

# FLAG & WHISTLE

Official Newsletter of the BC Soccer Referees Association – *Holiday 2011*



## Canada's top Ref blows his Final (international) Whistle

Tuesday, November 15th will be written in the history of Canadian soccer refereeing as a poignant moment. For it was on this day that Canadian FIFA Referee **Mauricio Navarro** refereed his final international match: a friendly between World Cup champions Spain and Costa Rica.

For the record, the match, played at the Estadio Nacional de Costa Rica, San Jose, Costa Rica, ended in a 2-2 draw with the World Cup champions scoring two late goals from David Silva and David Villa after being down 2-0 earlier in the game.

Mauricio, a past member of the Vancouver Area Association executive of the BCSRA and now living elsewhere, has had a storied career including refereeing in numerous World Cup Qualifiers, the 2003 Gold Cup Final in Mexico City, being appointed to the 2007 Gold Cup, 2007 FIFA U-20 World Cup, CONCACAF Club Championship (precursor to the CONCACAF Champions League) 2007 semi-final 2nd leg and 2008 final and the 2008 MLS All-Star game.

Locally, Mauricio was also the referee

for the 2008 Provincial Men's A Cup final, LA Galaxy-Vancouver Whitecaps friendly at BC Place (featuring David Beckham) and recently the Manchester City-Vancouver Whitecaps exhibition game at Empire Field.

He is also a past recipient of the CSA's Ray Morgan Award.

In a recent media release Canadian FIFA Assistant Referee **Hector Vergara**, who is also coming off the FIFA list at the end of this year (see related story in this publication) wrote<

"There are many referees in Canada that I have had the pleasure of meeting and working in different games with and every one of them brought something to my experience.

However, there is one person in particular that I want to express my thanks to for his contributions to making me better.

Mauricio Navarro, is the best referee Canada has had for a number of years, and we have officiated many important international matches together.

He has always been a great friend, who has provided tremendous support



*Mauricio Navarro*

and encouragement throughout his years on the FIFA list."

We congratulate Mauricio on his fine career and wish well him well in his future endeavours, wherever they may lead.

## Canada's most decorated Soccer Official bids Adieu

Remembrance Day in Canada is a solemn occurrence as our country takes a moment to reflect on the service and sacrifice of fallen Canadian soldiers. This year, it marked a day for one of Canada's soldiers of the Beautiful Game to reflect back on the sacrifices that led to a storied career.

In a media release dated November 8th, Canadian FIFA Referee **Hector Vergara** of Winnipeg, Manitoba announced his last day as a Canadian FIFA Referee would be November 11th and the first day of the rest of his soccer officiating life would commence the next day, November 12th (Ed note: full text of the media release is printed elsewhere in this issue).

"I have had a wonderful 19 years on the FIFA list, which has provided me with the opportunity to see the world, experience

fantastic sporting events, meet amazing people, make tons of friends, enjoy the "beautiful game" as a referee on the field amongst the world's best players and teams, as well as be a spectator in awe at what was in front of me," the media release quotes Hector.

Due to the mandatory retirement age of 45 years for all FIFA officials, Hector would not be re-appointed to the FIFA list for 2012. In fact, Hector was to have officiated with fellow Canadian FIFA official Mauricio Navarro in the latter's last match in Costa Rica on November 15th. However, work commitments (Hector is an administrator with the Manitoba Soccer Association) prevented him from making the trip. Sensing no

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## Soccer Official bids Adieu

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chance of seeing any other appointment between now and end of the year, Hector chose to retire at this moment.

During his career he has become the most decorated soccer official in Canada having been appointed to every level of FIFA competition and includes six CONCACAF's Gold Cup (three of them finals), numerous World Cup qualifiers and nearly 150 international matches involving Clubs and National Teams playing at the highest competitions in the world.

Last year, Hector set the record for Canadian FIFA officials by officiating in his third World Cup. The previous record was set by BCSRA founding and Life Member **Werner Winsemann**, although Werner still holds claim to being the only Canadian to have ever refereed a game in the middle at the World Cup.

In the media release, Hector thanked many individuals including his wife, mother and father, godfather, his in-laws (despite not being from a soccer background themselves) and of course his extended family, the Manitoba Soccer Referees Association.

"What can I say about the Manitoba Soccer Referees Association (MSRA), it was those senior referees, members of the MSRA, that supported me at the very beginning of my career. The referees are like a family and even more so when they are your local referee association. I am grateful for their teachings, encouragement and support."

In closing, Hector also thanked the Board of Directors of the Manitoba Soccer Association for in his own words, "ensur-



From 2007: Retired FIFA Referee & BCSRA Life Member Werner Winsemann (left) and Hector Vergara

ing that I could continue to participate at the highest level of the game."

Where Hector's road will lead him only time will tell. One thing is for sure, all the sacrifices and trials he has endured will be remembered by many of us and

passed on to future generations still to come. Congratulations to Hector on his time well served.

MEDIA RELEASE

**Hector O. Vergara,**  
**Winnipeg, Manitoba**

## Vergara retires from the FIFA list of Officials

November 8th, 2011

It is with a bit of sadness that I must announce that as of November 12th, 2011 I am retiring as a FIFA Assistant Referee. This is an expected retirement as FIFA officials must retire at the age of 45, which will become reality in December 2011. November 11th, 2011, kind of an interesting date (11-11-11), will be my last international match as a FIFA official.

I have had a wonderful 19 years on the FIFA list, which has provided me with the opportunity to see the world, experience fantastic sporting events, meet amazing people, make tons of friends, enjoy the "beautiful game" as a referee on the field amongst the world's best players and teams, as well as be a spectator in awe at what was in front of me. Soccer has allowed me to be involved in 11 FIFA competitions (three of those FIFA World Cups and 14 FIFA World Cup games, Semis and Finals in many of them), Six Gold Cups (three of them in the Finals), Olympic Games and nearly 150 international matches involving Clubs and Nationals Teams playing at the highest competitions in the world.

Of course, like anything in life, I have had some negative experiences and have come across a few individuals, funny enough mainly in Canada, who have tried to prevent my success either for political and personal gain or jealousy. But I am not going to focus on that part, they don't deserve the attention! May be some day in a book we can expose their conduct.

Instead, I want this to be an opportunity to express my gratitude to those that have supported me along the way. It will be impossible to thank so many people that have positively influenced my participation in this great game. However, I will make a note of some who to some degree stand out for specific reasons.

My Dad and Godfather, may he rest in peace, were always influential figures that kept me humble. Always supportive and providing guidance on being fair, impartial, committed, concentrated and focus on doing "what you know what to do." They were the ones that got me going at the beginning with their encouragement to be the best that I could be.

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## Vergara retires from the FIFA list of Officials

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Obviously, alongside **Dad** was always **Mom**, who always wanted to watch the games on the TV and cut out the newspaper clippings for the album.

I have a pretty soccer oriented extended family, that have always been supportive in my career and this is very important. I hope that I have brought some happiness to their lives and not too many nervous moments. My in-laws, although not from a soccer background, always were supportive, even when they were concerned about my travels across the world!

One of the people that has made a huge difference in many ways is **Joanne**. Ever since we have been together my career seems to have taken a new level and many great things started to happen. Her support has always been present and she has been at times my toughest coach, best friend and number one fan. I am extremely grateful to her. I want to thank my four children, although young, for the patience and understanding when Dad was somewhere around the world chasing his sporting dreams. Joanne and the children are the ones that suffer the most and I hope that now it will be time to make it up to them and show them the same support they have given me. I owe them big time!!!!

When one trains and competes at a high level there is always the chance that something may go physically wrong and although I have taken pretty good care of my body and have avoided any major injuries, there have been times when I had to see an expert. **Dr. Glen Bergeron** and **Dr. Gerald Olin** have been extremely helpful in keeping me void of any major issues. **Dr. Olin** in particular has gone

way out of his way to ensure that if I needed treatments he would be there to take care of it. Thank you so much to both of you!

To the players, parents, coaches, referees, administrators that have taken part in our game during the time that I grew up in Winnipeg and represented the great province of Manitoba, I extend my gratitude for all you have done. There are thousands and thousands of stories and great moments that I will forever cherish. I want you to know that you played a part in my refereeing career – even those of you who criticized are part of what made me a better referee.

There are many referees in Canada that I have had the pleasure of meeting and working in different games with and every one of them brought something to my experience. However, there is one person in particular that I want to express my thanks to for his contributions to making me better. **Mauricio Navarro**, is the best referee Canada has had for a number of years, and we have officiated many important international matches together. He has always been a great friend, who has provided tremendous support and encouragement throughout his years on the **FIFA** list.

In **CONCACAF** and **FIFA** there have been many referees, instructors, assessors and colleagues from around the world that have been part of my career. I am very happy to have met them and participated in some many matches together. We have shared many happy moments and in some cases very difficult ones that have made us all a better person and official. A particular thank you to **Mr. Mathurin**, who

gave me the one opportunity I needed at a young age to make a first impression with **FIFA**, one that lasted 19 years. I know that he was always there even when no longer officially active. I hope I have not disappointed you!

What can I say about the **Manitoba Soccer Referees Association (MSRA)**, it was those senior referees, members of the **MSRA**, that supported me at the very beginning of my career. The referees are like a family and even more so when they are your local referee association. I am grateful for their teachings, encouragement and support.

One is not able to have such a long career without the support of your employers. I am grateful to all of them for being understanding as it relates to what is essentially a “hobby” amateur sporting career. In particular, the last eight or so years have been extremely important in my career, and the Manitoba Soccer Association Board of Directors and fellow staff members have been critical in ensuring that I could continue to participate at the highest level of the game.

And lastly, to you, the members of the Media, please accept a **huge** thank you for your support, for your coverage of my career. I have been blessed to be in this province where the Media has been fair and interested in my career. There are many important moments that you have captured that will be a keepsake for my grandchildren to one day read and watch. That will be awesome, awesome like the experiences I had.

*Respectfully and humbly,*

**Héctor O. Vergara**

*FIFA Assistant Referee – for the last time!*

### FVSRA MEETING DATE CHANGE

Please be advised that Fraser Valley Area branch (FVSRA) President Dave Miller wishes to announce that the FVSRA will hold it's January monthly meeting on Monday, January 9th.

The branch, which usually holds its monthly meeting on the first Monday of the month, has had to change the date of the January meeting due to the close proximity to the New Year's Day holiday on Sunday, January 1st!

The meeting will still be held at its regular start time of 7:30pm in the downstairs meeting room of the Langley Legion, 56th Ave and 206th St in Langley.

### Splendid Time Was Had By All

The annual VASRA Christmas, was held on Friday, November 25th at the Engineers Hall in Burnaby. This year, many fellow members from the Fraser Valley Area branch joined in with colleagues in the Vancouver Area to make it a full “Referees Party.”

By all accounts a good time was had by all with almost 100 members, spouses/significant others and friends joining in.

### BCSRA MEMBER STANDS ON GUARD FOR THEE

This Christmas season members are asked to spare a thought for fellow member **Omar Masood** who is serving in the Canadian military's mission in Afghanistan.

Omar, a member based in Victoria, will be home in 2012.

We wish Omar all the best and safe journeys.

# To all my dear friends and associates of the BCSRA:



The BCSRA newsletter has grown from a humble 2 page word document that was photocopied and handed out at the BCSRA semi-annual meetings (wish I had saved a copy of one as it was always well written with some local humour) to where we exist as the **Flag & Whistle**.

The **F&W** was launched in the summer of 2004 and now publishes 5 times a year in colour with approximately 10-12 pages, distributed primarily through the internet it has reached provincial referee associations across Canada and to the head referee of the CSA as well. With the assistance of very dedicated staff this publication continues to thrive and showcases the BCSRA in a professional manner providing relevant content to our members across the province.

Thank you to all those who've contributed in the past and present as we are only as good as the content we receive for publication. I believe we have the premiere referee publication in Canada and have "raised the bar" in promoting provincial referee associations to our fellow referees. Well done to all whose efforts have allowed us to succeed with our "little rag."

Times change, and as such it is with regret that I am resigning

as Editor of the F&W as well as the BCSRA. I am passing the torch to the members of our newsletter and wishing them well in their endeavours, relying upon their dedication to further our publication. Mr. **Dieter Freundt** has been handling the layout of the last few publications and has done a superior job for which I personally am grateful – thank you Dieter.

There is one individual to whom I am particularly grateful and that is our past president Mr. **Elvio Chies**, who has been my friend and "partner in crime" for the last 7 years of publishing. Without the enduring spirit that Elvio has provided, the **Flag&Whistle** would not be as well founded as it is today. Heart felt thanks Elvio.

To all who follow in the referee fraternity, we are only as good as the people who dedicate their enegies to the association and if I may be so bold as to paraphrase – *Ask not what your association can do for you, rather ask what you can do for your association.*

The BCSRA has a proud and long history within the refereeing community of Canada and I am extremely grateful for having had the opportunity to be a member for over 25 years. Thank you all for the friendship and companionship that has been availed throughout the years and I wish you all the very best.

Regards,  
**Jon Seeley**

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## Local League Focus

# VISL and VISRA marching along side-by-side

*by BC Soccer Director Kjell Brodsgaard, VISRA Life Member Dennis Somner and National Assessor and VISRA Member Tiberio de Frias*

**(Ed note: "Local League Focus"** is a new feature in the **Flag and Whistle** whereby each issue we will highlight a local league, be it at the adult or youth level. In this latest installment we present the progressive partnership between the Vancouver Island Soccer League and the Vancouver Island Area branch (VISRA) which stands to benefit all those officials in that area.

The **Vancouver Island Soccer League (VISL)** and **Vancouver Island Soccer Referees Association (VISRA)** have for many years worked together for the betterment of soccer. It is recognized by all that officials play an important role in the game and that recruitment and education is a joint effort by all members of our community.

To encourage VISL members to join the ranks of soccer officials, any member that takes and passes an official's course will have all costs reimbursed by VISL. Over the last number of years players have taken advantage of this.

To further develop individual officials, VISL will cost share further assessments

requested by officials in order that they can benefit from valued feedback from BC Soccer Accredited Assessors.

Another area of cooperation is in the area of assigning officials to local cup games, All Star games, and Provincial cup games. The assignment of officials for all these games are completed jointly by a group consisting of BC Soccer accredited Assessors, the League Referee scheduler, and a member of the BOD of VISL.

This approach has worked well as the officials that have been assigned to these games meet the criteria of being members of BCSRA, actively working on the Island, and readiness. VISL has also established the award of "Official of the Year"

which is presented at the annual VISL Awards Dinner.

One of the main concerns that we have on the lower island is that VISRA membership is not a mandatory requirement. This is problematic as VISRA meets monthly and incorporate an educational component in all meetings.

This constant review of Laws of the Game and their implementation greatly benefit officials.

Along with the education component a Board Member of VISL attends these meetings as the liaison between VISRA and VISL. Mr. **Dennis Somner**, BC Soccer Accredited Assessor and VISL Director, is currently filling this role.

# Referee Week: Former players reluctant to join ref ranks

## Longtime MLSers wary of “stigma” attached to men in the middle

Charles Boehm, *MLSsoccer.com*, October 14, 2011

**Craig Waibel** was one of the hardest hard men in MLS over the course of his 11-year career, an uncompromising defender who anchored the Earthquakes/Dynamo dynasty of the past decade and earned respect for his hard work, both on the field and in the community.

Waibel began to contemplate his life's next chapter as his playing days wound down, knowing he wanted to stay in and around the game he loved. He considered a range of options, including a move into the one area of the sport surprisingly devoid of former top-flight professionals: refereeing. “I talked about it with my teammates and my ex-teammates once I retired, about the idea of me transitioning into officiating,” Waibel told *MLSsoccer.com* last month. “I got the same comment from almost everyone: ‘Oh, you can't become one of them!’”

That simple sentiment tidily sums up the yawning gap between players and referees in the modern era, even as they mingle and interact on the field with ever-increasing speed and intensity in front of the fans and cameras.

Over the years MLS, the Canadian Soccer Association and US Soccer have tried a number of initiatives to fast-track the quality of the league's refereeing, including an outreach program to lure former players into the field. After all, who better to shepherd elite pros than someone who was once one himself?

“We would subsidize and help that player along, to move that player up the ladder quickly and fast-track him to get him ready for the professional division,” explained Paul Tamberino, MLS' director of referee development.

Yet not a single ex-MLSer has chosen that path, most preferring to enter coaching or club administration or leaving the game altogether. And unlike Waibel, most never even consider becoming one of the men in the middle, despite their many complaints about refereeing decisions.

“I think in some peoples' minds, it's logical,” said **Ben Olsen**, D.C. United's head coach and former star midfielder. “But I would never want to be a referee. I don't know why that is – maybe it's because of the way I've treated referees in my lifetime. I would never want to put up with guys like me, essentially.”

“Players realize that it's a very tough job, and it's a thankless job, and people only recognize you when you screw up.”

Despite his own self-acknowledged reputation for ref-baiting as a player, Olsen is acutely aware of the difficult nuances of the officiating profession, and thinks he'd be “a terrible referee.” He even believes it's important for coaches to referee scrimmages during training sessions in order to keep that perspective in mind.

Yet for him, like most of his cohorts, it appears to be a cats-and-dogs relationship.

“I've got a lot of respect for referees, despite my demeanor towards them sometimes,” he quipped. “I've been abusing them since I was seven years old. When you live this life as a player, the referees are the judge, and sometimes you get sentenced and you don't like it.”

Inevitably, given the stakes, players are often among the first to critique officials' performances, and they also express their opinions as a group through representation on the MLS refereeing committee.

When **Jimmy Conrad** served on the committee during his playing days, he says that “one of the things that we emphasized to MLS and US Soccer was that we wanted these guys to actually have played the game, [so] that they understood the subtleties” – yet he sounds pessimistic about his ilk making the leap.

“I definitely think there's some merit to having an ex-player be a referee,” noted Conrad, the wisecracking defender who called time on his impressive MLS career earlier this year and took a coaching job in Chivas USA's youth system. “I just don't see it happening any time soon because of the stigma that would be attached to making that transition.”

“I think it's some form of 'selling out' that exists with that,” he added. “It's one thing to become a coach, where you're still kind of in the mix. When you become a referee, you're something different altogether, and I don't know if that really excites too many players, to jump in that arena. You go from being heckled by one set of fans, and you become a referee, you get heckled by both sets of fans, and players and coaches.”

The physical demands can be daunting, too. Waibel, who recently joined the University of Michigan as an assistant men's soccer coach, also had to consider the fitness standards required of refs as he surveyed his aching body at career's end.

He thinks a 20-something ex-player with “loyalty to MLS” would have the

best chance of making the switch, and believes US refereeing will develop along the same incremental timeline as that of the game itself in this country. In the meantime, Tamberino and his staff stand ready to resurrect the initiative, as soon as just one candidate steps forward.

“If you've played at a competitive level of the sport, that can only help you in officiating,” he said. “This is a great way you can contribute, to make the game better. It's still out there, and I think we can get one or two guys eventually.”

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## KNOW YOUR LAWS OF THE GAME QUIZ RESULTS

Congratulations to **Archie Harris** of Courtenay, B.C. for guessing the most correct answers on the quiz that was featured in the Fall edition of the *Flag & Whistle*. The answers to the quiz are as follows (**Note:** all page references in the answers relate to the 2011-2012 edition of the Laws of the Game that were handed out to all registered referees):

- **Question 1: Answer c.** Play is restarted with either a free kick, penalty kick, or dropped ball (Ref: p117)
- **Question 2: Answer c.** Serious foul play can only occur in the process of challenging for the ball while it is in play (Ref: p120)
- **Question 3: Answer a.** The referee sends off the substitute for violent conduct and awards an indirect free kick to be taken from where the ball was at the time play was stopped. (Ref: p123)
- **Question 4: Answer c.** The referee allows play to continue (Ref: p100)
- **Question 5: Answer d.** The referee sends off the player and does not allow him to be substituted, however another player could be substituted during the stoppage. Play is restarted according to the Laws of the Game. (Ref: p18)
- **Question 6: Answer b.** Yes, the ball is in play when it is kicked with one foot or two and it moves. (Ref: p125)
- **Question 7: Answer b.** The referee should not always stop play for infringements of Law 3 and Law 4 (Ref: p19 for Law 3, p21 for Law 4).
- **Question 8: Answer d.** Yes, provided they are not dangerous. (Ref: p20 para.1)
- **Question 9: Answer a.** The referee cautions the player for delaying the restart of play (Ref: p119 “Delaying the restart of play” #2, #4)
- **Question 10: Answer c.** Caution the opponent and order the free kick retaken (Ref: p36 “Cautionary Offences” #5)

# FIFA to look at changes to offside rule

By Martyn Ziegler Tuesday, 25 October 2011

Changes to the offside law are needed to make it simpler to understand, a FIFA task force announced today.

**Franz Beckenbauer**, head of the FIFA Task Force Football 2014, believes there should be “a clear, understandable rule” about when players are actively or passively offside.

The task force will come up with proposals for their next meeting - at a date yet to be fixed - and also want to see the issue of ‘triple punishment’ tackled, whereby players who are sent off for denying a goal-scoring opportunity in the area suffer a red card, a penalty against their team and a subsequent ban.

On the offside law, a statement read: “The group discussed the interpretation of Law 11 regarding active and passive offside. “The chairman asked the task force members to come up with suggestions for a clear, understandable rule by the time of

the group’s next meeting.”

Beckenbauer added: “In my time it was very simple, offside was offside, it didn’t matter where the ball was. It’s a nonsense [now], it’s too complicated.

“We have a situation with active and passive offside at the moment. I think we should stay away from complicated expressions, we should go back to making it more simple, not like it was at the beginning but somewhere in between.”

On triple punishment, the group agreed that an automatic red card in the area should only apply for serious foul play, or for an outfield player stopping the ball on the goal-line with his hand.

“Any other simple fouls in the penalty area should only be sanctioned with a penalty and a yellow card,” the statement added.

“The same punishment is proposed for a goalkeeper who tries to catch the ball

but tackles the legs of a player. “The aim is make it easier for referees to ensure uniform and fairer decisions.” Changes to the laws are set to be submitted to the International FA Board in March.

On the subject of fair play, Beckenbauer added on FIFA.com: “There were a number of points on the agenda, including the subject of fair play, and we discussed what needs to be done better in the future. What we saw last year was terrible, including in the most important match of the past four years, namely the 2010 FIFA World Cup final between Spain and the Netherlands in South Africa. The way the two teams behaved in the first half was awful. It was meant to be a good advertisement for the game of football but it was totally the opposite. The final of the Copa Libertadores in South America was similar and things like that do not belong on a football pitch, they need to be sanctioned.”

## Beckenbauer snubs technology

From sport24.co.za 2011-12-13

Munich – German football icon **Franz Beckenbauer** said on Tuesday that he was not in favour of goalline technology. “Football is a simple game with simple rules. It should remain like that,” the 66-year-old honorary president of Bayern Munich told German television channel Sky Sport. “The human aspect should not be ignored,” said Beckenbauer, who added that he would prefer two additional assistant referees.

Additional assistant referees are being tested in the European competitions by Europe’s governing body UEFA.

Beckenbauer said that additional assistants could also watch the penalty area. “They could see whether somebody fouls or pulls a jersey.”

Beckenbauer who won the World Cup as a player and a coach said that assistant referees would be able to do much more than goalline technology, which could only judge whether a ball had crossed the line or not.

The president of football’s governing body FIFA Sepp Blatter has recently changed his previous aversion to goalline technology and said that a goalline camera should be introduced.

“There are systems that are so fast and can make difficult things much more easy. We are at a stage where we can use such technology,” he said.



## We must give referees the proper tools to do their job

by Richard Whittall”

The standard video technology debate in football tends to follow a similar trajectory. Football “purists” believe it will slow the game down with constant stoppages, remove the element of fan debate popular in the endlessly churning soup that is the soccer blogosphere, and prove useless in situations when the call is entirely subjective, such as a foul in the area that leads to a penalty.

Proponents like myself and **Dunlop** argue that leagues could easily introduce measures to prevent its abuse and overuse (such as a one per game rule, with an automatic red card if the decision is not reversed), that referee mistakes which cost teams millions of dollars aren’t worth it to preserve pub debates, and that video tech should never be used in the case of fouls.

However there’s another angle though that’s rarely discussed in this debate: the devastating effect incorrect decisions have on the referees who inevitably make them.

Last week, Bundesliga referee **Babak Rafati** attempted suicide on the eve of Cologne’s game against Mainz 05, which he was to preside over.

While we can’t know Rafati’s personal life well enough to speculate on the cause of his depression, there is some evidence the pressures of his job were a factor. **Dr Sven Menke**, Rafati’s solicitor, said this to Germany’s *Bild* newspaper: “

Mr Rafati felt a growing pressure to perform combined with the media pressure together with the constant fear of making mistakes, and this was leading to an ever-increasing burden.

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## SPECIAL GUEST POPS BY

**Ian Cox**, English FIFA and World Cup Referee **Howard Webb's** former boss, a referee in his own right and Past President of the Sheffield Referee Society in England, is shown here with BCSRA President **Nick Hawley** (right) and Vancouver Area branch President **Marc Bowley** (left) at the September meeting of VASRA.

Ian is a retired police inspector from Sheffield and was in town visiting his brother who lives in North Vancouver. He was brought to meet fellow colleagues at the monthly meeting. As he put it, "My claim to fame is that Howard Webb used to have to call me sir!"



## Officials for Euro 2012

UEFA just announced the 12 refs for Euro 2012 at their meeting in Syon

Cüneyt Çakır (TUR)  
Jonas Eriksson (SWE)  
Viktor Kassai (HUN)  
Bjorn Kuipers (NED)  
Stéphane Lannoy (FRA)  
Pedro Proença (POR)  
Nicola Rizzoli (ITA)  
Damir Skomina (SVN)

Wolfgang Stark (GER)  
Craig Thomson (SCO)  
Carlos Velasco Carballo (ESP)  
Howard Webb (ENG)

Plus four 4th Officials for that special function only  
Marcin Borski (POL)  
Tom Harald Hagen (NOR)  
Pavel Královec (CZE)  
Viktor Shvetsov (UKR)

## WEDDING BELLS

Congratulations to Canadian National AR and BCSRA member **Marco Arruda** and his fiancée **Carrie** who will be tying the knot in the future.

At press time no date had been announced. Best wishes to the couple for their pending nuptials.

## Proper Tools for Referees

Cont'd from page 6

This burden was even making daily routine problems seem insurmountable and he no longer felt able to cope."

Referees are among the most widely-hated and lowest-paid workers in the multi-billion dollar European football machine. Despite the significant investment in training over the last few years, it's clear referees are still liable to make major errors in the context of a match, as" I wrote earlier this week.

While conservative football fans worry that video tech will irrevocably change the game, football has suffered far more dramatic changes over the last two or three decades care of television's incursion on the football pitch.

It's unfortunate, but with the advent of lucrative television rights contracts finishing fifth and not fourth can mean the loss of millions of pounds of revenue. Relegation can put poorly-managed clubs on the path to bankruptcy. It's not ideal, but with the financial stakes at an all-time high the pressure of referees to be perfect is greater than ever.

Television has also introduced a wide array of camera angles which in most cases instantly alert millions of fans around the world to a referee's mistake.

Meanwhile the the only person whose decision actually matters is also absurdly the person unable to view these angles after the

fact in order to help make a decision. He (and increasingly she) is still expected to make a call based on what he sees in a split-second of real time.

No doubt the referee's own equipment—a pair of eyes, a judgment centre of the brain, and his short-term memory—are miraculous wonders of biological engineering millions of years in the evolutionary making. But they are far from perfect because they did not evolve for perfection. We evolved to eat and avoid being eaten, not to recall a split-second event with pin-point clarity after the fact.

Not only that, but they must also compete against players trained to get away with as much as they can in the context of a match, and to never admit to seeing the ball cross over the line, for example. Even the world's best referees cannot possibly match the type of standard we expect of them.

And so we get a situation like Babak Rafati's. I've known countless footballer wannabes but not one person with the ambition to be a referee.

It's the dirtiest of dirty jobs, which must be performed to an impossibly high standard all while listening to threats and insults from tens of thousands of people, including players and managers, throughout the course of ninety minutes.

To not allow them a tool which could drastically reduce human error and hopefully reduce the amount of abuse they receive from all sides in this context seems cruel.

# You are the Referee – know the Law of the Game

Try your hand at these questions on the Laws of the Game. As a referee, knowledge of the Laws is paramount. Without it, our performance can suffer as we cannot manage the game properly. Answers for the quiz will be available in the next Flag&Whistle.

- 11.** Which of the following is **not** the responsibility of the **AR** while a penalty kick is being taken?
- Checking that the ball has crossed the line.
  - Signalling if the goalkeeper has moved forward before the ball is kicked.
  - Confirming when a goal has been scored.
  - Signalling if the kicker has infringed the Laws of the Game.
- 12.** As the ball is about to enter the goal, a spectator enters the field of play with the intention of preventing the goal. The spectator touches the ball but does not stop it from entering the goal. The referee ...?
- awards a goal if the spectator did not interfere with a player.
  - stops play and restarts the match with a dropped ball.
  - awards a goal kick or corner kick, depending on who touched the ball last.
  - stops play and restarts the match with an indirect free kick.
- 13.** Which of these statements is true?
- Impeding the progress of an opponent by physical contact is punished with an indirect free kick.
  - Handling the ball is unsporting behaviour.
  - Holding an opponent is not always unsporting behaviour.
  - Statement **b** and **c** are correct.
- 14.** A player is guilty of serious foul play if ...
- he uses excessive force or brutality against an opponent or anyone when challenging for the ball.
  - he uses excessive force or brutality against anyone when challenging for the ball.
  - he uses excessive force or brutality against an opponent when challenging for a ball in play.
  - None of the answers is correct.
- 15.** Who takes the kick-off in the first half of extra time?
- The team that wins the coin toss.
  - The team that wins the coin toss decides.
  - The team that loses the coin toss.
  - The opposite team to that which kicked off the second half of the match.
- 16.** A penalty kick has been taken by a team-mate of the identified player taking the kick. After the goalkeeper has saved the ball, it lands at the feet of the offending player who scores. What decision should the referee make?
- Caution the offending player for unsporting behaviour and order the penalty to be retaken.
  - Allow the goal.
  - Stop play, caution the player for unsporting behaviour and restart the match with an indirect free kick against the kicking team from the penalty mark.
  - Award a dropped ball, to be taken from the place where the offence was committed.
- 17.** Which of the following offences must be committed carelessly, recklessly or with excessive force to be penalised with a direct free kick?
- Jumping at an opponent
  - Striking or attempting to strike an opponent.
  - Charging an opponent
  - All previous answers are correct
- 18.** A throw-in is taken correctly. A team-mate (not the goalkeeper) of the thrower sees the ball is heading for his own goal. He deliberately handles the ball inside his own penalty area. What decision should the referee make?
- The referee sends off the team-mate for denying an obvious goalscoring opportunity and awards a penalty kick to the opponents.
  - The referee awards a penalty kick to the opponents.
  - The referee cautions the team-mate for unsporting behaviour and awards an indirect free kick to the opponent.
  - The referee cautions the team-mate for deliberately handling the ball and awards a penalty kick to the opponent.
- 19.** Where should play be restarted after the unsporting behaviour of a player, who lifts the ball with his foot, to head the ball back to his own goalkeeper?
- From where the offending player was when the goalkeeper received the ball.
  - From where the goalkeeper was.
  - From the position of the player who commits the offence.
  - None of the answers is correct.
- 20.** Prior to taking the kick-off at the start of the game, a player recklessly strikes another player of the opposing team. Is it correct that the offending player is sent off and his team plays with 10 players?
- No, because he can be substituted.
  - Yes, it is correct.
  - Yes, because a sent-off player can never be substituted
  - No, he should be cautioned, not sent off.

Answers must be submitted via email with subject title **BCSRAHoliday 2011 newsletter quiz** to [bcreferees@gmail.com](mailto:bcreferees@gmail.com) and received no later than **January 31**. The Quiz is open to all paid up members except for those who are certified referees' instructors or assessors. The person with the most correct answers will win a Fox-40 whistle. If more than one person answers correctly, the winner's name will be drawn out of a hat. The winner must be willing to have his/her name published in the Flag&Whistle. Example for answering: **11a, 12a, 13a, ...** etc

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## Referees for Richmond Senior Soccer Associations 2011 Winter Futsal Invitational tournament



**Left to right: Mark Bowley, Stefan Tanaka-Freundt, Bill McNaughton, Michael Turner**