



Members elect a new Executive



Members elected a new slate of officers at the recent Annual General Meeting of the Referees Association. The new executive is as follows:

PRESIDENT:

Nick Hawley

VICE-PRESIDENT

Bill McNaughton

SECRETARY

Laurie Miller

Treasurer

Robin Woods

DIRECTOR-WITHOUT-PORTFOLIO

Chris Wattam

AREA APPOINTED-DIRECTORS

Larry Cade, Hans Clodius

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT:

Elvio Chies

Both Mr. McNaughton and Mr. Woods were elected by acclamation for a two year term. Ms. Miller, who had finished her term as Vice-President, was elected by acclamation as Secretary for the remaining year of a two-year term. She takes over

from Mr. **Richard Brownie** who stepped down in mid-term.

Mr. Clodius takes over from Fraser Valley Area President Mr. Dave Miller as the FVSRA's appointed Director, a position the latter served since 2010.

The Vancouver Area branch (**VASRA**) appointed Director was left vacant pending. A replacement was needed after **Ron Schaeffer** stepped down after serving in the position since 2006.

Godspeed to the new Executive!



(L-R) President **Nick Hawley** with BCSRA Direct Member **Peter Shrimpton** and BC Soccer VP for Youth Soccer and BCSRA Member **Rob Lennox**. Peter was given an Award of Merit by BC Soccer.

BCSRA Member honoured as Life Member of BC Soccer

At the recent BC Soccer Annual General Meeting, it was announced *Fraser Valley Life Member* and *BCSRA Past President Bob Sawtell* has been bestowed as one of five new BC Soccer Life Members.

Bob, is a former FIFA Referee and was awarded the Referees Association's *Long & Meritorious Service Award* in 1999,

Bob was also awarded the CSA's *Ray Morgan Award* in 1991 and was Sport BC's Official of the Year in 1994. He has also served on both the CSA's and BC Soccer's Referees Committee.

He is also a member of the Canadian Soccer Hall of Fame and Museum.

A hearty congratulations to Bob on his Life Membership!

AGM Prize winners

The ones that won the prizes at the game.

They were (left to right)

Ivan Rincon (winner of premium suite tickets for Chivas-Whitecaps match in September),

Ernie Barnum (winner of referee shirt provided by **Ian Cox** (a retired referee from England and former boss of Howard Webb)),

Bill McNaughton (winner of the Whitecaps scarf) and

Christian Hauer (winner of the BMO gloves).



VISRA Elects New Executive

Members in VISRA have elected a new executive for the coming year: President: **Mark McNally-Dawes**
VP: **John Kilbank**
Treasurer: **Christian Hauer**
Directors: **Michael McNally-Dawes** and **Scott Bakker**

Omar Masood has unfortunately had to step down. Omar, who is in active service with the Royal Canadian Navy, is being re-assigned to a mission.

The executive will now be on the lookout for a replacement. At the same time we wish Omar the very best in his service to our country.

Members agree to slight Membership Fee Adjustment

At the recent Annual General Meeting of the Referees Association, members agreed to raise the age limit to 18 years of those individual Area-based members who qualify for the \$10 fee. Previously, once a referee turned 16 years, which is the age that all referees automatically become District level, there was fee change.

The fees for individual Area-based members 19 years and above is still set at \$25. Direct members, defined as those who do not live in an Area Association (i.e. branch) catchment, still qualify at the \$10 level regardless of age.

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Dan Kulai-Jack Tinnion Memorial Scholarship handed out

The recipient of this year's BCSRA Dan Kulai-Jack Tinnion Memorial Scholarship is **Spencer Kilbank** of Victoria.

Spencer, who is also a VISRA-based member of the BCSRA, was selected from several entries by a committee made up of BCSRA President **Nick Hawley** and BCSRA Treasurer **Robin Woods**.

Mr. Nick Hawley was also on hand to present the scholarship, which done as part of the BC Soccer Awards and Scholarship Celebration.

This year also marks the first year the

Referees Association has been able to select the recipient.

In past years, when the scholarship amount was split 50/50 between BC Soccer and scholarship sponsors, the winner was chosen by BC Soccer.

The Referees Association has developed specific criteria to ensure the recipient is actively involved in refereeing and the refereeing culture/community.

Congratulations to Spencer on being this year's scholarship recipient!

Members honoured at BC Soccer Awards

As posted on the BC Soccer website, two members figured prominently in this year's BC Soccer Awards Celebration held on Saturday, June 15, 2013 at BC Place. VISRA-based member **Cameron Olive** from Victoria has been awarded the **BC Soccer Youth Official of the Year**.

DAs quoted on the BC Soccer website, With strong commitment and passion for refereeing, Cameron attends the BC Soccer Candidates Program in Victoria and has aspirations to referee at a FIFA World Cup.

"I am delighted and honoured to receive this year's Youth Official of the Year award. Every year since I have started

refereeing, I feel that I am taking larger and larger steps towards my ultimate goal of top-flight refereeing, and this award is definitely a huge step forward in my refereeing career."

Direct member **Peter Shrimpton** of Whistler was one eight individuals receiving the BC Soccer Award of Merit.

The award, as detailed on the BC Soccer website, is given to individuals "recognizing their efforts and contributions to the soccer community for periods of ten years or more."

Congratulations on both members for their respective honours!

Annual BC Soccer Assessor/Instructor Symposium

This year's annual BC Soccer Assessor/Instructor Symposium is being held July 4-7 in conjunction with the Youth Provincial A Cup in Langley. An introductory meeting of all assessors and instructors is scheduled for the night of Wednesday July 3rd to help kick-off the gathering.

The annual symposium is designed to inform everyone on details of the upcoming refresher courses that start in late summer on the coast and assist in informing assessors and instructors on specific topics put forth by BC Soccer's Referees Committee. This year's symposium will see the assessors not only observe games of the Youth A Cup but also shadow/evaluate themselves while instructors are asked to create lesson plans/present on pre-arranged topics.

SHORT PASSES Beach Blast set to lift-off on August 10-12

Vancouver Area branch (VASRA) President **Marc Bowley** will once again be scheduling referees for this year's annual fundraiser called **Beach Blast** on August 10th-12th. The event, to be held at Spanish Banks, features games in boys, girls, Open Women's, Open Mens and Coed divisions. All games have 14 minute halves. It's a volunteer event whereby members will donate their time in exchange for a shirt and lunch/drinks.

Those interested in refereeing should contact Marc at:

604-278-9302

or
marc.bowley@telus.net

Seven top BC Soccer Referees participate in National Refereeing Course

Posted on www.bcsoccer.net/BC Soccer

The Canadian Soccer Association (CSA) held its annual Provincial Promotion Referee Course May 17-19 weekend in Vaughan, ON with seven (7) of BC's top soccer officials, the largest contingent from all of the Provinces, attending.

This was the fifth time the centralized course was run, with 18 officials from five Provinces (BC, SK, ON, QC, NS) attending. Leading the course was CSA Head of Refereeing **Tiger Liu**.

The Provincial Promotion Referee Course featured two days of intensive practical and theoretical sessions, held at the Ontario Soccer Association's Soccer Centre.

The seven officials from across the Province and representing BC were **Brett Hartmann** (Duncan), **Juan Márquez** (Vancouver), **Evan Fryer** (Victoria), **Stefan Tanaka-Freundt** (Surrey), **Daniel Dittarro** (Prince George), **Omar Masood** (Victoria), and **Kent Waechter** (Surrey).

"The Provincial Promotion Referee Course is an important part of the CSA's long term referee development program. Course participants benefit from the expertise of **FIFA Futuro III Instructors** and exposure to the latest referee training materials from CONCACAF and FIFA," said **Jose Branco**, BC Soccer Referee Development Coordinator.

Stefan Tanaka-Freundt, one of the newly upgraded Provincial referees stated "The Provincial Promotion Referee Course was a weekend rich with information and learning experiences taught by some of the best instructors in Canada. I look forward to taking the knowledge gained and incorporating it in my matches to make me a better official and to also share it with my colleagues here in BC."

The preparation for the BC group of officials has come through the **BC Soccer Candidates Program**, which has centres in **Burnaby, Kelowna, Langley, and Victoria**. This program is designed to provide aspiring referees from across the province the ability to hone their referee skills through on field practical sessions, fitness training, and theoretical sessions.

This type of programming provides a progressive and a positive educational referee specific environment which helps to give referees an opportunity to progress through the referee classifications.

"Without BC Soccer's support it would not be impossible for me to accomplish the standards of refereeing that got me to be selected to participate in this promotional course," stated **Juan Marquez**, "For me it was an amazing experience that strengthens and encourages me to keep striving and improve on my refereeing in BC," he added.

Evan Fryer, a referee from Victoria commented on how the BC Soccer Referee Development Program has helped him achieve what he has to date. "The referee program has facilitated my growth from the grassroots level and supported me in every way possible. I thought that living on Vancouver Island would be a disadvantage when it came to officiating higher level games but it has not; BC Soccer has consistently supported me, nurtured my development and helped me to officiate in games across the province".

One of the six priority directions of the BC Soccer strategic plan is referee development and one of the key objectives within this area is to increase the number of higher referees in BC. Referees from BC Soccer participating in these national training courses will help to deliver against that objective.

"The referee development program in BC is unparalleled in Canada with regular fitness and education sessions enabling us to become confident in our knowledge of the game and ability to referee," said **Omar Masood**. "After speaking with fellow classmates from other provinces, it became apparent that no such program exists in their cities. They were very envious of our candidates training, which definitely gave BC representatives an even greater appreciation for the assistance we receive here." •

DID YOU KNOW :

The criteria for a participant's attendance for the Provincial Promotion Course, which had to be met by 1 May 2013, was as follows:

- Must have applied and been accepted by the Provincial Association Referee Committee by March 1, 2013 for consideration for promotion to Provincial Referee during season 2013
- Must have passed the online exam with a mark of 80% or higher
- Must have successfully completed the FIFA fitness test as follows prior to attendance:

FIFA Fitness Test (Interval & Repeated Sprints)

Provincial Referee Standard, Men
Sprints 6.4 seconds

20x Interval Run, 30/40 sec/ 4000 m

Provincial Referee Standard, Women
Sprints 6.8 seconds

20x Interval Run, 35/45 sec/ 4000 m

Source: Jose Branco, BC Soccer Referee Development Coordinator

Pacific Coast League to up Fees

In conversation with **Dave Collard**, the *Flag & Whistle* has learned the league is contemplating increasing referees fees for its games. Mr. Carroll indicated the planned increase is to go from the current \$60/\$30 split to \$80 and \$40 for referees and assistants respectively.

The increase demand on referees for performance and, in some areas of the province, difficulty of traveling to a match were contributing factors in this decision he said.

BC to host 2014 CSA AGM and upcoming National Competitions

As reported at the BC Soccer AGM June 15th, BC will host the annual meeting of the Canadian Soccer Association, the national governing body, in May 2014. As was also announced, BC Soccer will host the following National Competitions over the next 3 years:

U-16 National Championships
October 2013, Kamloops

U18 National Championships
October 2014, South Surrey
2015 CSA National All-Stars,
Richmond

In addition to the above list, BC Soccer Executive Director **Paul Mullen** indicated bids have been put in to host the 2014 Western Masters Finals and also the 2017 National Club Championships.



Know Your Fellow Member

Name: **Stefan Tanaka-Freundt**

Residence: **Surrey, BC**

Years Refereeing: **7 Years**

What made you take up refereeing?

My dad signed me up for an entry level clinic and it took off from there

What's your most memorable moment so far in refereeing?

Being appointed to a final at the Dallas Cup

What advice would you give to someone starting to referee?

Make sure you run and don't be afraid to make mistakes. Making mistakes is the only way you will learn and get better.

BC Soccer announces Youth and Adult Officials of the Year

BC Soccer announced "2012 - 2013-award-winners" May 31st, 2013

Cameron Olive (Victoria), from Lower Island Soccer Association, has been awarded the Youth Official of the Year. With strong commitment and passion for refereeing,

Cameron attends the BC Soccer Candidates Program in Victoria and has aspirations to referee at a FIFA World Cup. "I am delighted and honoured to receive this year's Youth Official of the Year award.

Every year since I have started refereeing, I feel that I am taking larger and larger steps towards my ultimate goal of top-flight refereeing, and this award is definitely a huge step forward in my refereeing career."

Dedicated referee, **Kyle Williams** (North Vancouver) has been awarded the Adult Official of the Year for his work refereeing in the Fraser Valley Soccer League.

"Kyle has been a referee in the FVSL for over 15 years and has developed into one of our best, this past season he was in the middle for the Pacific Cup Final, a tournament between the Vancouver Island and Fraser Valley and had a terrific season handling many Premier games and Pakenham Cup Semi-Finals." stated **Thomas Mills** of the Fraser Valley Soccer League.

2013 Provincial Promotion Course Thoughts from the Frontline

Ed note: Stefan Tanaka-Freundt was one of seven BC referees that participated in the annual provincial upgrading clinic held this year in Vaughn, Ontario. The Flag & Whistle caught up to him recently and asked him for his impressions.

Over the may long weekend I was privileged to attend the provincial promotion course in Vaughn, Ontario. Although the course was held during May long weekend, preparations started long before as we had to pass an online theory exam and a fitness test.

Out of approximately 40 on the original list only 18 had made it past the hurdles to attend the clinic, including all seven candidates from BC.

The BC crew consisted of **Dan Dittaro** from Prince George, **Evan Fryer**, **Brett Hartmann** and **Omar Masood** from the Island and **Kent Waechter**, **Juan Marquez**, and myself from the Mainland.

The flight of the mainland crew arrived in Toronto early Friday morning so we got to see Niagara Falls with a colleague I had previously officiated with at the Dallas Cup.

Later in the evening we went to watch a Canadian Soccer League game.

The course itself started right off the get go early Saturday morning with a video quiz ran by **Tiger Liu**, head of refereeing of the CSA.

Tiger was one of four instructors who are all **FIFA Futuro instructors** and very

rich with knowledge.

The classroom sessions, which lasted from 8:00-12:00, covered a wide variety of hot topics such as handball, offside, managing the technical area.

This was followed by three hours of field work including the **CODA** – Change Of Direction Assessment – which is a new test for assistant referees attending the World Cup in 2014.

Later that evening all of us headed down to BMO field to watch the MLS reserve game between Toronto FC and Columbus Crew and evaluate the referee.

We were also instructed to come up with questions as he would be coming in to speak with us on Sunday morning. Also, prior to the reserve match was an MLS league game in which **Marco Arruda** was an assistant referee.

He came up to say hi and it was neat to see an official you train with doing these calibre matches.

Although only consisting of two days, the clinic was very rich with information and many things were learned by all of the attendees.

All seven of the referees from BC performed very well at the clinic and received positive feedback from the instructors.

I look forward to work on the things I learned over the weekend and not only help myself but to share my newly gained knowledge with other referees and help them improve.

Small-Sided Referees to fall under BC Soccer Control

The voting members of BC Soccer have agreed to amend Rule 18 of the BC Soccer Rule and Regulations dealing with referees to place all Small-Sided referees under the control and jurisdiction of BC Soccer. This will come into affect as of April 1,2014.

Previously, all referees classified as Small-sided referees were under the control and jurisdiction of the Youth District in which they registered.

According to the 2013 Amendment Proposals package given to delegates at the BC Soccer Annual General Meeting, the issue of Small-Sided referees registering with the District rather than BC Soccer was discussed at the last Youth District Chair's meeting held on Saturday, March 9,2013.

At this meeting there was support for a proposal to have Small-Sided referees reg-

ister directly with BC Soccer with, as the package indicated "ensuring consistence in rule application, insurance, and instruction of course content, etc. be provided in the same manner as the other referee classifications.

The Amendment Proposal also stated: "If this amendment is approved, BC Soccer will work with its technology provider to support the Small-Sided Referee classification in the same manner as all other referee classifications, including member organizations requesting small-sided clinics, clinic registration and annual referee registration via the BC Soccer Ref Centre (online referee management system).

According to the list of BC Soccer Program Fees, which was part of the delegate package, Small-Sided referees will not be charged an annual registration fee for the 2014-2015 year.

Members gearing Referees up for Youth Provincial Girls B Cup

The potential pool of referees for the upcoming Youth Provincial Girls B Cup being held July 4th to 7th in North Vancouver are being given a series of fitness and education sessions to help prepare for the tournament.

Headed by fellow members **Stephen Lebrechthausen**, **Amanda Cordua von Specht** and **Iain Andrews**, these sessions were being held on three consecutive Saturdays starting June 8th.

They featured some interval training, warm-up and cool-down exercises, and ending with an education on different topics after each session.



L-R: Antonio Hurtado-Coll, Iain Andrews, NSYSA Rep Drew Chad, Elvio Chies, Joe Ceresi, Stephen Lebrechthausen, NSYSA Ref-in-Chief Patrick Ho. Missing: Amanda Cordua von Specht.

Linesman gets Lifetime Ban for attacking Youth Player

"ca.sports.yahoo.com/author/brooks-peck/" Brooks Peck

A Chechen linesman has been given a lifetime ban for physically attacking a youth player at the end of a Russian reserve league match between **Amkar Perm** and **Terek**. The linesman, **Musa Kadyrov**, dropped his flag and viciously went after Amkar defender **Ilya Krichmar** as the final whistle blew. Terek players then jumped into the mix and the scuffle then excluded the man who started it.

"The ref blew the final whistle and I started walking to our bench, when suddenly someone came from behind, pushed me to the ground and began kicking and punching me," the 18-year-old Amkar player told reporters.

"Terek players then joined the attack. Someone grabbed me by the throat, another hit me... bloodying my face.

"Thank God, my team mates came to the rescue. Special thanks to **Vlasov** from Terek. We had known each other from a youth academy in St Petersburg and he helped me escape."

Kadyrov said Krichmar had insulted him but the player denied the allegation.

"We weren't happy with the officiating, words had been exchanged but I had never said anything personal about him or his mother," he said. "I know how sensitive Chechen people are."

A former FIFA official in attendance as an assessor said of the short-tempered linesman, "He had no clue about rules, even worse, attacked a player. On a scale of one to 10, I'd give him a zero and I'm writing a special report. He should not be allowed to officiate again." So between not knowing the rules and attacking a teenager, it sounds like Kadyrov had a pretty great day.

Sentenced to prison

Those players and coach who caused the death of **Richard Nieuwenhuizen** received sentences from one to six years respectively. Five players of the youth team were sentenced to one to two years in prison. The 50-year old coach of the visiting team, who also participated in the kicking and beating of Mr Nieuwenhuizen received a 6-year sentence.

Referees asked to help "Kick a Cure for Cancer"

Phil Allen has asked me to pass along this email requesting our collaboration for a very important cause.

Please reply directly to him if you are available to lend a hand in the fight against Childhood Cancer.

Phil's email is: Philip.allen@fpinnovations.ca

Thank you

Dear All;

Once again looking to my referee colleagues/friends to help out with this charity soccer tournament event on July 20/13 (Saturday) at Coquitlam's Town Centre park. I will be supervising/scheduling officials for this tournament so hopefully you can join me and the rest of the crew for a day of fun (or just an hour or two of your time if you wish!). Either way, please let me know whether you can help out that day (morning, mid-day, afternoon, a specific time, etc). Please note that this is also the same weekend as the Nations Cup (Richmond, July 19,20,21). If you do have game assignments elsewhere just keep in mind that you will not be doing very much running for the Kick For A Cure soccer games...more like a jog/walk for 25 minutes at a time. So, if you can leave "a little gas in the tank" for this tournament after you have finished your other game(s) that would be great and most appreciated! Bottom line is that you can help out with the officiating! Lastly, pray for good weather!!

Sincerely,

Philip Allen, Referee-In-Chief

Kick for a Cure Soccer Tournament 2013

PS. If you know of any other referees who would be interested in this please forward this email to them. Thanks.

BCSRA Member elected to BC Soccer Board

Former FIFA Assistant Referee and Fraser Valley Area Life Member **Rob Brown** was elected as the Vice-President for Adult Soccer.

The position was held by **Kjeld Brodsgaard** who stepped down to become 1st Vice-President. The position was originally called Vice-President Senior Soccer and was re-named to be in line with the terminology used by the CSA.

Rob returns to the BC Soccer Board after having served in the past as a Director.

Congratulations to Rob on his election as Vice-President for Adult Soccer!

STAYING IN THE GAME

A REFEREE'S GUIDE GUIDE

You get your assignment. You think about the game at hand, the teams, the field and how you're going to get there, etc. In all the excitement there's usually one thing that we usually forget to think about.

Our own bodies.

At a recent special session of BC Soccer's Candidates Program, Vancouver area group, **Karen Nichol** of **Royal City Physio** introduced several factors to help us as referees stay in the game. We forget that just like a player, we need to be wary of how to optimize our bodies for performance.

"A lot of us take our bodies for granted and we don't really deal with anything until injuries start to occur" Karen. "These little injuries often serve as a means of focusing on our problem areas in getting to the source of a bigger picture problem."

The roughly two hour session first centered on planning our pre-game, focusing on nutrition/hydration, footwear and the pre-game warm-up.

The decision on what to eat before a match is almost as important as when to eat it. One should plan to eat a healthy meal the night before and pre-match, approximately 2-3 hours, loading up on 30-40g of carbohydrates.

For an early morning game this would consist of one egg, a whole wheat bagel with a bit of protein like peanut butter. The addition of some fruit will help especially bananas about 25 minutes before kick-off.

For games later in the day, substitute some chicken or fish for protein, and include good vegetables like broccoli, asparagus perhaps a slice of tomato or part of an avocado.

Hydration is also key- not immediately before a game but rather sipping 2L the day before slowly throughout the day before a game and 1-2 cups in the two hours before a match depending on how big it is.

The choice of footwear should not be taken lightly. Karen recommended taking several shows and checking the surface of the field beforehand to determine the eventual choice.

Is it a turf field? Multi-cleats (not blades) or even runners are the order of the day. Leave the blades and stud boots for grass. Equally as important is the need to warm-up before a match.

This should involve dynamic movements rather than static stretching with the focus on footwork. Heel and toe down, not just working the balls of one's feet, to avoid pulling something.

Once the match is over, a post-game cool down is essential to help avoid stiffening up and prevent the onset of injuries.

"The key is to keep moving." said Karen. "Motion is lotion."

Karen suggested finding a quiet area to oneself. A slow jog/walk to help get the heart rate down followed by dynamic stretching for an approximately 5-8 minute routine ending with static stretches can be left for later on, perhaps before going to bed. Each static stretch should be at least thirty seconds long to get any benefit.

Also important is the need to hydrate after a match (a Vega recovery mix added to one's water works wonders) and ingesting some protein – a whole wheat bagel or even chocolate milk will do the trick. This should be done within thirty minutes after a match, fifteen is better. Don't wait until dinner to eat something although a proper meal is still needed later. Of course no discussion about one's personal performance would be complete without discussion the bane of all athleticism- injuries.

Any lower leg injury, such as those around the ankles, shins or

knees, should be treated with an ice bath rather than just putting ice on the area in question. Icing gets to the surface but not to the core of the problem area.

If one can't get enough ice to fill a tub cold water up to ankle height will do the trick. Then, sit in the bath for ten minutes with the problem areas submerged in the bath. If you're not able to do 10 minutes then go as long as you can and come out for a short break in between to warm up a bit.

This process should be repeated back and forth for a total icing time about ten minutes.

Injuries, or recognizing and preventing them, was the focus of the last part of the presentation. While we all get knocks and pains, recognizing them is the key. Was the pain building or was it just on the surface?

Age and past history also play a part in the recognition process. As do signs of inflammation: swelling, hot to the touch, pain (which never happens without inflammation), a change in colour and perhaps even a loss of motion. Inflammation should never be treated with heat.

As Karen put it, "If in doubt, ice it out." If the injury becomes too much to bear and requires attention, monitoring the symptoms will help a professional physio treat it. Ask yourself questions like when did it start? Were you getting numbness anywhere? Does it happen under certain conditions? Does it happen right away? Does it go away after a while? Has it been getting worse? Etc.

Lastly, sleep is also part of the whole treatment/prevention equation. This is when the body heals itself. Specifically, it all happens within the REM (rapid eye movement) or deep sleep part of a night's rest. And for referees, it's even more important to achieve this state as we need the cognitive powers of a fresh mind in order to be able to make proper decisions.

The F&W would like to thank BC Soccer Development Co-ordinator for making us aware of this session at Royal City Physio. For those wishing to enquire about Royal City Physio's services, please check out their website at www.royalcityphysio.ca

Moment of Silence

Upon recommendation of the Referees Association, a moment of silence was held at the end of the BC Soccer AGM for 3 referees that were killed while refereeing: **Isaac Mbofana** of Zimbabwe, **Richard Nieuwenhuizen** of Holland and **Riccardo Portillo** of Utah.

The latter official, Ricardo Portillo, died near the beginning of May as a result of an assault suffered in a youth soccer match.

On the heels of this, a suggestion had been made by the BCSRA provincial executive to BC Soccer to include a moment of silence prior to the start of all Adult Provincial Cup matches on May 11th.

From the feedback given by VISL President **Vince Greco**, the latter was expanded to include all members of the soccer community who had died over the past twelve months of grievous circumstances.

The highlight of Mr. Portillo's death did generate much discussion by spectators at the finals however.

A Soccer Ball That is Lighting the World!

(as found by F&W Staff Writer Tom Babic)

“Imagine a world where when the sun goes down, that’s the end of your day as well. You can no longer see,” says **Jessica Matthews**, the 25-year-old co-founder of Uncharted Play. “That is the reality for 1.3 billion people—practically one-fifth of the world—and one that we set out to solve.”

The result is the Soccket, a soccer ball that harnesses kinetic energy with every kick to it and can power a lamp for three hours from just 30 minutes of play.

It all started in 2008 when Matthews and **Julia Silverman**, juniors at Harvard University, were paired together in an engineering class for nonengineers. The professor challenged them to create something that combined art and science to ease a global problem.

“No one was paying attention to the importance of play. Amplifying existing enjoyment to make the world a better place,” is how Matthews described their idea.

But packing technology into an airless

ball that looked and moved like a normal soccer ball was not easy.

In fact, the engineers they approached at both MIT and Harvard at the time all said it was impossible. That just pushed the women even more.

First, they stuffed a shake-the-charge flashlight in a hamster ball and shook it—and sure enough the light was charged. Using this concept but in a soccer ball, they took their prototype out into the world to test it with the pros: 10-year-old kids playing in fields, at playgrounds and on slabs of concrete in Nigeria, South Africa, and Brazil, places where soccer is omnipresent but electricity is not.

Today, the Soccket is in its seventh iteration and is highly praised from both the developing world and engineers alike. Former President Bill Clinton even hailed Matthews at the Clinton Global Initiative.

“If ever there was an innovator, she is it

and she came up with an idea for clean energy that hardly anyone else has before!”

The ball is distributed in six countries through local nongovernmental organizations, who are making sure it gets to the communities that can benefit the most. Yahoo! followed the ball to the small village of Yohualichan in Puebla, Mexico. Besides having a shiny new ball to play with, the indigenous kids used it to do their homework.

The women used it to cook and sew after sundown, helping them sustain their main source of income. From the kick of a ball, the reality for these families was flipped around and their lives were forever changed for the better.

“In the developing world, the ball becomes a symbol of empowerment,” Matthews said. “It’s about your happiness in the now [while playing], and a hope for a better tomorrow.”

Referees are Homers by popular acclamation

By Sean Ingle, *The Guardian*

Research indicates officials unwittingly favour home teams and are particularly swayed by large crowds

Let us first say this about referees: they have evolved into marvellous species, worthy of an Attenborough voiceover, with lungs as deep as a blacksmith’s bellows and the 4D-vision of a teacher on a school outing.

Even in the hyper-accelerated, scheming-cheating thrash of modern football – where these sheriffs with headsets make roughly 600 decisions every match – they get an enormous amount right.

Yet the following is also true: they are unwittingly and incontrovertibly biased towards home teams— especially those with larger crowds.

“The evidence is overwhelming,” says professor **Alan Nevill**, a specialist in biostatistics at Wolverhampton University. “And it is across a range of sports including football.”

We can all cite oven-fresh examples from the past. That bite and a shin-rake missed at Anfield. An offside goal and buttock bodycheck ignored in Munich. A phantom penalty in Basel. Another offside goal waved through at the Emirates.

In isolation these events tell us little. But by probing the issue from multiple angles, using large data sets and advanced statistical techniques, a pattern emerges. Referees subconsciously favour home teams.

A decade ago, Nevill led a study in which **40 qualified referees** were asked to judge **47 incidents** from a 1998-99 match between **Liverpool v Leicester**; half watched with crowd noise,

the control group in silence. The results were surprising: those viewing the footage with crowd noise awarded significantly fewer fouls (15.5%) against the home team compared with those watching in silence.

In the NBA, fewer fouls are given against star players at home, while when Bundesliga matches are played in stadiums with running tracks the bias referees usually show the home team halves.

Cont’d on page 9



Chelsea's Branislav Ivanovic shows his bitten arm to referee Kevin Friend at Anfield. No immediate action was taken against Luis Suárez. Photograph: Peter Powell/EPA

Another paper – *The 12th Man? Refereeing bias in English and German soccer* – shows that home teams receive fewer yellow and red cards, even when accounting for them being disproportionately the favoured team and disproportionately ahead during games.

One of the authors, **Dr Babatunde Buraimo** – a senior lecturer in sports economics at the **University of Central Lancashire** – talks me through the “sophisticated statistical model” involving “minute-by-minute bivariate probit analysis.”

It is impressive stuff, although you don't need a maths degree to know the likely consequences of being reduced to 10 men by a home-town decision.

Forthcoming research also suggests that referees favour home teams by adding more injury time in addition to the amount the fourth official holds up – when a match is closer and when any additional time would favour the home team.

You might think improved referee training could change this. But Nevill's latest article, in the *Psychology of Sport and Exercise* last month, suggests it is not that simple. It is true that home advantage has declined in England and Scotland – something Nevill says is due to a “sys-

tematic improvement” in referees' decision-making accuracy because of better training and monitoring.

There is, however, a caveat. The steepest decline in home advantage is to be found in the lower leagues and shallowest in the Premier League. “I think it's the first scientific proof that it's the crowd having the influence,” Nevill says.

“Referees' objective capabilities are still not immune to the unconscious influence of the crowd.”

Psychologists call this influence conformity. And you can see how it happens. If 70,000 fans scream for a decision it can reinforce the referee's first impression of an incident. Or it can make them subconsciously decide to get the crowd off their backs by giving them what they want.

It has long been mooted that home advantage is partly down to playing in a familiar stadium, or the adverse effects of travelling. Maybe for an NFL team playing across the other side of America. But in the Premier League?

Another myth we cling to – that shouting until your tonsils are red-raw can somehow inspire your team – also has little to back it up. One example cited by **Tobias Moskowitz** and **Jon Wertheim**, the authors of *Scorecasting*, is that in 624 NHL shootouts between 2005-09 – when

you might expect the home crowd to be more vociferous and therefore more inspiring – the home team won 304 (49.4%) times and the away team 316 (50.6%).

When looking at reasons for home advantage we first direct our attention to the man in the middle. We assume that whatever the terraces spit at referees runs off, like water off Gore-Tex. Research suggests otherwise.

So what should be done? One view is to just lump it. As **David Forrest**, professor of economics at **Salford University**, points out. “Statisticians think justice is everything. But randomness and noise create uncertainty of outcome, which is one of the appeals of sport.”

On the other end of the scale, video evidence – while not to everyone's taste – can help. When the instant-replay challenge was introduced to the NFL in 1999 it led to a 29.4% drop in home advantage.

In football the effect could be even greater: because the game is low scoring, one decision – a penalty, red card or offside goal – is more likely to affect the result.

Whatever your view, doesn't this issue deserve a little more attention? As it is, any discussion of referee bias rarely goes beyond weary laments involving Manchester United and the lack of away penalties at Old Trafford – something, incidentally, that silicon chips are yet to show has any statistical significance.

MLS league guidelines say Portland ball kid was right in denying ball to Chivas USA's Mario de Luna

<http://www.mlssoccer.com/author/MLSSoccer-staff> MLSSoccer staff
MLSSoccer.com

Turns out the ball kid in Portland was in the right.

In the 85th minute of [HYPERLINK “http://www.mlssoccer.com/matchcenter/2013-05-12-POR-v-CHV/”](http://www.mlssoccer.com/matchcenter/2013-05-12-POR-v-CHV) Portland's 3-0 win over Chivas USA, with Portland leading 2-0, the ball kid between the benches refused to give up the ball to Goats defender **Mario de Luna**. But referee **Silviu Petrescu** had signaled a throw-in for the Timbers and the ball kid was just doing his job.

MLS guidelines for ball kids indicate that they need to take their cue from referees and “the ball must be given to the appropriate team.” Here's the full excerpt from the league manual:

They shall watch for signals from the referee/match commissioner/field supervisor

or ball kid supervisor, to whom they are responsible throughout the game.

The ball must be given to the appropriate team, as signaled by the referee (the referee will point his arm in the direction of the goal that the team is attacking to indicate which team has possession).”

After being denied, De Luna made contact with the ball kid to ensure he gained possession of the ball. The Chivas USA player received a caution card from Petrescu for his actions.

And a league spokesman confirmed the interpretation of the guidelines which the ball kid was following.

“It's the assessment of the MLS Operations Department that the ball kid acted appropriately because the referee was pointing in the direction of Portland,”

a league spokesman told MLSSoccer.com. “The ball kid was following instructions.”

The guidelines for ball kids do not specifically address situations when a player makes a request for a ball, but the League is considering additional instructions along those lines.

In the meantime, we'll see if De Luna will be facing additional sanctions from the MLS Disciplinary Committee. In June 2012, San Jose goalkeeper [HYPERLINK “http://www.mlssoccer.com/news/article/2012/06/13/san-joses-busch-suspended-one-match-actions-kc”](http://www.mlssoccer.com/news/article/2012/06/13/san-joses-busch-suspended-one-match-actions-kc) \t “_blank” **Jon Busch** was suspended one game for “aggressively retrieving a ball” against Kansas City.

Vanishing spray to be used in a FIFA competition

(FIFA.com) Wednesday 19 June 2013

The vanishing spray is to be utilised at a FIFA competition for the first time, with referees set to test it during the **FIFA U-20 World Cup Turkey 2013** between 21 June and 13 July.

The spray is aimed at giving match officials the opportunity to mark a line on which the defending team must line up its defensive wall before a free kick is taken.

Produced by the Argentinian company **Fair Play 9.15 Limit**, the spray marks a

white line on the grass, which indicates clearly any attempted encroachment by players aimed at narrowing the angle or affecting the taking of the free-kick.

The spray is a non-contaminating foam that can be used on grass, synthetic and dirt pitches, and disappears between 45 seconds and 2 minutes of being applied.

It will be used on a trial basis in all 52 matches of the FIFA U-20 World Cup in Turkey.

All referees deployed in Turkey are

on the list of candidates for 2014 FIFA World Cup Brazil™, and each received a technical and practical instruction during the preparation seminar last month in Rio de Janeiro.

The International Football Association Board (IFAB approved the spray's use during the board's 126th Meeting, in Surrey, Great Britain, on 5 March 2012, and determined that any confederation, member association or league could use it in future if they wished.



*What a thrill it was for recently promoted Provincial Referee **Juan Márquez**, not only to see but also to be photographed with FIFA Referee **Howard Webb** during the recent Confederation Cup in Brazil. While waiting in the airport Juan noticed the famous referee.*

Juan introduced himself as a referee from Canada and asked if he could join Mr Webb for a picture. And the rest is history.

FIFA statement on head covers

(FIFA.com) Friday 14 June 2013

FIFA has sent a letter to the Canadian Soccer Association (CSA) on 13 June 2013 to inform the CSA that:

Following communication between the CSA and FIFA, the matter related to **Law 4 "The Player's Equipment,**

The use of head covers and the situation arisen within the CSA has been presented to the members of the International Football Association Board (IFAB) for discussion.

The IFAB has exceptionally agreed to extend the conditions of the current experiment previously approved by IFAB in October 2012, and to allow male players in Canada to wear head covers as well, as long as the following conditions are respected:

The head cover must:

- be of the same colour as the jersey

- be in keeping with the professional appearance of the player's equipment
- not be attached to the jersey
- not pose any danger to the player wearing it or any other player (e.g. opening/closing mechanism around neck)

The letter sent by FIFA to the CSA on 13 June 2013 authorises the CSA to permit all players to wear head covers as described above, in all areas and on all levels of the Canadian football community.

This matter will once again be discussed by the IFAB in October 2013, before a final decision is reached at the next Annual General Meeting of the IFAB, taking place in March 2014.

3 football referees jailed over sex-for-rigging

Agency France Press, July 3

SINGAPORE

Three Lebanese football referees pleaded guilty on Monday to accepting free sex from a gambling-linked global syndicate in return for rigging a match in Singapore, with two jailed and sentencing deferred for the third.

A district court judge jailed assistant referees **Ali Eid**, 33, and **Abdallah Taleb**, 37, for three months, but deferred sentencing till Tuesday for referee **Ali Sabbagh**, whom state prosecutors said was the most culpable.

Deputy public prosecutor **Asoka Markandu** described Ali Sabbagh as "the most culpable" among the three as he was the one approached by the syndicate and the one who persuaded the two linesmen to accept the sexual bribe.

The three men were arrested for accepting sexual favours in exchange for agreeing to fix an Asian Football Confederation Cup match on April 3 between Singapore-based club **Tampines Rovers** and India's **East Bengal**.

They were abruptly pulled out before the match began.

The three were denied bail and have been detained at Singapore's Changi prison since April 4.

The judge lashed out at the FIFA-accredited referees for bringing disrepute to the sport, saying they were probably the first international football match officials to be charged with corruption in Singapore.

"That alone, the fact that you are international officials, in my view, is already an aggravating factor," he said.