

# Flag & Whistle

Newsletter for the BC Soccer Referees Association - Spring 2010 FINAL



## RA BUSINESS PLAN AGREED TO - FULL STEAM AHEAD

It's official- the RA's Business Plan, which was agreed to in principle at the Fall Council Meeting in December, has been accepted. With this phase the plan now enters Phase 1- The Search For Project Managers.

In addition to existing initiatives that Areas are already performing, the Plan calls for eight specific Projects:

Each Area are to find at least 2 individuals to serve as Project Managers. Of the criteria for being a Project Manager, being a current member of an Area Association executive is not one of them. And while members serving on an executive would not be precluded, it was felt that one's executive duties would not allow for ample time for being a Project Manager. However, only the individual will know.

The other criteria

- Good communication skills  
(i.e. be a good listener, be able to ask questions without seeming threatening)
- Be a responsible person (not a lot of duties but definitely responsibilities involved)
- Be detail oriented

VP Nick Hawley, a project manager by trade, has indicated he will coach each Project Manager. Nick can be reached at 604-202-8839 or [nick.hawley@bchydro.com](mailto:nick.hawley@bchydro.com).

### SPOTS OPEN FOR ELECTION ON PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE

Hans Clodius is the head of this year's Nominating Committee tasked with finding candidates for the following positions President and Secretary. All interested candidates are asked to contact Hans at [iclodius@shaw.ca](mailto:iclodius@shaw.ca) or 604-542-5802.

Area Association-appointed Directors to be ratified are as follows: Fraser Valley, Vancouver Area, and the Interior Director (formally known as "any other Area Association exclusive of Fraser Valley, Vancouver and Vancouver Island)" Area Associations are asked to provide those names to Nominating Committee Chairman Hans Clodius as well.

### THE R.A. AT THE OLYMPICS

Mohammed Janief was fortunate to be selected as a Torch Bearer for the 2010 Olympic Winter Games Torch Relay. Describing his run as "amazing", Mohammed then passed the flame to Senator and former Vancouver Mayor Larry Campbell. (See inside for further photos).



### UPCOMING KAMLOOPS AREA TOURNAMENTS

The Kamloops Soccer Referees Association (KSRA) branch wishes to announce the following upcoming tournaments:

- April 24/25 Ice Breaker
- April 23/24 Merritt High School \*
- April 30, May 1, 2 Mike Bartram
- May long weekend KYSA Cup \*\*

Members wishing information should contact the following:

- For Merrit High School Girls Tourney: Darren Clarke ([deeseel6@yahoo.ca](mailto:deeseel6@yahoo.ca)) or Danny Nikolic ([dusbra@shaw.ca](mailto:dusbra@shaw.ca))
- For all other tournaments listed: Danny Nikolic ([dusbra@shaw.ca](mailto:dusbra@shaw.ca))

### SPRING COUNCIL/AGM AND JACK TINNION MEMORIAL SHIELD SET FOR EARLY MAY

This year's Spring Council/AGM/Jack Tinnion Memorial Shield Match is tentatively set for Saturday, May 8th in Victoria. The purpose of this meeting will be to continue the work of moving forward on the RA Business Plan, to elect a new provincial executive and to adopt a budget for the coming year. The possibility of a brainstorming session, as has occurred at recent Council meetings, is also being contemplated.



# CSRA CORNER

## AGM SEES NEW EXECUTIVE ELECTED

The 21st Annual General Meeting of the National RA saw a new executive elected on Saturday, March 27th in Mississauga. The new executive is as follows:

President: Joe Licandro

1st Vice-President: Tony Troughton  
(elected to a 2 year term)

2nd Vice-President: Elvio Chies

Secretary: Lisa Waywell (elected to a 2 year term)

Treasurer: Laurent Eloy

The meeting also featured Canadian FIFA Referee Carol Anne Chenard as guest speaker. Carol Anne spoke on her "Road to the World Cup" detailing the highs and lows of reaching the 2008 FIFA Women's U-20 World Cup in Chile.

## TASK FORCE SETUP

As a result of the CSRA's Brainstorming session titled, "What should/could the role of a RA be in today's reality?", the membership asked that a special Task Force be setup to provide recommendations for moving the association forward.

The Task Force will be chaired by 1st Vice-President Tony Troughton. All member associations are asked to provide a representative on the sub-committee (Ed note: the BCSRA rep will be Treasurer Robin Woods). A draft Terms of Reference has been submitted to member associations for feedback which will then be taken under advisement by the CSRA executive.

## CSRA EXEC MEMBER DISTINGUISHED AT MSA AWARDS BANQUET

At the annual Manitoba Soccer Association (MSA) Awards Banquet CSRA Treasurer Laurent Eloy was bestowed with the Frank Major Award of Merit for his long service to refereeing. Laurent also holds a position on the MSA Referee Development Committee. Congratulations to Larry!

## CALGARY DISTRICT ELECTIONS

Terry Day was elected President at this year's elections of the Calgary District SRA on April 6th. Sonny Marshal was the other elected officer who now holds the position of Director. Outgoing President Layne Greenway still holds the position of Registrar.

## CORRECTION:

The Holiday 2009 issue of the Flag & Whistle incorrectly listed Eric Evans as the newest Life Member of the Ontario Soccer Referees Association (OSRA). In fact, he is the newest Life Member of the Toronto branch of the OSRA.

## SHORT TAKES

### ELECTION RESULTS

Since the distribution of the Holiday '09 issue, the following Area Associations have elected new executives (listed in alphabetical order by name of Area Association):

#### FRASER VALLEY SRA:

President: Dave Miller, Vice-President: Martin Reid (elected by acclamation), Secretary: Tom Babic, Treasurer: Mike Perko (elected by acclamation), Directors: Phil Fasciglione (elected by acclamation), Paul Toop

#### KAMLOOPS SRA:

President: Mario Salituro, Vice-President: Doug Pennington, Secretary: Neil Farber, Treasurer/Allocator, Danny Nikolic, Directors: Chris Butcher, Claudio Klarich, Martin Thompson

#### VANCOUVER AREA SRA:

President: Marc Bowley, 1st Vice-President: Philip Leung (elected by acclamation), 2nd Vice-President: John May, Secretary: Bill McNaughton, Treasurer: Ron Schaeffer (elected by acclamation), Directors: Jose Fraguas (elected by acclamation), Mauricio Navarro

The VISRA (South) AGM will be held on April 20th

Congratulations to the respective new executives!

## CSA REFEREES COMMITTEE RESPONSE ELICITS BRAINSTORMING SESSION

A brainstorming session titled "What should/could the role of a referees association be in today's reality?" was part of the Association's Annual General Meeting in Mississauga. This was due in part as a result of the National RA's request for recognition by the CSA Referees Committee. In a letter from CSA Director of Refereeing Joe Guest, the Committee felt it could not officially recognize the society at this time, citing the number of members as a percentage of the total referee population across the country. In a follow-up conversation to the letter, CSRA President Joe Licandro was informed that CSA by-laws require any body making request to be officially recognized by the CSA must have a minimum of six provincial organizations. Currently, the CSRA has 3 provincial organizations (BCSRA, Manitoba SRA, Ontario SRA) and one District association (Calgary District SRA). In the past there was representation also from the Alberta SRA (which has since gone by the wayside), Saskatchewan and Quebec.

## ERIC EVANS BESTOWED WITH CSRA LIFE MEMBERSHIP

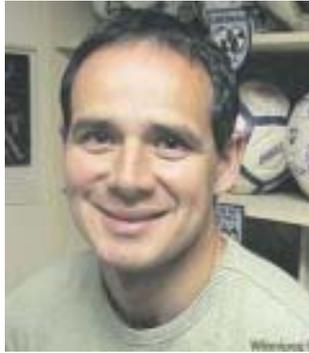
Former CSRA Secretary Eric Evans was bestowed as the CSRA's newest Life Member at its Annual General Meeting on March 27th in Mississauga. Eric was the Secretary of the association since 1993 before a stroke caused him to step down in 2006.

## WINNIPEG ZEBRA BEING SENT TO SOUTH AFRICA

By: Staff Writer

Winnipeg Free Press -  
PRINT EDITION

WHEN Hector Vergara arrived in Canada from Chile in 1978, he was an 11-year-old boy and the World Cup was only a dream. Now 43, and the chief administrative officer for the Manitoba Soccer Association, Vergara is about to go where no other Canadian has gone before, and hopefully beyond.



Vergara has been selected by FIFA to officiate at his third World Cup tournament in South Africa June 11-July 11, as an assistant referee. He is the only Canadian in a group of 30 referees, representing 28 countries.

“I am the only Canadian to officiate in three World Cups,” he said Tuesday. “I am ecstatic and extremely proud. I’m the proudest person on the face of the world right now.”

At the 2006 tournament, Vergara worked the semifinal between Italy and the host country Germany. Vergara began to officiate soccer at the age of 16, and gave up playing the game when he was 18 to concentrate on refereeing. “I didn’t think (at the time) that it was possible for a Canadian to officiate at a World Cup game. It’s not easy, and to come this far is just very hard. I’m on cloud nine.”

Unfortunately this will be Vergara’s last opportunity to work the World Cup as FIFA rules stipulate that officials must retire at the age of 45. However, that doesn’t stop him from dreaming of loftier goals.

“It do have some goals,” he said. “My first was to be selected, but now that I am going, my goal has shifted. Ideally for me I would like to get at least three games in, which I think would make me the leader in the world for most games officiated. I believe the record is 13, and I have 11 now. Three would make it 14.

“Considering I am from Canada, and there is no professional league here, I would say that is pretty amazing.”

Republished from the Winnipeg Free Press print edition February 10, 2010 C6

**Ed note: Hector will be writing a blog during his stay at the World Cup which can be viewed on the Manitoba Soccer Referees Association’s website:**

[www.manitbasoccerreferees.com](http://www.manitbasoccerreferees.com).

## PRESIDENT’S CORNER- CAN CANADIAN PRIDE GET US TO THE WORLD CUP?

The recent outpouring of national pride during the Winter Olympics has been defined as a watershed moment in the history of Canada. In so doing, there has been a renewed interest in our national sports teams and athletes. Question: is this limited to Winter sports only (and at that, hockey) or is all this flag waving a phenomena like Beatlemania, a product of the time and not to be repeated in two years hence?

The true test will be Canada Day. If the “Big Sleep” turns out to be, instead, just as much a celebration as the Olympics, then we’re onto something. And the timing is significant. Not only is 2012 the year of the Summer Olympics, it’s also the start of qualifying for the 2014 World Cup.

Why is making the World Cup so important? Two reasons, the first being reputation. As referees we stand to benefit because a country that can not only consistently make it to the World Cup but perform will also mean the level of play is of a significant state. This means referees our referees will be considered in some high esteem.

The other issue is money. By making the World Cup, our National Team program stands to profit for the next four years. Just for showing up to the dance, the United States gets \$10.5 million USD. That’s enough money to pay for the entire Canadian National Team program with money to spare to pay the players for making it to the World Cup itself (remember, playing for Canada means putting your livelihood on a club side in jeopardy- the players deserve to be recognized for their efforts).

Planning starts now. There are two major ingredients: first, we’re going to have to spend money. As the Olympics have shown us, it will take money to produce gold, something, let’s be honest, the soccer community is loathe to do.

The other is passion.

For too long, a home game in Canada has been an oxymoron. It was actually a home game for the *visiting* side. We have been too shy to show off the red and white. We have always been “just happy to be there”. We have always felt as if we didn’t rate.

But if the Olympics have taught us anything, we don’t have to play second fiddle to anyone. Perhaps what we need is a soccer version of Don Cherry to fire up the troops, to kick us in the back side and show our colours.

Or maybe, all we need to do is sing O Canada like we really mean it. Given what we saw at the Olympics, wouldn’t the sound of 20,000 people drive the fear of God into anyone from CONCACAF?

Ed note: The March monthly meeting of the Vancouver Area branch (VASRA) brought together all members (that were known) to congregate under the Olympic torch. Congratulations to all members on their experience of a lifetime!



Photo left (from left to right): Michael Nemeth, Joe Ciresi, BCSRA President Elvio Chies, Mohammed Janief, Ian McHugh, Domenic Pace, Richard Janaway. Photo right: Member Art Duran (right) along with Mohammed Janief and the Olympic torch. Missing: Tom Babic

## Canada rife with abusive sports parents: International poll

By Bradley Bouzane, Canwest News Service April 7, 2010 (CNS)

More than half of Canadian adults who attend children's sporting events say they've witnessed verbal or physical abuse against officials and coaches by parents, according to a new survey. Photograph by: Pat McGrath, The Ottawa Citizen More than half of Canadian adults who attend children's sporting events say they've witnessed verbal or physical abuse against officials and coaches by parents, according to a new survey. The Ipsos Reid poll, which was released Wednesday and commissioned by Thomson Reuters, has Canada — at 53 per cent — among just five countries with a majority of those surveyed having witnessed abuse at children's sports. Only the United States (60 per cent), India (59 per cent), Italy (55 per cent) and Argentina (54 per cent) had more people report seeing abuse.

Peter Crocker, chair of the Canadian Psychological Associations' sports and exercise section, says although Canada ranks high in the poll, he's shocked the Canadian figure isn't higher, given the pressure put on sports teams, even at the youth level.

"I'm surprised only about 50 per cent of parents have witnessed verbal abuse," said Crocker, who is also a professor of human kinetics at the University of British Columbia. "I would think it was closer to 80 per cent because all you have to do is witness it once. You're going to see somebody screaming at a referee sooner or later. One of the things, especially in the U.S. but increasingly so in Canada, is that a lot of parents have high aspirations for their children. There's a lot of pressure at these games because they want their kids to do well and there's this dream of the college scholarship, or in Canada of (a hockey player) getting drafted and going through the system."

Crocker, who has spent years as a youth soccer coach, said he has witnessed verbal abuse, mostly aimed at referees, that has resulted in the stoppage of a game.

"This guy was just going ballistic on this poor 13- or 14-year-old female linesman," he said. "The ref stopped the game and wouldn't start again until that person left. Maybe that's what needs to happen — a no-tolerance rule. Until you have that, though, it will be tough."

He said the level of abuse, especially verbal, witnessed as youth sporting events likely depends heavily on the most popular sports in a particular country, which might explain why Canada and its strong hockey culture is so high on the list of 22 nations.

"Verbal expression of various forms is cultural, and it will be influenced by the sporting culture," Crocker said. "For example, if you go watch volleyball, you don't see the same level of verbal abuse towards the opposition as you do when you go to hockey. Any time where there's physical contact, those sports tend to have high arousal levels. Once people get in these aroused states, they tend to become more reactive in their comments."

While Canada and the U.S. were among the highest reporting countries, the Czech Republic and Hungary appear to have the most tame parents in youth sports, with just 24 per cent and 16 per cent of respondents reporting abuse during children's sports by parents.

The poll is considered accurate within 3.1 percentage points 19 times out of 20, and is from a sample of more than 23,000 adults from the 22 countries between November 2009 and January 2010.

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## Study admits that refs pick on the tall player

January 27, 2010: 8:38 AM THE ASSOCIATED PRESS THE HAGUE, Netherlands --

Soccer referees forced to make quick decisions on questionable foul calls are more likely to rule against the taller player, according to a new study. Niels van Quaquebeke and Steffen Giessner, researchers at Erasmus University's Rotterdam School of Management, reached the conclusion after studying 123,844 fouls from seven Champions League and German Bundesliga seasons, along with the last three World Cups. "We found that on average the player who committed the foul is taller than the one who was the victim," Giessner said Wednesday in a telephone interview. To support their initial finding, they carried out experiments by showing a group of soccer fans drawings of two players involved in a tackle -- one taller than the other. The fans said taller players were more likely to have committed a foul than shorter players.

The reason, Van Quaquebeke and Giessner say, can be traced back to human nature. "Humans throughout evolution needed to be more afraid of bigger animals because bigger animals usually have more potential to harm us," Van Quaquebeke said. Height is not the only factor influencing referees' decisions, though. Earlier research has suggested that even the colour of a player's shirt could have an effect. "We are human beings, we are not objective information processors," Van Quaquebeke said. "We are very subjective, especially if we don't have all the information available. We've got to make the best guess." While the findings could bolster the case for using video replay to help soccer officials, Van Quaquebeke and Giessner say they agree with FIFA president Sepp Blatter that such reviews would slow down the game and take away its human element. Instead, they suggest better training to help referees overcome such subjective decisions.

In the meantime, the researchers are hopeful about Germany's chances at the World Cup in South Africa this year -- and they see an advantage for their team because of the diminutive stature of one of their key players. "We are happy to have Philipp Lahm," Van Quaquebeke said of the five-foot-seven defender. Van Quaquebeke and Giessner's findings will be published in February's edition of the *Journal of Sport & Exercise Psychology*.

## Is fair play a thing of the past?



January 25, 2010 12:27 PM | Posted by Nigel Reed on CBC.ca

When David Beckham gets booked in the first five minutes, you just know there's going to be trouble. Referee Rocchi singled out the England midfielder in the opening exchanges of a highly charged Milan derby. By the time he blew his final whistle, the official had issued six yellow and two red cards prompting Inter manager Jose Mourinho to suggest a conspiracy was afoot to prevent his team winning the game.

Only The Special One would be as arrogant as to point an accusing finger at the referee and then go on to boast his team would still have won with only seven men, rather than the nine with which it finished the contest. But this is Italy and Italy is theatre. Mourinho needed no invitation to ramp up the rivalry by delivering a show-stopping line for which he will, no doubt, be fined and censured. What does he care? His team is nine points ahead of the chasing pack and seemingly unstoppable in the race for another Serie A title.

### Height of disrespect shameful

On a soccer field, theatre comes in many forms. It ranges from elaborate goal celebrations to contemptuous simulation, not to mention the well-rehearsed mime as players wave imaginary cards at opponents in an attempt to induce the referee to brandish the real thing. Odious though they are, these indiscretions are no match for the felony that is disrespect. Look up the word in an Italian dictionary and you may see a mug shot of Wesley Sneijder. The Dutch midfielder was shown a real red card for nothing more than sarcasm. And he deserved everything he got.

Sneijder was sent off for mocking the referee who had correctly booked teammate Ferreira Lucio for diving. The Dutchman probably knew his sardonic applause would lead to another yellow card but he continued regardless. The straight red which followed cut short the ovation. We have become conditioned to accept this kind of behaviour from players and so we are mildly shocked when an official takes a stand. Signore Rocchi will be berated for being heavy handed when a cool head was required in the intensity of a Milan derby. I, for one, applaud his decision without a hint of sarcasm.

If players cannot be adult enough to respect the man in charge then they deserve to be treated like disobedient children. The referee's job is hard enough without him having to endure humiliation, which, at times, borders on open hostility. He's a human being too, trying his best to administer fair play. The man in the middle has to be part democrat, part dictator. He must control the players under his authority in an even-handed, respectful manner and should expect the same in return. On the field of play his word is law, but it seems to me too many players are all too eager to declare the law is an ass.

*(Continued on page 9)*

# Porto 2 Arsenal 1: Why ref Martin Hansson **F** & **W** - Spring 2010 Pg.6

## was right to allow Falcao's bizarre goal to stand

### By Graham Poll

*(Ed note: for those members who witnessed the first leg of the Round of Sixteen Champions League game between Porto and Arsenal, here is an opinion by former FIFA and World Cup referee Graham Poll. It was an incident that we could see on our local parks, not that we want to mind you. Whatever you felt about the way it was handled it's presented as food for thought).*

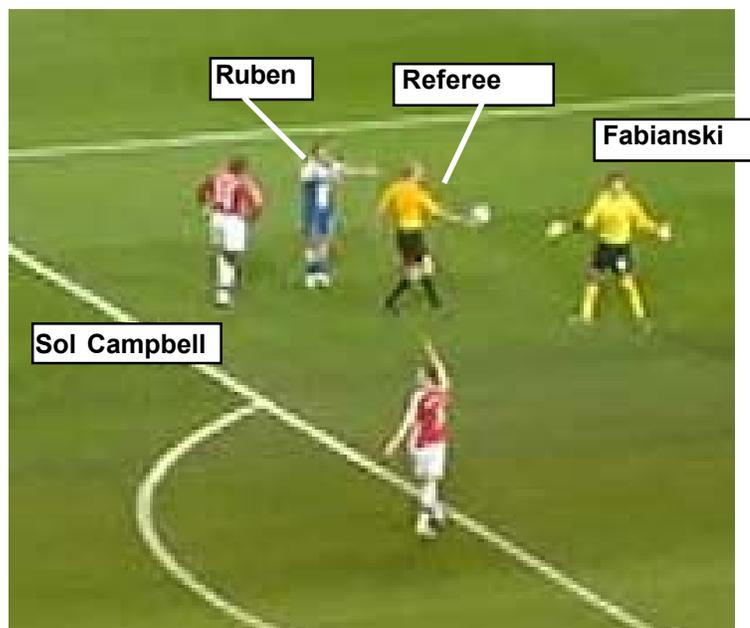
Last updated at 2:52 AM on 18th February 2010

Technically, there is nothing wrong with the goal, nor the actions of the referee Martin Hansson. There has clearly been a transgression of law with Sol Campbell's backpass and, once the referee has awarded the free-kick, the rule is that advantage is immediately given back to the team who have been wronged.

In the spirit of the law, it can be argued that the defending team should be given an opportunity to regroup before the kick is taken, but that responsibility falls to the players. Fabianski could have held on to the ball or thrown it away - as we see so often - thus risking a yellow card but ensuring that Porto would not be able to take a quick free-kick. As for the role of the Porto players, how many times did we see Thierry Henry take a quick free-kick during his Arsenal days under Arsene Wenger?

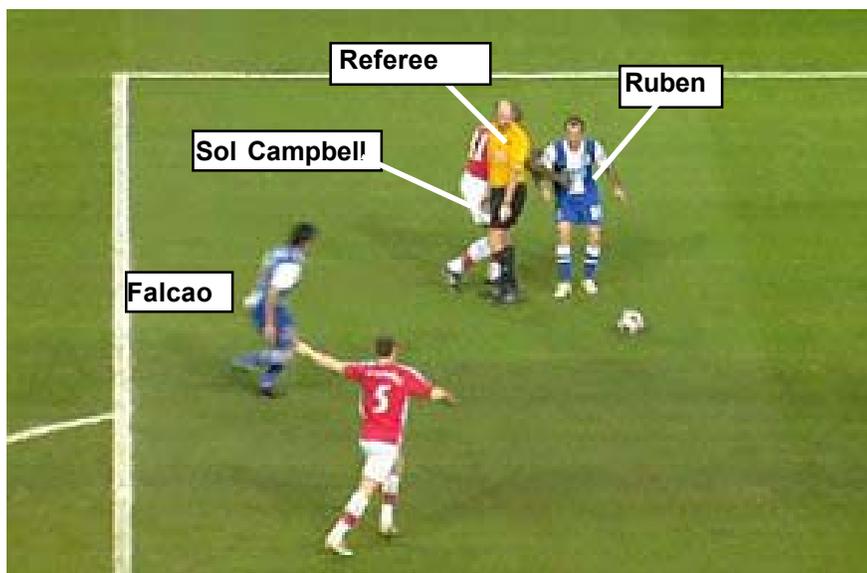
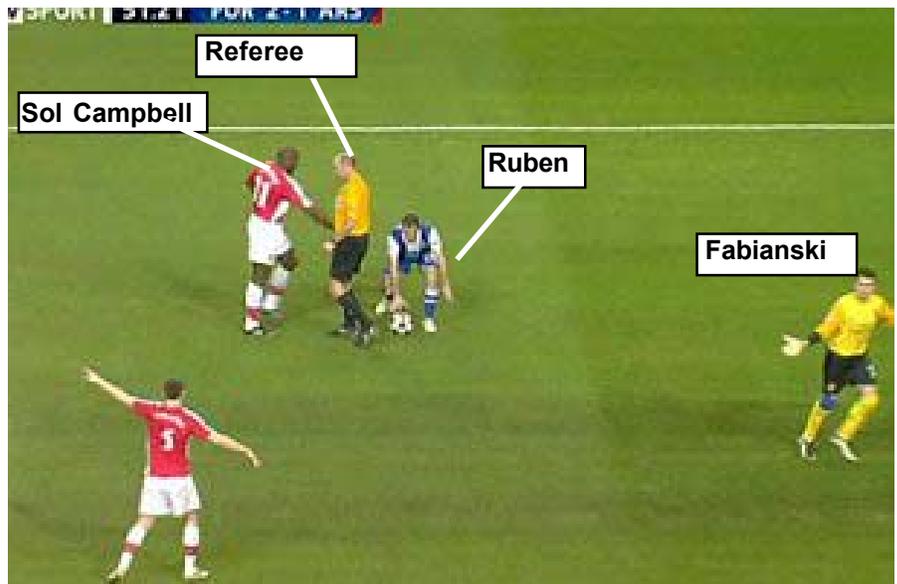
Most memorably, in an FA Cup tie against Chelsea - and we didn't hear his manager complaining then. It could perhaps be argued that Hansson's positioning prevents Sol Campbell from making an attempt to get back, but that doesn't make the referee wrong. West Ham and Chelsea fans will remember a similar situation involving myself in a Premier League match some years ago, when I was standing between the ball and West Ham's goal, and then stepped aside to allow Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink to take a quick free-kick, which flew past David James into the net. Looking back at it, I admit that my positioning could have been better but, in this case, Hansson hasn't blocked the view of the Arsenal goalkeeper and, by, asking for Fabianski to hand the ball back, cannot be accused of taking the Gunners by surprise.

**Frame 1 (right).** Sol Campbell touches the ball back to his goalkeeper. Fabianski instinctively picks the ball up, leaving referee Hansson no alternative but to award an indirect free-kick



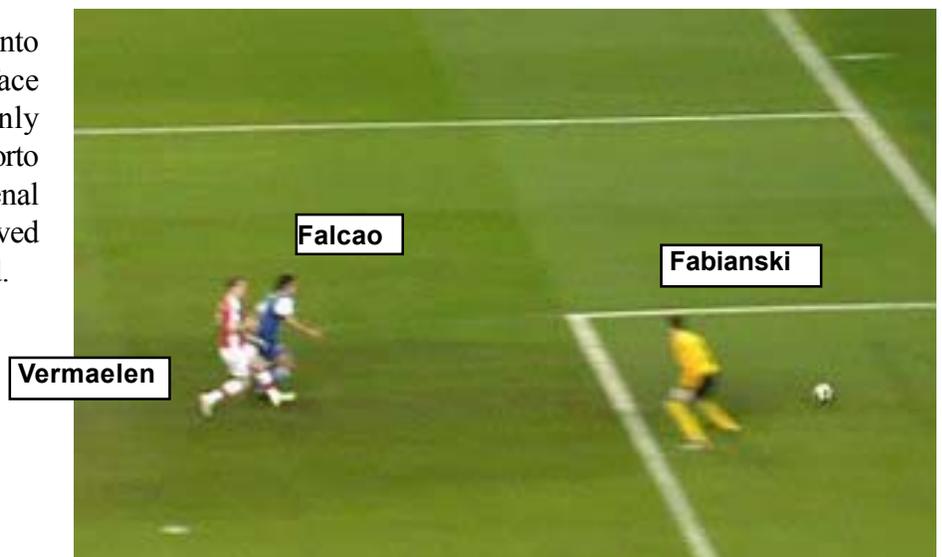
**Frame 2 (left).** Ruben Micael attempts to wrestle the ball from Fabianski, who initially holds on to it, but as Hansson arrives at the scene of the offence, the keeper tosses the ball to the referee.

**Frame 3 (right).** Fabianski turns his back to retreat to his goal, while at the same time appearing to protest his innocence to the assistant on the far side. The goalkeeper must be aware that, having handed over the ball, Porto are permitted to take their free-kick immediately, which Ruben does.



**Frame 4 (left).** Ruben places the ball and passes square to the onrushing Falcao. Sol Campbell, spotting the danger, makes a late attempt to get behind the ball but is blocked by the referee. Arsenal's other defenders still have not retreated behind the ball and Falcao has a clear run at the ball and shot on goal.

**Frame 5 (right).** Falcao strokes the ball into the net just as Fabianski finally turns to face the ball. Of the Arsenal defenders, only Vermaelen reacts in an attempt to prevent Porto scoring. The referee is confronted by Arsenal players and Arsene Wenger but he is unmoved by the protest and allows the goal to stand.



# Female referee Amy Fearn makes football history

Coventry 1-0 Nottm Forest

Referee **Amy Fearn** has set her sights on the Premier League after becoming the first woman to take charge of a Football League match. Fearn, 31, made history with a 20-minute cameo appearance during Coventry City's 1-0 win over Championship rivals Nottingham Forest on Tuesday night. She replaced Tony Bates in the 71st minute after he limped off injured.

"It would be nice to referee in the Premier League one day but obviously the competition is harder," she said. Fearn told [www.football-league.co.uk](http://www.football-league.co.uk): "My next promotion target is running the line in that division but I started out as a ref and that is what I love doing. I want to continue being a referee."

Fearn has been running the lines in the Football League and refereeing in the Football Conference for almost seven years.



She began refereeing aged 16 and described walking on to the middle of the pitch on Tuesday night as "very surreal".

"The decision is made before the game which official will replace the referee in the event of him coming off, so even though I wasn't the fourth official, I was the most senior so it fell to me to replace Tony," added Fearn, who referees on average three Football Conference matches a month.

"The game stepped up a level when I entered the pitch. Going from the line to the middle is very different.

"It is the same as a player substitution, there is an extra stimulus in the game and with 20 minutes to go, Forest were desperate to get a goal."

Fearn added that she was hopeful her appearance at the Ricoh Arena would boost women's involvement in football.

"It can only be a good thing for encouraging more women into the game," stated Fearn. "There is a great relationship between male and female officials. When the referee came off he told me to stay calm and do my best and it would be great to see more women come into the game.

"I understand there was a big reaction from the crowd but I don't remember it at the time. I'm glad there was nothing controversial in that 20 minutes, football should be about the players not the officials."

## Switzerland's Busacca voted top referee

Associated Press (as appeared in Houston Chronicle)  
Jan. 6, 2010, 10:09AM

GENEVA — **Massimo Busacca** of Switzerland has been voted the world's best soccer referee in 2009.

He received 39 of 81 first-place votes Wednesday from an International Federation of Football History and Statistics panel.

Busacca ran the Champions League final last May. The 40-year-old official served a three-match ban in the Swiss league after making an obscene gesture to fans during a domestic cup game in September. Busacca apologized.

Italian referee Roberto Rosetti, who handled the 2008 European Championship final, placed second and England's Howard Webb was third.

All three will work the 2010 World Cup in South Africa.

## FAMOUS GAFFES

The humorous magazine Private Eye picked up on these and began publishing them in its Colemanballs column. The name was taken from the sports commentator David Coleman, who could give even the managers a run for their money:

"The Spaniards have been reduced to aiming aimless balls into the box." (Ron Atkinson, former Manchester United manager)

"If you can't stand the heat in the dressing room, get out of the kitchen."

(Terry Venables, former manager of QPR and Tottenham Hotspurs)

"If Glenn Hoddle said one word to his team at half time, it was concentration and focus." (Ron Atkinson)

"I felt a lump in my throat as the ball went in." (Terry Venables)

# The IFAB: How it works

(FIFA.com) Thursday 4 March 2010

*(Ed note: At the time of layout of this issue we did not have articles on the outcome of this year's meeting of the International Football Association Board, the body of the four members of FIFA that over make decisions on changes in the Law of the Game. Here we present an article on the inner workings of this body.*

The role of the International Football Association Board (IFAB) is to discuss and decide upon proposed alterations to the Laws of the Game. FIFA and the UK-based associations (English, Scottish, Welsh and Northern Irish FAs) can propose matters to be discussed and ratified at the Annual General Meeting (AGM), which usually takes place in February or March.

These meetings take place in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland in strict rotation, as well as locations decided by FIFA in years when the FIFA World Cup™ is held. A representative of the 'host' association acts as chairman. The same country also acts as hosts for the Annual Business Meeting (ABM) which takes place in September or

October. Although the ABM can consider general business submitted to the Board by any of the continental confederations or any of FIFA's 208 Member Associations and provide decisions, it does not have the authority to alter the Laws of the Game.

As a FIFA vice-President and Chairman of the Referees' Committee Angel Maria Villar Llona has been involved with IFAB meetings since 2003. In his view, the organisation is vitally important to football as "it controls and defines the Laws of the Game, which is the

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## IS FAIR PLAY A THING OF THE PAST (cont'd from pg 5)

Sneijder and Mourinho should be ashamed of themselves. Does the player not understand the message he is sending out to youngsters developing a lifelong passion for the game? Does the manager not comprehend the potential damage he is inflicting on a league too often mired in allegations of corruption?

### Mockery of the laws

Cristiano Ronaldo was another to fall foul of the Laws of the Game over the weekend. Having won the game for Real Madrid with both goals against Malaga, he then proceeded to break an opponent's nose with a deliberate elbow to the face. The referee issued an equally deliberate red card to a player so gifted and yet so arrogant he probably believes he is above the law.

We all want our team to win but surely not at any cost. Maybe my values have changed with the advancing years, but I would rather see my team lose with dignity than bamboozle its way to victory. FIFA doesn't even have a law to deal with Thierry Henry, but what are French fans really thinking about their passage to and participation in the 2010 World Cup?

Has honesty and integrity in professional soccer sunk so low as to be a laughable irrelevance? When June 11th rolls around and we settle down for a month-long football fiesta, featuring Sneijder, Ronaldo and Henry, let's not bother with pre-game rituals like shaking hands and official banners promoting Fair Play. It is the height of hypocrisy and sadly we all know it.

soul of any sport."

**F & W** - Spring 2010 Pg 9

"It's a very co-ordinated group effort," Villar Llona told FIFA.com. "Although there are different points of view on certain matters, every representative is a hard worker, who is very pro-active and qualified. They're all very aware of their responsibility."

### More about the AGM

Each of the IFAB members can forward in writing suggestions or proposed alterations to the Laws of the Game, requests for experimentation to the Laws of the Game and other items for discussion to the secretary of the association hosting the meeting by 1 December of the preceding year. This is then printed and distributed by 14 December. If any amendments or alterations need to be made to the initial proposal, the deadline to do this is 14 January, as topics for discussion are printed and distributed to the members of IFAB on or before 1 February.

"It controls and defines the Laws of the Game, which is the soul of any sport." -Angel Maria Villar Llona.

### More about the ABM

Each of the IFAB members can forward any proposals, requests for experimentation regarding the Laws of the Game and other items for discussion in writing to the secretary of the host association, at least four weeks before the date of the meeting. Any confederation or other member association of FIFA may forward proposals, requests or items for discussion in writing to FIFA's Secretary General, in good time to ensure that they can be considered by FIFA and, if acceptable, forwarded to the secretary of the host association at least four weeks before the meeting.

### Voting and decision making

FIFA has four votes on behalf of all its affiliated member associations. The other associations of the IFAB each have one vote. For a proposal to succeed, it must receive the support of at least three-quarters of those present and entitled to vote. The decisions of the Annual Business Meeting of the Board shall be effective from the date of the meeting, unless agreed otherwise.

The decisions of the AGM of the IFAB regarding changes to the Laws of the Game shall be binding on confederations and member associations as from 1 July following each AGM. However, confederations or member associations whose current season has not ended by 1 July may delay the introduction of the adopted until the beginning of their next season. No alteration to the Laws of the Game can be made by any confederation or member association unless it has been passed by the Board.

### IFAB reflections

"I think that the most important change I've been involved with was the amendment to the offside rule [in 2005], because it meant a big step in the game's development," reflected Villar Llona. "And above all, it has benefited attacking football and goals."

"I don't think there will be significant modifications at this forthcoming meeting [in March 2010]. It's not usual to introduce important changes a few months ahead of a World Cup, but there are different reports to study and discuss, and those can be really relevant in the future."

## Players lukewarm over Europa League extra officials (BBC)

Football players have given a lukewarm response to Uefa's experiment with two extra officials in the Europa League. World players' union Fifpro polled the captains of the 48 clubs who competed in the Europa League group stages. Of the 31 players who responded, 70% saw no improvement in decision-making during the trial but 90% want to see goal-line technology.



David Moyes and Roy Hodgson have criticised the extra officials

"With extra officials, the players, who are key figures in the game, expect more," said Fifpro's Tijs Tummers.

Under Uefa's scheme, which has been championed by president Michel Platini, an extra official has been stationed behind the goal-line at each end in Europa League matches this season to help the referee.

Platini has consistently said he favours having more referees over video technology. "The players seem to have a very different opinion to Platini," Tummers, secretary of Fifpro's technical committee, told BBC Sport. "The players' disappointment is even bigger when some incidents are not seen by the referees."

Uefa's extra referees experiment has also proved unpopular with some managers, including Everton's David Moyes and Fulham's Roy Hodgson.

Moyes hit out at the trial after Louis Saha was sent off for raising his hands to an AEK Athens player during his side's 4-0 win in September. The Scot said it was "amazing" that not one of the five officials spotted that Saha had been fouled first. In October, Hodgson was dismayed that the presence of extra officials did not prevent referee Paul Allaerts sending off the wrong player in Fulham's 1-1 draw with Roma. Allaerts awarded the Italian side a penalty for a Stephen Kelly tackle on John Arne Riise and then wrongly sent off Brede Hangeland.

Confusion reigned until Kelly admitted it was he who committed the foul and trudged off. Most of the captains polled were sceptical about the use of video evidence to review decisions such as offsides, fouls and handballs, but 90% of them would like to see goal-line technology introduced. "The players accept that mistakes are part of the game," said Tummers. "But they see no buts with goalline technology. They see no reason why this can't be introduced."

Fifpro quizzed the captains of the 48 clubs who competed in the Europa League group stages, and have received 31 responses from 17 countries, including skippers from English and Scottish clubs. Fifpro will be forwarding their findings to the International Football Association Board, which is responsible for deciding the laws of the game. The IFAB is scheduled to discuss the progress of the extra officials experiment, and the latest developments with goal-line technology, at its annual general meeting on Saturday, March 6th. Fifpro represents 65,000 professional players in 42 countries.

### Collina's challenge

#### "Video replays? I'm not saying no"

*An interview with the appointer of referees: "Traditional refereeing is dead, all match officials must be given some assistance. We are the only ones making decisions with our eyes, the spectators make assessments using technology. The assistant goal referees are not enough to solve the problem"*

VIAREGGIO, 29 December 2009 - "Television has killed refereeing." Michel Platini's shot as usual hit the woodwork. For Pierluigi Collina the only choice is to award the goal: the ball goes back to the centre and play restarts. Or not. Because things can't go on like this. Henry's hand ball in the France-Ireland match underlined a concept that is as clear as day: the huge gap between the match officials (the referee plus assistants) and the spectators. The paradox is obvious: the people who are supposed to ensure that a match is played according to the rules have the same tools as they did 40 years ago, when there were two or three cameras covering the World Cup final. "We're the only ones in this situation," stressed Collina, spreading his arms. The appointer of officials for Serie A and B is on holiday in his home town of Viareggio. His days are always full: he reads the newspapers, does a couple of hours in the gym at the Balena 2K and then lots of phone calls. The only distraction: the tiramisù he ate two helpings of, much to the amusement of his daughters ("but Dad, you said you weren't even going to taste it"). A break in the championship, almost time to take stock. But Platini's remark weighs on him like a boulder. Does Collina agree with the UEFA president? "Of course. The problem is obvious: it's as if a doctor was being asked to operate on a football player's knee ligaments with old instruments. An injury like that used to mean the end of a career. Now a player can be back on the pitch in 5 months. So would it make sense to blame the doctor because he couldn't repair the injury as it would be in a high-tech hospital? If the referee had the same tools as those who very often criticise him, it would be different."

Am I mistaken or are you talking about video replays? "It's about getting things in the correct perspective: both on the field and on television. It can't continue like this: referees go out onto the pitch knowing that the match will be dissected to find the mistakes they made. And the negative comments will almost certainly be a waste of time. Is it right to expect them to accept all this? I'll issue a challenge: it's time we started using technology, otherwise the referee will be the only one making decisions with his eyes while everyone else will be assessing his rulings with

*See "Video replays" on pg*

## IN MEMORIAM

We regret to inform the membership on the following members and fellow referee colleagues across the country who passed away since the distribution of the Holiday '09 Supplemental Issue.

### FOUNDING MEMBER REG CLARK PASSES

On December 20th Founding Member Reg Clark passed away peacefully at his home in Ladner. Reg was one of the associations founding members when the BCSRA incorporated in 1969 and a Past President of the Vancouver Area branch. A former Canadian FIFA Referee, he was appointed as one of the six Canadian FIFA referees to the 1976 Olympics in Montreal. Reg also officiated for a number of years in the old North American Soccer League. He was 81. A memorial service was held on January 2nd in Delta.

### BOB MAHNGER

In early January Bob Mahnger succumbed to cancer, a disease he had been battling for some time. Born and raised in Squamish, Bob's funeral was well attended by many fellow referee colleagues. The association has sent a letter of condolence offering the sympathy and prayers to the respective families.



### The Canadian Soccer Association mourns the passing of Nicolas Dubuc (from the CSA website, 21 February 2010)

It is with great sadness that the Canadian Soccer Association has learned of the death of National List assistant referee Nicolas Dubuc. The 31-year old from Trois-Rivières, QC lost his recurring battle with leukemia on Sunday. "Words cannot express the sadness we feel at his passing", said Canadian Soccer Association Director of Refereeing Joe Guest. "He was an inspiration to me and others in his positive attitude, together with his tremendous sense of fun and humor". In 2007, Nicolas returned to refereeing after the amputation of his left arm following his initial diagnosis of leukemia.

Nicolas was then struck by lung cancer in 2008 and was dealt another blow when he found out that his leukemia had returned last October. Throughout all of this, Mr. Dubuc continued to officiate and pass the stringent



### Kieran McGarrigle

August 23, 1949

– March 10, 2010

Kieran McGarrigle was born on August 23, 1949 and passed away March 10, 2010 in Calgary after a brave struggle with cancer. He is survived by his wife Anne; daughters, Karen and Samantha; son Eugene; and granddaughter Kiara. Kieran was born



in Strabane, Northern Ireland and immigrated to Calgary, along with his family in 1981. He worked as an instrument technician at Western Co-Op Fertilizers, Suncor in Fort McMurray and ended his career at the City of Calgary. Kieran achieved national level soccer referee status and received many awards for his dedication and commitment to the soccer community. In memory of Kieran and his love of life he asked that all would wear something of colour for the service. A Funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church (4718 Worcester Drive S.W.) on Monday, March 15, 2010. Forward condolences through [www.mcinnisandholloway.com](http://www.mcinnisandholloway.com). Donations in lieu of flowers can be made to the Calgary Women's Emergency Shelter, P.O. Box 52051, Edmonton Trail North, Calgary, AB T2E 8K9, to the Foothills Country Hospice, Box 274, Okotoks, or to the Calgary Women's Soccer Association, 7000 48th Street S. E., Calgary.

In living memory of Kieran McGarrigle, a tree was to be planted at Fish Creek Provincial Park by McINNIS & HOLLOWAY FUNERAL HOMES, Fish Creek Chapel, 14441 BANNISTER ROAD S.E.

physical tests demanded at the national level of the game. He was appointed domestically to professional games and the BMO National Championships. Internationally, Mr. Dubuc was an Assistant Referee in 2009 SuperLiga (Chicago vs. San Luis Potosi). In July 2009, he was the assistant referee when the Trophée des Champions match was played at Stade Olympique in Montréal between French clubs of Bordeaux and Guingamp. Mr. Dubuc was awarded the Coup de coeur Trophy which he received at the Desjardins Sports Homage Gala dinner in January 2008.

The Canadian Soccer Association wishes to offer its most sincere condolences to his family and to all his friends within the soccer community.

**VIDEO REPLAYS (cont'd from pg 9)**

tools that are getting better and better. President Platini was right, traditional refereeing is dead: we need to find a solution to narrow the gap that right now is huge.”

Like the assistant goal referees? “Fact: an experiment is under way, so we should wait and see before making a judgement. Having said that, those taking part in the test are positive about the results to date. There is more control of the action in the most important area of the pitch. Especially in dead ball situations or when the play is a long way away from the referee. But the problem I mentioned earlier still won't be solved: there will be fewer errors, and very probably Henry's hand ball would not have been missed, but the comparison with TV will always be unfavourable.”

It is said that referees are against video replays because they would always be under scrutiny. “When was that said... First of all, referees don't decide on the rules, that power belongs to the IFAB, on which we are not represented. And then try to tell that to Hansson (the referee in the France-Ireland match, ed.). A referee can ruin his career with one mistake. After years of sacrifices, it's all over in a second. Sometimes there can be repercussions in their private lives, with threats and other things. And all this for not blowing up an incident that TV showed from 20 different angles. What reason could there be to reject them?”

The regular weekly controversies would also be avoided...”They certainly don't make refereeing easy. But what more can you ask of referees? They study the teams, the characteristics of the players, they train physically like them, they are careful with their diet. All because they are trying to keep mistakes to a minimum. But we're human beings, not robots.”

**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 May 31,2010**

**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 didn't make it into this edition.

**Special thanks to the following contributors:**

**Henri, Bouwens, F & W Research Assistant Emil Udovich**

While we wait, perhaps forever, for the IFAB, the International Board, to embrace technology, what else can be done?”We have been asking for everyone's cooperation for years, but then little changes. I would point out one thing: Benitez loses a Premier League match because of a goal that clearly shouldn't have been allowed (the ball was deflected by a balloon in the Sunderland-Liverpool match, ed.). He didn't hide behind the referee, but criticised his team for a poor performance. But in Italy it's almost always the opposite that happens.”

What do you mean by “almost”? “I very much appreciated Allegri's comments: he avoided easy controversy, and calmly accepted some decisions that went against Cagliari. Just as I was also pleased to hear Mihajlovic publicly apologise to Pierpaoli. A referee doesn't like to see himself labelled before a match as the one 'who might favour Juve because he's not very good'.”

Do you still think it's possible to have less whistle in Italian football? “Let's start by saying that fouls should be punished. What I was talking about was contact, which for a long time referees penalised. In the Roma-Bologna match a goal came from a contact in midfield that wasn't called. Baracani did well to let play continue. We need to keep moving in that direction. Contact also in Juve-Inter? No, in that case there were two incorrect decisions made in the area: the holding on Samuel and Chiellini should both have been penalties. But hands up anyone who saw Cannavaro's foul when it happened. As you can see, we always come back to the unequal contest between TV and the referees.”

from our correspondent Francesco Ceniti

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**40 Years**

**and counting**