

Flag & Whistle

The Official Newsletter of the BC Soccer Referees Association - Summer 2010



RA MEMBER RECEIVES DUAL HONOURS



Michelle Pye (photo courtesy of North Shore News)

Canadian FIFA Referee and RA member **Michelle Pye** has been bestowed with dual honours recently. She has been appointed to officiate in the girl's tournament of the first ever Youth Olympics Games (YOG) in Singapore. The YOG tournament which features players born in 1995, will be held Aug 14-26th.

Michelle was also announced as this year's BC Soccer Association's Senior Official of the Year, the presentation which will be made at the BC Soccer Awards and Scholarship Celebration on the night of June 13th. This is the second time she has been bestowed this honour.



Above: Michelle Pye (left) being presented with the BCSA Senior Official of the Year Award by Director Suzanne Flannigan

The RA congratulates Michelle on her award and wishes her the very best for her upcoming appointment in Singapore.

PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE ELECTED FOR 2010/11 YEAR

At the Annual General Meeting held on May 8th a new executive was elected for the forthcoming 2010-2011 membership year. The new executive is as follows:

President: **Elvio Chies**

Vice-President: **Nick Hawley**

Secretary: **Richard Brownie**

(elected by acclamation- 2 year term)

Treasurer: **Robin Woods**

Fraser Valley Area-Appointed Director: **Dave Miller**

(ratified for the remaining year of a 2 year term)

Kamloops Area-Appointed Director: **Mario Salituro**

(Ratified for a 2 year term)

Vancouver Area-Appointed Director: **Ron Schaeffer**

(Ratified for a 2 year term)

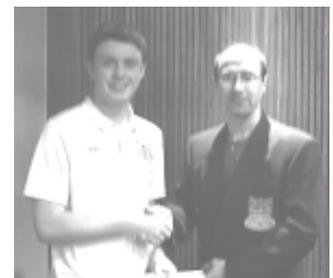
Van. Island Area-Appointed Director: **Larry Cade**

The position of President was up for election.

However, with no candidates coming forward, and with Vice-President Nick Hawley had asked to finish his term, Elvio Chies indicated he would continue as Acting President for one more year until the prospective candidate could become available.

DAN KULAI/JACK TINNION MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

This year's Dan Kulai/Jack Tinnion Memorial recipient is Evan Fryer from Victoria who is also the BCSA Youth Official of the Year. The scholarship was presented at the BC Soccer Awards and Scholarship Celebration on June 13th at the Coal Harbour hotel in Vancouver by President Elvio Chies.



Above: Evan Fryer (left) being presented Dan Kulai/Jack Tinnion Memorial Scholarship by BCSRA President Elvio Chies

The award is an amalgamation two scholarships, amalgamated in 2008: the original Dan Kulai Scholarship and the Jack Tinnion Memorial Scholarship, the latter setup by the Fraser Valley Soccer Referees Association (FVSRA) branch. Originally, the Dan Kulai scholarship was setup in conjunction with the old BC Youth Soccer Association in memory of former Canadian FIFA Referee who served as Treasurer in the late 1950's, prior to the BCSRA being incorporated. The Jack Tinnion scholarship was created in memory of the late Life Member of both the FVSRA and the BCSRA. Jack is also remembered each year with the Jack Tinnion Memorial Shield between members in the "604" area code and those in the "250" area code.

My Dallas Cup- by Phil Barrington

Ed. note: This spring BC Soccer once again sent a cadre of young officials to the Dallas Cup, a premier youth tournament which features many youth teams from around the globe. One of the RA's members, Phil Barrington, was fortunate to be selected to go to this competition. Here we present an abbreviated version of his report to BC Soccer.

For this tournament, I wanted to ensure that I worked on my consistency throughout the tournament. Heading into the tournament, I was aware that I can only control my performance, so I wanted to make sure that my decision making was consistent during every match that I would participate in during this tournament. I wanted to test myself and see if I could still be consistent in terms of my decision making in during the high level boy's games. To prepare physically for this tournament (my preparation) consisted of interval training and speed endurance.

Once we arrived in Dallas, (BCSA Referee Development Committee member) Roy Branco and (BCSA Referee Development Coordinator) Jose Branco wanted us as a group to work on showing our personalities, having a presence, and being confident during our matches. After my first game, one aspect that I tried to work on from game to game was showing more personality during my games.

The tournament featured categories ranging from U13 to U19, including the U19 Super group, which featured high level U19 teams, including national teams, and reserve professional teams. Overall, the quality of the games varied from game to game because some teams were able to play with a tremendous amount of speed, pace and skill, while other teams struggled to match the level of play as some of the better teams in the tournament. In addition, there was a wide diversity of cultures, with several teams from abroad, including from Latin American countries, Europe, and New Zealand. Therefore, most games were a challenge at times and man management was one aspect that refereeing crew often encountered during their matches.

Overall, I received some positive feedback from the assessors.

Having the opportunity to work with FIFA referee Peter O'Leary, I was able to learn how Peter approaches a match prior to the start of kick off. The two things that I took out of it was his ability to maintain his composure prior, during and after a match.

I was also able to learn that I have to continuing work on making sure that my instructions to other officials on my team are clear and conscience. At times, I need to clarify

KNOW YOUR FELLOW MEMBERS

Name: Phil Barrington

Residing in: Coquitlam

Number of years refereeing: 14 years

What made you decide to become a referee?: My mother encouraged me to take the course.

Biggest moment in refereeing so far: Refereeing the final for the World Police and Fire Games

Advice you would give to

someone starting out in refereeing: Be patient and try not to react too quickly when making a decision on the field of play.



exactly what I wanted from the other officials as a referee or to ensure that I understood what the expectations were when I am an assistant referee to the other referee. It was a challenge at times for me because you are dealing with individuals that are accustomed to different interpretations of the laws of the games and different secret signs or simply individuals where English is not their primary language.

In conclusion, my experience at the Dallas Cup was a positive a one and I am sure will prove extremely useful in the future. I came back not only with the knowledge that I am capable of refereeing at that high level but I picked up some new tips that I can certainly use during my future matches on the field of play.

Finally, I want to thank both BC Soccer Association for making this trip possible, and Jose and Roy for being such great mentors during the whole week.



ACCOUNTABILITY - THE TIME HAS COME TO PAY THE PIPER

This is no joke. The soccer community is fed up with referees.

Well not exactly. What they are fed up with are referees who:

- Who show up minutes before kick-off.
- Who don't check ID cards
- Who don't run outside the center circle
- Who don't check the player's equipment
- Who don't submit game reports
- Who show up in track suits rather than full referee gear.
- Who don't bring flags for club linesmen to call ball in/out of play.
- Who swear at players.
- Who hand out cautions and ejections but then don't turn them in on time (or even at all!).
- Who don't do what leagues ask them to do.

Does you see yourself in this picture?

If you do, I have a warning for you- shape up or you may find yourself not getting any appointments. Don't believe what you hear? Take a note: BC Soccer has said that they will not pay any game fee for anyone not submitting a game report for a Provincial Cup game. Burnaby Youth Soccer has the exact same policy in place for any game since 2006.

We in the Referees Association have always been
See page 12: President's Corner

BEACH BLAST- AUGUST 6-8

The executive of the Vancouver Area Soccer Referees Association will be scheduling once again for Beach Soccer Blast. The small 5-a-side tournament goes Friday August 6th to Sunday August 8th at Spanish Banks. Members are asked to contact President Marc Bowley (604-278-9302) or email Secretary Bill McNaughton (wmcnaughton@blgcanada.com) to confirm availability. Members will referee 2x14minute halves and donate their services to raise funds for the association. In return members will receive shorts and a shirt for their efforts provided by the tournament. Food for lunch will also be provided.

TWO SCORE AND SO MANY GAMES AGO...

The Flag & Whistle wishes to pass along special congratulations to Fraser Valley Area-based member **Phil Fasciglione** who now starts his 40th year of refereeing. Phil started at the age of 15 and his took up the whistle when the referee didn't turn up for his younger brother's game. Phil says he still walks into players he refereed in youth soccer who remember him and shake his hand.

Congratulations Phil on a long career in the beautiful game!

SHORT TAKES

RA MEMBERS AT NATIONAL PROVINCIAL CLINIC

Several members were present at this year's National "In-Service" Provincial clinic held in Toronto by the CSA. Vancouver Area Association members **Philip Leung** and **Sasa Jecanski** participated in the clinic while CSA Referees Committee and RA Member **Bob Sawtell**, along with BCSA Referee Development Coordinator and RA member **Jose Branco**, were part of the crew of instructors. This year's session was held over the Victoria Day weekend.

Each year the CSA gathers all referees being upgraded to Provincial status to a national clinic. To be able to attend the clinic, participants must have passed an online exam, had the requisite number of assessments and taken and passed the fitness test held in their respective province.

The RA congratulates the aforementioned members on their involvement in this year's clinic!



THE 250's TAKE BACK THE JACK TINNION MEMORIAL SHIELD

Unlucky 13 for 604's sees them wagging their tails back to the Ferry

Under clear skies and enjoying the first sunny day in some time, the 604's played to a second half tie enroute to a stunning 6-2 defeat at the hands of the 250's in the 13th edition of the Jack Tinnion Memorial Shield match. The match, a feature of the Spring Council/AGM since its installment in 1998, has been mostly won by the 250 side, with the same side forfeiting the match on three separate locations.

The Jack Tinnion Memorial Shield is named after the late BCSRA and FVSRA Life Member Jack Tinnion who passed away in 1999. The game was renamed after his passing and a plaque to immortalize the results of each game was donated by the FVSRA. The game is played annually after the conclusion of the Spring Council/AGM.

Referees to target penalty feints at World Cup

18 May 2010

A goalkeeper fails to stop a penalty during a Major League Soccer match on May 15. Football's rulemakers have approved changes in time for the World Cup, outlawing "unsporting" feints in penalty kicks and giving the fourth match official similar powers to assistant referees. ZURICH (AFP) -

Football's rulemakers on Tuesday approved changes in time for the World Cup, outlawing "unsporting" feints in penalty kicks and giving the fourth match official similar powers to assistant referees.

Players in South Africa who feint before kicking at the end of their run up to a penalty to trick the goalkeeper risk a yellow card for "unsporting behaviour", the International Football Association Board decided.

They will also be forced to take the kick again if the ball goes into the net, FIFA Secretary General Jerome Valcke said after the IFAB meeting chaired by the president of world football's governing body Sepp Blatter.

The permanent rule change, which comes into force for the coming season, follows concern about the growing use of such feints in South America, where players paused to see which way the goalkeeper was diving, officials added. The amended rule says: "Feinting in the run-up to take a penalty kick to confuse opponents is permitted, however feinting to kick the ball once the player has completed his run-up is now considered an infringement... and an act of unsporting behaviour for which the player must be cautioned." "It's really when the run is over... and feinting when you are stopped," explained Patrick Nelson, chief executive of the Irish Football Association.

Meanwhile the fourth match official, who normally oversees substitutions, off pitch behaviour and match management gained expanded powers allowing him to "assist the referee to control the match" in on-pitch incidents, according to the amended rule. "Today he's as important as the other officials on the field," Valcke told journalists. The rule change nonetheless keeps the supreme powers of the referee "to decide on all points connected with play." The IFAB also agreed on Tuesday to extend a European experiment of using four assistant referees on the pitch worldwide, allowing football leagues and regional confederations to try it out over the next two seasons.

The trial, FIFA added, was not compulsory. "What is clear is that we're not changing the rules of the game before the end of the trial," said Nelson. Blatter and the IFAB have ruled out the introduction of electronic aids such as video replays and goalmouth cameras to help referees spot match incidents in the ever faster modern game.

- European governing body UEFA has experimented with two extra assistant referees in some 200 Europa League matches over the past two years as an alternative.

While IFAB members said they had received a report on the UEFA experiment containing "positive" elements, some of them were skeptical about the idea although they supported more trials.

Valcke insisted that future trials must be carried out over a full season to amass enough match experience.

"If the FA Premier League decides to go for a trial, they have to carry it out from beginning to end of the season,"

he said. Countries aiming to hold trials must seek authorisation from an IFAB sub committee at the end of July, FIFA said.



SPACE JUNK THREATENS WORLD CUP

You know the World Cup is the greatest show on Earth when the United Nations takes notice.

As reported in the May 27th edition of The Vancouver Sun, space is so littered with debris that a collision between satellites could set off an "uncontrolled chain reaction" capable of destroying the communications network on Earth, according to a Pentagon report. Mazlan Othman, Director of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) said, "We should have all the instruments to make sure that lifestyles are not disrupted because of misconduct in space when people switch the television to watch the World Cup next month in Johannesburg."

Penalty 'feints' banned ahead of World Cup

Penalty-takers will not be allowed to stop at the last second. Penalty-takers will no longer be allowed to halt at the end of their run-ups to try to fool the goalkeeper.

(Ed Note; This is provided for information only. Members are asked NOT to implement the changes unless instructed to do so by BC Soccer).

The International Football Association Board has decided it is "unsporting behaviour" and made it a yellow card offence in time for the World Cup.

"Feinting in the run-up to take a penalty kick to confuse opponents is permitted," said Fifa's Jerome Valcke. "However, feinting to kick the ball once the player has completed his run-up is now considered an infringement."

If players do feint at the end of their run-up and then score, they will have to take the kick again. The IFAB has also decided to give more power to the fourth official and to extend worldwide a European experiment with goal-line officials. The fourth official, who normally oversees substitutions, off-pitch behaviour and match management, will now be allowed to rule on on-pitch incidents to "assist the referee to control the match".

"Today he's as important as the other officials on the field," said Fifa general secretary Valcke.

The decision to allow assistant referees, as seen in the last two Europa League seasons, is voluntary.

Football associations and federations around the world can implement it if they wish but must run the trial for the whole competition. However, it is unlikely to be seen in either England or Scotland next season.

Jonathan Hall, the Football Association's director of football services, said he did not think either the Premier League or Football League would be keen, and that it would not be practical in the FA Cup as the system would have to be used in the early rounds.

"We probably don't have the required numbers to do it domestically and the Premier League and the Football League have never been hugely keen on introducing it," he said, "One reason is simply the number of officials of the relevant ability needed to provide the service and for those reasons we weren't very keen. The other is because of concerns over safety - if you are standing behind the goal on a permanent basis you are more stationary and you may get something lobbed at you.

"We had had a little think about whether we might do it in the FA Cup but what was made very clear is that you have to do it all the way through the competition and it's very difficult to see how you would do it for the very early

rounds - that would be ridiculous. We'll go back and have an open conversation about it and at league level it looks unlikely unless they have changed their minds on it. We don't want to prevent others from doing it if they want to however."

Scottish FA president George Peat said: "I don't think we will be doing it in Scotland but we will obviously discuss that."

The IFAB is made up of world governing body Fifa plus the four home associations who pioneered the sport - England's Football Association, the Scottish Football Association (SFA), the Football Association of Wales (FAW) and Northern Ireland's Irish Football Association (IFA).

Two referee trios will not officiate in South Africa following fitness tests

(FIFA.com) Thursday 27 May 2010

Two of the thirty referee trios selected to officiate at the FIFA World Cup South Africa 2010™ will not be able to take part in the competition, after the two assistant referees of those trios did not pass the fitness tests which were held in their confederation prior to departure for South Africa.

The following trios will therefore not officiate at the FIFA World Cup South Africa 2010 :

Referee: Mohamed Benouza (Algeria) + assistant referees: Nasser Abdel Nadi (Egypt)/Maamar Chabane (Algeria)

Referee: Carlos Amarilla (Paraguay) + assistant referees: Emigdio Ruiz (Paraguay)/Nicolás Yegros (Paraguay)

It is one of FIFA's main objectives to significantly improve refereeing standards and, to this end, the FIFA Referees Committee has selected trios of match officials who come from the same country or confederation and who share the same language. Instructions issued to the referees prior to the competition made it clear that entire trios would be forced out of the competition if either the main referee or two of the assistant referees were unable to complete or pass the fitness test.

The official fitness tests were conducted in each of the six confederations by FIFA instructors during the past week. The following trio has been appointed as a replacement :

Referee: Martin E. Vazquez Broquetas (Uruguay)

Assistant referees: Carlos Pastorino (Uruguay)/Miguel Nievas (Uruguay)

Hector At The World Cup

Ed note: Canadian FIFA Assistant Referee Hector Vergara is officiating in his third World Cup as part of the trio with Mexcian FIFA Referee Benito Archundia and Mexican FIFA Assistant Referee Marvin Torrentera. Here we present a selection of entries from his blog. The full blog can be seen on the Manitoba Soccer Association website: <http://manitobasoccer.blogspot.com/>

Well after four years of training, preparing, planning and doing everything possible to give myself the opportunity to earn a spot in the 2010 FIFA World Cup the time to leave for the biggest sporting event in the world has arrived.

WELCOME- JUNE 4th

We have been in South Africa for a few days and have had an opportunity to go for our first training session in the SA altitude, which is a little different than running in Winnipeg. It was good to get the legs back after the 17 hour flight from the US to South Africa.

Our experiences have already included about 5 blackouts in the last three days each lasting a few minutes. Not too sure why they happended but they have not been for long and power has been restored without much of an issue. The official welcome from the FIFA President took place Friday morning with a strong message of support for the referee team that has been working very hard for the last four years in preparation for the biggest single sport event in the world.



The weather here is very cool in the mornings and evenings but quite comfortable during the day. It is the winter season in South Africa but their winter is not quite like the one we have back home in Winnipeg. It is cool but not freezing so we can't complain. For some of the referees the weather is rather cold and you can see them wearing a number of layers of clothing to stay warm.

Our accommodations are very good in a country estate that is secured, private, quiet, comfortable and exclusively being used by the referees, instructors, referee committee members and all the support staff. We have started our daily meetings and getting into a routine that will be our way of life for the next few weeks. The meetings are with the different support groups, such as medical, physical, psychological, technical and energy. There are a number of FIFA staff members and Local Organizing Committee (LOC) members that are here to support us and ensure that we have everything we need to be as prepared as possible.

Everyone realizes that this will be a long time away from home and as such every effort is being made to ensure that we feel comfortable and reduce the amount of stress that is associated with the event. We all feel very well prepared and want to do our best every day. We have great support from local teams that come out to our training sessions to perform the drills that help the referees practice different game situations.

At the Official Referees' Dinner we were informed of the appointments to the first 16 matches. We were appointed to the Italy vs Paraguay match on June 14th in Cape Town. On Monday evening the Local Organizing Committee hosted a welcome dinner for the FIFA delegation of Referees, Assistant Referees, Instructors and Committee Members.

Training Sessions

In the middle of the integrated sessions, (we have players taking full part of our sessions. Some of the players are very good at providing difficult angles that test us. We are all enjoying having the sessions and continuing to work as a team to be as prepared as possible. As normal, we are all wearing the same sports equipment as indicated on the daily program. We have been doing three hours a day, which have included technical, physical, energy and team building. There are times that in addition to our regular training sessions on the field of play on a daily basis we include some upper body weight workout. These are low in intensity and also include core exercises. We have very good equipment that makes it a joy to actually work out.



Hector in full sprint during the technical sessions.

IT HAS STARTED!

We were not sure if it was going to be possible to attend the opening ceremony and the first game of the 2010 World Cup. Fortunately for us we were able to go. It was a long day as we set off from our headquarters at 11 am and returned at 8:30 pm, but it was well worth it. We were able to see the opening ceremonies, which some of us found to be simple but in very good taste with some exciting moments. The jets doing a “fly by” at the beginning of the ceremonies was awesome. The noise level of the crowd and the excitement of the people in the stadium and walking



about was great. The opening game had its moments of excitement as well, which finished 1-1. The World Cup is finally here and we will now get more in tune with the competition as games are played daily and our referee team will be in action every



day. Marvin and I enjoying the opening ceremonies. The stadium had over 84,600 people in attendance for the first match that took place after the opening ceremonies.

Our First Game Italy vs Paraguay

We left for our game in Cape Town on Sunday afternoon. It was short 45 minute drive to the airport followed by a flight that was about two hours long. We were met by the LOC Referee Liaison and taken to the hotel that was only 10 minutes away and only five minutes from the Stadium. The weather was rather cool and rainy when we arrived. The rain continued all day on Monday. We spent the day in the hotel taking it easy, watching other games, evaluating the teams and planning for our match that evening. We left for the stadium about two hours before kick off.

The weather at the time of us checking the field prior to the game was dry, although it had been raining most of the day. However, as we completed the field inspection a light rain started to come down. It continued during the walk out and the national anthems. As the game progressed the rain got stronger and it become fairly cold. The field, which I am told is from Manitoba, held up very well in the rain but it was so cool out that a slight night frost could be seen building up on the pitch. We had a good game and felt that it was a good start to the World Cup for our trio. We also know that we can do better and will be making adjustments to ensure that if we get another appointment we improve.

The teams really played most of the game in the mid third of the field of play and play was very compact. The fans were fantastic and the noise level was very loud but we were so concentrated on the game that it really did not have an impact on our team work. It was another great experience and we thoroughly enjoyed it. The amount of action near or in the penalty area is so much that we have to be very alert. It is for this reason that we practice incidents near and in the penalty area at our technical sessions on a daily basis. At the end of our match players and referees shake hands and wish each other luck for the rest of the competition. We all know this is not always a pleasant experience. We had no complaints from any of the players or coaches and that is always a good sign that things went well.

DAY OFF

Our day off concluded with the referees attending the match in Pretoria between South Africa and Uruguay. It was a packed stadium and lots of noise been made. Here is Marvin and I (photo right)having a laugh as he tries to be taller than I as he stands on the seat in the stadium. The weather was very cold. This World Cup is being held in the winter and you can really tell during the mornings and evenings. It feels so cold that it is better to be running on the field than sitting watching the games. None the less, we really enjoyed the opportunity to watch some of the matches.



Thank you!!!!

I wanted to take an opportunity to thank all the people that have sent some many good wishes from across the world. At times, it is difficult to respond to everyone so by having the blog it will allow you to see and read what is happening. You know who you are and what you have done to support my goals, as such, even though I may not have sent you a personal thank you, I am doing it in public. Your encouragement is greatly appreciated and your friendship is valued. .

English referee owns up to World Cup mistake

Graham Poll philosophical about yellow card error

Last Updated: Tuesday, May 25, 2010 | 1:38 PM ET

By John F. Molinaro, CBC Sports

When the average person goes to work, he or she can take comfort that normally mistakes they make at the office will not be a matter of public record. Soccer referees have no such luxury: their errors are scrutinized and dissected ad nauseum, their mistakes served up as fodder for the critics and fans who make a sport out of poking fun at the men in the middle of the action.

Nobody knows this better than Graham Poll.

During his 27-year career, Poll officiated matches in the English Premier League, as well as countless games at soccer's biggest tournaments, including the UEFA Champions league, UEFA Cup, FIFA World Club Cup, the FA Cup, the World Cup and European championships. A lifelong soccer fan, Poll's firm but fair style on the field earned the Englishman the respect of players and his fair share of marquee officiating assignments, allowing him to carve out a reputation as one of the best arbitrators of his era.

Graham Poll on....

How he became a ref: "Thirty years ago, nobody had a desire to become a referee; it was something you sort of fell into. I loved football, and when my team at work folded, I wanted to contribute so I gave [refereeing] a try. My father was a referee and after three games I fell in love with it. It's a fantastic challenge, both physically and mentally, and when you do it right, it gives you a fantastic sensation when you drive home after the game."

On man-management: "It is the most important quality a ref can have, to manage the players. Other refs might say you just administer the laws and get on with it, but for me the job of the ref is to go out and within the framework of the law — not the letter of the laws of the game — try to get the best entertaining game of football that you can get from those 22 players."

On the potential use of goal-line technology to help refs:

"Something needs to be done because it's happening more and more often. The point is that now, within seconds, everyone in the stadium knows categorically whether it's a goal or not. Therefore the only person who doesn't know is the person who needs to know, the ref, and that doesn't seem right or fair. He should be able to refer that decision upstairs to a colleague who was watching the video. That has to be more satisfactory than what's going on today."



On the potential use of instant replay: "I think it underlines, not undermines, the authority of the ref. How does the lack of clarity and lack of use of technology undermine the refs? If we had video replay, a ref would be prepared to review his own decision and clear things up and get it right. And the credibility of the game would be enhanced."

But mention Poll's name to the average soccer fan and one thing springs to their mind — his horrendous gaffe at the 2006 World Cup in Germany when he issued three yellow cards to Croatian defender Josip Simunic in a first-round game against Australia. With hundreds of millions of people around the world watching, Poll made the biggest mistake of his long and distinguished career. The incident has become Poll's legacy, and he's become the butt of countless jokes in his country. But incredibly, he remains philosophical about it.

"I was told once by a sports psychologist that you should only worry about things you can affect. Once that happened in front of a global audience, it became inevitable that I would be remembered for that," Poll told CBCSports.ca.

"What you have to do in life is just deal with the cards you've been dealt. It happened, it was my fault, nobody else's, and now I have to live with it. Given the career that I had, I'd rather be known for officiating a World Cup final, but I'm not and I have to get on with it."

The Australia-Croatia match was the third match that Poll took charge of in Germany, and it would be the last World Cup game he would ever officiate. After already sending off Croatia's Dario Simic (in the 85th minute) and Australia's Brett Emerton two minutes later, Poll reached into his pocket in injury time and showed a yellow card to Simunic for dissent. Simunic slumped off the field, but the problem was the Croatian should have been expelled after Poll showed him a second yellow card in the 90th minute. How was Simunic allowed to stay on the field after receiving his second yellow card? Poll erred in his initial booking of the Croatian

See page 7: Graham Poll

Graham Poll cont.

by marking his notepad with the correct jersey number but in the wrong column; effectively he noted the yellow card against Australia's Craig Moore who, like Simunic, wore No. 3.

"I took charge of over 1,500 matches in my career, during which I sent off 154 players, of which 110 were for double yellow cards, and I never had to refer to my notebook to see if I cautioned a player — I just knew," Poll said.

"I always made sure whenever I cautioned a player I looked at him, I said his name and number to myself, I made a mental note of it, without referring to my notebook. But I wrote it in the wrong column. It was my fault."

Lucky for Poll, his mistake didn't affect the outcome of the game, which saw the Australians advance to the next round after earning a 2-2 draw with Croatia. But the consequences were dire for Poll, who was one of 14 referees who were dismissed by FIFA after the first round. His blunder became worldwide news and was splashed all over the front pages of the English newspapers and was replayed endlessly on television. While he was in Germany, reporters were camped out in front of his house back in England, making life unbearable for his wife and family. When he returned back to England, he was mercilessly hounded by the press. It was a difficult time in Poll's life, both for him and for his family.

"It opened my eyes as to who my real friends are and how much my family meant to me," Poll admitted. "Certain people who I thought were my friends let me down and didn't support me, and that's a good thing because you realize who your friends are, so a lot of positives came out of that."

Shortly after the World Cup, Poll announced his retirement from international tournaments, although he would continue to officiate games in the Premiership, UEFA Champions League and qualifying matches for Euro 2008. A year later he retired from refereeing all together, walking away from the game after never fulfilling his dream of working a World Cup final. He does, however, take solace in the fact he was able to work at two World Cups, in 2002 and 2006.

"Having refereed in England and all over Europe and the FA Cup, you think you've seen and done it, until you work the World Cup and then you realize that this is a different level," Poll said. "This is global, the eyes of the world are on you and to get to one is fantastic but to get to two was unbelievable. For me, it was the highlight of my career."

To this day, Poll still gets ridiculed over his mistake in

Germany — he recently went to a comedy club with a friend, where he elicited not so subtle stares and pointing from the other patrons who whispered under their breath. It's become an all too regular occurrence for Poll, but the Englishman refuses to be bitter about it.

"I'm grateful that I went to two World Cups. I loved my career: 27 years and over 1,500 matches. No regrets at all," Poll stated.

World Cup 2010: Gabriel Heinze's Argentina Strike Should Have Been Disallowed - FIFA

Referee's committee criticise Wolfgang Stark's decision not to give a foul for Walter Samuel's obstruction in the build-up to the goal.

By Daniel Edwards (gol.com)
Jun 15, 2010 2:08:00 PM

Argentina missed several gilt-edged chances on their way to a 1-0 reverse of Nigeria on Saturday. However, according to FIFA the one attack that did finish with the net bulging should have been disallowed by referee Wolfgang Stark.

Ole reports that a FIFA post-match analysis ruled that there was a foul in the build-up to Gabriel Heinze's stunning header, and that Stark should never have allowed the goal. The FIFA referees' committee released their findings on Tuesday, as a guide for future judgements in this year's tournament. And amongst other rulings, they made it clear to referees that they must watch for infractions at corners and free-kicks - specifically attacking players blocking markers, as happened on Saturday.

As Juan Sebastian Veron's cross floated over Walter, Samuel enveloped Chinedu Obasi and stopped him from moving, thereby giving Heinze all the space he needed to propel the ball home. Stark should have therefore penalised Samuel for obstruction and awarded a free-kick to the Super Eagles - a judgement that could have changed the course of the whole game for Argentina.

Although the ruling comes too late for Nigeria, it has interesting implications for the rest of the tournament; a sign that FIFA will not tolerate the pushing, shoving and holding commonplace on both sides at dead-ball situations, and that in future such offences will be punished with either disallowed goals or penalties in the case of the defence committing an infraction.

Do assistant refs need assistance?

April 5, 2010 9:33 AM

-By Nigel Reed (from CBC Sports website)

For the record I am not a fan of either Manchester United or Chelsea. Nor do I experience wild mood swings depending on the results of either Bayern Munich or Fiorentina. I am simply a fan of fair play. And some of what I've been watching recently just ain't fair. Something has to be done - perhaps something radical. But we have a problem, which needs fixing once and for all.

From the dawn of time until 1996 the men with flags who run the touchline were known as linesmen. The advent of assistant referees rendered the original term somewhat obsolete. Problem is some of their assistance is not very accurate. In a couple of high profile instances it has just been plain wrong.

Getting offside calls wrong. The offside rule has been tinkered with over the years but one constant remains. If the attacker is goal-side of the last defender, not counting the goalkeeper, when the ball is passed to him, the attacker is offside and a free kick is awarded to the defending team. Simple eh? Apparently not. It is the assistant referee's job to raise his flag when a player is offside. He is the one official who has a clear view along the imaginary defensive line and it is his duty to alert the referee. A failure to raise his flag tells the man in the middle all is well. This brings us back to the aforementioned teams and a serious lack of assistance. Bayern's winning goal in the first leg of their Champions League tie against Fiorentina in the second round was clearly offside. Bayern coach Louis van Gaal admitted so. No flag appeared and the referee allowed Miroslav Klose's late effort to stand.

Chelsea's second, and ultimately decisive, goal at Old Trafford on the weekend was also blatantly offside. Didier Drogba's strike was powerful enough to take the net off its stanchions. Once again the assistance was not forthcoming and the goal was awarded.

I'm not talking about marginal decisions or obscured views here. I'm concerned that two offside infractions, as clear as day, went unpunished. Without getting melodramatic, these oversights may have altered the history of the game. Bayern went on to lose the second leg in Florence but advanced on the away goals rule. There's no guarantee Fiorentina would have won the decider 3-2 had the teams resumed all-square at 1-1 but if I was a manager, player or fan of La Viola I would feel I had good reason to cry foul. Should Chelsea win their remaining EPL games they will be champions. And there's not a thing Manchester United can do about it other than contemplate what might have been. Once again there's no guarantee the

Blues will close the deal, but what if they pip United to the title by a single point? I have watched enough football to know these things can, and often do, even themselves out over the course of a season. But that's hardly the point. I don't care how high the stakes are but I do care when the rules of the game are not applied in an appropriate fashion. How are defenders supposed to defend? They are taught to operate as a unit, in a line, and step us just before the pass is delivered, thus stranding the attacker in an offside position. If the players cannot rely on the Assistant Referee to react to their discipline, everyone suffers.

Introduction of goal-line technology: I am something of a traditionalist, but I fear there is only one sure way to make this right. In an era when we are talking about, and FIFA is steadfastly ignoring, the need for goal-line technology, video replays are also necessary to take the guesswork out of offside decisions. I am equally sure FIFA, through its rule-changing arm, the International Football Association Board, will have nothing to do with it. The latest meeting of the IFAB resolved to abandon all experimentation with video technology. It is a policy that will not change while Sepp Blatter remains FIFA President. Blatter doesn't want to tinker with the flow of the game. OK don't. Let the game run its course but the final score remains unofficial until any goal-line controversy or contentious offside ruling, which directly leads to a goal being scored, is reviewed. When the review, which immediately follows the game, is complete, the final score is either confirmed or amended depending on the findings of the replay. As in tennis and cricket, the review can be conducted on the big screen to keep the spectators engaged and abreast of events.

I am well aware this is a solution for soccer in the 22nd century, not the 21st, but I find myself exasperated by a catalogue of erroneous officiating. This reflects badly on the game's global credibility and does nothing to encourage the lukewarm North American sports fan to take it seriously.

see page 9 : Assistant Ref's

DID YOU KNOW...

CSA Referee Committee and RA Member Bob Sawtell had double worries on his mind after the US scored the tying goal against England. Not only is he a die-hard England fan but his company promotes the brand of gloves the England keeper was wearing. What would the headlines have been had the keeper put his hands to his head following the goal, flashing the gloves' brand name to viewers across the world?!!

Assistant Ref's cont.

Ironically, in England at least, there already exists a "Dubious Goals Panel". The Premier League has a committee of former players and officials who adjudicate when the identity of a goal scorer is in question. Their collective wisdom could be put to much better use in my humble opinion.

So now it's your turn. Do you reckon it's time to give the assistants some assistance and if so how? Would video replays work and if so when? Or do you believe the human element is too integral to the game and we simply have to take the rough with the smooth? I look forward to reading your comments.

About the Authors: Nigel Reed brings his extensive experience, passion and knowledge of the game of soccer to his role as play-by-play announcer for Major League Soccer ON CBC. Reed has more than 20 years experience covering soccer, most notably a five-year stint from 1999 to 2004 where he was a host and producer for the English Premier League for BBC. He also covered English Premier League giants Liverpool and Everton for BBC Radio and provided analysis for both BBC TV and the BBC website. Reed, who will also call matches for CBC's FIFA broadcast package, covered weightlifting, taekwondo, soccer and equestrian for CBC's coverage of the 2008 Beijing Summer Olympic Games.

Dead Croatian soccer player yellow-carded for faking it

(Vancouver Sun May 5, 2010 3:02 PM)

Croatian football player Goran Tunjic had a heart attack, collapsed on the field and died in the 35th minute of a match for Mladost FC against Hrvatski Sokol this weekend. One might think that would have been his final indignity.

Alas, no. Tunjic was given a yellow card for diving ... as he lay dying. Paramedics tried to revive the 32-year-old part-time soccer player once the referee realized the player wasn't faking it, but by then the damage was done.

"It was 35th minute of the match when we've simply noticed he has fallen down," a club official told reporters.

"Doctors have tried to help him, but there was nothing they could do. He just fell dead on the spot."
Coaches said Tunjic had never had any health issues in the past that they were aware of.

Canadian singer releases official World Cup 2010 song

The Canadian Press

Updated: Mon. Nov. 30 2009 2:38 PM ET

TORONTO — K'naan has released his new video for the remixed version "Wavin' Flag" that will serve as the official song of the FIFA 2010 World Cup.

The Somalia-born, Toronto-raised hip-hop artist has posted a remixed version of the song on his website.

"Wavin' Flag" was originally featured on K'naan's second studio album "Troubadour," which came out earlier this year. The track will be used in television commercials and online to promote the World Cup, which will take place in South Africa next summer.

The new version of the track features revised lyrics with a new focus on soccer, with lines such as: "See the champions take the field now/ Unify us, make us feel proud."

It's a considerably more upbeat tune than "The Time of Our Lives," the sweeping Toni Braxton-II Divo ballad that was the official song for the 2006 World Cup.

In 2002, Chicago pop singer Anastacia sang the World Cup's official song, "Boom," while hip-swivelling Puerto Rican singer Ricky Martin's "La Copa de la Vida" was chosen for the 1998 World Cup in France.

IOC backs FIFA's ban on head scarves in girls' soccer

Published On Wed Apr 7 2010 -The Associated Press

Ed note: THIS IS FOR INFORMATION ONLY. ALL MEMBERS ARE ASKED TO READ THE BC SOCCER POLICY ON JEWELRY AND PLAYER'S EQUIPMENT.

LAUSANNE, SWITZERLAND—The IOC has supported FIFA's decision to bar Iran's girls soccer team from the Youth Olympic Games in a dispute over players' rights to wear Islamic head scarves. The International Olympic Committee said governing bodies are responsible for establishing and applying their sport's technical rules.

FIFA's decision "is in line with the rules of the game, which have been communicated . . . to the Iranian Olympic Committee," the IOC said in a statement issued late Tuesday.

FIFA barred hijab scarves — which protect the modesty of Islamic girls and women — in 2007 for safety reasons and to prevent political or religious statements on the field. Thailand will replace Iran in the girls' tournament at the Youth Games staged Aug. 12-25 in Singapore.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER cont'd from pg 3

concerned when referees' services are not being used. The main reason is to ensure a referee is not "blackballed" because of a decision he has made during a game which was found to be unpopular with a given team.

But these latest revelations have no basis for defence.

The sheer number of potential cases is enough to cause a crisis in refereeing and erode whatever respect we have left in a society that bends more and more away from respect for authority.

Furthermore, keep in mind that the very people who speak out for referees are volunteers. Volunteering should be an enjoyable experience, but defending issues like this is not enjoyable. If the trend towards lackadaisical refereeing continues, how long will it be before the volunteers leave because they have no wish to be connected to those they advocate for?

For those of us who may find ourselves guilty of any of these offences, there is still time to right ship. Pledge today that in your next game you will do everything in your power to do what is expected of you. Pledge that you will remember that the job is not over until the paperwork is done.

I ask each one of us: be an ambassador for refereeing, not an embarrassment.

Sincerely,

Elvio Chies
President



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Incorporated in
1969



B.C.S.R.A.
Incorporated in
1969

**Do you have a submission for the
Flag & Whistle?**

Please email all material to either

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stdy@shaw.ca*

**Note : Deadline for submissions in the next issue
will be September 7,2010**

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