

FLAG & WHISTLE

BCSRA NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2008



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JACK TINNION MEMORIAL SHIELD MATCH



250's TRIUMPH AGAIN...ONLY JUST

This year's annual Jack Tinnion Memorial Shield Match, also known as the "604-250 Grudge Match" saw a hard-fought match with the 604's hampered by having no subs and a keeper nursing a recent groin injury. Despite these odds, and being down 2-0 in the first half, the first for the 250's coming from **Alex "Ace" Milne**, showing the bleeding Hearts supporter can still hoof it in the top corner, the 604's persevered and tied the game, with goals coming from **Todd Patrick** and the tying goal (a blistering free kick to the top corner) from Fabien Bartz's "twin brother" **Jon Seeley**. With a minute to go the 250's dagger struck and Keeper **Elvio Chies** could not redeem himself from last year's incredible not-to-be-mentioned-again gaff. The game ended 3-2 and a splendid time was had by all. Thanks to **Brian Royer-Collard** and **Frank Leversedge** for volunteering to referee the match (one half each of course) also assisting each other on the line along with Brian's grandson.

NEW EXECUTIVE FOR 2008

Following the results of the elections held at this year's Annual General Meeting in May, the new provincial executive is as follows:

President: Elvio Chies (elected by acclamation for a 2 year term)

Vice-President: Suzanne Flannigan (enters last year of a 2 year term)

Secretary: Richard Brownie (elected by acclamation for a 2 year term)

Treasurer/Registrar: Robin Woods (enters last year of a 2 year term)

Area Association-appointed Directors:

Larry Cade (VISRA) (enters last year of a 2 year term)

Ron Schaeffer (VASRA) (ratified by membership for a 2 year term)

Director positions for FVSRA and Interior (or officially known as "Any other area other than Fraser Valley, Vancouver Area and Vancouver Island) were not filled; the provincial executive has the right to appoint members to these positions.

In accepting the position, newly elected President **Elvio Chies** indicated that at the end of his previous term it became clear the association needed extra time to find a replacement. This will be the fourth consecutive term for Mr. Chies and now makes him the longest serving President in the association's near 40 year history.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

- There's Always Something Special Going On Here

By now you've probably heard the tale of how I, at last year's Jack Tinnion Shield while playing keeper tried to circumvent the Laws on a deliberate kick back to me from a teammate (that's my story and I'm sticking to it!). Trying to redeem my past gaffe at the expense of further injuring oneself in this year's edition of the annual grudge match cannot be considered a smart thing to do. However, I can honestly say that during that hot day this May I did a very brilliant thing, if I do say so myself.

It's been almost 20 years since I was asked to officiate in a Special Olympics tournament. In 1990 I had agreed to help member Bob Sawtell with officiating some matches in the Canadian Special Olympics Finals. Honestly, I think Bob was a little worried after I agreed when he heard me say I was unemployed at the time and with some time to kill- "Well, you don't get paid", he said. I wasn't upset at the prospect.

So when Tom Babic asked me to help, after assuring my road to recovery from recent injury would not be an issue, I also agreed. Despite getting sun burnt on my head (a common occurrence these days for me) and possible heatstroke, everything went well. Yes, the play was slow, the skill lacking, but the competitive spirit made up for whatever the players lacked in their other faculties.

Sometimes we forget, as FIFA President Sepp Blatter said once, in one of his more thoughtful FIFA NEWS editorials, that "...football is a game, and must always remain so." I remembered that quote after a chance meeting at this same tournament with a local player who I recognized as one of the more skillful and competitive players in the local Premier Division where I live. He indicated he had a daughter playing and we both shared a laugh at how a) Special Olympics is an exercise in the use of common sense and b) when the players want to come up and hug the referee it's for the right reasons. Despite the typical referee-player "combative" relationship somehow the day seemed to bridge our commonalities as human beings.

I would urge everyone to seek out next year's event even if it's just for one game. For those who have been in the game for some time it would be a fitting way to cap a career- you can say you've refereed everything! And don't be worried about the future of the players, as one who is able bodied can easily feel having the benefit of foresight. For these players have something that no cosmetic company has ever been successful in bottling.

They will be forever young.

REFEREES ASSOCIATION STANDS PUT ON ITS MEMBERSHIP YEAR

At the Spring Council Meeting held on May 3rd in Victoria, Area Association delegates agreed to hold fast to the current Membership Year formula. Members will continue to join as before, i.e., those members residing in the Interior will join between May 1st to April 30th while those members on the Coast will join from October 1st to September 30th.

Members are asked to remember that one's referee registration is NOT the same as Referee Association membership. The CSA has mandated that all referees shall be registered for 12 months starting April 1st.

2008-2009 MEMBERSHIP YEAR GIFT ANNOUNCED

The provincial executive, with the blessing of Council, announced that the membership gift for the 2008-2009 Membership Year will be a **toque** with an embroidered logo of the Canadian Soccer Referees Association (CSRA). This was announced at the Spring Council Meeting of the association on May 3rd in Victoria.

In order to receive the best pricing for the Gift a full year's compliment was ordered. This naturally, will cause a delay in distributing the item to all Interior-based members who are renewing in the spring. However, the delay will not be too long: all toques for Interior-based members should be distributed at the end of June/early July with plenty of time before Winter winds arrive!



SIMON FEARN RECOGNIZED FOR PAST SERVICE

The Referees Association was honoured to play host to a ceremony to recognize past member **Simon Fearn** for his service as a FIFA Assistant Referee at its Annual General Meeting on May 3rd in Victoria. Making the presentation on behalf of the CSA was National Assessor and BCSRA member **Alex Milne** (see photo). The 1st Vice-President of the Canadian Soccer Referees Association (CSRA) and BCSRA member **Tony Troughton** was also on hand to make a presentation to Simon in recognizing his achievement.

Simon retired at the beginning of the calendar year after representing Canada on the FIFA list as an Assistant referee, a career which included participation at the FIFA U-20 World Cup in United Arab Emirates in 2003. Simon was very grateful for the recognition by the national governing body and to all those that helped him in his journey to the top. He now continues on in private life with his work as a manager of an auto dealership in Victoria and involved with his wife in the raising of his young children.

The Referees Association congratulates Simon on his past service, wishes him well in his ventures and hopes to stay connected with him in some capacity in the future.



NOW ACCEPTED AS MEMBERS: SMALL-SIDED (Class 5) REFEREES

The membership has agreed to include small-sided referees, formerly known as “Class 5”, as members of the Referees Association starting with the 2008-2009 Coastal Membership Year, as decided by the membership at the Spring Council Meeting held in Victoria on May 3rd.

It was also decided that these new recruits shall receive all material items afforded to all members. In order to cover costs of the material items, which include a badge (ed note: all new members receive a badge with membership) and any designated Membership Gift, a fee of \$10 would be charged with all fees, for their first year of membership, diverted into the provincial account. The fee for future membership years for those members of Small-sided referee level would then be split 50/50 between provincial and area association accounts.

It was also felt that due to the relatively young age of these referees that they may not be mature enough to understand some of the logistical issues of the association. As such these individuals would be allowed into the society as non-voting members.

FROM THE FILES

In an editorial in the Winter 2008 edition, reference was made to a Provincial soccer championship high school match in Burnaby. Members will be pleased to note the mentioned the incident that occurred in the aforementioned match in the column has been handled by the BC Soccer Association Discipline Committee.

Euro 2008 Winter's Word: Howard Webb will become a regular fixture on the Uefa circuit **By Henry Winter (The Guardian)** Last Updated: 10:27am BST 23/06/2008

The sight of Howard Webb dashing for a plane the other day seemed appropriate. European airports will soon become his second home. A chance meeting at the airport provided a welcome opportunity to catch up with this likeable, down-to-earth referee. Along with his assistants Darren Cann and Mike Mullarkey, Webb felt disappointed not to be amongst the eight of the 12 trios retained at Euro 2008 for the knock-out rounds. They all felt their group-stage displays, handling Austria-Poland and Greece-Spain, warranted their staying on. But their continued presence was unlikely. It was not the Poland controversy that counted against Webb and co. It was their inexperience. Only 36, Webb was comfortably the youngest of the referees at Euro 2008 with his closest contemporary being Massimo Busacca, the 39-year-old Swiss.

The rest of Uefa's leading officials are all in their 40s.

FIFA-listed only three years ago, Webb has also overseen only a handful of Champions League and international matches. He is very much a newcomer at the highest level. Webb knows that if he continues to develop as a referee, he should have four more tournaments left in him: the 2010 World Cup in South Africa, Euro 2012 in Poland (which should be lively) and Ukraine, the 2014 World Cup in Brazil and Euro 2016 (at a venue to be decided). By then, Webb will be 44, the same age as two of the referees out here, Herbert Fandel and Peter Frojdfeldt. Naturally athletic, Webb will encounter few physical problems in lasting the pace. His innate judgement of a game is also good. The skill now, as with all referees, is consistency in decision-making. The more Champions League ties and internationals he officiates, the better he will become.

UEFA clearly think very highly of Webb to have named someone so young amongst their elite 12 in the first place, and then to back him so vigorously after the Poland issue. Webb's decision to punish Mariusz Lewandowski for pulling the shirt of Austria's Sebastian Prodl has been described as everything from brave to foolish, correct to scandalous. Removing the inevitable emotion from the situation, Webb made the right decision in terms of that individual offence and needs to be unswerving at punishing similar infringements at all periods of the game. But if Webb now becomes the leader in the campaign against the sly act of shirt-pulling, then more power to his whistle.

Some markers have turned restricting an opponent's movement by holding their shirt into an art form. Webb has simply highlighted a transgression that seems minor compared to a blatant trip in the box but has the similar intent and effect of preventing a goalscoring opportunity.

His role model should be the outstanding Slovak, Lubos Michel, a byword for consistency. But already Webb is better than some amongst the elite 12, like Konrad Plautz, the Austrian who resembles an officious traffic warden with a passion for amateur dramatics. Webb's understated style of officiating is more appreciated by players. If England's thoroughbred referee does train on following this tournament experience, the glittering prize gleaming in every referee's eye - a major final - is not beyond his reach. Webb will have been through more than a few airports to get there.



“The Champions of the Champions League have been crowned and now, the agony of defeat:”

Euro 2008: Rosetti chosen for final

Italian official will whistle on Sunday in Vienna

(ANSA) - Rome, June 23 - Italian referee **Roberto Rosetti** has been chosen to referee the European championship final on June 29 in Vienna, UEFA said Monday.

He is the second Italian to get a major tournament's top spot since Pierluigi Collina who reffed the 2002 World Cup Final between Brazil and Germany.

Rosetti, 40, is a 1.9m (6ft3in) hospital director from Turin who is fluent in English and French.

He has refereed three matches at Euro 2008: the opening game between Switzerland the Czech Republic; the Group D match between Greece and Russia; and the quarter-final between Croatia and Turkey, in which he waved off Croatian protests about added time when Turkey scored with the last kick of the game, taking it to a penalty shoot-out they won.

Rosetti officiated at four games at the 2006 World Cup including France's 3-1 Round of Sixteen win over Spain.



He was praised for letting games flow and not being quick to book players. He finished the tournament with the second lowest rate of use of the card, 3.75 per match. He also earned praise for his control of last April's European Champions League semi-final game between Chelsea and Liverpool at Stamford Bridge.

In 2006 Rosetti emerged unscathed from Italy's Calciopoli scandal after he and now-retired 'super-ref' Collina were slammed in a police intercept of the ringleader's phone as being "too objective".

Sunday Euro 2008 final will be between the winner of Wednesday's semi-final between Germany and Turkey and the winner of Thursday's semi-final between Russia and Spain. photo: Rosetti at Euro 2008 Group D match between Greece and Russia.

Player sacked in Peru for insulting female referee

Reuters Updated: April 10/08 LIMA

A player was sacked by Peruvian champions Deportivo San Martin for insulting a female referee who sent him off during a match last weekend. Uruguayan striker Mario Leguizamon made insulting remarks with sexual connotations in a television interview after being shown the red card by Silvia Reyes in last Sunday's match against Alianza Atletico. His comments brought widespread condemnation from other players and women's rights' groups. "San Martin expresses solidarity (with Reyes) not just because she is a lady but also because she is the authority in control of the match and therefore deserves obedience and respect," the club said in a statement on Thursday. General manager Alvaro Barco told reporters: "Leguizamon is leaving because he damaged our image in the eyes of the public." Leguizamon later said sorry for the outburst but Reyes said she would not be accepting his apologies. "My conscience is clear because I said it in the heat of the moment," he told reporters. The player also criticised the standard of football in Peru, which has not qualified for a World Cup since 1982. "It's reality," he said. "How long has it been since Peru went to the World Cup? How long is it since Peru won anything?" (Reporting by Jean Luis Arce, writing by Brian Homewood in Rio de Janeiro, editing by Rex Gowar)

This story is from ESPN.com's automated news wire.

Goal-line technology dumped in favour of 'six-referee' plan (from "Scotland On")

By Andrew Smith at Gleneagles

GOAL-line technology to determine whether a goal has been scored will not be used in football for the foreseeable future, the game's law-makers ruled yesterday. Instead, experiments will be carried out with an additional assistant referee behind each goal. The dramatic turnaround on technology came at the annual general meeting of the International Football Association Board at Gleneagles Hotel. The gathering also saw a failure to endorse Scottish Football Association chief executive Gordon Smith's proposals to punish players retrospectively for simulation missed by referees. It will still come into force in Scotland next year, however, because it was agreed it should be a matter for individual associations. But it was the issue of goal-line technology which dominated the day. The insistence by Football Association chief executive Brian Barwick that the idea was "dead in the water" was the strongest sentiment expressed after a meeting at which it was expected his FA's proposals for further trials with two-camera systems would meet full approval. The technology appeared to have received favourable feedback after being tested at the World Club Championships in Tokyo.

But FIFA president Sepp Blatter and his UEFA counterpart Michel Platini applied pressure on the board, made up of the heads of the four British Associations, to reject a commitment to technology that had been expressed as main item on the agenda at recent IFAB meetings. Instead of cameras, the potential of stationing a referee behind each goal to rule on the ball crossing the line will now be explored. "Over the last two or three years goalline technology was creating the headlines when we walked out of the room from these meetings and it will be again today," Barwick said. "I see it as dead in the water, and on the basis of what has happened it is unlikely come back on to the agenda next year or for the foreseeable future." "That is very disappointing but we have to respect the integrity and democracy of the board, with a majority decision against proceeding with further experiments. We are driven by assisting the referee as best we can. Two companies put a lot of time and effort into realising the technical ambitions and I felt one system was well on its way to success with the other having travelled two-thirds of the journey."

But it appears that Blatter, who had stated previously that the use of technology was inevitable in football, has had his mind changed by Platini. FIFA general secretary Jerome Valcke maintained that the FIFA president was never unequivocal about benefits of cameras in the first place. "Blatter was clear in saying that it was too early for any technological system to become part of FIFA regulations," he said. "He was in favour of freezing all experiments of this nature and experimenting with the traditional referees. That was the request of Michel Platini. It was felt the technology would start with the goalline, then the offside and then you would have cameras checking if it was a penalty and in the end there would be a pitch with only cameras around. There was a big question if you use the tradition of referees, why use technology? In one of the experiments at the World Club Championships, one of the systems did not fully show, where the other worked well."

David Williams, of the Welsh FA, was one of those who voted against continuing to explore goal-line technology. He did so for fear of losing the character of competition. "Football is a game played by human beings," he said. "Everyone casts their minds back to 1966 and the Russian linesman and that is probably the most famous example of a goal-line debate. These make the game and something would be lost if supporters didn't have them. The sports who use technology are far more stop-start than football."

No decisions have been made as to where, when and how the goal-line referees will be tested. Barwick pointed out that a 50% increase in such personnel could prove problematic, with recruitment and retention of referees already difficult. It was also pointed out that six officials could make refereeing more rather than less complex. Smith admitted he favoured further experiments with technology but accepted the outcome on the issue and the 'cheats' charter. "Mr Blatter was very complimentary about the fact we have promoted procedures to tackle simulation," the SFA chief executive said. "And while everyone agrees we should be dealing with this, it was felt any measures taken should be left to each association. We will proceed with our plan for next season and are going through a pilot scheme at the moment. We have looked at UEFA's article 10, which was the basis for UEFA acting against a player post the Scotland and Lithuania game and giving out a two-match ban for simulation. It could be we incorporate the wording of article 10 in our rules." Smith and Barwick attended yesterday's Scottish Cup tie at Perth and both said they are keen to see their two countries share a pitch at the earliest suitable date. New Scotland manager George Burley rejected the chance to take his team to Wembley on May 28 because he would have to select an understrength side. But Smith insists the two countries' first confrontation in eight years has only been postponed

THE LAWMAKERS

The International Football Association Board (IFAB) is the body which decides on the laws of the game.

- Established in 1886, the board was originally made up of representatives from Scotland, Ireland, England and Wales. In 1913 representatives from FIFA, formed in 1904, were also invited to join.
- Recent years have seen the introduction of rules which have changed the speed of games and the board takes a strong view on over-physical play. IFAB also looks at how to modify existing rules, particularly the offside rule and keeper substitutions.
- There is a representative from each of the British associations and four FIFA representatives. A three-quarter majority needs to agree a law change. A law cannot, therefore, be passed by FIFA representatives alone.
- There are two meetings each year. The annual business meeting discusses internal affairs while the annual general meeting, which takes place in either February or March, discusses law changes.

My Story (to FC United) by Colin Lawrence.

(Ed. Note: Colin Lawrence is a Canadian referee from B.C. who for almost 10 years has been living in England. Here he presents his transition in the beautiful game to land of its birth. Colin, by the way, will be returning home to BC at the end of this summer and is actually the BCSRA's first "overseas" member. Be on the lookout for more behind-the-scene insights from Colin as we get closer to the start of this season's FA Cup playdowns).

On April 24th, 2008 I was notified by the Football Association that I had been selected as part of a group who were to be involved in the Contributory League playoffs. As this select group came from within a total of approximately 900 assistant referees, this was a definite indication of a successful season; however, the road to the playoffs had been a long one and started many years previous in Canada.



My journey began more than 15 years ago on weekends either coaching my sons or playing in the local leagues around Vancouver. As the years went by, the body took longer to recover and as such, my focus started to switch to youth level refereeing with the Guildford Athletic Club to whom my sons were registered. Following a desire to experience new challenges in life, the journey brought us to England in 1999; however, the boys soon lost interest in football and suddenly I had free weekends. The shortage of referees has long been a problem in the UK and as such, I saw a potential for a challenge beyond what I had experienced during my time in BC. My first seasons in the men's local leagues were challenging as I became known as "that Canadian ref"; however, a commitment to fitness and learning the game improved my abilities to the extent that I experienced promotions, refereeing numerous cup finals and ultimately Respect.

Following promotion to the national list of Contributory Assistant Referees, I was privileged to officiate in early stages of the FA Cup; also, matches that included former world cup players as well as numerous involving Football League clubs and stadiums. These reasons alone would answer the ultimate question; however, it was my unexpected appointment as an assistant referee to a Northern Premier League semi-final playoff game that gave me my answer. One of the teams involved was FC United of Manchester who was formed in 2005 as a direct response to the involvement of the Glazier family in Manchester United. Consecutive promotions from their inaugural season have pushed the "Red Rebels" to within three levels of Football league status. Through membership schemes and an active role in the community, this non-profit fan based approach has proved extremely popular and provided a consistent formula for success; so much so, that they consistently play before crowds in excess of 2,000 which surpass even some Football League teams. While the story of FC United of Manchester is remarkable, it is by no means the only success story. AFC Wimbledon were formed prior to FC United, however, their success has been equally meteoric in regards to promotion and fan support. These two stories continue to influence and hopefully AFC Liverpool can duplicate the recipe in their upcoming first season. Grass roots football is enjoying an up turn in popularity as the true fan becomes disillusioned with the over paid prima donnas who grace the elite fields in the UK.

As referees, we are continually faced with the ultimate question "why do we do it". The answers received are usually varied; however, for the vast majority of us it's because we want to be part of the beautiful game rather than a spectator. We want the challenge of a demanding game, earning the respect of both sides and knowing that we have played our part in an entertaining game for both players and fans alike. And that's what made April 30th, 2008 special as the atmosphere inside the stadium was intense, yet exciting and required the ultimate test for both players and officials alike. Although we were subjected to the usual chants from the fans and players alike, the post match handshakes from the players and managers acknowledged that we had played our part in a small piece of history. Even though one team had to lose, it appeared that all fans were winners as they got to witness an excellent contest between two teams who were committed, yet fair, in their pursuit of promotion. As we sat in the dressing room afterwards with the assessor, it would appear that the ultimate question had been answered. So much so that all I could think of to say on the long drive home was "what a way to finish my time in the UK". For the record, FC United of Manchester won 3-2.

While the game closed one chapter of my career, it opens the door on future possibilities back home, where hopefully, my experiences can be of benefit to the young and inexperienced referee. I welcome the challenge



THE WAY IT IS.....

The following letter was sent via email to all registered referees by BC Soccer. It concerns the incident in the Euro 2008 quarter-final between The Netherlands and Russia. As we have some associate members, who by being non-active referees and by definition do not appear on the BC Soccer Association list, we are presenting the email in our publication.

Dear Referees,

We are sending this on behalf of the Canadian Soccer Association’s Director of Referees, Joe Guest.

“Dear Colleagues

I am sure many of you saw over the weekend Slovakian referee Lubos Michel show a red card for a second offence to Russian defender Denis Kolodin in the quarter-final match with Netherlands only to withdraw it after speaking with his assistant referee. UEFA have stated that the referee had been convinced by his assistant that Kolodin’s tackle did not warrant a caution.

This demonstrates an example of cooperation between referees and their assistants; because they had the conversation and the decision was reconsidered. Regardless of all the modern technology (beep flags and earpiece communication) the face to face conversation was the major selling point in getting this decision correct.

I know that many commentators have speculated that the second caution had been overturned due to the ball being out of play when the challenge was made. For the avoidance of doubt you are reminded that the status of the ball has no bearing on the sanctioning of a player in this regard. If the assistant referee had failed to convince the referee that the challenge was not cautionable, then regardless of whether the ball was out of play the referee must apply the appropriate disciplinary sanction and in this case dismiss the player from the field. Of course the restart would revert to the where the ball was out of play.

Regards

Joe Guest”



Do you have a submission for the Flag & Whistle?

Please email all material to either

jonsee@telus.net or ***Ivo@direct.ca*** or ***F&W Staff Writer - stdy@telus.net***

Note : Deadline for submissions in the next issue will be Aug.31/08

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.

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