sometimes new (and even seasoned) referees find themselves in situations that do not work out as they had planned. These are learning opportunities. Referees who mentor find satisfaction in being able to help, and struggling referees realize they are not alone and that, in fact, there are referees who want to help them to grow and develop into stronger and more confident officials.

Notwithstanding that abuse and violence toward officials, in any sport, should not be tolerated and every association should work toward zero tolerance, we cannot succumb to the perception that refereeing is a dangerous choice. We cannot let fear be the deciding factor for someone to choose not to become a referee or to leave refereeing altogether. This is just not right. There are far too many compelling reasons to be a soccer referee. There are also far too many excellent referees, at all levels, striving toward, and succeeding consistently in, facing the joys and the challenges on the field—referees who give their best every time they walk onto the pitch—for the love of the game.

## SIN BIN ?

(ANSA) - Rome, July 30 - Italy's Pierluigi Collina, seen by many as the world's top referee when he retired in 2005, has backed FIFA Chief Sepp Blatter's proposal of a 'sin bin' for soccer players who dive and fake injury. Blatter would like refs to have the power to send off players for five minutes if they play act in order to waste time, get an opponent booked or win a free-kick or penalty.

Collina, who is now the selector of match officials for Serie A and B, said he had nothing against idea so long as "the innovation does not overload referees with more responsibility".

The comment suggests that Collina wants an off-field official to keep tabs on the time sin-binned players must stay out of the game.

The sin bin is successfully used as a disciplinary measure in other sports, including rugby union.

Advocates say it could be useful when a yellow card might not seem enough, because it has no immediate consequences, but a red card would be too severe a penalty.

"The number of players who dive or pretend to have been hit by an opponent has become intolerable," Blatter said on Saturday.

"A temporary sending-off of five-minutes would be a good idea to stop this trend.

"I'm sure it will be proposed to the International Board (soccer's rule-making body) at next year's meeting in March".

The President of the Italian Referees Association (AIA) Cesare Gussoni also said he was in favour of the proposal on Monday.

Collina's green light came at a press conference at the end of the Serie A and B refs pre-season training camp.

He has said he is not going to limit himself to selecting referees and assistants in his new job, but will take a hands-on approach, giving officials fitness and technical training too.

"Refs can't take the field just knowing the rules. They also have to be perfectly trained," he said after being appointed.

"I'll train and use the refs at my disposal while also moulding them into four-man teams," he added, referring to the two assistant refs and the fourth official.

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.

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.

## Manitoba soccer to enforce foul-mouth policy

By TAMARA KING

WINNIPEG (CP) - Manitoba soccer players have a new foul to worry about.

Players caught swearing a blue streak or even cursing under their breath will net themselves a red card as referees begin enforcing an existing policy on bad language.

Only starting Wednesday, that policy became a zero-tolerance rule. There will be no warnings - any player or coach caught swearing will be ejected from games sanctioned by the Manitoba Soccer Association. Referees will not be allowed to use their discretion, said association director Hector Vergara. "In other words, a referee's not going to have the flexibility to say that's OK today, but it's not OK for tomorrow. It's simply not okay," said Vergara. "It's going to be strictly applied to the letter of the law."

The crackdown is aimed at improving the sport's image and making games more family-friendly. Vergara said he's received complaints from parents who refuse to bring their children to matches because of abusive language.

John Albi, a father and owner of a soccer apparel store, said he's heard language complaints from some parents.

"When the kids are there watching the games, you just don't want to hear it. I don't think it was out of hand or anything like that, but you don't hear it in professional soccer games."

Vergara agrees, but said the association is being strict because they want to improve soccer's reputation. "The image of our sport is at stake."

Vergara said the decision is not connected to an alleged attack on a 19-year-old referee in late May. The referee suffered a slight concussion during a Winnipeg high school boys game. Witnesses said he was swarmed by one school's team and supporters after giving a red ejection card to a player late in the match.

Although the rule enforcement came into effect this week, Albi said some players heard about the change last week and the difference was obvious at a weekend soccer tournament.

"It was 99 per cent better this weekend," Albi said

## 2007 FIFA U-20s – OUR MEMBER REMEMBER

Canada's hosting of the biannual U-20 World Cup is now complete. But long after the games are over the memories remain, some that will last a lifetime.

*Some of our members were directly involved in the tournament, either as match officials (in the case of Mauricio Navarro and Paul Ward), assisting with organizational logistics or as volunteers. Here we present a selection of what they remember from this summer's soccer extravaganza.*

"So many memories but my favourite memory has to be the game I was involved in in Montreal. It was an all Canadian crew with myself as the fourth, Steve De Piero referee, Joe Fletcher and Hector Vegara the assistants. The police escort to the stadium was something out of a movie. The game was the Czech Republic vs Panama and by far the best part was leading the teams onto the field in front of 55,000 fans in Olympic stadium.....gave me goose bumps!!" – Paul Ward

"The best memory I'll have from the World U20 Championships will be the last game played at Swangard Stadium between Spain and Brazil. Some great goals, an electric atmosphere, and a great officiating performance by referee Martin Hanson and his crew from Sweden made it a great night of entertainment.

"The one moment that will always stick out for me came in the first half of extra time. Alberto Bueno scored on a great finish for Spain from the middle of the penalty area for what proved to be the game-winning goal. Once the Spaniards began celebrating, Leandro Lima of Brazil (who scored the opening goal of the match) picked up the ball and proceeded to punt it over the goal, over the track, over the fence, and on to Kingsway Street! Hanson had no choice but to caution Lima. Then the Brazilian grabbed the referee by his jersey in frustration and as a result was given his marching orders by being shown the red card! Truly a moment, in such a big game at such a great setting, that will be tough to forget." - Joey Kenward

"Having to deal with the FIFA staff I was very much struck by the excellent command of English each of them had. In fact, I was amazed at how multi-lingual most of them were." – Emil Udovich.

"I was asked to help out as the Referee Liaison for the Burnaby site which means I got to meet the various match officials appointed to each game at Swangard. What I will take with me is the bond that grew through those two weeks being around them. I'm sure there will be some lasting friendships because of it." - Joe Branco

"My memory of the world cup was the professional attitude of the referees. I was lucky enough to witness referee behavior and communication in both pre-game and post-game settings and in my experience the referees displayed confidence, collegiality and camaraderie. There were never any harsh or strained words or any sense of panic. The referees were in control of the game and themselves." -Marco Arruda  
"FIFA U-20 World Cup is no doubt the biggest soccer event I've ever participated in person. Not only did I watch all seven games played at Swangard Stadium, but was also fortunate enough to involve more closely as a volunteer in the Burnaby's site transportation team. My task was mainly transporting tournament personnel from hotel to the stadium or sometimes from airport to their hotel. Although my task was simple, I enjoyed every moment of it." –Philip Leung

"The biggest thing I will take with me is the general feeling of the event itself. Even humble Swangard Stadium, where I have been to many times before, was transformed into a showpiece what with the chalet-style hospitality tents, extra grandstands on the east side and a Jumbotron to watch the highlights. The level of play was salivating.

"I was able to volunteer as a driver and as such met very interesting people including the General Coordinator for the site I was at. The protocols that FIFA goes through and the attention to detail in the presentation of a match really gives you an idea of how massive the tournament was. Due to my posting I was able to be present when the referees walked the teams out to the field. Looking at them and the players as they marched out one definitely got the feeling that this was something special.

"The chance to watch high level soccer in our own backyard was a dream come true. Whatever we did to get this tournament here was worth it. But like all good dreams, they just seem to disappear. What do we do have to bring that feeling back on a permanent basis?" -Elvio Chies

## NEW REFEREE ASSOCIATION MANUAL AND HANDBOOK DUE OUT SOON

Through the combined efforts of several members the 2007 Referees Association (RA) Manual and Handbook will soon be ready for distribution. An ad-hoc committee under the head of President Elvio Chies, members Nick Hawley and Ron Schaeffer reviewed what was originally known as the "Directory and Handbook for Referees" with a view to make it more readable and useful. A 2006 edition was delayed to coincide with any timely information that flowed from the World Cup. Ultimately it was shelved due to the non-appearance of such information and a more thorough review took place after the election of the new provincial executive. During the review it quickly became apparent that much of the information could be separated into two sections: A Manual, which will serve as a basic reference tool concerning the operation of the RA and directory of people with various duties within the society, and a Handbook which will list several sources of educational information on the art of refereeing. The committee has sought the input from members outside the group, including member Kim Davies of the Vancouver Area. Finishing touches are being put on the documents in time for a preliminary review by the various Area Association executives. Release is expected by end of October/first half of November. Future editions of the Manual and Handbook will occur at different times of the year as necessary. The Manual is intended to be distributed by mid-year to coincide with changes in the names of people holding duties throughout the RA. Due to the educational nature of the Handbook this document could be updated on a different timeline to match changes of refereeing.

### (Dave Roberts cont.)

Almost every time the game suffers in the early stages and referees are then allowed to revert to the very style that has impressed 'those above' and normality returns. How do we get round the recurring problem? It is difficult. You see all us referee types have a little thing inside us called ego. Do not believe any one who tries to tell you different. We referee for the ego. I am no exception. I crave that golden verse at the end of every match, 'Great game ref!' I was in my element walking out into the cauldron of Calcutta's Salt Lake Stadium 18 months ago to referee one of the world's most hostile derby matches, East Bengal v Mohun Bagan, with all the furore surrounding it, live TV cameras and 110,000 fans in the stands. Right now I desire more than anything to get back to refereeing in the professional game, but alas red tape and bureaucracy in my new found home of the United States bars all but US Citizens and Permanent Residents to officiate in the 'Pro Game'. No exceptions, no matter how talented, even a fully fledged FIFA badge wearer has to get a Green Card to referee. I am a resident alien, can legally work, pay taxes and buy property, but I cannot whistle in the MLS. There you go, it is all 'ego'. And it is that ego that drives top flight referees to do whatever is asked of them to get 'The Final'. If FIFA, UEFA, CONCACAF, etc tell their officials to caution every blade of grass that moves, they will. So why not try a novel approach, let us remind the officials of what is expected from them in major tournaments, but let us also encourage the referee to utilise the very natural talents that first brought him to the notice of the governing bodies. *Dave Roberts is a regular part of the ESPN Soccer Press Pass team and anchor on Sportscenter. He is also an international referee.*

## 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](mailto:jonsee@telus.net)

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or

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**Note : Deadline for submissions in the next issue will be Dec. 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.