



Assessor and Instructor Symposium and a Female Specific Referee Development Initiative

As Posted July 11th, 2014 on www.bcsoccer.net

The BC Soccer Girl's Provincial B Cup hosted the Female Specific Referee Initiative while the Provincial A Cup hosted the Annual Referee and Instructor Symposium

The weekend of July 11-13 was host to two very important BC Soccer referee initiatives: The Annual Referee Assessor and Instructor Symposium and female specific referee development initiative.

The BC Soccer Provincial A Cup hosted the Referee Assessor and Instructor Symposium in Burnaby while The BC Soccer Girl's Provincial Girls B Cup hosted in Chilliwack played host to the Female Specific Referee Development Initiative.

"The BC Soccer Provincial Championships offer a great opportunity to deliver these referee initiatives," said **John Reed**, BC Soccer Referee Committee Chair. "Diversity in soccer has always been a focus of BC Soccer and hosting the female specific referee initiative has really helped support, develop and retain female referees."

Right: BC Soccer Referees Committee member **John Nielsen** addresses assessors

Twenty referees took part in the female specific referee initiative and each of them was provided direct feedback in post match debriefs in which FIFA Referee **Marie-Soleil Beaudoin** and local referee and mentor **Holly Terhune** provided amongst others. The twenty referees are also assessed during the match and the post match feedback helps referees understand and develop their in match skills.

"Last year the female specific referee initiative was incredible successful in North Vancouver and it was great to be part of it again, this time in Chilliwack," said **Holly Terhune**. "Helping retain young female referees is extremely important to the game and being able to help mentor and develop them has been an incredible experience."

Cont'd on page 2



More than 40 assessors from all over the Province took part in the Symposium. Here they listen carefully to what John Nielsen says.

Symposium *cont'd from page 1*

Coinciding with the female specific referee initiative was the BC Soccer Annual Referee Assessor and Instructor Symposium. 60 referees and an additional 60 assessor and instructors took part in this year's Referee Assessor and Instructor Symposium which was run at Fortius Sport and Health in Burnaby in conjunction with the BC Soccer Provincial A Cup.

Referees were educated during the symposium through classroom on field sessions as well as assessed on every match they refereed at the BC Soccer Provincial A Cup which included post match debriefs similar to the ones conducted at the FIFA World Cup.

Another important component of the symposium is the opportunity for the instructors and assessors themselves to receive feedback and to develop their instructor and assessor skills. **Isaac Raymond**, Canadian Soccer Associations National Technical and Fitness Instructor, and other Assessor and Instructor Evaluators provide feedback for their continued development. During the Symposium, Instructors and Assessors were trained in the 2014-2015 Referee Refresher course content.

Member organizations can request these clinics today at: www.bcsoccer.net/referee-clinics

"I wanted to thank Fortius Sport and Health for hosting all of the referee instructors and assessors for the symposium," said Reed. "Having classroom portions, on field portions as well as in game assessments and debriefs really allows for development of not only the referees but of the assessors and instructors as well. Having so many referees in one location also allow for the more

experienced referees to mentor the less experienced referees not only during the symposium but after it as well."

To learn more about becoming a BC Soccer registered referee or to learn more about refereeing in general including Clinic offerings, rules and regulations or continuing referee education please visit: www.bcsoccer.net/referee



Iain McHugh (L) with BCSRA Past President Elvio Chies

Local Ref invited to Youth Tournament

Erina Cho of Coquitlam had impressed and caught the eye of a few important people in CONCACAF with her performance at the Dallas Cup this past spring.

So much so that she was invited to officiate in a CONCACAF youth tournament in the Cayman Islands! Congratulations to Erina!



Erina Cho (middle) with her two ARs walking Walk-on to the field at the recently completed Provincial A Championship in Burnaby.

VISRA Members dominate World Cup Scholarship Pool

Local pundits take note – the best analyzers of the Beautiful Game live in...Victoria! VISRA-based members **Ivan Rincon** and **Christian Hauer** were, respectively, the first place and third place winners of the inaugural Dan Kulai/Jack Tinnion Memorial Scholarship Pool. Former referee and VASRA-based member Iain McHugh was the second-place winner. The amounts awarded were 1st place: \$375, 2nd place: \$150, 3rd place: \$75.

Many thanks to all participants. We collectively raised \$150 for the Scholarship Fund. Work has already started on a pool to run in conjunction with the Women's World Cup-be on the lookout in spring 2015.

BC Referees involved in big Games

Congratulations to the entire BC trio of National Referee **Alain Ruch** and National Assistant Referees **Chris Wattam** and **Marco Arruda** who were on the match for the Glasgow Rangers-Victoria Highlanders exhibition match at Centennial Stadium in Victoria in July.

Also of noteworthy mention is Canadian National Assistant Referee Marco Arruda who was running the line for the recent friendly between Seattle Sounders and Tottenham Hotspurs.

Boys Provincial B-Cup Richmond

Even cloudy days and the threat of rain couldn't put a damper on this year's edition of the Les Sinnott Memorial Provincial Boys Championship (colloquially known as the "Boys B Cup"). The tournament, named after the late BC Soccer Vice-President, featured teams from all across BC in age groups from U-13 to U-18.

The wide assortment of teams was matched by the referees who ranged from as young as fourteen years of age. We congratulate all the officials who helped out on this weekend. Unfortunately, space has limited us to printing only the names of the officiating Crews for the respective Gold medal matches (R-AR-1-AR-2):

U13

John Tsang, John Dumas, Andy Li

U14

Rob Fisher, Joaquim Hurtado-Gomez, Parker Smith

U-15

Alan Slater, Kash Sall, Raymond Ma

U-16

Bob Lauro, Rishi Gupta, Jackson Barrett

U-17

Yen Fong, Rishi Gupta, Arnan Sunner

U-18

Jasmmain Parr, John Badock, Graham Hill

Bill McNaughton honoured for Service

At the Vancouver Area Association (VASRA) branch's June monthly meeting, **Bill McNaughton** was bestowed with the branch's Long & Meritorious Service Award.

Bill, who is now serving as the Referee Association's provincial Vice-President, was VASRA Secretary from 2006-2012. Congratulations to Bill on his well deserved honour!



VASRA President Marc Bowley (left) Bil McNaughton

Yellow and Red

The least amount of cards were issued during the last World Cup in Brazil.

Year	Y	R	%red/yellow
2014	187	10	2.92 / 0.16
2010	241	17	3.77 / 0.27
2006	345	28	5.39 / 0.44
2002	284	18	4.44 / 0.28
1998	250	20	3.91 / 0.31
1994	235	15	4.52 / 0.29
1990	193	16	3.71 / 0.31
1986	133	8	2.56 / 0.15
1982	98	5	1.88 / 0.12

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Elvio Chies

Tom Babic

Emil Udovich

Laurie Miller

Lay-out

Dieter Freundt

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

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A Referee passed away

It is with regret that we inform everyone that former Referee Association member and fellow colleague **Roger Delvecchio** of Vancouver passed away. Roger died of a heart attack on Friday, August 1st.

Roger was a Regional Referee and also officiated baseball and basketball. At the time of the writing of this article funeral plans had not been announced. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Roger's family.

Photo Mynor Campos



Money Trumps!

Anyone watching the recent match between Tottenham Hotspurs and Seattle Sounders at Century Link Field will no doubt be surprised to have seen the game played on artificial turf! Given the penchant for visiting teams to want to play on grass, what's the deal with that?

According to Marco Arruda, who was one of the assistants on the match, Tottenham was told if they wanted to play on grass there would be a corresponding drop in their performance fee. (**Ed note:** to cover the cost of installing a temporary grass field no doubt?). Apparently, the amount was quite high.

Did you know?

The 19.1 million viewers who watched the men's national team's second-round match against Ghana – the largest USMNT television audience of all time - was a bigger audience than all but Game 7 of that year's NBA Finals on ABC and outdrew the U.S./Canada men's hockey gold medal game on NBC (18.3 million). Source: mainstreet.com article "The U.S. Likes Soccer More Than You Think" www.mainstreet.com/category/authors/jason-notte. **Jason Notte**

Canadians Crews at Women's U-20 World Cup

At the time of the editorial deadline, here is a list of the appointments Canada's female FIFA officials have had so far in the above tournament. Congratulations to all our fellow Canadian officials on their appointments thus far!

Wednesday, August 6
England vs Korea Republic 1:1
Referee: **Carol Anne Chenard**
AR-1: **Marie Charbonneau**
AR-2: **Suzanne Morisset**

4th: **Michelle Pye**

Saturday, August 9
Korea Republic vs Nigeria 1:1
4th: **Michelle Pye**

Saturday, August 9
New Zealand vs France 0:4
4th: **Carol Anne Chenard**

Ed note: The F&W thanks Eric Diver for his help in collating this information.



Nick Hawley (left) with **Andrew Branco** of New Westminster, one of two recipients of the annual Dan Kulai/Jack Tinnion Memorial Scholarship. The other recipient, **Cam Olive** of Victoria, will be presented with his scholarship cheque at an upcoming VISRA meeting.



Michelle Pye awards free kick to China vs USA at Nations Cup.



Then makes sures proper distance of 10 yards is being kept. The annual tournament took place in Richmond.

Women's World Cup 2015

By *Anna Thompson BBC Sport*

FIFA should reconsider the decision to play Women's 2015 World Cup matches on artificial pitches, according to former England captain Faye White.

As Canada prepares to host next year's tournament, 40 top players have signed a petition and threatened legal action if matches are not played on grass.

White told BBC Sport: "Fifa would never dream of hosting a men's World Cup on artificial pitches so why the women's?"

"It makes you wonder if the women are some kind of guinea pigs."

The petition has been signed by the 2012 and 2013 Fifa Players of the Year, **Abby Wambach** of the United States and Germany's **Nadine Angerer**, as well as White and England players **Natasha Dowie** and **Anita Asante**.

A legal letter has been sent to world governing body Fifa and the Women's World Cup organisers in Canada accusing them of discrimination.

It says: "Singling out this women's tournament for sub-standard treatment is a mistake that can and must be corrected."

A Fifa spokesman said the organisation

had no comment to make about the letter it had received, but did tell the BBC that the Canadian Soccer Association and its National Organising Committee had proposed to use artificial turf at the tournament, which had been approved.

White, who retired in 2012 after playing 90 times for England, added: "It's a strange decision. I've retired from playing now but I would be really annoyed if I was expected to play on this."

"These pitches slow the game down, the ball bounces differently and there are more injury consequences."

"I can't believe there aren't enough grass pitches to host World Cup games in Canada. You've got to question why Fifa awarded it to Canada in the first place if that was the case."

(Ed note: We are continuing our regular World Cup Countdown series as Canada will be hosting the premier women's tournament next year. We thank **Phil Brown** for submitting this article).

*It should be clarified that Ms Angerer does not represent the DFB. She currently plays for the **Portland Thorns**.*

Argentina, a Look Back!

Ed note: It has been 40 years since BCSRA Founding & Life Member **Werner Winsemann** officiated at the first of his two World Cup appointments. Here we present a condensed version of an article written by BCSRA Life Member **Hans Clodius** that appeared in the German language newspaper **Vancouver Kurier** before the start of World Cup Argentina 1978:

Although the Canadian National Soccer team was not able to participate in this great event, Canada was nevertheless represented in Argentina by Werner Winsemann, a FIFA Referee from Vancouver!

This appointment, the only one from the CONCACAF region, was another highlight in Werner's successful career as a soccer referee.

The trip to Argentina was already Werner's fourth major event representing our country. He officiated three games during the 1972 Olympic Games in Germany, where he was also actively involved two years later during the World Cup. Again two years later, Werner refereed during the Olympic Games in Montreal. In between he was busy with the NASL and BCSL.

...We colleagues heard him more than once saying: "As a referee you have to be fit, fair and fearless" and this statement sounded very convincing, since Werner clearly applied this on the soccer pitch. His enthusiasm for training was exemplary.

Beach Blast 2014 at Spanish Banks Beach



Bob Dumont



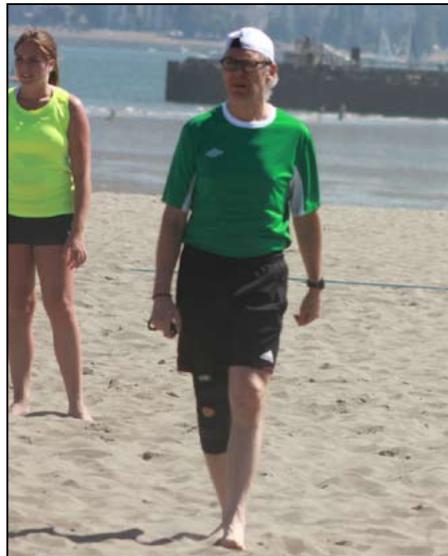
Ian Ross



Laurie Miller in fine form



Antonio Hurtado-Coll talks



David Firman



Ron Schaeffer



Rishi Gupta



Megan Hoy and Megan Luk



Andrew Balzer



Ezra Parker



Veronika Jasinski



Arman Sunner



Chantelle Schwartz



Subrina Pratt



Tom Speaks

World Cup Wrap Up 2014

Ed note: *F&W Staff Writer is back after a short hiatus, just long enough to pen us his thoughts on the recent "Christmas of Soccer" that is the World Cup. Not sure what I mean? Read the first paragraph.*

Easier said than done. I'm going to venture a guess. Many of you are likely to feel the way I do after the four year build up. "What? It's over? Say it ain't so!" But alas it is. Now, not only do we have to sit through the mundane anticlimactic MLS. But we also have the MLB. Neither one being anything close to 'major' in terms of pure excitement that the World Cup delivers.

So in an honest effort as I think back on the few weeks of glory -here are my wrap up thoughts. I cannot forgive my wife for repeatedly - not just once - but repeatedly lamenting over Brazil's Marcelo scoring an own goal in the opening match. "Oh I feel so bad for him," she pined. It's the World Cup opening match against my first homeland. The only country poised to play both football and chess in the same uniform. We are prepared. But unfortunately we were not prepared for World Cup 2014. Perhaps a few more strategic pawns next time out. Or maybe even a knight or king to conquer the opponents. Maybe a goal scorer like Marcelo to get us to the round of 16.

Speaking of getting to the round of 16. The misfortune continued. In the past 8 years I've grown to admire the Spaniards. Especially so when they won it all against the less then world class effort of the Nederland 4 years ago. As a referee I felt terrible for **Howard Webb** to see the shenanigans and hooliganism of the team in Orange giving him that as his World Cup final in South Africa. More about the referee in the final later.

But for Spain to bow out in the first round and be handed a defeat at the hands of the Dutch like they did. What can I say; shame on Espana for not progressing. They knew full well going in that an aging squad will be left behind. Good for the Dutch to have turned the tables in more ways than one. While their play was markedly more fair this time around and while his game has been elevated further still; I must say I can do without **Robben's** fakery for another four years. Admirable football skills absolutely. I am more than man enough to admit that a player I don't care for can rise to an occasion and put on a wonderful display. But for the life of me - do these players really feel that when the cameras record in microsecond detail, that they won't be found out to be frauds? Please stop Arjen and leave us with the beautiful game. That's all I ask.

I don't know all the sad songs that could be sung in English, Portuguese or Italian. But I'm sure the streets of London, Lisbon and Rome echoed with more than a few sad tributes to the respective squads that matched Spain's exit far too early from the tournament. Not much to say other than, better luck next time.

Speaking of not much more to say - I'm going to grit my teeth and not comment on him. Doesn't deserve to wear a shirt and certainly not a Red one. Good on the Merseysiders for punting him out of the Kop.

Further with a lack of commentary. Or rather I should say a lack of interest. For as much the Americans want to believe they care

about the sport, they don't care enough. Oh they put on a brave face and lots of make up to boot as they red, white and blues fought their way to the final 16. But I spent the week stateside leading up to the match against Belgium. There was a lot of hype and a lot of talk. But when I tried to get the barkeep in the pub to switch one of the 12 TVs with the Mariners and Yankees in an extra innings bore-a-thon, all I got was a blank stare and the remote tossed at me. "If you can change channels, go for it." Of course I tried to the death. I can't handle game 87 of the regular season in anything let along the MLB. Twenty-three minutes later with my best left handed stab at the remote with my arm over my head and pointed at an exact angle of 39 degrees; the cable box flicked over to 4 analysts poring over the minutiae of the World Cup. The tickertape at the bottom of the screen proclaiming a replay of the midday match to begin in 7 minutes. A warm feeling begins to rise along my spine. A cold beer in my hand, a great game on the cusp and me in an Irish bar in the USA on Canada Day. I smile not at the barkeep for she is not a fan. I smile at myself - for this is the World Cup and here I am at the crossroads of all these nationalities and the world's game. The only game that matters. George Steinbrenner can roll in his grave. B ut the game is about to begin.

I look to my right and the American sipping a mug of Budweiser. I hoist my pint in his direction, "I love this. I've been on a motorbike all day. Rode over 500 miles (I know enough to not mess him up with my metrics - I'm trying to be diplomatic after all) and here I am. The game's about to start - perfect timing. What could be better?"

Now if you're a fan, I know you know that I've more than given enough info to this guy to let him know that I don't know - the score that is. "Yah, the only thing better would have been if we won."

Oh my. So as I massage my temples and try to conjure happy thoughts, I say, "so you've seen the game earlier when it was live?" "Nope. I just heard it's a great game and I mean, I love the game man, don't get me wrong...but man, I can't stay focused that long man, without a commercial break or somethin'. You know?"

"Oh yeah ...I know, man. Loud and clear. Go Yankees, I guess." I returned from my adventure in time for the quarterfinals. The match-ups were hardly anything that anyone would have predicted. Oh perhaps Argentina, Brazil, Nederland and Germany. But anyone telling me they picked Colombia, Costa Rica, Belgium and even France to be in the final 8 also likely has the winning Lotto Max ticket in their pocket. Equally surprising were the competitive matches that ensued from the pairings.

From there it was all over too quickly except for the Brazilians. I'm sure, unlike me they could never make time go by quickly enough during that 7-1 drubbing at the hands of the Germans. But for me I could watch that other semi final again and again as well as the final.

I'm very pleasantly satisfied at the result for the referees in the final. There was no controversial call to lament over. There were no woefully blown calls. It was just a great game with a superior squad scoring a goal that left no doubt - the Germans were a better team. Good on the Italians in providing a great group of officials for the match led by **Nicola Rizzoli**. Good for the game.

Finally, as we discuss wrap-ups. Howard Webb retires as a football referee. He has a lot to be proud of and he leaves on a positive note. Good for him.

Countdown to the World Cup - Let's Review

In the April issue we asked the F&W Staff to give their predictions on who would finish first in each group and the eventual winner. So how did they do?

First, none of the staff picked Germany

to win, even F&W Layout Man **Dieter Freundt!**

Secondly, we have no clear winner for picking group leaders. In fact, we had a three way tie with Dieter Freundt, **Mynor**

Campos and **Emil Udovich** all with 6 correct guesses. F&W Staff Writer **Tom Babic** and F&W Editor **Elvio Chies** brought up the rear, but in close pursuit, with 5 correct guesses each.

Quick Thoughts on the 2014 World Cup: Emil Udovich, F&W Research Assistant



Emil Udovich

Ed note: *Most of the time we don't hear a peep from Emil. However, given the chance to pen a few opinions to paper he has run with it. And as usual, for those of us who know him, like any referee he calls it like he sees it.*

The World Cup ended in unexpected fashion with Germany securing an extra time

win against Argentina. Further the host nation, Brazil, delivered one of the most disappointing performances in their World Cup history. As a result, there has been a reconfiguration of confederation success in the overall FIFA rankings.

The tournament witnessed admirable performances from Chile, Columbia, Costa Rica, Mexico and the Netherlands.

But along with the goals, we saw a darker side of the game as exemplified by **Luis Suarez's** bite and the kneeing in the back of Neymar that resulted in fractured vertebrae.

From the opening match, Referees con-

tinue to be conned by the masterful divers. As evidenced by **Fred's** collapse backwards, to appear that he was yanked down by a phantom tug. Japanese Referee **Nishimura** "fell" for it and the resulting penalty kick saw Brazil squeak past Croatia. Portuguese referee **Proença** had his hands full with serial diver Arjen Robben's repeated feigning against Mexico. It included a dive to win a penalty that dumped Mexico out in the last 16. The Mexicans fans have created a Pinanta of **Robben** to ease their suffering. What better way of moving on than whacking him with a stick until treats come out!

Provincial A Cup at Burnaby Lake

Some observation at the U-18 Boys Final



Official Walk-on of both Teams led by the Refereeing Crew



"Delay of Game" call against crossbar



Game started 90 minutes later ...



... despite the delay full concentration



... was shown by Stephen Lebrechthausen

The Beautiful Game? or “up yours, Ref!” means Refs need to act

Ed note: *The preceding words were penned by BCSRA Secretary Laurie Miller (not acting as Secretary but in another capacity) and was printed in the local Sunshine Coast weekly paper – The Coast Reporter on April 11, 2014.*

As we head into the start of the winter season, perhaps it's a good point of reflection to think about something we should try to remove from the game-abuse of officials.

On Saturday, I heard something that I don't hear often from my fellow referees. "It was a great game. I really enjoyed it." That was in reference to a game at Ted Dixon Memorial Park between Sechelt and Sliammon.

Contrast that to Sunday's experience at Hackett Park. The team officials were treated with disrespect and pelleted with personal insults throughout the match. It was not a great game and it was not fun. It took every ounce of courage to remain at the field while abuse and insults were being hurled at us. They came from everyone: the elders at the side lines, the young men smoking pot behind the fence, and various fans, many of whom know me personally from the women's league.

"Abusing the referees" has been a favourite pastime at soccer matches for years. It has been tolerated and overlooked far too long. It is time to recognize that it is wrong and it is time people took personal responsibility for their actions.

Referees are an essential part of the game, trained in the laws and practiced in their application. Without us there would be no game. So why are we treated like something smelly on the bottom of a shoe?

Today I'm discouraged, dismayed and hurt. I'm that one step closer to hanging up my cleats. And I'm angry. Angry that a 14 year-old referee was reduced to tears. Angry that the soccer community fails to show due respect for officials. Angry that this letter may just add to further abuse and insults levelled at me for having stated an obvious, ugly fact that is hurting our sport.

Is it possible for our community to come out and support soccer without subjecting the officials to abuse? It is time it was.

Ed note: *And the last word goes to Laurie Miller herself:*

The laws of the game are clear when it comes to defining acceptable behaviour from players. Referees have tools for handing dissent and offensive, abusive or insulting language or gestures. The laws don't help very much when the abuse is coming from the side lines.

For many fans, abuse of referees is part of the game – a blood sport unto itself. Referees in professional soccer have to ignore the rude comments that are issued from fans. In our local soccer we do not, but we let it go. Why do we do that? Often the comments are harmless in themselves; we try not to take it too seriously and we get on with the game. So when a second or third voice joins in, we kind of have to let it go, after all, we let the first guy go. We are now on that slippery slope that leads to rampant abuse.

So what can we do about it? Local soccer league rules usually require coaches to keep their supporters under control. Teams need to control their spectators (on the

Sunshine Coast the Senior Men's Soccer Association Rules (Part 2, Rule G) require it. Similar requirements apply to most local adult and youth leagues.) But the laws of the game also give referees a tool, and that tool is to 'abandon the game.' Of course, that is not the first course of action, but it is the ultimate tool that we need to use when necessary.

The approach would be applied in two increments. Any of the referee team who witness abusive behaviour(s) from fans will seek the attention of the centre referee at a break in the play. The referee will call team captains and coaches together for a brief word. The essential message is: if the fans continue to behave badly we will abandon the game.

Once we have delivered this imperative we must act on it if things do not improve. Abandon the game!

This is the only way that things will get better; real consequences for bad behaviour. If we don't abandon games the behaviour will never change. None of us want to abandon games, but none of us should work under abusive conditions either! Players and coaches are not going to like having fans ruin the game for them; they are soon going to learn how to deal with these disrupters, as will other fans and parents, many of whom are already unhappy with the abuse they witness at their children's games.

There is power in all referees uniting in this effort. The effect of an abandoned game will be profound. And you can bet that behaviours will change. I'll bet my BCSRA 45th anniversary coin on it!

Laurie Miller, Gibsons



An incident needed a card.



Yellow



Referee Crema watches carefully.

Howard Webb retires from refereeing and takes key officials role

Howard Webb has ended his 25-year refereeing career after being appointed technical director of the official referees' association.

From bbc sport website

(Ed note: it looks like F&W Research Assistant was scooped by fellow members Eric Diver and Phil Brown! Many thanks to both members for enlightening the F&W Staff...Emil included!)

Webb has officiated 500 Premier League and Football League matches and the 2010 World Cup final.

The 43-year-old began his career in 1989, progressing through the Northern Counties and Football League to become a

Select Group referee in 2003.

"I am very excited to start this new chapter in my career," said Webb.

Webb was involved in nine major international tournaments, took charge of the Champions League final and also officiated in every major domestic final.

During this year's World Cup in Brazil, he refereed the Group C match between Colombia and Ivory Coast, and the first knockout match between Brazil and Chile. In 2011 he was appointed a Member of the Order of the British Empire for services to football.

"Refereeing has given me so much and I think it's important that match officials

who have had the rewards remain in the game to pass on their knowledge," he said. As technical director of Professional Game Match Officials Limited (PGMOL), Webb will be responsible for overseeing the technical direction and standards that govern match officials.

"The current Select Group are the best referees this country has ever produced and I am thrilled that I not only get the chance to continue working with them but also the opportunity to help develop the next generation," he added.

"It's an incredibly positive working environment and we all have a common goal of improving refereeing."

Webb's favourite things about being a referee

By Mike Williams Newsbeat sports reporter on Newsbeat.com

The 42-year-old from Yorkshire has been a referee for more than 20 years and took charge of the last World Cup final between Spain and Netherlands in South Africa in 2010.

Howard told Newsbeat he never set out to be a referee, but admits it was "one of the best decisions I ever made." Here are the favourite aspects of his job.

Best seat in the house

"Referees are in a really privileged position in that we are at the centre of some of the best games in the world. Whether it be in the Premier League, Champions League or even the World Cup.

"For someone who loves football like I do, to have these huge games happening at such close quarter to where you are is a privilege and something we all enjoy."

Fitness

"We love training. It's a great feeling when you finish a hard training session and you can quickly feel the benefits out on the pitch.

"If you train hard, your fitness levels improve, therefore you can do your job better, because you get to be in the right place at the right time and make the right decision.

"It's a personal challenge to drive yourself to be the best you can be."

Travel

"I'm fortunate that my job lets me travel around the world. I've been lucky enough to referee in 44 countries, mainly in Europe but also on other continents as

well.

"One of my favourites places was definitely Canada, I spent four weeks there at the FIFA under 20 World Cup in 2007, we were based in Toronto but got to travel all over, it was an amazing experience, it's such a varied country and the people are great.

"It's not something I ever expected when I started refereeing, you get to visit places most people only ever see on TV and you're getting paid to be there!"

A dream job for football fans

"All referees are football fans. The thing that runs through all of us is our love for the game, we just chose to show this love in a challenging way.

"We want to be a positive influence on the game, never a negative one.

"We don't want to ruin games we want to contribute to the enjoyment of the players. That's what it's all about when you start at local level, and the further up you go the more eyes are looking at you to be that positive influence on the game as a spectacle."

Getting it right

"When you drive home after a game having done a good job and you know you've made correct decisions you feel on top of the world.

"We are our own biggest critics, and therefore when we make a mistake it hurts, but we reflect, we learn from the situation, we don't crumble because of it, we can't afford to.

"We are all human and we accept that

making mistakes is part and parcel of the job we do, because it's so challenging and difficult.

"But we're always working at reducing mistakes through our training and coaching, this means we get it right more often than not and that's what we love."

First Yellow ever

The first ever yellow card at the 1970 World Cup was handed out to CCCP's Asatiani by German referee **Kurt Tschenschner** at the opening match between Mexico and the Soviet Union in 1970. Tschenschner passed away Wednesday, August 13. He officiated at three World Cups in 1966, 1970, and 1974. Tschenschner was Assistant Referee for Werner Winseman in 1974.



Asatiani is shown yellow card

Rise of 'robo-referee' awaits Premier League

A future with video referees sitting in the stands to help men in middle make correct decisions is not that far away

By www.telegraph.co.uk/sport/columnists/henrywinter/ "Henry Winter"

(Ed note: with the new EPL due to start soon, this opinion by Henry Winter appeared to be a rather timely article. The reader is asked to consider it as only an opinion).

Video technology is coming increasingly into focus.

Not immediately, and the conservative law-makers of the International Football Association Board will need more than a successful trial in Holland to rush into action, but it is now an inevitability that at some point there will be a video referee in the stands in the wealthiest leagues, using a monitor to help the man in the middle make the correct decision.

The two most influential figures in English refereeing, **Mike Riley** and **Howard Webb**, are preparing for a future with 'robo-refs' with caveats about the need for a proper debate and lengthy experimentation. Riley certainly feels the dawn of the video age is not that far away.

"I do," said Riley, the general manager of the Professional Game Match Officials. "Technology evolves all the time and there will be ways we can help referees on the field of play by using technology."

A quiet word from a video ref would have saved the embarrassment of one of Riley's leading referees, **Andre Marriner**, who dismissed **Kieran Gibbs** instead of **Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain** in Arsenal's defeat at Chelsea last March.



Andre Marriner shows red card to Kieran Gibbs

"I was 200 miles away and I knew in real time what could have helped make the right decision," said Riley. "There is a rational argument to say that if you have something to make the right decision than why not bring it in?"

"Back in March, the IFAB was categorically against extending technology beyond the goal-line decision system. That debate has moved on. At the Fifa Congress in June, president **Sepp Blatter** said he was more open-minded to consider it. That has opened the door to this experiment in Holland and then it will come back to IFAB next March."

Webb, the new technical director of PGMO, believes most of the World Cup referees he mixed with in Brazil would embrace video technology.

"They would all hold a similar view to myself: they will keep an open mind to it and anything that will make the job easier and make us more accurate will be worthwhile being looked at," said

Webb. "But we really need to be careful not to change the high intensity and fast flowing that makes football such a good spectacle that people enjoy to watch.

"I'm not anti anything that would make my life as a referee more easy and more credible. Practically it is going to be really difficult to implement. There will be some situations when it will lend itself to such as Chelsea-Arsenal with the incorrect identification."

Webb acknowledged that he would have sent off **Nigel de Jong** in the 2010 World Cup final if he – or a colleague – had had recourse to a monitor to appreciate the full brutality of the Dutchman's challenge on **Xabi Alonso**. In the previous final, in 2006 in Berlin, there was always a suspicion that the fourth official with access to a screen spotted **Zinedine Zidane's** butt on **Marco Materazzi** and discreetly informed **Horacio Elizondo**, who dismissed the Frenchman. "The official response to that is, 'no it wasn't,'" said Riley diplomatically.

Webb admitted: "It's another isolated incident where it would have helped."

These isolated incidents are stacking up. It seems strange that the man who has to make the key judgments that shape a game's destiny often has least evidence, certainly compared to fans also following on streamed smart-phones and the media enjoying replays on a loop.

From Saturday, Webb will be joining another respected former referee, **Dermot Gallagher**, in the BBC studios in Salford, sitting in front of a bank of monitors, watching feed from every game. They will then clarify points of law to the broadcast partners such as the BBC, Sky and BT and issue statements to the media generally, explaining any controversial decisions.

It was pointed out to Webb and Riley yesterday that it is a small step from ex-referees scrutinising games and giving advice to media post-match to providing swift assistance to the match referee during the game. Video technology is coming.

More immediately, Riley has been instructing managers and players that referees will be clamping down on holding and blocking this season, focusing specifically on those "under the flight of the ball, the player who doesn't look at the ball, but is just looking at the opponent."

Officials and most players and managers in the Premier League seem to share a desire to keep the game flowing.

"There were 25 fouls per game in 2010-11 and 23-ish now and that reflects the nature of the game the players want to play," continued Riley. "They don't want continual stoppages. Contrast that to Champions League football where you're looking at 30-35 free-kicks a game. In Italian and Spanish football it's more than that. Even at the World Cup it was over 30 a game."

The Premier League dismissed claims that the quality of refereeing among the 17-strong Select Group had dropped. "We analyse every decision the referees make and their accuracy rate was 94.8% two years ago and last season was 95.1%. But that's not the story that comes across, because you can always point to one decision in a game that generates the week's interest in newspapers and TV," said Riley. "There is not another group of referees in the world that has that strength in depth."

To deepen the reservoir of talent further the Premier League and FA has earmarked 70 young referees who they are fast-tracking to the top, providing them with mentors, coaches and sports psychologists.

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How I Became a Referee - and Why I'm Glad I did

By Randy Vogt, Soccer America (as appeared on insoccer.ca)

Ed note: Here we present an article that **Randy Vogt** of the U.S. delves into. This, by the way, is another gem found by F&W Research Assistant Emil Udovich.

When I was 15 years old, one of my soccer coaches, **Gordon Barr** (son of U.S. Soccer Hall of Famer **George Barr**) phoned me to ask if I would like to ref our local soccer club's intramural program. I thought who would want to become a referee? After all, the ref gets yelled at and is booed, so I declined.

The next summer, just after my 16th birthday in 1978, I coached an intramural team that I named the Goal Rush. The kids were Boys U-10 and all the coaches in the league were teenagers. As this summer league did not have any referees, each coach had to ref half the game.

I quickly discovered that I was a much better referee than coach and it was enjoyable to ref so after the summer was over, I contacted Gordon and became an intramural ref for our club. I was assigned girls U-10 games (played 11 vs. 11 on a big field in those days). If I refereed the game alone, I was paid \$6.00 and if I refereed with a partner (in the old two-man system), I was paid \$4.00 per game.

While choosing a college is a major decision for every student, my choice of college had another dimension. I was refereeing many games during the spring and fall and knew that I had much more natural ability as a ref than as a player. If I played college soccer, that would take me away from refereeing. So I deliberately chose a college without a soccer team, Parsons School of Design in the Greenwich Village section of Manhattan, and concentrated on my major of advertising art while refereeing on weekends.

Sometimes the most important things we learn in school have nothing to do with the curriculum. I attended Parsons from 1980 to 1984 and my time there mimicked Ronald Reagan's first term in the White House. Right near Parsons, all these young men, my age at the time and a little older, were dying and nobody knew why at first. It was the beginning of the AIDS crisis.

I learned then what many others learned on 9/11 that no matter how different we might seem to be, we still have a great deal in common and are all connected.

My graduation from high school to college corresponded to my graduation from intramural to travel team soccer as I started refereeing in the Long Island Junior Soccer League (LIJSL). The games really added up and so did the money as the LIJSL paid double what I made in intramurals. It was



Randy Vogt, all in black

great to be a teenager and to be paid much more per hour than my classmates who were flipping burgers in fast food restaurants. But more important than that, I was learning to manage 22 players and learned to have authority over adults. After successfully managing a game, running a department of a company could conceivably be easier.

Refereeing even helped me receive my first "real job." After graduating from Parsons in 1984, I was confronted with the dilemma facing nearly every college graduate of how to fill one page on a resume when you have little work experience. So I put at the bottom that I was a State Referee and had officiated professionally (in the old Major Indoor Soccer League). Some business people thought that it was silly to

include that as "ad agencies just want to know about your ad agency experience."

I heard that there was an entry level position open at a top ad agency in Times Square, Sudler & Hennessey, and sent my resume to the manager, **Carl Palmieri**. He saw the refereeing on it and gave it to his co-worker, **Leon Tadrick**, a State Referee in New Jersey. I was interviewed by both Carl and 'Tad' the next week. Tad told Carl to hire me as "refereeing shows that he is very responsible and dependable."

I started at Sudler & Hennessey 30 years ago on Halloween 1984, still remember my very first day and all the things that Carl, Tad and my other friends taught me in my three wonderful years there.

I kept in touch with them as I moved to other ad agencies. Carl lived right near Brooklyn College and came to one of my games there in 1998. It was the last time that I would see him as he died at the age of 70 a few weeks later.

(Randy Vogt has officiated over 9,000 games during the past three decades, from professional matches in front of thousands to 6-year-olds being cheered on by very enthusiastic parents.)

In "Preventive Officiating," he shares his wisdom gleaned from thousands of games and hundreds of clinics to help referees not only survive but thrive on the soccer field. You can visit the book's website at www.preventiveofficiating.com

Robo-Referee *cont'd from page 11*

The hope is that the best will accelerate up the league pyramid to challenge for Select Group jobs within five to 10 years. But that's not the story that comes across, because you can always point to one decision in a game that generates the week's interest in newspapers and TV," said Riley. "There is not another group of referees in the world that has that strength in depth."

To deepen the reservoir of talent further the Premier League and FA has earmarked 70 young referees who they are fast-tracking to the top, providing them with mentors, coaches and sports psychologists. The hope is that the best will accelerate up the league pyramid to challenge for Select Group jobs within five to 10 years.

With Webb's retirement, England's top three referees "in European terms," according to Riley, are **Mark Clattenburg**, **Martin Atkinson** and **Michael Oliver** followed by **Andre Marriner**, **Anthony Taylor** and **Lee Probert**.

Contrary to conspiracy theorists' belief, the Premier League insisted that referees who briefly upset clubs, like Clattenburg with Everton, Chelsea and Southampton, and Atkinson with Manchester United, are not kept away from future fixtures involving those clubs.

"It was true that Mark didn't do Everton for a period last season," said Riley, "but he'd actually been appointed to do Everton three times during that time. But twice there was an international appointment and once it was something else which made the appointment change.

"Occasionally you have decisions that cause issues but it's our job to resolve them. We want every referee to ref every club all the time. In my first season in this job there was a manager who had a decision against him who went in the papers and said, 'I don't want this referee.' Strangely that referee went back within about two weeks. No one has any influence on those appointments."