

FLAG & WHISTLE

Official publication of the B.C. Soccer Referees Association
Winter 2008



Referee Symposium Under the Dome

2007 BC SOCCER REFEREE SYMPOSIUM, BC PLACE, December 15th & 16th.

2007 FALL COUNCIL

MEETING: BRAINSTORMING ON THE FUTURE

“What can I do to recruit and retain new members?” Members from across the province were asked to think of this very question during a brainstorming session at the recent Fall Council Meeting in November. The session, hosted by the Fraser Valley Area Association (FVSRA) and facilitated by Bob Sawtell, Past President of the association, who stepped in after RA Vice-President Suzanne Flannigan could not make the meeting due to being detained on business. While the hour-long session couldn't cover all that was planned for, members did find some consensus. (see BRAINSTORM pg3)

SPRING COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD SATURDAY, MAY 10th (tentative) IN VICTORIA.

NOMINATIONS FOR PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE POSITIONS BEING ACCEPTED NOW

The Spring Council/Annual General Meeting of the association has been tentatively set for Saturday, May 10th, 2008 in Victoria. The annual Jack Tinnion Memorial Shield match will be held immediately following the meeting.

Nominations for the provincial executive positions of President and Secretary are being accepted at this time. Both positions are for a two year term. Area Association appointed Directors from both the Vancouver Area and (see SPRING pg3)

By Gerry Copeman

(Ed note: Gerry Copeman is a member in the Fraser Valley and a past Treasurer of the association. Here he presents a report of the past BC Soccer Conference Referee Symposium held December 15th and 16th at BC Place Stadium. Gerry's full notes will be tabulated and placed on the Referee Association website: www.bcsra.com).

BC Place Stadium was the site of the BCSA Soccer Conference on Saturday & Sunday Dec 14 & 15 with a Friday reception at the BC Sports Hall of Fame. I was unable to attend the reception, however I attended all the referee sessions over the two days. Sessions were both classroom format and on-field instruction.

The first presenter was Bob Sawtell who spoke about the new CSA regulations (“The Story So Far” as it was titled), followed by Canadian FIFA Assistant Referee and World Cup official, Hector Vergara, and Canadian FIFA Referee and our fellow member Mauricio Navarro. The second day, Esse Baharmast, FIFA Instructor, CONCACAF referee committee member and Director of Advanced & International Referee Development for the U.S. Soccer Federation (see pg2 “DOME”)



2007 BC SOCCER REFEREE SYMPOSIUM PARTICIPANTS

Back Row (L-R): Joey Kenward, Richard Krupop, Terry Carter, Saad Al-Jadir, Glen Thompson, Ryan Perkins, Tin-Po Au, S. Wignall, Gerry Copeman, Darnell Smith, Gord Rogers, Andy Foster, Taresa Wilk, Chris Wattam, Phil Barrington, Justin Roy, Marco Arruda, Rick Firestone, Candace Brown, Alaina Spencer, Edurado Azmitia, Phil Leung, CSA Referees Committee Member Bob Sawtell, Dave Roach.

Front (L-R): RA President Elvio Chies, Retired Canadian FIFA Referee Johnny Jerome, Lee Mounsey, North Delta Youth Soccer Club Ref Development Head Prem Bath, BCSA Referee Development Coordinator Jose Branco (VA), CONCACAF Referees Committee Member and USSF Director of Officials Esse Baharmast, Canadian FIFA AR Hector Vergara, National Referee Carol Anne Chenard, FIFA Referee Mauricio Navarro, Alain Ruch, Alysha Roerslev. Missing: BC Soccer Referee Development Committee members, Arnar Bernhardson, Roy Branco, Tiberio de Frias.

TO ALL MEMBERS:

Many thanks for your patience while we worked out technical difficulties in getting the Winter 08 edition published!

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CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL REFEREES HONOURED AT THE 2007 BCSA AWARDS BANQUET



L-R: Tom Reakes (FV): AC Sanford Award, Martin Reid (FV): CSA International Achievement Award, Candace Brown(VA): Senior Female Official of the Year, Kevin Parsons: Youth Male Official of the Year, Mauricio Navarro (VA): Senior Male Official of the Year, Bob Allen (Past President, BCSRA): Awarded Life Membership in BC Soccer, Roy Branco (FV): Awarded Life Membership in BC Soccer. Front; Alaina Spencer (VA): Youth Female Official of the Year.

(See "SHORT TAKES" pg 6)

"DOME" (cont'd from pg1)

was present (ed note: Esse was due to arrive on the December 15th but was detained due to attending a funeral for a dearly departed fellow referee in the U.S.). Each and every one of these gentlemen, with impressive credentials, passed onto us some excellent training methods.

The CSA will be presenting uniform, across Canada, referee, assessor and instructor certification programs in the New Year. There will be new, mandatory requirements for ALL referees, assessors and instructors in order to retain certification. Look for the information probably mid February and will be coming into effect April 1, 2008. The programs allow all of us to be CANADIAN officials with the new certification. Referees will get a CANADIAN badge rather than Provincial badge.

Hector Vergara's first session covered pre-match preparation, tactical preparation and planning for the match. One thing he emphasized was that we must constantly learn from those who mentor, assess, instruct or ask questions. In a nutshell he said, "The day you know you are right and won't learn is the end of your promotional ability." He covered a lot of basic but primary information. Your bag must have cards, whistles, shoes (clean & polished) appropriate for the pitch, uniform – kit, pressure gauge, pump, extra flags, coins. I cannot cover all that he did, however he said that referees MUST start getting good habits early in their career. For example getting to the pitch in time to inspect it for markings, conditions, hazards (with time to correct them), nets and corner flags and of course you must know the rules of the competition.

This was followed by a field session "In the Zone- Fitness training for Referees and A.R.s. It included a description of a 15-minute warm up and stretching each referee should do prior to doing a game. It covered all muscle areas that have to be warmed up and stretched. Then he took us through a very comprehensive training plan that, if followed, will have you in excellent shape for any match. He went through CORE Training, and

why we should do it. Mauricio Navarro assisted in the field session. Another session by Hector was titled "Guidelines for Assistant Referees" which covered duties, positioning, running techniques, signaling with flag in the appropriate hand (which requires changing hands below the waist before indicating), how to carry the flag, running with the flag.

Mauricio Navarro held the field session Dead Ball and Dynamic Play – Positioning. There were the easy ones – Kick Off and Goal Kicks followed by hard ones – corner kick right side (AR) left side (opposite AR). He covered the duties of both officials for both areas. There were more hard ones – direct or indirect free kick near edge of 18-yard box corner both close to AR, and opposite side of field. Penalty kicks etc. Very comprehensive and great learning for us all.

Hector finished off the day with a field session "A. R. running drills and offside." He showed how being a yard either side of the offside line could give the A.R. an incorrect decision regarding offside.

Day 2 saw Esse Baharmast beginning the day with "Guidelines for Referees" First he reminded us of how lucky we are. We woke up and opened our eyes – a roof over our head, got out of bed without help, brushed our teeth, turned on the tap and had hot water to wash with. We should thank God for our blessings every day and (see DOME pg 4)

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FALL (cont'd from pg 1)

Amongst the common themes was the need to get the RA message out to people including club presidents and new recruits to refereeing itself, going out to the field where they officiate if needed. Another area of concern was the parting of lapsed members with the need to follow up with those that have decided not rejoin our ranks. Finally, the emphasis on "local soccer" especially during our education session.

The information given is now in the hands of the Provincial Exec to devise working committees. Mr. Sawtell concluded the session by asking everyone to contemplate setting aside one hour per week that would be dedicated to RA retention and recruitment to help continue the road of the RA.

(See Brainstorm Notes" pg 6)

SPRING (cont'd from pg 1)

a Director from any other area other than Fraser Valley and Vancouver Island are also up for ratification. Those interested should make their wishes known to either their Area Association executive or Life Member Hans Clodius (iclodius@shaw.ca or 604-582-5402).

REFEREE ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP YEAR TO BE DECIDED AT SPRING COUNCIL

The decision to either keep the present split membership years (May 1-Apr 30 for the Interior and Oct 1- Sept 30 for the Coastal area) or consolidate all memberships to match the CSA-mandated registration year of Apr 1 to March 31st has been tabled to the Spring Council Meeting.

All members who may not be familiar with the issue at hand are asked to contact their Area Association executive for details.

Tom Speaks - "The Good, the bad and the Ugly"

by Tom Babic



Sometimes these articles or the topics for them are harder to come up with than other times. At times it's because there is little or no soccer going on and it's hard to come up with a novel idea about a stale topic. Other times the topic at hand is unpleasant and it's a question of whether to say anything about an already negative situation and risk making it worse. Let's face it; referees aren't the most popular people to begin with. If we are seen to stir the pot too much, we face even more scorn when we next lace up our boots and blow our whistle. It's with this sense of angst that I write this piece.

I call this my "Good, Bad and Ugly" column. I'll start with the ugly part first and work up to the palatable parts. Some of the games leaving me questioning whether I'm sane stepping onto the park to do this reffing gig. Let alone running with some of these people that call themselves soccer players. I'll let you know right now if you don't have a solid stomach it may well get queasy before I'm done with the next couple of paragraphs. Sorry if the tone is not my usual upbeat stuff but this one has me choked.

I know that I shouldn't expect much from high school soccer in the first place. I know a number of people refuse to be associated with it and still fewer will officiate their games. I suppose I'm a slow learner and continue to hope for positive experiences. I find it grossly ironic that institutions of education promote and unwittingly condone the behaviour witnessed at the recent Provincial Soccer Championships in Burnaby. I know it's really not that recent but I have finally been able to entice the most effective cardiologists to work on reducing my blood pressure now to the point that I can safely operate my keyboard to write this article.

I won't bore you with all the superfluous details leading up to the drama. I will tell you that I was an assistant referee on the match to determine 7th place from 8th place. I know what you're thinking; I get all the choice assignments. But this match or the placing that it would determine is key, so please keep this in the forefront as you read the outcome. In the second half the better team – I call them this because they won the game – broke up the field on well executed kick and run plays and scored, twice. They scored because the goalkeeper felt better positioned to call 'offside' from 55 yards away and in both cases spent his time focusing on me instead of the striker bearing down on him. They scored because the defenders were too busy holding up their hands to indicate 'offside' to me. Either way the ball ended up in the back of the net, which was the only objective that

(See "TOM SPEAKS" pg 8")

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KNOW YOUR FELLOW MEMBER

NAME: Alysha Roerslev
RESIDENT OF: Kamloops
NUMBER OF YEARS REFEREEING:
6years



MOST MEMORABLE MOMENT IN REFEREEING (SO FAR):
Travelling to Quebec for the 2007 U14 – U16 All-star Girls National Championship. My very first middle of the competition was U16 Girls: Quebec v Ontario. It was one of the scariest yet exciting moments of my refereeing career so far.

ADVICE TO SOMEONE STARTING IN REFEREEING:
Work hard! Always, always, always try and get as much feedback as possible about your game so that you can continue to learn and improve your game!



NAME: Joey Kenward
RESIDENT OF: Coquitlam
NUMBER OF YEARS REFEREEING:
15 years

MOST MEMORABLE MOMENT IN REFEREEING (SO FAR):
My most memorable moment would be my first experience as an Assistant Referee at the professional level, an 86ers (now Whitecaps) game at Swangard Stadium in 1998.

ADVICE TO SOMEONE STARTING IN REFEREEING:
My best advice would be to watch and learn from other referees. Don't be afraid of making mistakes and, most importantly, know your Laws of the Game and have a good level of fitness.

NAME: Taresa Wilk
RESIDENT OF: Kamloops
NUMBER OF YEARS REFEREEING:
10years

MOST MEMORABLE MOMENT IN REFEREEING (SO FAR): This past summer when I received a call to be an AR for the Whitecaps Women. I was really excited. The game was played in Chilliwack. The game went well and we (the officials) communicated well as a team.

ADVICE TO SOMEONE STARTING IN REFEREEING:
When you are out on the field and the coaches, parents and players upset with your call don't take it personally. Remember they are in game mode and it's not you they hate. Stay strong, don't give up—you can pull through it! Remember there are other referees out there that are willing to help you out and give you advice. We have all been there and we want to see you improve and be the best official (you can be).



DOME (cont'd from pg 2)

realize how LUCKY we are to have all this as there are many without these luxuries throughout the world.

Esse showed us why we now use the wide diagonal rather than the tight one taught years ago. The majority of the players play will be within the space between and bordered by the penalty area. He reminded us that the whistle is compulsory for: Starting play in first and second half, to indicate goal scored, a foul, a penalty to end or terminate or suspend a game. The whistle is necessary to restart play after moving the wall, to start a penalty kick or kick from the penalty mark, and to indicate a ball has crossed the goal line and bounced out quickly (– the A.R. has to be in position to indicate).

He covered body language – (thumbs up signal doesn't mean the same to all ethnic groups so be careful) teamwork and cooperation, Referee preparation – physical and mental, man management & intelligent decisions. Then it was time for the field. He taught us how to improve our concentration, memory and focus with a series of really great games to play with a number of officials at a training session. (Wish I had seen these years ago early in my career!)

For the afternoon session Esse reviewed Fouls and Misconduct. He covered the basic requirements for a foul and if one requirement is missing then the nature has changes. We went through the group of six (kick or attempt to kick, trip or attempt to, jumps at opponent etc. and we are to mentally ask ourselves “Was it careless? Was it Reckless? Was it with excessive force?”

He then discussed the group of 4 (tackles an opponent to gain possession of the ball but makes contact with the opponent BEFORE touching the ball, Holds, Spits at, Handles the ball intentionally (which means the player makes a deliberate motion towards the ball).

CARELESS MEANS THE PLAYER SHOWS A LACK OF ATTENTION and is punishable by a foul.

RECKLESS MEANS THE PLAYER SHOWS COMPLETE DISREGARD TO THE OPPONENTS SAFETY – Yellow Card.
USING EXCESSIVE FORCE – Red Card.

As a referee you must consider: speed, intent, aggression, careless reckless or excessive force, position of the tackler, opportunity to play the ball, atmosphere of the match.

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DOMES (cont'd from pg 4)

You DO NOT consider: players coaches or spectators, the result of the match, the time of the incident. In other words if it is a penalty, or send off in the first few minutes, it is throughout the match to the end of added time.

Man Management was the next session topic. Esse reminded us that "WE PROVIDE A SERVICE AND WE MUST SERVE OUR CUSTOMERS WELL!" Do not build a wall between you and the players/coaches. Be approachable, listen politely, and then have them get on with the game. Turning your back and walking away can only increase the anger/frustration of the player/coach.

I cannot do justice to the material covered by the presenters nor can I cover all the points that they did in their respective sessions. I will endeavor to pass along the information I have picked up to the referees that I assess in the future where it is appropriate to their game.

It was a busy, thought provoking weekend that would have been a good learning experience for all classifications of referees, assessors and instructors. There was space for possible 200 attendees but only maybe 50 of us showed up. It was a weekend that was well spent by fellow attendees and myself.

I would like to thank the BC Soccer Staff who made this symposium the success it was, and especially thank the Referee Development Committee for having a hand in it. Thanks also to Jose Branco (BC Soccer Referee Development Coordinator) who has served the referee community very well in this and other sessions that he has organized.

KNOW YOUR FELLOW MEMBER

NAME: Glen Thompson
RESIDENT OF: Prince George
NUMBER OF YEARS REFEREEING: 32 years



MOST MEMORABLE MOMENT IN REFEREEING (SO FAR): There were a couple of memorable moments along the way. In 2001 I was asked to help officiate a Vancouver 86er's league game versus the Atlanta Ruckus in Prince George. The officiating crew included Referee Rene' Parra, Assistant John Nielsen and myself. That was a tremendous honor to work with two Fifa officials. Another moment would be when I used to travel to Vancouver to be assessed for my Class 1 certification. These assessments were performed by such individuals as Bob Sawtell, Eric Mason and Neil Ellett amongst others. I have tremendous respect for these people.

ADVICE TO SOMEONE STARTING IN REFEREEING: My best advice would be to watch and learn from other referees. Don't be afraid of making mistakes and, most importantly, know your Laws of the Game and have a good level of fitness.

NAME: Laurie Miller
RESIDENCE: Sunshine Coast
NUMBER OF YEARS REFEREEING: I took my Class 4 training in 1999; at the time I was still playing and thought I'd do the training just for fun. Of course days after completing the course I was assigned to my first game. In 2004 I took Class 3 training, mostly because I found myself in a leadership role and I was doing my best to stay one step ahead of the game. I'm currently the head referee on the Sunshine Coast and I'm still trying to stay one step ahead!



MOST MEMORABLE MOMENT IN REFEREEING (SO FAR): That's a hard one. Perhaps it was the first time a coach had me so rattled that I could barely concentrate on the game; I knew I should speak to the coach and I was desperately trying to find the right words - but as the game was in progress I just couldn't put it all together; consequently both the game and I suffered. I am happy to report that I have since learned to handle dissent from the sidelines!

ADVICE TO SOMEONE STARTING IN REFEREEING: Think of every game that you officiate as an opportunity to be the best game of your career.

SHORT TAKES

REFEREES FIGURE PROMINENTLY AT BC SOCCER AWARDS BANQUET

The Referees Association would like to congratulate the following on the honours that were bestowed them at the recent BC Soccer Awards banquet on December 15th : (See accompanying photo on pg 2)

Male Official of the Year, Senior: Mauricio Navarro (VASRA)

Female Official of the Year, Senior: Candace Brown (VASRA)

Male Official of the Year, Youth: Kevin Parsons

Female Official of the Year, Youth: Alaina Spencer (VASRA)

The BC Soccer association added Roy Branco (FVSRA) and BCSRA and Vancouver Area Past-President Bob Allen to its list of Life Members.

In attendance also was CSA President Dominic Maestracci to present the CSA International Achievement Award to member Martin Reid (FVSRA). Jill Proctor was also bestowed with this award but was unable to make the event.

RA MEMBER DUE TO REFEREE USA-SWEDEN FRIENDLY

Canadian FIFA Referee and RA member Mauricio Navarro will be the man-in-the-middle for the USA-Sweden international match on Saturday, January 19th. Assisting Mauricio on the line will be Canadian FIFA AR's Hector Vergara and Joe Fletcher with the Fourth Official coming from the U.S. The Canadian trio was last seen together working the "Beckham game" on November 3rd match at BC Place featuring LA Galaxy and Vancouver Whitecaps.

BC SPORTS HALL OF FAME INDUCTION MUST WAIT ANOTHER TERM

The RA's nomination to induct Werner Winsemann was not successful despite including support, for this year's selection, from of inductees Bruce Wilson (former Vancouver Whitecap/NY Cosmos and Canadian international) and Dave Fryatt (past Chairman of the BC Soccer Association and a CSA Alumni). The nomination has now run out its three year term and, according to Hall of Fame regulations, must sit out a mandatory one-year dormancy period.

BRAINSTORM NOTES (from Fall Council Meeting)

The following are the notes that were compiled from the Retention & Recruitment Brainstorming Session held at the recent Fall Council Meeting on November 17th. The provincial executive is working with area associations to implement action items from the ideas collected.

Recruitment

1. Start talking to club presidents and give them info on RA membership
2. Talk to club head referees.
3. Send a letter to past members and invite them back (via Canada post)
4. Give a speech about the RA at clinics/refreshers (5 minute presentation) (done by any member)
5. RA sponsored night w/ Refs in chief, club presidents to explain the RA (broken down into areas)
6. Members to take on the job themselves of forming a new area assn.
7. Split up existing AA's to potentially reach more referees
8. Telephone campaign to lapsed members (as a follow up to mailed letters)

How to recruit?

1. Once Head Refs are on board, have an education system to excite the interest of individual refs with an initial push from the Prov Exec, create a working committee, get our members on board to be "instructors", put out one message, ie all on the same page
2. Determine a fee structure to get maximum benefit
3. Improve the connection between the RA and BCSA
4. Improve the connection with BCSA Ref committees wrt education
5. At Class 4 clinics, sign them up
6. Have instructors or members make the presentation
7. Have presentation include a snapshot of what an AA education session is like
8. Prepare education sessions in advance of monthly meetings
9. Talk to non members at the field (have prepared business cards)

BRAINSTORM NOTES (from Fall Council Meeting)

How we convert/complete the sale?

1. Have membership application forms available on site
2. Take cash at the clinic
3. Tell attendees about the RA presentation prior to the clinic
4. Get signatures on application forms and collect the money later
5. Get new refs to "try before they buy" with a grace period on payment of fees
6. Organize a carpool with the new refs
7. "Bribery"; finding someone to pay for the first years fees
8. Approach Leagues to solicit a levy per team going to the RA for R&R, training, etc. (Leagues would not be adverse to providing funding if the RA delivers.

Retention

1. Get education to members who did not/cannot attend meetings as a follow up
2. Minimize formal meeting structure, find out how new refs want to be contacted
3. Use training videos, game clips posted on our website with summary of discussion
4. Emphasize the "local park"; Attend and videotape local games, ask local Colleges and Universities for their videos

MEMBERS!

See if you caan set aside 1 hour to help raise the profile of your association! See your executive today to pledge your loyalty to the society of your peers!

CANADIAN SOCCER REFEREES ASSOCIATION CORNER



NEW EXECUTIVE ELECTED AT AGM IN WINNIPEG

The election of a new executive was enough to raise the temperature outside to a balmy minus 3 Celsius as the membership returned the current members of the executive. The new executive is as follows:

- President: Joe Licandro (Ontario)
1st Vice President: Tony Troughton (BC)
2nd Vice-President: Elvio Chies (BC)
Secretary: Richard Carman (Ont)
Treasurer: Laurent Eloy (Man.).

FIFA REFEREES AS AGM GUEST SPEAKERS

Canadian FIFA Referees Carol Ann Chenard and Darci Kruse were co-Guest Speakers at the recent CSRA AGM in Winnipeg. Both spoke about their experiences from the early days of refereeing and the road travelled (NOTE: a full article will be included in the Summer edition of the Flag & Whistle).

WINSEMANN NOMINATED TO CA- NADIAN SPORTS HALL OF FAME

Werner Winsemann has been nominated to the Builder's category of the Canadian Sports Hall of Fame. The day-to-day liaison with the Hall has been delegated to the BCSRA. The nomination, which is open for a five year period and also supported by the CSA President, Mr. Dominique Maestracci, has been accepted by the Hall. An announcement on this year's inductees is expected later in the year.

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“TOM SPEAKS” (cont’d from pg 3)

I am aware of that mattered when the final whistle blew. The verbal assault at the point of each goal was one thing. The post game theatrics were another.

In the end a young man of 17 not once but twice decided that my reward for his not being able to keep the ball out of the onion bag was for him to spit on me. Yes you read this right. He spat on me twice. Not to mention the never ending foul language of calling me every name in the book. I suppose the icing on the cake was the sight of four of his team mates restraining him while he tried to attack me. I cannot to this day believe how incensed he allowed himself to become over the perception of offside from 55 yards away. For 7th place! Furthermore I cannot believe that I as an individual afforded the same rights as any other participant at the game would be subjected to that kind of abuse, harassment and assault for the sheer fact that I came to the game as a referee.

I know that no other person would ever be treated in a similar manner regardless of their role, other than a referee. What is it that allows the people surrounding this individual to let a situation go this far? What is the moral responsibility after the fact of the various participants? Is this even something that should be brought up or should I do the typical and just let the water run off the duck’s back? Or should my expectation be that cooler more mature people associated with the event would have stepped forward by now to say – this behaviour is unwarranted, unacceptable and will not be tolerated. We are going to take a stand against this kind of behaviour ever happening again.

On to the bad part of my “Good, Bad and Ugly”. I wrote a report, detailing the assault, to both the organizers of the event and the BCSA. I have yet to hear from either party other than to say that BCSA has received my report and will act once they have received a report from the referee in the middle. The Athletic Director of the high school that the young player attends was at the game, witnessed the entire episode, and approached me during the assault. He has yet to contact me with his actions on the matter now that we have all long ago stepped of the field. No doubt the principal of the school would have gotten wind of this matter. I am a registered referee with the BCSA, my phone number is in the book and my e-mail address is public knowledge. I know this because of the plethora of spam constantly streaming in. The fact that the various authority figures have allowed this case to go without action for this long is stomach turning.

Finally the good part, the coach’s reaction at the field was a welcome relief. I can still see the embarrassment on his face as he shook my hand and assured me that he had no words to describe his amazement at the outburst – both verbal and oral – of his goalkeeper. I know there is nothing he could have done other than to give me his support and hope that the kid was graduating off the team this year!

The fact that this game was to decide the 7th best team from the 8th place team is still the part I have the most difficulty digesting.

I’m hoping for less of this kind of material for my 2008 articles. Happy New Year to all.

HOLD THE PRESSES! VISRA NORTH CHAPTER FOUNDER PASSES

Malcolm Cowie, past member of the CSA Referees Committee and a founding father of the Northern Chapter of VISRA passed away in late January. A memorial service was held for Malcolm, who came to BC via Manitoba where he spent many years in the soccer scene in that province, in Campbell River on Sunday February 17th. The service was attended by several members of the Referees Association, including FV Life Member Al Docherty who coincidentally attended the same school as Malcolm in Newcastle, England although two years apart.

ELLETT & MAGLIO INDUCTED INTO BURNABY SPORTS HALL OF FAME

CSA National Assessor Neil Ellett and retired FIFA Referee and Referee Association Life Member Dante Maglio were both inducted into the Burnaby Sports Hall of Fame in January. Congratulations to both members on their accomplishment.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Vancouver Area-affiliated member Alaina Spencer and recent BC Soccer Female Youth Referee-of-the-Year was recently featured in the local paper of her hometown of Salmon Arm. To view the story click on this link:
http://www.bclocalnews.com/bc_thompson_nicola/salmonarmobserver/sports/13875737.html

NEXT ISSUE:

(Editorial Deadline: June 15,2008)

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.