



Werner Winsemann recognized as Life Member of BC Soccer

At its Awards Luncheon on June 14th, BCSRA Founding and Life Member **Werner Winsemann** was bestowed BC Soccer's Life Member award. As was announced on BC Soccer's website:

"BC Soccer would like to specially recognize Life Member award winner Werner Winsemann for his achievements in officiating at the provincial, national and inter-

national levels

"Werner's achievements are unmatched by a British Columbian or a Canadian having achieved the 'pinnacle' of refereeing by taking control of a game at a FIFA World Cup Final tournament in 1974," said **Paul Mullen**, Executive Director of BC Soccer. "He still remains the only Canadian referee to have done so which

we believe is a clear demonstration of someone achieving global excellence." Werner joins a list of BC Soccer Life Members who, despite what other work they may have done in soccer, are also referees. The list includes **Bob Allen, Roy Branco, Len Bridgeman, Rob Brown, Neil Ellett, Ken Fowler, Roy Nosella,** and **Robin Woods**.



Above: Founding/Life Member and BC Soccer's newest Life Member Werner Winsemann flanked by other BC Soccer Life Members (L-R): Rob Brown, Bob Allen, Werner Winsemann, and Roy Nosella.

BC Soccer honours Fellow Referees

In addition to recognizing **Werner Winsemann** as the latest Life Member, BC Soccer recognized three other referees as follows:

Adult Official of the Year:

Colin Lawrence

Youth Official of the Year:

Gareth Crisp

Award of Merit:

Elvio Chies

Colin referees primarily in the Fraser Valley Soccer League which, for the second year in a row, has a referee chosen by BC Soccer from the ranks of those that referee in the League. Gareth Crisp referees in matches appointed by the Lower Island Soccer Association.

Congratulations to all recipients!

New Executive elected at AGM

The results are in and members have elected the slate for the 2014-2015 year!

President

Nick Hawley

(elected by acclamation)

Vice-President

Bill McNaughton

Secretary

Laurie Miller

(elected by acclamation)

Treasurer

Robin Woods

Directors:

Larry Cade

(Vancouver Island),

Elvio Chies

(Vancouver Area),

Chris Wattam

(Director without Portfolio)

Life Member **Hans Clodius** announced his resignation as the Fraser Valley-area appointed Director. Due to the timing of the resignation, there was insufficient notice to provide the name of a replacement. The provincial executive will now work offline with the FVSRA executive to fill the position.

Congratulations to the new executive. Let's all support them as we move onward and upward!

CSA recognizes three Officials at BC Soccer Awards Luncheon

On behalf of the national governing body, BC Soccer presented **Paul Ward**, **Andrew Foster** and **Darren Clark** with the Outstanding Achievement Awards. All three have recently stepped down from refereeing to continue in private life.

Paul Ward stepped down from both the FIFA and MLS list and has amongst his accomplishments as officiated in the Gold Cup and the Whitecaps 2011 MLS home opener at Empire Field.

Andrew was a National Assistant

Referee and also featured in the match officiating crew for the 2011 friendly between Manchester City and Vancouver Whitecaps.

Darren Clark stepped down from being a FIFA Assistant Referee and was fortunate to be part of the first all-Canadian crew for a MLS Cup final in 2012.:

Congratulations to all fellow officials on their respective award!

A photo on page 11 shows Darren Clark holding his speech after the award.



BC Soccer Awards in BC Place Stadium. L-R: Paul Ward, Andrew Foster, Darren Clark

Dan Kulai-Jack Tinnion Memorial Scholarship

Cam Olive of Victoria and **Andrew Branco** of New Westminster have been announced as this year's recipients of the annual *Dan Kulai-Jack Tinnion Memorial Scholarship*.

Due to the quality of submissions, the committee recommended two names instead of the usual one.:

"We believe that this year the scholarship process was a great success -

with better candidates and better applications than ever before," reported President **Nick Hawley**.

Both referees will be officially awarded their scholarship at a monthly meeting of VISRA and VASRA in the near future.

Congratulations to both Cam and Andrew on being chosen as this year's Scholarship recipients!

Scholarship World Cup Pool Underway

Thanks to all participants for participating in the first ever Dan Kulai-Jack Tinnion Memorial Scholarship World Cup Pool! The Pool, created to help raise funds for the annual Memorial Scholarship in

the hope of assisting more young referees with their post-secondary schooling, has 75 entries. This will net the fund \$150.

Winners will be announced in the next edition of the Flag & Whistle.

Vancouver Island Soccer League picks its Referee of the Year



Following up on this selection as a co-recipient of the *Dan Kulai-Jack Tinnion Memorial Scholarship*, **Cam Olive** has been chosen as the VISL's Referee-of-the-Year.

VISRA Members attend Regional Clinic

While a full list was not available at press time, we can report that Vancouver Island-based members **Kevin Tupper**, **Cam Olive** and **Spencer Kilbank** were invited to the Regional Upgrade Clinic held in Burnaby in early spring.

Spencer is a past winner of the Dan Kulai-Jack Tinnion Memorial Scholarship while Cam was recently awarded the VISL Referee-of-the-Year (see photo connected with the article).

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Elvio Chies
Tom Babic
Emil Udovich
Mynor Campos

Lay-out **Dieter Freundt**

The F&W would like to thank the following individuals in the preparation this issue:

VISRA Treasurer **Christian Hauer**
BCSRA VP **Bill McNaughton**
MWSL Head Ref **Michelle Pye**

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The Association bestows Honours on Fellow Colleagues



Mauricio Navarro (left) with BCSRA President Nick Hawley

At the recent Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Association, members elected to bestow the seven individuals with the society's two highest honours. Leading the way was election of Life Membership, given to those to four former Canadian FIFA Referees: former VASRA Director **Mauricio Navarro**, recently returned from Ontario to BC, BCSRA Past President and VASRA Life Member **Bob Allen**, former VASRA Vice-President **Gerry Proctor** and **Jill Proctor**.

Mauricio, who was in attendance at the AGM as the meeting's keynote speaker, was officially presented with this award at

the May monthly meeting of the Vancouver Area branch where he was also (finally) congratulated for being awarded the CSA's International Achievement Award in 2012.

In addition to this three individuals were elected as the latest recipients of Association's Long & Meritorious Service Award, bestowed to those who have worked diligently for the Association for the benefit of its members.

The membership elected three Past Presidents of the Association: **Pat Harkness**, **Gord Rogers** and **Elvio Chies**.

Congratulations to all recipients!

Feeling The Game

After giving the keynote address at the BCSRA AGM on May 3rd, it's clear that former Canadian FIFA Referee **Mauricio Navarro** is on a mission. That mission is based on what he has seen in local refereeing. To him it's not pretty.

"Most referees don't know why they want to referee," he starts. "Most referees don't have a clue about (how to interpret) the actions in the game."

Mauricio went on to say that while

there are several components to refereeing like fitness and knowledge of the *Laws of the Game*, having an understanding, a feeling for the game is the most important component.

This leads the referee to better handle the duty of his job – ensure the integrity of the game, enforcement of the Laws and promotion of skillful play. However, we in Canada are not teaching how to get a feeling of the games we referee.

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Metro Women's League Award

Vancouver Area-based member **John Tsang** has been awarded the Metro Women's Soccer League's Most Valuable Referee Award for the 2013-2104 season. The award recognizes an official who has dedicated numerous amounts of time and effort to the development of soccer within the MWSL.

The prospective candidate must show, above other things, a love of the game, loyalty to the MWSL, willing to accept and incorporate feedback, submits reports accurately and in a timely fashion and is

willing to help out when needed.

"John refereed and A-R'd over 30 games this year for MWSL and declined only 1 appointed, a re-scheduled game which happened to be at the same time as another MWSL appointment," said MWSL Head Ref **Michelle Pye**.

"He takes games all over the Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley. He is always quick to reply to mass emails when a referee is needed at the last minute."

Congratulations to John on his well deserved award.



**Know
Your
Fellow
Referee**

Name: **John Reed** Chairman,
BC Soccer Referees Committee
Residence: **Prince George**
Years refereeing? **Since 1998**

What made you take up refereeing?

The referee for my son's game did not turn up so I stepped in and realised that I both enjoyed it and was quite good at it.

What has been your most memorable moment in refereeing?

Taking a team of young referees to a provincial final in Williams Lake and walking on to the field with my two assistants, one being my son and the other his good friend. What a great team we made.

What advice would you give to anyone starting to referee?

Enjoy every minute you are on the field. The game would not exist without referees. You are an important part of the development of the game.

Metro Women's Soccer League Referee of the Year

The Metro Women's Soccer League (MWSL), which is the largest women's league in North America, annually recognizes the outstanding contribution of one female official each year who referees in the MWSL. This winner for the 2013-2014 season is **Erina Cho** of Coquitlam.

The criteria for the award includes such items as good knowledge of the Laws of the Game, a strong work ethic, dedicated to their own development and

a desire to achieve a higher standard of officiating and being a positive role model for up and coming female referees. Last season saw two co-winners: **Kim Green** and VASRA-based member **Candace Brown**.

Congratulations to Erina on being named this year's MWSL Referee-of-the-Year.

The F&W would like to thank MWSL Head Ref Michelle Pye in the preparation of this article.

45th Anniversary Celebration kicks-off with ... a Tossing Coin

To mark the 45th year of the founding of the Association in 1969, members unanimously approved the minting of a **tossing coin** to officially kick off the year of celebration.

The coin will be given to members as a gift when they renew. This was passed as part of the budget that was presented at the

recent AGM on May 3

The Association has minted three other coins in the past: two coins to mark the 35th and 40th anniversaries of the founding of the Association plus one coin which was minted in the 2005-2006 year. Work has started on the design in order to be ready for disbursement come August.

Prizes, Prizes, Prizes!

This year's prize winners at the AGM were:

• Jersey Referee Society Golf Shirt-
Mark Bowley

• Two Tickets to the Sept 6th DC
United-Whitecaps Match

Patrick Li

Whitecaps Closed-Practice Viewing
Ernie Barnum

• Whitecaps 40th Anniversary Scarf
Christian Hauer (who then donated it to **Laurie Miller**)

Congratulations to all winners!

Vancouver Area recognizes Service of long-time Member of Executive

At its April meeting the Vancouver Area branch (VASRA) formally recognized outgoing Treasurer **Ron Schaeffer** as the latest recipient of its Long & Meritorious Service Award. Ron, who had held the position of Treasurer for almost ten years, stepped down after completing his term at the end of December 2013. Many thanks to Ron on his tenure and congratulations on his recognition!

see photo on page 11

A Chat with BC Soccer's Referee Committee Chairman

Ed note: John Reed has been the Chairman of the Committee for the majority of the past year. The Flag & Whistle caught up to him at the recent BC Soccer AGM to look back on what's transpired since he took the position):

F&W: You took over as head of the Referees Committee after Rob Brown's unexpected resignation due to family reasons. What was going through your head when you took on the position?

John Reed: Initially, I thought that I would be helping out a fellow board member in times of need. I knew that the Referees Committee was a well organized group and it should be any easy task. I was quite surprised and maybe not ready for the work load.

F&W: As we head into the BC Soccer AGM, looking back when you first started, what things have you learned and what are your general impressions of how

Cont'd on page 5

Canada's Officials for FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup

Posted on 13 May 2014 on CSA website in Referees



L-R: Michelle Pye, Suzanne Morisset, Carol Anne Chénard, Marie-Josée Charbonneau

Carol Anne Chénard, Michelle Pye, Marie-Josée Charbonneau and Suzanne Morisset are amongst those selected to perform officials duties at this summer's FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup Canada 2014.

This tournament is a chance for them to gain valuable experience and potentially claim their place at next year's FIFA Women's World Cup Canada 2015™.

The complete list of appointees is available from FIFA.com/Canada2014. The FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup Canada 2014 takes place from 5-24 August 2014.

It will feature 16 national teams and referees from 28 different countries. Matches will be played in four official host cities: Edmonton, AB; Toronto, ON; Montréal, QC; and Moncton, NB.:

Carol Anne Chénard is one of Canada's most accomplished referees, with Olympic, FIFA and CONCACAF experience. Born in Summerside, PE, Ms Chénard speaks English, French and Spanish. She will serve as a first official at the FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup Canada 2014.

Career highlights:

- 2006 First year as FIFA Referee
- 2008 FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup (semi-final between France and Korea DPR)
- 2009 Ray Morgan Award
- 2010 FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup (final between Germany and Nigeria)
- 2011 FIFA Women's World Cup (semi-final between Japan and Sweden)
- 2012 London Women's Olympic Football Tournament
- 2013 Algarve Cup (final between USA and Germany):

Marie-Josée Charbonneau is a native of Mascouche, QC. She was appointed to the FIFA list in 2012. Charbonneau has

officialled at the London Olympic Football Tournament, the Algarve Cup and will act as an assistant referee at the FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup Canada 2014.

Career highlights:

- 2012 First year as FIFA Assistant Referee
- 2012 London Women's Olympic Football Tournament
- 2013 Algarve Cup (final between USA and Germany)
- 2013 CFU U-17 Women's Qualifying Tournament

Suzanne Morisset was born in Beauport, QC. She began refereeing at 13-years-of-age and was appointed to the FIFA list in 2008. At the FIFA U-20 Women's World

Cup Canada 2014, Morisset will serve as an assistant referee-her second time officiating at a FIFA event.

Career highlights:

- 2008 First years as FIFA Referee
- 2008 Gladys Bean Memorial Trophy
- 2012 CONCACAF Women's Under-17 Championship
- 2012 FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup
- 2013 Canada Games Women's Soccer Tournament:

Michelle Pye was 19-years-of-age when she began refereeing. Born in Kamloops, BC, Pye received her FIFA badge in 2007 and will serve as a substitute referee at this year's FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup Canada 2014- her third FIFA competition.

Career highlights:

- 2007 First year as FIFA referee
- 2008 FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup
- 2010 FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup
- 2010 Algarve Cup (3rd place match between China and Sweden)
- 2010 Summer Youth Olympics, Singapore (bronze medal game between Turkey and Iran)
- 2012 CONCACAF Women's Under-17 Championship.

Feeling the Game

cont'd from page 3

To illustrate his point, Mauricio showed a series of videos where the referee's lack of reading the play caused the game to quickly go sour.

"Bad players (i.e. those who play with a overtly rough/violent manner) will always be there because it's easy to (just) kick someone." Mauricio went on to say that, in his opinion, allowing these players to stay on the field is the major reason why Canada has not been able to produce skillful players.

To stem the tide, Mauricio advised the audience to take an educational approach – watch games and think about the situations you see with the goal of stamping out violent play. The silver lining is that this will create a positive reputation for oneself, even at the local level.

John Reed *cont'd from page 4*

things have progressed over these past 8 months?

John Reed: We are trying to streamline process and listen to the concerns of everyone, players, managers and officials and at the same time develop the younger referees. I think we all agree that development and advancement is key to the growth of the program.

F&W: *The Committee is made up of people from around the province. What kind of challenges does the distances between everyone present and how does one work to overcome them?*

John Reed: One of the obvious challenges is meeting together and the scheduling of these meetings so that we do get a chance to meet face to face.

F&W: *What would you like referees in BC to know about the Committee?*

John Reed: We are committed to the development of all levels of officials.

2014 Provincial Promotion Course

Posted on 18 May 2014 on CSA website in Referees

Canada Soccer held its annual Provincial Promotion Referee Course from the 16-18 May in Ottawa, ON. The centralized course was run, with 20 officials from seven provinces (BC, AB, SK, ON, QC, PEI, NS) attending.:

Canada Soccer's Head of Refereeing **Tiger Liu** lead the course alongside National Instructors **Marie-Julie Allaire**, QC; **Joe Audi**, ON; **Isaac Raymond**, ON; and **Richard Sansregret**, AB. Instructors Allaire and Raymond have attended four FIFA Futuro Courses and Sansregret has attended three.:

The Provincial Promotion Referee Course featured two days of intensive practical and theoretical sessions, held at Algonquin College.:

"This course is a valuable tool for referee development," says Liu. "It helps Canada Soccer identify and work with up and coming, nation-wide talent, while giving participants the opportunity to improve



Participants of the Provincial Promotion Referee Course

their performances by working alongside Futuro Instructors, so it's a learning opportunity for all involved."

2014 Provincial Promotion Referee Course Participants were::

Ethan Bent, SK; J r mie Blanchette, QC; Sebastian Crema, BC; Cory Deagle, PEI; St phanie Fortin, QC; Simon Gomez, NS; Will Hall, NS; Octavian

Iliuta, SK; Miryam Jabali, ON; Frank Laterza, SK; Taras Lesiuk-Pokyndboroda, QC; Gabriel Loas, AB; Myriam Marcotte, QC; Ralph Nelson, NS; Jasmain Parr, BC; Jessica Patton, ON; Marie-Camille Richard, QC; Isabelle S n cal, QC; Michael Stacey, AB; and Karim Zaïdi, QC.

National Officials Day essay winners announced

Posted on 26 May 2014 in Referees:

The winners of the National Officials Day essay contest are **Muhammad Al-Digeil**, NB, and **Harris Rasheed**, ON, as Canada Soccer recently announced. They will each receive an Umbro Refereeing Prize Pack, valued at \$400.

The contest, titled *Why Do You Enjoy Being an Official*, was launched on 16 April to celebrate National Officials Day, an initiative started by Sports Officials Canada to increase the awareness of officiating in sport and promote respect of officials.:

In order to enter the contest participants were asked to outline why they referee and the joy it gives them. Over 60 submissions were received.:

"These essays provide a glimpse into the minds of our officials and the challenges they face," said Canada Soccer's Head of Refereeing Tiger Liu. "Their enthusiasm shows the passion that our officials have for the game as well as their desire to improve, both on and off the pitch."

Goal Control and its Workings

"There won't be any problems, we are very sure," said **Dirk Broichhausen** who is responsible for Goal Control system at the World Cup. He also pointed out that the system cannot be manipulated from outside agents.

"When Goal Control was tested with 2,400 shots on goal during the Confederation Cup and the Club World Championship, the system was correct at all times," said FIFA spokesman **Johannes Holzm ller**.

While FIFA allowed an error tolerance of 15 mm, Goal Control was far below that measurement. Broichhausen says the dif-

ference will be between 5-10 mm in Brazil depending where the game takes place.

Goal Control works with 14 high speed cameras (7 per goal). The system knows its three dimensional x-, y- and z-position with a precision of a few millimeters in the co-ordinate system of the pitch..

When the ball hits or passes the goal line, the system sends a vibration and optical signal to the officials' watches.

The real camera sequences from all 7 angles can be replayed any time.

The system also shows the more important information of the accurate 3D-position of the ball every 2 milliseconds



Canadian assistant ref to make World Cup debut

From Canadian Press-as appeared on Sportsnet.ca website June 13,2014, 11:28am

Canadian assistant referee **Joe Fletcher** will work his first game at the World Cup on Saturday when Colombia plays Greece. The Group C game is at the Estadio Mineirao in Belo Horizonte.

Fletcher, a 37-year-old chartered accountant from St. Catharines, Ont., is part of a crew that also includes American referee Mark Geiger and fellow assistant **Sean Hurd**. The Canadian-American trio has already officiated at the 2013 FIFA Club World Cup, the 2012 Olympics and the 2011 FIFA U-20 World Cup, among other tournaments.

Winnipeg assistant referee **Hector Vergara** worked the 2002, 2006 and 2010 World Cups. **Werner Winsemann** was the first Canadian referee at the World Cup in 1974 and 1978. (Ed note: While Werner was the first Canadian to referee a World Cup match, the first Canadian at a World Cup was **Ray Morgan**, who was appointed to the 1962 World Cup

“So if for some reason I have an error that impacts the outcome of a match, there are 24 other very capable trios willing to step in and be retained for the next phase,” he added.



Fletcher, a 37-year-old chartered accountant from St. Catharines, Ont., is part of a crew that also includes American referee Mark Geiger and fellow assistant Sean Hurd. (photo Stephen Brashear/AP)

Fletcher, who was 15 when he took his first officiating course, seems to welcome the challenge. He knows he will have four or five big decisions a game, although you never know when they might come. “If you didn’t enjoy it, you wouldn’t do it,” he said.

Told in January, he would be part of the World Cup, Fletcher spent a week in Zurich in April with his fellow officials for fitness testing and other preparation. There have been more meetings in Brazil in advance of Thursday’s tournament opener.

“They want to make certain that everybody is on the same page, that if we all see a player get knocked in the same fashion, that we came out with the same answer,” he said.

The officials live together in Brazil, flying out to matches and then returning to home base where they will hold daily debriefings on the previous day’s matches.

As of Wednesday, FIFA had only announced the officials for the first four matches. Other announcements will be forthcoming but Fletcher’s trio will not work Group G first-round matches since

the U.S. is in the pool.

Should the Americans advance, the trio will be kept from their games.

Fletcher, who expects to get about three days notice on his match assignments, says officials do their homework on everything. For example, if a team needs a certain amount of goals to move on, it may affect formation – and how a team lines up can impact a referee’s positioning.

Fletcher knows that referees get most of the attention but says there is plenty of talking between the officials during matches.

“**Mark Geiger** will be the guy who gets most of the plaudits. I think before you even pick up a flag and say ‘Yeah I’m OK being an international assistant referee,’ you kind of know that, you understand that,” Fletcher said. “But I love our team because we function like one, because ultimately I’m responsible for offside, I’m responsible for the ball in and out of bounds and I’m also responsible for anything that’s nearby me that Mark can’t see or may have missed.

“And there isn’t a case of ‘Oh well he missed it, well that was his fault.’ You don’t think about it that. You think about it as we, we have to get this (right). I know what things are expected that the referee will call. I know there are certain things on the field of play that I’m expected to call and there are some thing that I may have to communicate over the radio and tell him ‘OK, I’ve got a better look.’ I might confirm a suspicion for him because he’s maybe 70 per cent sure. But in the end our goal is just to get the decision right.”

The officials will be aided by goal-line technology, something Fletcher got to experience at the FIFA Club World Cup.

“Awesome” is Fletcher’s simple review of the technology, which advises officials within a second whether ball has crossed the goal-line. Their watches flash goal and vibrate 12 times.

He likes it because it works and because it does not delay the game. He is not a fan of the NFL style of instant replay checks, arguing it does not fit into soccer’s timing.

FIFA officials have been checking Fletcher’s workout times for months. “They have done their best to physically and mentally prepare us for what’s coming,” he said.

FIFA has even provided the assistant referees with interactive DVDs on offsides.

Back home, Fletcher credits his wife **Cathy** – they have boys aged seven and four – and his employer Wormald Masse Keen Lopinski (he joined them as a co-op student in 1997) in St. Catharines for “being onboard with the dream.” It is a dream with a finite end. Top officials must step aside at 45.

There is work after that, however. Winnipeg’s **Hector Vergara**, who worked the 2002, 2006 and 2010 World Cups, is sharing his expertise as a member of FIFA’s referees committee.

Werner Winsemann was the first Canadian referee at the World Cup, working the 1974 and 78 finals.

Originally from Niagara Falls, Fletcher’s job took him to St. Catharines. He will continue to do his day job while in Brazil during any down time. “Thankfully I can do a lot remotely,” he said.

“Some guys watch movies, some guys nap. I fill in my down time by getting some work done,” he added.

Canadian Referee Fletcher feels Pressure of World Cup

From Canadian Press—as appeared on Sportsnet.ca website June 11, 2014, 643pm

Joe Fletcher knows there is nowhere for him to hide in Brazil. As an assistant referee at the World Cup, every decision the 37-year-old chartered accountant from St. Catharines, Ont., makes will come under scrutiny. It's soccer's biggest stage, before its biggest audience and will unfold before a plethora of cameras.

"Everything will get seen. Nothing will get missed," said Fletcher.

The Canadian official understands and accepts the pressure. Officials strive for years to get on FIFA's international list

and then earn selection to major tournaments. The World Cup is the biggest stage for the sport.

It helps being part of a team – Fletcher and fellow assistant **Sean Hurd** have worked with referee **Mark Geiger** since 2011. The Canadian-American-American trio has already officiated at the 2013 FIFA Club World Cup, the 2012 Olympics and the 2011 FIFA U-20 World Cup, among other tournaments.

"We've become like a little family," Fletcher said of the unit. "You're expected

to operate together, hang out together, live together, so it comes in really handy when you actually like each other," he added.

Fletcher's threesome is one of 25 crews – and eight "support duos" – at the World Cup in Brazil. The good ones will keep working while those that make mistakes will not move on to the later stages.

"I literally believe this when I tell you I'm one decision away from being sent home ... it's the biggest tournament there is for world football, so for us there's nowhere to hide," Fletcher said.

FIFA, please do Something!

By Morris Dalla Costa, *The London Free Press*

Sao Paulo, Brazil – If FIFA won't do anything about the lack of respect shown by players to the game and the men who officiate it, then it's time the officials took matters into their own hands.

FIFA doesn't care enough about the situation. It is willing to let the game be ruined by what is becoming a group of thugs and enforcers.

This World Cup has been a spectacular display of soccer skill and excitement. Yet the one thing that overshadows the beauty, game in and game out, is the dozens of ugly incidents that sees players stop, drop and roll as if they're on fire.

A strong breeze is good enough to send a player on a good 20-yard roll. It ends with the player holding a body part, yelling like he's being tortured on a rack during the Spanish Inquisition, only to jump up a minute later, fake a limp before sprinting off to chase down a pass.

It's a miracle after being sprayed with a bottle containing the healing water from the spring at Lourdes.

Even the most vacuous soccer fan should recognize that being called a fake, phony, fancy-boy in short pants, and a wimp, can't be good for the game.

Then there's the players who constantly scream, wave their arms, gesticulate, argue and roach-infest as they swarm an official after virtually every call.

It isn't just an abomination for the fan on the periphery. It irritates the hell out of most fans that care for the game.

It gives the game the look of lawlessness, like an out-of-control night with **Jack Nicholson** in *'One Flew Over The*

Cuckoo's nest.

A massive dose of strong roach pesticide is needed to stamp it out.

Why is there a problem with respect in so many sports today? It's a simple answer.

Players don't respect the rules or the official that is trying to enforce those rules, and they are allowed to get away with it.

The money, the god-like way players are treated, has taught them that what's important is what they do and what they want. FIFA has made some rule changes over the years but has done nothing to protect their officials or the game from these players chicanery.

Players are like little children. They don't understand when enough is enough.

This is but a little example from the Argentina and Switzerland game.

The ball went out of bounds for a Swiss throw-in. The Swiss player was going to take the throw 25 yards from the spot where it went out. The Swedish referee waved him back. The player moved two yards. Three times the official asked and the player basically ignored him.

After the referee asked the player to move back a second time and the player didn't, there should have been a yellow card flashed.

The official, of course, won't give out a card because he wouldn't be supported by FIFA and would be faced to explain his decision to a swarm of roaches.

When this World Cup is over, officials and their representative should demand FIFA set up a committee of people who

know officiating. Not some money-sucking, expense-accounting padding, flying-for-free FIFA suits. How about some people who know the game?

They focus on stopping the complaining and arguing and punishing floppers. ING! They may also want to try something like this.

If a player goes down after a challenge and rolls around and stays down for any length of time, the player goes off the pitch and can't come back on for a designated time period – be it five minutes or whatever. With a game in the final 20 minutes, a player will think twice before doing his Academy Award thing if he can't come back on for five minutes.

If, upon watching video review of the game, it is obvious a player flopped for no reason, suspend him for two games.

As for swarming officials, there is a reason why a soccer player wears a captain's band.

He should be the only one who talks to an official. If anyone else approaches the official, yells at him from a distance, wags his finger at him, they get a yellow card.

Yes, that's harsh, but these players have brought it upon themselves. It's a disgusting part of the game. In fact, FIFA has brought it on itself as well.

You only hope that if FIFA has no interest in doing the right thing, all its officials are strong enough to band together and see if they can operate a game without the top officials in the world.

Thanks go to Mauricio Navarro who brought attention to this article

Why refereeing is never pitch perfect

By John Doyle *The Globe and Mail*

On a cold, wet Saturday in early May, Toronto FC lost its fourth game of the season, and third in a row, dropping a 2-1 result to the New England Revolution. TFC head coach **Ryan Nelsen** attributed the defeat to bad luck and strange officiating decisions.:

The man making the puzzling decisions was **Mark Geiger**, an experienced MLS referee from New Jersey. Geiger is the lone referee from the U.S. to officiate at the World Cup in Brazil.:

The winning goal in Toronto came from a penalty awarded after a strange call from Geiger, who ordered the retake of a Revolution corner kick. "It was a retaken corner kick, which I've never seen in my life," Nelsen said at the time.:

Imagine that happening at the World Cup – a seemingly nutty decision, something that players and managers claim never to have seen.

It's happened before and will happen again. The referees can be the forgotten men at big games, big tournaments. Until they make that one mistake, that single inexplicable call. It always happens. Come the World Cup, there's a feeling, worldwide, that refereeing is not what it should be.:

FIFA is aware, but reluctant to admit major problems. For the World Cup, FIFA still insists on appointing referees from all parts of the world.

Nice idea, but you don't have to be a psychologist to know that some referees, from countries where soccer isn't as intensely played or watched, will be spooked by the occasion.:

With a new eruption of match-fixing allegations, there's even more intense scrutiny of refereeing.

The only thing worse than a ref being accused of incompetence is the accusation that the ref is crooked.:

A key part of the match-fixing investigation by **Declan Hill** and **Jeré Longman** for *The New York Times* (concentrating on suggestions that international exhibitions held in South Africa were fixed by a referee from Niger) is the charge that referees from small or impoverished countries are vulnerable to financial inducement: "Many national soccer federations with teams competing in Brazil are just as vulnerable to match-fixing as South Africa's was: They are financially shaky, in administrative disarray and politically divided."

The referee situation is the looming fault trend at this World Cup. The players and the fans expect elite referees to take charge of games at the elite level. FIFA says they choose the best, but by sticking to its program of garnering its team of World Cup referees from every soccer region, it can't achieve that.:

In contrast, UEFA, Europe's soccer body, has made stringent efforts to raise standards, to ensure that the one thing talked about at a match in a Euro tournament is not the referee.

They put retired, legendary Italian ref **Pierluigi Collina** in charge of prepping refs for Euro 2012 in Poland/Ukraine and there were very few issues.:

Well, there was one, and it underlines the increasing pressure and focus on refs. Some refs are stars, some make money as pundits when they retire. **Graham Poll**, the retired English ref, wrote about the refereeing at Euro 2012 for the *Daily Mail* and was harsh about one man, **Nicola Rizzoli**, of Italy.

He handled the England-France match and according to Poll was lax in organizing players in free-kick situations. Poll also wrote this: "Another aspect of Rizzoli's display I was not impressed with was his flamboyant gestures and dramatic posture." Rizzoli will referee at this World Cup, flamboyant gestures and all.:

In fairness, some great refs do emerge from small nations. One is **Ravshan Irmatov** of Uzbekistan, considered the best in the Asia region. He handled five games at the World Cup in 2010 without controversy.

However, at the Confederations Cup in Brazil last year, he took charge of the Brazil-Italy match and stunned everyone with a grave mistake. Italy's **Mario Balotelli** was fouled by a Brazilian defender, Irmatov pointed to the penalty spot and blew his whistle.

But the ball kept moving and two seconds later the Italian **Chiellini** poked it into the Brazil goal. Irmatov changed his mind, and awarded the goal, to the amazement of Brazil. He'd played the advantage rule, forgetting that on blowing the whistle he could no longer allow that.:

Afterward, Irmatov promptly admitted his mistake and apologized. That probably saved his status with FIFA.

He will officiate in Brazil again at this World Cup. Hopefully, he's reread the rule book in preparation.:

Given the allegations about a referee from Niger being complicit in fixing an exhibition match in South Africa, there will be a lot of attention paid to the referees from the Africa region at this World Cup.

They are **Alioum Alioum** of Cameroon, **Daniel Frazer Bennett** of South Africa, **Noumandiez Desire Doue** of Ivory Coast, **Bakary Gassama** of Gambia and **Djamel Haimoudi** of Algeria.

All will undoubtedly and rightly feel the scrutiny is unfair, racist even. All are experienced, but it's worth noting that none has been a referee at World Cup before this one. We never know who will be the referee until just before a World Cup match. And we never know when the mistake is coming, when it's time for that decision which you've never seen in your life before. If it happens in Toronto, it can happen in Brazil.

Did You Know?

- Canada ranks 5th on the list of countries participating in the most number of FIFA tournaments. Who says we're not a soccer country!!!
- The FIFA "policy" of not having the President make speeches before the start of the opening game of the World Cup has its roots in a quasi-accident. Speaking at the 1991 CSRA Annual General Meeting, then-CSA Technical Director **Kevan Pipe** indicated the press commended outgoing FIFA President **Joao Havelange** for not making a speech prior to the first game of the 1990 World Cup. Dr. Havelange indicated it was "FIFA's new policy," which further impressed the media attending the press conference. Little did the members of the media know the real story. Havelange's car was stuck in traffic. The organizers bit the bullet and decided to start the game without him being there!
- FIFA Director of Finance **Markus Kattner** mentioned the association made a profit of 53 Million Euros in 2013. Its reserve fund stands at 1.05 Billion Euros. The income for the World Cup 2014 is 3.3 Billion Euros.

Kelly: A referee undone by the pressure in Brazil

By Cathal Kelly SAO PAULO - The Globe and Mail

When Japanese referee **Yuichi Nishimura** was announced as the head official of the opening game of the World Cup a few days ago, Brazil flipped its collective wig. This country keeps an extensive footballing enemies list. Nishimura was a recent addition, having worked the quarter-final game at South Africa 2010 that saw a fancied Brazil side down to 10 men after a red card, succumbing meekly to the Dutch.

That wasn't Nishimura's fault. What happened in Thursday's opening game of this tournament between the home nation and Croatia was. It should be tied to him like a professional scarlet letter. He should never again referee at this level.

Faced down by a country, Nishimura flinched. He allowed himself to be undone by the pressure of the situation.

The closest comparison I can think of is Norwegian ref **Christina Pedersen** two years ago at the London Olympics, jobbing Canada out of the chance for a gold medal.

In the 70th minute of a gripping 1:1 game, Brazil's **Fred** backed into the goalmouth. Croatian defender **Dejan Lovren** was a step behind him. As Fred attempted to swivel awkwardly with the ball at his feet, Lovren foolishly put a hand on his shoulder. There was no pulling, but Fred's legs shot out from under him. Nishimura was in proper position. He rushed forward immediately, pointing to the spot.

That may be a foul at midfield. Maybe. It is never one inside the box. "If that's a penalty, we don't need to play football any more," Croatian manager **Niko Kovac** would say later, fairly vibrating with rage. "Let's play basketball instead. It's a shame."

Inside the Arena Corinthians, even the Brazilian fans could hardly disguise their mischievous delight. They didn't roar. They squealed. After a simulation so accomplished he could find part-time work training pilots, Fred got up grinning. He almost seemed abashed.

Neymar slotted the penalty. 2:1. With Croatia pressing and exhausted, Brazil would tally a third in the very late going. But amongst their many man-of-the-match candidates, Nishimura was the most influential.

Everyone comes out of this diminished. Brazil were the better team and deserved a decisive win. Instead, they'll spend the

next few days being ground to dust by a fidgety public wondering if they're really any good.

Croatia exposed them badly at times. Had they won it 2-1, we'd be calling them tough minded. Instead, they were lucky. They won't play another team of real consequence until the knockout rounds. The general keening across the country will only get louder until then.:

Croatia deserved the draw. At the best of the times, they're the sort of team that wears disappointments like sackcloth. History suggests they will be emotionally undone by this one.:

The game deserved better. Nishimura is only one of five officials here who worked the previous World Cup. How could he get it so wrong? There is only one explanation. He'd already decided – perhaps not consciously – that he owed Brazil the benefit of the doubt. He was overwhelmed by the situation, and he folded up. Like Kovac said, it's a shame. Nishimura is a laurelled official with a long history in the game. But he wrote the first line of his obituary on Thursday night.:

Most importantly, we deserved better – you and I. The first half of this game was more compelling than all but a half-dozen at the tournament four years ago. This was a tone setter. It will have been the one game every other team in the tournament sat down and watched together. Early on, they were seeing the bar rise on their own expectations.:

By the end, they will have been reduced to the basest calculation. If Fred can sell that cheap con job to one of FIFA's fair-haired boys, they may as well try their own luck. The only thing worse than earning a reputation as a cheat on the global stage is getting beaten by someone else who's willing to give it a go.:

On a macro level, this was the start the tournament needed. Early on Thursday, riot police and protestors were clashing across the country in small-scale violence. There's little point to that now – the World Cup is here. The activists' message will be drowned out for a month, unless Brazil blows it. Then it could spiral. More than in any previous tournament, the host country needed this win.:

But on the micro level, this launches us on a terrible course. This encourages the worst sort of chicanery going forward. It unsettles the herd, and reduces the likeli-

hood that they will pay any attention to the men who keep the game reasonable.:

It raises a basic question you never want asked, and you certainly never want asked at this stage – are we playing on a level field? That is not to suggest a fix.

It's suggesting that even the very best referees in the world are not good enough to be trusted to do their jobs.

Who knows the answer to this photo???



More FIFA News

^a English referee **Howard Webb** handed out 14 yellow cards for the 2010 WC match between Holland and Spain -- a record for a final.

- 20 Cards (16 yellows and 4 reds) were given in 2006 by Russian referee **Valentin Ivanov** in the game between Portugal and Holland

- More of FIFA's financial picture: The net income of this year's World Cup is 1.62 billion Euros. 425 million Euros go for bonus payments, the world cup winner will receive 25.8 million Euros. Clubs receive 125 million Euros since 2012 for their participating players; 147.7 million Euros are distributed to FIFA's 209 member countries.

Another 590 million Euros are earmarked for development programs. Other FIFA tournaments are financed with 386 million

Brazil as the host country receives a bonus of 100 million Dollar, the same as South Africa in 2010.

MLS Corner

Timbers Owner up to his Old Tricks again

As tweeted by CTV reporter **Perry Selkowski**, Portland Timbers owner Merritt Paulson can be seen below “speaking his mind” to referee **Kevin Stott** after the Whitecaps-Timbers MLS match in Portland earlier this month. This is not the first time that the Timbers owner has made his feelings known. As reported on MLSoccer.com in 2012, he was fined \$25,000 by the league for “inappropriate conduct directed at the officials, and through the use of social media, during and after the Timbers’ match against D.C. United on Sept 29, 2012.”



Above: four lucky members with the match crew for the San Jose Earthquakes-Vancouver Whitecaps game on May 3rd. Left-to-right: Ernie Barnum, Chris Bradley and John Kilbank. The fourth member, Bill McNaughton is “practicing the art of not being seen” by taking the photo!



Outgoing Treasurer Ron Schaeffer (left) and VASRA President Marc Bowley.



AR Louman-Gardiner concentrates keeps close watch off-side and fouls.



Pre-game warm-up exercise during recent women’s semi-final between Surrey United vs Peninsula Co-op Highlanders. (L-R) Katherine Louman-Gardiner, Stefan Tanaka-Freundt, MK Battle.



Darren Clark at his acceptance speech.