



ASSOCIATION ABOUT TO CELEBRATE 45th ANNIVERSARY OF ITS FOUNDING ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING SET FOR SATURDAY, MAY 3rd AT YWCA HOTEL IN VANCOUVER

It was 1969. Two men landed and walked on the moon. There was a war going on in a faraway place called Vietnam. A rock band called The Beatles released their last compilation called "Abbey Road," on vinyl "records" when MP3 players were still in the realm of science fiction. Justin Trudeau's father was Prime Minister-heck, Justin Trudeau wasn't even born yet! And in the background, several referees formed what they called the **British Columbia Soccer Referees Association (BCSRA)** and registered it as a legal society with the provincial government. Little did they know that forty-five years later the society they formed would still be alive today and, for some, after they had passed away.

Looking back in the days before the Referees Association was formed, the landscape was very different. In some ways, one would not be out of line in saying it was like the wild old west.

"When I got here in the 1950's, there was nothing", recalls Founding and Life Member **Norm Colclough**. "There was

nothing as far as education like there is now. There were little cliques."

It was then that a few referees decided things needed to change. A decision was made, starting with **John "The Commander" Morris**, who would become the association's first president, to get together to form the with the goal of improving the information given to referees and bringing a spirit of camaraderie amongst all fellow colleagues.

Eventually, the BCSRA would become an associate member of the **BC Soccer Association Commission** (forerunner to the current BC Soccer) including being the provincial governing body's agent for the registration of referees. The BCSRA was also instrumental in forming what is now called the BC Soccer Referees Committee starting the formation of the infrastructure we know today.

"Everyone doesn't realize that they are benefiting from the efforts (we) put forth in those early days," states Norm.

The official start to celebrating the anniversary year will occur with the Annual

General Meeting (AGM) on Saturday May 3rd at the YWCA Hotel, 733 Beatty St., in Vancouver.

To commemorate the anniversary of the association, some initiatives are being considered which will be put forth to members to decide on (*Ed note: details of these initiatives for the AGM did not arrive at the editorial deadline*).

BCSRA Founding Members

Harry D. Anderson
Thomas Atkinson
Stanley Bennett (deceased)
Jack Blackford (deceased)
W. Dermot Boyd
Robert Butler
Reginald A.J. Clark (deceased)
Norman Colclough
John B. Meachin (deceased)
John W. A. Morris (deceased)
William Sanderson
Ronald Telfer
John P. Turner
Werner Winsemann

PRIZES GALORE UP FOR GRABS AT THE AGM!

Due to the incredible response to the Whitecaps 40th Anniversary Match ticket purchase, the Referees Association has managed to secure some prizes which will be raffled off at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Saturday, May 3rd. There's a

catch- you have to be there to enter your name!

The AGM will held at the YWCA Hotel, 733 Beatty Street, Vancouver. The hotel is located approximately midway between Robson and Georgia Street. It can be easily

accessed by Skytrain from the Beatty Street entrance of the Stadium-Chinatown station.

Start time is 11:00 am, and a light lunch will also be made available to those who are attending.

WHITECAPS PRESIDENT TAKES TIME TO TALK TO REFEREES



L-R: Antonio Hurtado-Coll, 1st VP Art Duran, Director Dieter Freundt, Vancouver Whitecaps President Bob Lenarduzzi, President Marc Bowley, Treasurer Nick Miskin, Director Mynor Campos, Secretary Iain Andrews

The Vancouver Area branch (VASRA) of the BCSRA took time out from usual discussions on all matters refereeing to talk about the game we all love.

To this end, at its March meeting the members welcomed Vancouver Whitecaps FC President **Bob Lenarduzzi** as their guest speaker for the evening.

Bob started by gratefully acknowledging the donation VASRA put forth to the **“Sleep Out”** fundraiser for Covenant House which he and his son participated in during the fall of last year.

This was the second consecutive fundraiser. Bob indicated they have been able to raise \$6,000 for the charity which seeks to provide help for homeless youth. (Ed note: Anyone wishing more information on Covenant House should go to www.covenanthouse.org).

Throughout the discussion Bob was able to bring more insight into the post-season parade of news items revolving around the club.

From the search for a coach to the MLS Superdraft and of course “Camillogate,” no stone was left unturned. The end result left those in attendance with a better background of the “reported” stories in the media.

Bob also took time to answer questions which centered around the game and, by extension, referees (**Ed note:** in attendance was former Canadian FIFA Referee

and BCSRA Founding/Life Member **Werner Winsemann** who mentioned that Bob was the only Lenarduzzi brother whom he hadn’t cautioned!).

When asked what he changes he would like to see in the game, Bob indicated he wished that something similar to the NBA’s “over and back” rule could be implemented.

In this scenario, once the attacking team plays the ball into the defending team’s half they must keep it there or face the consequence of turning the ball over to their opponent. Of course, no discussion

on the game could leave without a reference to “the men in black.” When asked the loaded question of what drives him bonkers about referees, Bob deftly answered that he would like to see, but understands it may not be possible, is that referees appear to be more human. He recalled one of the referee from his days in the North American Soccer League but realized his demeanour may not be applicable to all!

All in all, a pleasant diversion from the seriousness of “getting the call right” – A great time was had by all.



Bob Lenarduzzi at his presentation about “Camillogate.”

Life Member of PCSL

(posted at www.pcsl.org)

At the past AGM of the PCSAL, Vancouver Area Life Member **Joe Hrgovic** was elected Honourary Life Member of League in recognition of dedication and service.

Joe has now stepped down from the Board of Directors but will continue to help the league with tournaments in his new capacity as a League Official.

The F&W congratulates Joe on his overdue recognition!

Volunteer for Women's world cup

With Vancouver set to not only be a venue for the 2015 Women's World Cup (WWC) but will also host the final, members may wish to be aware of how to volunteer for the event.

To register, click the button on the bottom of this web page: www.fifa.com/womensworldcup/organisation/volunteers/welcome.html

Note: Look for the site that you want to volunteer for!!! (i.e. for Vancouver, look for "FIFA Women's World Cup Canada 2015(tm) Vancouver"

The WWC will be the biggest soccer event hosted by the city since Canada held the FIFA U-20 tournament in 2007.

The 2015 event will be the first time that 24 teams on the women's side will be participating. Other host cities include Edmonton, Winnipeg, Ottawa, Montreal and Moncton.

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The officiating crew for the U-17 NSYSA U-17 Bronze Community Cup Final at William Griffin Field, February 28th

(L-R): Andrew Balzer, Paul Van Buekenhout of VASRA, and Karim Moodad



The officiating crew for the exhibition match between Trinity Western University and FC Edmonton of the NASL. L-R: Stefan Tanaka-Freundt, Alain Ruch, Marco Aruda

New Scheduler for Pacific Coast League

The Pacific Coast Soccer League (PCSL) outgoing referee scheduler **Noel Estacio** has announced that **Doug Summer** will be assigning appointments for the upcoming 2014 season. Doug can be reached at:

chief_refereecysa@hotmail.com

Of note was a plea to those referees in the Kelowna area to stay away from refereeing in unaffiliated leagues, which "contribute zero towards the development of referees within BC Soccer" in order

to be available for appointments to the PCSL.

The PCSL is a Canada-USA Inter-city Elite soccer league for men and women. It has a Premier and Reserve divisions for both men and women.

The 2014 season will see teams from the Fraser Valley, Kamloops Kelowna, Penticton, Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland. Referees fees for the season will be \$80 for the centre referee and \$40 for assistants.

COUNTDOWN TO THE WORLD CUP

Play the World Cup Pool and help fund a Scholarship

In order to help secure more funds of the annual **Dan Kulai/Jack Tinnion Memorial Scholarship** and in turn distribute more in future years, the Referees Association has agreed to a private member's initiative to create a pool based on this year's World Cup.

The pool, which is open to members, their family and friends, costs only \$10 and will feature prizes of 50%, 20% and 10% of the proceeds collected. The remaining 20% will be put aside specifically for the scholarship.

Participants are asked to pick multiple teams and will receive points depending on how those teams perform. Points will be awarded for wins, ties and each goal scored (goals scored during the taking of penalties to decide a winner are not

counted). In case of a tie in positions, tie breakers will be used to determine placement. Should their still be a tie, the participants will share the prize. An online website has been created to help chart the pool standings so participants can see in near real-time how they are faring.

Participants can enter as many times as they like. All entries must be received on/before **Sunday, June 8th** by Immediate Past President **Elvio Chies @ Lvo@direct.ca** the organizer of the pool. Winners of prizes will be notified directly after all results in the World Cup have been verified.

A PDF file was sent to members in early March. If you have lost the file, please contact Pool Organizer Elvio Chies at Lvo@direct.ca.

WHO WERE DAN KULAI AND JACK TINNION?

Dan Kulai A former firefighter, Dan was one of Canada's first FIFA referees and one of the leading instructors of referees at the entry level. He was also a former Treasurer of what would later become the Vancouver Area Soccer Referees Association branch (VASRA) of the BCSRA and an inductee into BC Sports Hall of Fame.

Jack Tinnion: A former Chief Petty Officer with the Royal Canadian Navy, Jack held the position of Secretary for the Fraser Valley Soccer Referees Association (FVSRA) area branch of the BCSRA. He was a former referee instructor and assessor who finished his refereeing career as a Class 1 (i.e. Provincial). Jack would later be recognized by his peers as a Life Member of the Fraser Valley area and also the BCSRA.

Reason behind Scholarship's name

Prior to 2009, there were two scholarship: The **Dan Kulai Memorial Scholarship**, created by the BCSRA, and the **Jack Tinnion Memorial Scholarship**, created by the Fraser Valley Area branch (FVSRA) of the BCSRA years after the death of Jack Tinnion in

1999. The two scholarships were later merged into one large scholarship approximately five years ago at the request of BC Soccer when partial funding, at the time, for all scholarships under the BC Soccer umbrella could no longer be sustained.

CANDIDATES PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS TO FACE INCREASE IN FEES

As was mentioned at a recent session of BC Soccer's Candidates Program, participants were made aware that fees for the year starting April 1, 2014 are increasing to \$150. The reason given was this was being used to help rent facilities and pay for fitness and educational instructors.

Respect campaign underway

31/03/14 12:53pm Skysports.com

A campaign to encourage more respect for referees at grassroots level has held a special awareness weekend.

Don't Cross The Line want to end abusive behaviour towards officials from players and spectators.

Link to the video:

<http://www1.skysports.com/watch/video/9242246/respect-campaign-underway>. (Ed note: the F&W would like to thank FV-based member **Phil Brown** for bringing this to the staff's attention.)



BUT TO GET RESPECT, WE REFEREES NEED TO SHOW RESPECT FOR THE GAME

Kids-don't try this at home! F&W Staff Photographer **Mynor Campos** has found a video of an assistant using modern technology during the game: [HYPERLINK](#)

"<http://everardoherrera.com/index.php/ fuera-de-juego/64-fuera-de-juego/22749-2014-02-25-15-19-44.html>

National Referee Rubin Smilev in Action

Quarterfinal Provincial A Cup Langley United vs Surrey United 1:2 – Saturday, April 26



L-R: *Stephen Lebrechthausen* AR-2; *Rubin Smilev*, CR; *Stefan Tanaka-Freundt*, AR-1



Stephen fully concentrates on second last defender for off-side infraction.



He notices the infraction



stops in line with off-side infraction ...



... raises flag. Ruben makes eye contact ...



... calls the off-side. Excellent communication



Defensive foul, but referee in good position ...



... lets play continue by indicating advantage



Some intervention needed prior to free-kick



Before any volatile situation might develop, Rubin approaches the players ...



... and calmly diffuses the situation



Free kick was taken

Photos: Dieter Freundt

F&W Staff weighs in on the World Cup

Group A Brazil Croatia Cameroon Mexico	Group B Spain Netherlands Chile Australia	Group C Colombia Greece or Japan Ivory Coast	Group D Uruguay England or Italy Costa Rica	Group E France Switzerland Ecuador Honduras	Group F Argentina Bosnia Nigeria Iran	Group G Germany Portugal or USA Ghana	Group H Belgium Algeria Russia Korea
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Here is the order of finish after the group stage. The teams in **bold type** will go to the next round – a very “bold” prediction by D.F.

The panel of true soccer experts – a better group couldn't be found anywhere in this hemisphere

Go to Page 10 and see how Dieter Freundt is forecasting from Group stage to the final July 13, 2014



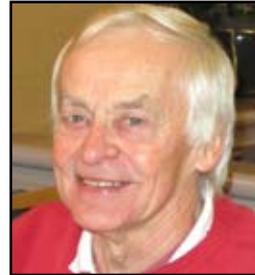
Elvio Chies



Emil Udovich



Mynor Campos



Dieter Freundt



Tom Babic

Who are you picking for this summer's soccer extravaganza? What kind of things are you expecting to happen? We asked the F&W Whistle staff for their predictions and here's what they had to say: Who will win each group?

Elvio Chies: Brazil, Spain, Columbia, Italy, Switzerland, Argentina, Germany, Belgium

Emil Udovich: Brazil, Spain, Colombia, Italy, France, Argentina, Germany, Russia

Mynor Campos: Brazil, Spain, Colombia, Italy, France, Argentina, Germany, Russia

Dieter Freundt: Brazil, Spain, Colombia, Uruguay, France, Argentina, Germany, Belgium

Tom Babic: Brazil, Spain, Colombia, Uruguay, Switzerland, Argentina, Germany, Russia

Who will win the World Cup itself?

EC: Brazil. They have a massive home field advantage. It's theirs to lose.

EU: Brazil

MC: Brazil

DF: Uruguay

TB: Spain

What do you expect will happen in the World Cup?

EC: Unfortunately, I expect the African and Asian teams to be a big disappointment. CONCACAF countries? Forget about it (this time).

EU: I expect that the teams from Brazil and Argentina will dominate this tournament. These two teams have what it takes to win. Further they have a very strong bench to support their way to the finals!

MC: Massive amount of dancing by the Brazilian fans

DF: Two teams surprise everyone by getting out of the group stage – Algeria and the USA

TB: Great futbol is always a given when the World Cup is contested. I don't expect the current crop of world stars to disappoint us. I expect to watch many games - but given the time differential and that I won't want to waste summer days in front of the TV; there will be a continuation of my insomnia to watch games on the PVR at off hours. Finally, I last bought a large screen TV in preparation for the World Cup 2006. While the picture clarity is still very good for the vintage; I think I may replace the set**. Or at the very least have a back up plan in place in the event that my jumping around when Croatia* wins knocks something loose.

What do you want to see happen at the World Cup but you know won't?

EC: I would like to see the US make it to the semi-final-easier said than done given their group! Some people in Canada would like to see them get blown out. Those people need to give their head a shake. If the US does well it only bodes well for us. At the very least it will fuel anger in this country, an anger that would fuel a need to succeed.

EU: I would like to see England do well. However, they will have a tough time making it past the group stage. For their next campaign, they will need to revert to another foreign manager!

MC: Brazil v Argentina in the final.

DF: I like to see Japan follow in the steps of their more successful women's squad. If the team can keep up their pace over a full 90 minutes ... and beyond ... they may surprise a great many people. I also think very highly of Algeria, a squad that is always good for a surprise in the group stage.

TB: The event that I would like to see but I doubt will happen is just that - Croatia winning. Second unlikely event – I have a soft spot for England since I support Gerrard and the Reds; it would be nice to see him succeed as this is likely his last WC. But I equally doubt that England going all the way will be happening in 2014.

Tom speaks:

World Cup Memory of Yesteryear

(Ed note: given this year's soccer extravaganza, F&W Staff Writer **Tom Babic** just can't help remembering “past glories”.)

Back in '06 when we were at the shop buying the then brand new TV, we chose a model that we realized we could not squeeze into the minivan we drove at the time. Quickly we formulated Plan B as we stood in the parking lot with the massive box on the cart. A friend with an open pickup truck box was summoned and while we waited, a couple walked by.

The wife clearly on a mission walked briskly past us and while her husband followed meekly a few paces behind her.

The husband clearly had drool forming at the corner of his mouth as his eyes widened at the sight of the large blue letters proclaiming “Panasonic 60 inch HDTV.” He lingered, staring at the box and at me as the question came to him - “You SEE?”, he pleaded to her. “See what, Dave?” she replied. “His wife said yes. Why can't you say yes?”

MLS Corner

MLS ended its Lockout

After two weeks of the regular season the MLS and the Professional Soccer Referees Association (PSRA) have reached an agreement that saw the end of the lockout imposed by the league. Based on articles from websites of Goal.com, The Washington Post and NY Times, the announcement mentioned that the agreement was reached at the bargaining table with the help of the US Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service (FCMS). The agreement covers officials in both the US and Canada and has a five year term.

Details of the collective bargaining agreement (CBA) were not released. However, the F&W has learned that some of the details include a guarantee of a certain number of appointments during the season and other benefits including a retainer for each official.

Referees continue World Cup preparations

(from US Referee Connection quoting FIFA source)

Referees and assistant referees from Africa, South America and CONCACAF have been meeting for a week-long seminar at the Home of FIFA in Zurich in preparation for the 2014 FIFA World Cup Brazil. This is the second collection of referees to go through the seminar, after a group from Europe, Asia and Oceania went through their paces in March.



Between 7 and 11 April, the 16 referees and 27 assistant referees underwent several medical, physical and technical checks, in order to give them an impression of their current status. The technical side of training was approached from a new angle, with video analysis of match situations used with the aim of offering uniformity and consistency, as well as showcasing changing mentalities towards tactics. The referees also had a chance to express their views, share opinions on reading the game and understanding different mentalities.

“Uniformity and consistency is really what it’s all about,” explained **Mark Geiger**, a referee from USA. “Referees come in from all over the world with many different styles and personalities, so it’s important for us to be on the same page when the tournament starts in June. We need to see the game the same way

BC-Based Referee at Galaxy-Whitecaps Match



Narco Aruda on the far left

National Assistant Referee **Marco Arruda** was part of the match officiating crew for the LA Galaxy-Whitecaps return match at BC Place. This was the second meeting of both teams in as many weeks. LA won the last match 1-0 on a goal by Robbie Keane. This was Marco’s first appearance at BC Place this season.

Marco is also the only BC-based referee on the MLS list as **Kevin Duliba**, originally from Kamloops is still injured. Along with Marco were two other Canadian officials: former Canadian FIFA Referee **Silviu Petrescu** (center) and current Canadian FIFA Referee **Dave Gantar** (second from the left, beside Marco).

Marco will also soon feature in another first- he and his wife **Carrie** are expecting their first child this year. The F&W congratulates Marco and his wife on their upcoming bundle of joy. Best of good games to Marco on the upcoming season.

so that, no matter what referee is on the pitch, the game will be refereed the same way.”

U-18 and U-17 players from FC Zurich were used to practice and emulate several game scenarios for match officials as they sought to find uniformity in their decision-making process and positioning. FIFA’s Head of Refereeing, **Massimo Busacca** – a highly regarded former FIFA World Cup referee himself – conducted the intense seminar, which involved numerous theoretical and practical sessions.

Sandro Ricci, who flew in from Brazil for the seminar, was full of praise for the level of preparation it provided. He said: “It’s a great opportunity for us all to exchange experiences. We’ve all been preparing ourselves for this World Cup – it’s a once in a lifetime opportunity – so we’ve been talking a lot and learning a lot together. I’m sure my colleagues and I will be well prepared for this challenge.”

Similar to the first session in March, fair play was the main focus as one of the seminar’s key components. More specifically, protecting players and the image of the game were made top priorities throughout the week. Busacca stressed this area is a key point going into the World Cup: “For me, it’s one of the most important messages we have to give to the world and the players,” he said. “We are going to Brazil, one of the most famous and important football countries. “We need fair play, we need respect. Situations happen in less than one second for the referees, sometimes they don’t have the right angle, so it’s important to collaborate. Players have to understand that football (soccer) is something you have to enjoy, not destroy. Sometimes for the referee, if there’s no fair play, it’s very difficult to make the right decision.”

World Cup referees told to focus on protecting players

(from *US Referee Connection*)

Protecting players from heavy tackles will be the priority for referees at this year's World Cup in Brazil rather than other contentious issues such as diving, handball and the triple punishment.

Football (soccer) is generally considered to have become much less violent on the pitch in the last few years and the game's governing body FIFA said during a training week for World Cup referees on Thursday that it wanted to keep it that way. "There are always things we are asked to be vigilant on, pretty much

always trying to protect the players, from heavy play, from foul play and violent play and also protecting the image of the game," 2010 World Cup final referee Howard Webb told reporters.

FIFA's head of refereeing Massimo Busacca (photo) said referees attending the World Cup, which starts on June 12, would be instructed to nip any signs of rough play in the bud.

"The safety of the players is very important so the referees have to read the situation carefully at the beginning of the

game," he said. "If players start committing this type of (violent) foul, we have to take action to avoid it. We have to say: 'We do not want to see this kind of football in this competition.'" "This is the role of the referee, to try to understand and anticipate.

"Sometimes, the players forget because of the adrenalin. The role of the referee is to say: 'Do you want to play today or do you want to take a shower?' We must try to avoid these situations which can destroy football."

Howard Webb could referee the opening match

By Henry Winter, *The Telegraph*

Howard Webb's selection marks the second time the 42-year-old Yorkshireman has been chosen for a World Cup and is 'endorsement of standard of refereeing in Premier League.'

(Ed note: the F&W wishes to thank FV-based member **Phil Brown** for spotting this article.)

Howard Webb believes that his appointment to a second successive World Cup is "an endorsement of the standard of refereeing in the Premier League." Webb and his two assistants, **Darren Cann** and **Mike Mullarkey**, have been named on Fifa's list of match referees for this summer's event in Brazil and are contenders for the agenda-setting opening game. Having had the honour of doing the 2010 final in Johannesburg, Webb is unlikely to be in contention for the climax in Rio de Janeiro on July 13 but could be given Brazil versus Croatia on June 12 in Sao Paulo.

FIFA uses the opening game to send out messages on what they are clamping down on so often chooses an experienced, trusted referee. Webb is 42; the youngest referee selected is the Colombian **Wilmar Roldán**, 33, and the oldest is the 43-year-old Ivorian **Noumandiez Doué**.

Webb excelled at 2010. He was criticised for not dismissing Holland's **Nigel de Jong** for an early studs-up on Spain's **Xabi Alonso** in the final but otherwise dealt strongly with a Dutch side bordering on the lawless.

He particularly impressed Fifa with his faultless handling of Brazil's round-of-16 match against Chile, a game that came shortly after some refereeing howlers such as Jorge Larrionda's inability to spot Frank

Lampard's shot crossing the line against Germany and a failure by Roberto Rosetti to rule out a Carlos Tévez goal for offside when Argentina defeated Mexico.

Webb is highly regarded at Fifa and his inclusion, along with Cann and Mullarkey, on the list was no surprise.

"All referees want to officiate on the biggest stage, so it's a great honour for myself, Darren and Mike to return to the Fifa World Cup finals," Webb said.

"The World Cup is special to be part of: we had an amazing experience in South Africa and our involvement in the Confederations Cup last year means we can't wait to return to Brazil for what promises to be a terrific tournament.

"Our appointment is also an endorsement of the standard of refereeing in this country. This is the best group of Select Group referees I've ever worked with and I'm sure we'll see several of them at major tournaments in the future."

Webb has maintained his excellence partly through being pushed by **Mark Clattenburg**, widely considered England's second best referee.

As well as being an exceptional official and a man free of ego, Webb is also respected for his willingness to pass on his knowledge to promising younger referees like **Michael Oliver** and **Anthony Taylor**.

"He and his team are a fantastic example to young referees and assistant referees of what years of dedication delivers," **Mike Riley**, the general manager of



Professional Game Match Officials Limited, said.

Riley's officials have come under increasing scrutiny this season following some high-profile mistakes, not least Webb himself missing what the then West Bromwich Albion head coach, **Steve Clarke**, described as a "stonewall penalty" when Stoke City's **Charlie Adam** fouled **Youssef Mulumbu**.

David Moyes, the Manchester United manager, criticised Webb after he failed to give **Ashley Young** a penalty when clearly brought down by Tottenham Hotspur's **Hugo Lloris**. There have been worse decisions, including most recently **Mike Jones**'s ruling out of **Cheick Tioté**'s legitimate strike for Newcastle United against Manchester City.

Standards remain high, according to the Premier League which points out that "offsides are still running at 99 per cent accurate" and "accuracy on major decisions (fouls, penalties, yellow and reds)" has risen from last season's 94.1 per cent to 95 per cent currently.

Clint Irwin: Player's Perspective: How should games be refereed?

APR 15, 2014 from SI.com

The most interesting part of the game of soccer is the myriad gray areas. No position on the field finds itself shaded gray more often than that of referee. Referees have a difficult job. It's certainly not a position of envy, with many viewers focusing on what the referee's decided. That's not what I'm concerned about, though. What I would rather do is look at how the game should be refereed.

This chase down the rabbit hole was spurred on by the recent claim that referees have been supposedly instructed to monitor more closely the actions of individual players who may or may not have a reputation for conduct detrimental to the game. That's a whole lot of ifs and maybes and conditionals but it's necessary, as I possess no knowledge on whether the claim is true. And it's a claim not exclusive to MLS.



Colorado Rapids goalkeeper Clint Irwin makes a save in the club's 1-0 victory over Toronto FC

On the other side, there's the demand the skilled (let's say, mostly attacking) players be more protected from the rough play that sometimes occurs in the course of a soccer match.

These claims are more similar than different (again, not exclusive to MLS). In this instance, one group of observers has decided that offenders should (possibly) be judged on incidents that have occurred in previous games.

And on the other hand, another group of observers has decided that skilled players should have incidents judged based on the treatment they've received in previous games. In short, both sides wish to see actions adjudicated based on the reputation of those they deem victims of unfair refereeing.

We can reasonably say that the second claim is true; after all, there is public record of these demands, that skilled players need more protection.

We'll address that as well, but initially let's assume the opposite claim is true (another conditional, I know): that referees have been instructed to view these incidents with a fragment of past

events in view. What does this mean for the game?

First, to address both claims, we must note that referees watch film of past games. PRO (Professional Referees Organization) has told us as much, and I'm sure FIFA referees are no different. Much like coaches and players, they are looking to improve, to learn from their mistakes and to become better referees.

These are all good things. But inevitably, they will develop biases. Previous events lead to memories of these events. These memories become biases. This is again, not necessarily bad. Judges in the courts of law have biases, as much as they try not to.

Biases grow from experiences, and most players, coaches and cognoscenti seem to want "experienced" referees. For example, a referee may watch film of last week's match and see a player who commits a few fouls in the game but not receive a yellow card. Or, more likely, he's refereed this player before and knows the player's pattern of play. It's quite possible that the next week, the referee will be more wary of this player's behavior. It's something I've heard myself on the field. I was in earshot when one referee carded a member of the opposite team and when the captain came to ask, "What for?" the referee responded, "It's the same [stuff] he does every week."

What this means though, is that the referee has developed an inevitable bias based on previous experiences. He has lost the tabula rasa desired in the legal courts and, I would argue, on the pitch. He doesn't need to watch film to issue the yellow card.

A yellow card cannot be issued because it's the same foul that the player committed last week. [Note: Nowhere in the Laws of The Game does it mention that referees should judge based on previous weeks games.]

Law 5 states, "Each match is controlled by a referee who has full authority to enforce the Laws of the Game in connection with the match to which he has been appointed."

In a simple, obvious statement, every game is different. Experience can certainly help referees manage situations, but to the best of their abilities, referees must judge in the moment, without previous events affecting their decisions. If it's the "same [stuff] every week," it should be a yellow card every week.

There's no need for history, or film study, to confirm it. Film should be there to look at what the referee can improve, not what a player's behavioral tendencies are.

This also goes for the corresponding claim regarding protection of players. Managers can't seemingly ask for protection for their star players while denouncing targeting of their more physical players.

They, too, are asking the referee to judge on history. Referees must decide based on the events in the immediate game.

For star players, there is a mechanism to deal with "targeting": yellow cards for persistent infringement. It's up to the referee to decide if the treatment sustained warrants this punishment.

Refereeing in this manner would lead to 'fairer' decisions. It won't be good for those looking to assign players a type or to develop specific narratives, but it will lead to clearer understandings of matches as singular events.

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How should games be refereed

Cont'd from page 9

A 'diver' will only be a player who dove. A hard man will be a player who played a physical match. And managers, in theory, won't be able to influence a referee who analyzes in the present.

I've done my best HLA Hart impression. It's a bit heavy on sporting and legal theory, yes. But these are the gray areas that make soccer such a fascinating game. Gray areas that deserve to be appreciated, but also elucidated.

Clint Irwin is a goalkeeper for the Colorado Rapids in MLS. He can be followed on Twitter @ClintIrwin

Quips from the Peanut Gallery

Ed note: Thought it would be an idea to let everyone see what Mr. John & Ms Joan Q Public had to say about Clint Irwin's article before we put our two bits in.

From Julie: "I couldn't agree more with Mr. Irwin's points and general conclusion in this article – referee what's going on here and now, not in some previous match. It surprises me, though, that as a keeper, he makes only passing reference to diving – a primary offense of some attacking players (and a call that can easily be influenced, when a "maybe," by a defender's reputation). If defenders should be relying on skill and restraining themselves from over-physicality, the same vigilance needs to be applied to attacking players."

From liquidityogi: "**Pierluigi Collina** is a referee who espoused watching games and studying tactics of teams and problem players religiously before games. The top referees in the world do it, the players do it, heck teams even do it to prepare for certain referees. The more information you can get, the better. That doesn't mean you should punish someone for something that isn't there, that also doesn't mean as you assert that it is already happening.

"I think most importantly that you are taking a quote from a referee out of context and assuming that all referees shouldn't watch previous games. You will have much worse referees if this happens because the education for teaching them will be hamstringing.

"Basically I don't see the point, if other leagues do this, instruct their referees using tapes why is it that MLS Referees are different? The answer is that they're not, they just should be mindful to sanction players according to the foul they have been called for, throwing out the tapes with the instruction is just silly."

ANALYSIS: A player tells us how to referee?

Just the title of **Clint Irwin's** article is sure to raise the boil of any referee. I can just hear it, "A player telling us how to referee? Players are stupid because they don't know the Laws!" or "Players should just shut up, play the game and take whatever medicine is given to them."

Now before you start circling the day that Colorado, Mr. Irwin's team, comes back to BC Place so you can join the Southsiders in heckling him.

(Saturday, October 25th by the way), let me this – some of the things that Mr. Irwin says have some merit, if you stop and read between the lines.

First, Mr. Irwin does give us, referees, some credit. He acknowledges that refereeing is not an easy job.

He even goes as far as to say managers can't have it both ways, i.e. cry that their best players aren't being protected but forget their own "enforcers" are just as bad, or words to that effect.

Where we differ is his feeling that some of the decisions that referees make have a bias to it, that they aren't done with a clear mind but made with previous history in mind.

He goes on to say that referees shouldn't use video to determine how players react.

He feels that leads referees to be pre-meditated towards certain players. Unfortunately, human nature itself dictates that while every game is new, everyone, including us as referees, come into each game with a built-in reputation. That reputation can and does come to the surface over the course of the ninety minutes ... if certain conditions occur.

This is where we as referees can

fail and where Mr. Irwin is possibly going in his article.

To take an example from another sport, if you follow the NHL you know **Milan Lucic** of the Boston Bruins is a big, rough player.

He has a reputation of slamming players into the boards, to put it mildly. A referee would be ignorant not to acknowledge this.

However, Mr. Lucic also has a very mean streak. If you push the right buttons, he becomes a monster. What's worse, everyone knows that.

As a referee, we should be on the lookout for players like **Matt Cooke**, the perennial pest who is able to get under an opponent's skin and let the monster out of the cage and then shy away. Not only is that Matt's reputation, that's his job.

"Refereeing is thinking," as former Canadian FIFA Referee and BCSRA Founding member **Werner Winsemann** is fond of saying.

In the above example, the referee should not only be looking, yes, to see if Mr. Lucic's actions constitute fair play (I know, I know, no such thing in the NHL, but work with me please), but also be thinking about who is going to push Mr. Lucic's buttons and in turn destroy the match.

If we can intercept this behavior, we can probably tame the savage beast that is <insert player's name>. This is what is called as "reading the game." Sadly, as former Canadian FIFA Referee **Mauricio Navarro** said recently to a group of referees.

"This is the number one problem that is facing referees." While learning the Laws is important, this is an area that we as referees don't spend enough time on.

The bold prediction for the last 16 ... and beyond at the World Cup

Brazil 1A	Brazil W49	Colombia W57	Uruguay W59	Spain W51	Croatia 1B
Netherlands 2B					Spain 2A
Colombia 1C	Colombia W50			Uruguay W52	Uruguay 1D
England/Italy 2D					Greece/Japan 2C
		13 July 2014 Germany Uruguay W64			
France 1E	France W53	Germany W58	Argentina W60	Argentina W55	Argentina 1F
Bosnia 2F					Switzerland 2E
Germany 1G	Germany W54			Belgium W56	Belgium 1H
Algeria 2H					USA/Portugal 2G