



BCSRA AGM set for Saturday, May 30

Meeting to be tied into Whitecaps match on same day

The 46th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the association will be held on Saturday, May 30th at the YWCA Hotel in Vancouver.

As in past years, the meeting is being held in conjunction with the *Whitecaps* game the same day against *Real Salt Lake*. Discounted tickets are being arranged for members attending the meeting. Details of the cost of the tickets were not available at the F&W's editorial deadline.

BCSRA Immediate Past President **Elvio Chies** will once again be coordinating the purchase of the tickets.

The provincial executive is working

on a guest speaker for the meeting. A light lunch will be available for all for participants.

Those who attended the 2014 AGM will remember that former FIFA Referee and BCSRA Life Member **Mauricio Navarro** was the guest speaker.

The purpose of the meeting itself is to elect officers for the coming twelve months and to conduct business required to meet the association's requirement for being registered with the provincial government.

Nominations are open for three positions: Vice-President, Treasurer/Registrar, Director-without-Portfolio.

All are two year terms. A nominating committee with BCSRA Immediate Past President **Elvio Chies** as chairman has been struck.

Any members wishing more information or who like to put their names forward should contact **Elvio** at Lvo@direct.ca.

The starting time will be held to closely match up with the kick-off of the *Whitecaps* game which was not announced at F&W's editorial deadline.

The location of the YWCA Hotel is 733 Beatty Street, about on block away from BC Place. Exiting to the south on Beatty will get you there.

Fraser Valley Soccer League held Referee Forum

(*Ed note:* Member **Phil Allen** attended the Fraser Valley Soccer League's Referees Forum in January.

Here he presents a snapshot of what was discussed).



L-R: **Thomas Mills**, Executive Director; **Mr. Bob Sawtell**, BC Soccer Referees Committee member; **Rob Brown**, BC Soccer; **Insert:** Referees at the meeting.

The Fraser Valley Soccer League held a Referees Forum at 7:00pm on Wednesday, January 7, 2015 in Langley (at Sandman Hotel) to review procedures when dealing with Team and Game Management.

Subjects covered were:

Offensive, Insulting, Abusive Language and/or Gestures (OIAL); persistent protests from coach and/or spectators; failure to control – coach; technical area – general discussion; team sheets, ID cards – general review.

There were approximately 50 referees in attendance including **Mr. Bob Sawtell**, BC Soccer Referees Committee member and FVSL Life Member, and **Mr. Rob Brown**, BC Soccer VP Adult and FVSL Life Member both of who were the two guest speakers at this forum.

Some of the FVSL Executive in attendance were **Mr. Thomas Mills** (*Executive Director and Referee Scheduler*), **Mr. Dave Hleucka** (*President*) and **Mr. Bob Favelle** (*Director*).

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Fraser Valley Referees Forum

Cont'd from page 1

Mr. Thomas Mills opened the forum and gave an overview of what the meeting was about and the subjects to be covered/reviewed plus a mention about the league sponsor (Umbro) and referee kit (Umbro). The Fraser Valley soccer league standard for referees and teams need to be on the "same page."

"We are striving to increase our standards each year and want our league to be noted for its professionalism and high standards. We need our referees to be of one mind when it comes to these standards and enforcing the laws as set down by FIFA in the Laws of the Game. We

don't want this misbehaviour (OIAL) in our league. When you let this go (OIAL) it affects the next game/referee."

Rob Brown spoke for a few minutes about the guidelines from BCSA as it pertains to OIAL and said we need to follow through on these guidelines and that we would be supported by BCSA on them.

Bob Sawtell gave a 30 minute presentation on Offensive, Insulting or Abusive Language and/or Gestures. Bob stated that the FVSL wants to be regarded as a top league for quality of organization, play and refereeing.

The problem is OIAL. He went on to say that we, as referees, are trying to protect the integrity of the game and that we don't want unacceptable behavior on the pitch or sidelines.

His first piece of advice was to not go looking for problems. Skillful handling will diffuse the situation.

As always use common sense when dealing with situations on and off the field, but deal with them sooner rather than later so as to avoid potential greater problems later.

We as referees need to know when to caution, eject or just talk to the person in question when it comes to OIA. If it is Personal/Public/Provocative then we need to deal with it in the appropriate way. The main objective is to manage situations sensibly, fairly and not overreact.

The Referee Forum finished up with a 40 minute Q&A session that had active participation from the group of referees in attendance.

Fraser Valley All-Star Games' Officials



FVSL Premier Allstar Game vs VISL, Saturday, July 10/15, 2:30 pm at Willoughby Turf. FVSL won the game 3-2 (1-0 at half). Officiating crew: Colin Lawrence (Ref), Kyle Williams (AR-1) and Sorin Cimbrea (AR-2).



The drummer brought great inspiration to the match.



FVSL Masters Allstar Game vs VISL, Saturday, July 10/15, 12:30 pm at Willoughby Turf. Vancouver Island won the game 1-0 (0-0 at half). Officiating crew: Ed Kennedy (Ref), Martin Reid (AR-1) at left and Andy Pinter (AR-2).



The obligatory handshake.

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FVSL North vs South Allstar Game, Friday, July 9/15 at Port Moody TownCentre Turf field. North side won 2-1 (1-1 at half). Officiating crew: Martin Thompson (Ref), Phil Fasciglione (AR-1) at right, and Gabriel Cristea (AR-2).



Martin Thompson in full sprint.

All Photos courtesy Phil Allen

FRASER VALLEY SPRING SOCIAL and "NIGHT AT THE RACES"

FVSRA Secretary **Paul Toop** wishes to inform members that the Area Association branch is planning a Spring social at the Langley Legion, 20760 56Ave in Langley on April 1 at 7:30 at the Langley Legion. There will be beer and pizza. Paul has asked everyone to bring whatever topic you like to discuss. He would also like to know by March 31 if you can attend so we have some idea of the numbers. Paul can be reached at paul.toop@gov.bc.ca.

Paul is also willing to look into another "Night at the Races" at the Fraser Downs racetrack in Cloverdale. Members that have been to the Fraser Downs racetrack will know it has a buffet lounge and will give a chance for people to sit together in the enclosed clubhouse area while races are held outside.

Those interested in having Paul explore this should also let him know the number of people in your group.

Canada's 2015 FIFA and National List

Source: CSA website:

Congratulations to fellow FIFA and National officials. The names printed in bold type are from B.C.

FIFA Referees

David Gantar, Carol Anne Chenard, **Michelle Pye**, Sheena Dickson, Marie-Soleil Beaudoin, Drew Fischer*, Mathieu Bordeu*

FIFA Assistant Referees

Joe Fletcher, Daniel Belleau, Phillipe Briere, Marie-Josée Charbonneau, Suzanne Morisset, Marie-Han Gagnon Chretien, Chantal Boudreau*

National List Referees

David Barrie, Geoff Gamble, Chris Grabas, Francis Latulippe, Silviu Petrescu, **Alain Ruch**, Yusri Rudolf, Robert Schaap, Justin Tasev, Alexis Vaughan, Pierre-Luc Lauziere, **Juan Marquez**

National List Assistant Referees

Lyes Arfa, **Marco Arruda**, Michael Barwegen, **Kevin Duliba**, Gianni Facchini, Richard Gamache, John Gray, Derek Illingworth, Peter Manastyrsky, Jean-Francois Marchand, Oscar-Mitchell Carvalho, Christian Palavicino, Peter Pendli, **Chris Wattam**, Adam Pickler

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Lay-out

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

Phil Allen, BCSRA VP **Nick Hawley**
KYSA Executive **Keith Liddiard**
Jonathan Cohen

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or by mail to:

BC Soccer Referees Association
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Vancouver, BC, V6P 4H7

The IFAB takes steps to change 'Triple Punishment'

edited to fit into this space
from FIFA.com

Ed note: Members are asked to wait for official instruction from BC Soccer before enforcing any changes!

The 129th Annual General Meeting of the International Football Association Board (The IFAB) was held Saturday 28 February, at the Culloden Hotel in Craigavad, near Northern Ireland's capital Belfast. Here's a synopsis of what was discussed:

Following further analysis of the so-called "triple punishment" (Law 12) of sending off, penalty and suspension for the denial of an obvious goal-scoring opportunity within the penalty area. *Cont'd on page 9*

MEMBERSHIP

You don't know what you miss until it's gone



(Ed note: the following is a dissertation from **Jonathan Cohen** who was a member affiliated with the Vancouver Area Association branch (VASRA) briefly during a summer practicum in 1991. Jonathan, now living in the USA in Brookline, just outside of Boston, still remembers that time fondly almost twenty-five years later. While the story is based in one area, we present it here and ask readers to think about the power of synergy that comes with fellow colleagues working together).

Why I miss VASRA

I had the pleasure and serendipity to spend the summer of 1991 in Vancouver as an administrative resident at Vancouver General Hospital (as it was called back then). I was excited to visit the west coast for the first time coming all the way from Ottawa but I arrived not knowing anyone.

I was in my mid-twenties, and back then, black was the only referee jersey color. I had only become active as a referee in the OSA's branch of the Ottawa Soccer Referees Association two years prior and I had no idea what to expect about the organization of soccer referees in Vancouver when I arrived in early May. Little did I realize that as a member of VASRA, the next four months would be the highlight of my referee career which has continued in Massachusetts since then.

What was so wonderful about VASRA that brings back such fond memories? First, I was welcomed into the Association with warmth and affection and not just for the \$140 fee which back then was about 50% more than Ontario's fee and today is about 200% more than the fee I pay in Massachusetts! (ed note: the fee in 1991 was actually only \$X and included funds to pay for one's CSA/BC Soccer registration) But as the saying goes, "you get what you pay for." I recall coming to my first meeting in May and being amazed at how well organized and interesting the meetings were. I recall that one member was VASRA's contact for corresponding with FIFA and I thought his role and report at the meetings was really interesting. Everyone was friendly and treated me really well at the meetings and on the field. The level of camaraderie (sic) among the referees was something I have not experienced elsewhere.



*Western Cup (1991) put on by VASRA: former FIFA Referee and dearly departed BCSRA Founding and Life Member **John Meachin** (left) is pouring beverages with CSA National Assessor **Neil Ellett**.*

The unity within this ethnic melting pot made the Association very strong. I was also very impressed by the fact that the highly respected FIFA level referees were very comfortable mingling with everyone else without any trace of arrogance. I enjoyed the humor within VASRA in giving non-Italian referees (John Meachin)

Italian names like **Giovanni Miccini**. The referees became

a significant part of my social life that summer. I remember going to a Benfica vs Vancouver exhibition game at BC Place with Elvio and his dad where our own **Rob Brown** was one of the linesmen who had become a FIFA linesman.

It was great to have top referees in one's association because it made me think at the time that becoming a FIFA linesman might be something I could realistically pursue. I remember buying a used bicycle so I could travel to nearby fields not far from VGH to referee in leagues including a "Church League." I recall after working with a referee team on a cold day, we went to a café stand and because of the recommendation of one of the other refs, I had



*1991 Western Cup: **Jonathan Cohen** (with glasses at right) beside VASRA Past President **Gene Nagy** (Center) and **Russell Carlin**.*

my first cup of coffee in the form of a café late (sic)!

I still don't know how I had gotten through University and half of graduate school without drinking coffee so this moment was a milestone for me.

I was so excited that the referees actually made time to play soccer recreationally together amongst themselves every week which I've never seen anywhere else. As expected, the games were competitive and fun. VASRA meetings were never dull. I remember there was a lot of laughing at meetings which seems to be common in most referee Associations.

One of the most memorable expressions I recall hearing was "Don't miss the boat," for games scheduled on Vancouver Island which I have yet to hear in Boston for referees going to officiate in Martha's Vineyard.

What also really impressed me was the fact that the VASRA referees themselves organized a tournament as a fundraiser in which I was privileged to participate. One of my jobs must have been to take photos because I found a dozen pictures from that tournament which I enclose with this article. I am not aware of any referee organized tournaments done anywhere else.

I was also impressed by the native populations I encountered as a referee. I had never refereed a Fijian team or a native Indian team until I came to Vancouver and participated in the VASRA tournament. VASRA seemed to me then and remains to this day one of, if not, the most elite soccer referee communities that one can be associated with in North America. Although my time in BC was too short to pursue assessments, Vancouver is one of the best places to grow and advance as a referee due to the milder weather and longer playing seasons combined with more opportunities for assessments from skilled assessors.

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A Tremendous Honour

By Dean Greenway, *Limin Times*

Ed note: BCSRA President **Nick Hawley** came across this article about a newly appointed FIFA referee from the tiny area of the British Virgin Islands. Amazing that such a small place is able to have a FIFA referee! Here we present this article, edited to fit into this issue.

Virgin Gorda's **Norville Young** – the territory's only FIBA certified referee, earlier this year became a FIFA certified referee as well- worked both the 2014 CBC Men's and Women's tournament finals, heads to Curacao to referee in the FIFA U-20 tournament.

Refereeing in both sports helps to maintain his fitness level something he cannot afford to drop. "Anytime your fitness level drops then you know you won't be called for the next tournament," he stated. "Fitness is the key. They have always said, 'don't let fitness be a wall in getting to the next level' and you definitely have to be fit enough to do the basketball tournament as well as football as you can see, they are very close. So, there's no time to lapse in between, therefore, I have to continue my fitness preparation."

A major concern to him, and his regional Caribbean colleagues, Young said, is getting more young people in becoming involved



Virgin Gorda Island



BVI

in an officiating capacity. Throughout the region he said they are finding everyone wants to play but nobody wants (sic) to officiate. During games however, everyone feels ? can officiate and say referees are making this or that call.

"No matter what, if you interested, come out, whether you are a player, former player, come and let us see exactly what you are interested in and we all can learn together," he explained. "I'm always available to go through the laws of the game, mechanics, tactics, the psychological aspects of the game and fitness. We need younger referees involved."

Young said once one is capable, they are strong mentally and physically, one will get the opportunity.

He noted that as a player, one might not get an opportunity to travel with a team. "But as a referee you can go anywhere even if your country doesn't have a team", he noted. "That's one of the benefits I'm enjoying right now."

You don't know what you missed ... *Cont'd from page 4*

I would be remiss if I didn't say a few words about my friend, Elvio Chies, who took an interest early on in making me feel at home by introducing me to other referees and nearby leagues where I could officiate. He always made sure I knew what I was doing since everything was so new to me and I didn't have a car to get to games.

Our friendship has continued to this day when in 1993, Elvio and I purchased World Cup tickets a year in advance and he eventually travelled to Boston in 1994 to see the games with me and five years later came again to be at my wedding.

Another person I remember fondly was the President of VASRA at the time – a nice man named **Gene Nagy** who also befriended me and took a special interest in welcoming me to VASRA which I still appreciate to this day.

Finally, I also remember meeting a nice man named **Tony Heaney** who personally came to my residence at VGH and sold me a beautiful referee jacket that I still have and wear to this day! If there is anyone I've missed mentioning, please forgive me.

Much time has passed since the summer of 1991. Rules have changed, uniform colors are different, the world has changed. But I hope VASRA is still the same friendly place ready to receive and make young, aspiring referees feel welcome as I was made to feel back then.

Sadly, we don't have Associations like VASRA here in Massachusetts. Apart from annual USSF recertification meetings, there are no formal opportunities for referees to meet outside of games.

There are no newsletters like the BCSRA (ed note: Jonathan means the "Flag & Whistle") specific to Massachusetts USSF referees. I am saddened and very disappointed by this because I know what could be if the will was there to organize it and they collected more fees from the membership.

In Vancouver, the people I met were very special and kind to me. I will always have a special place in my heart for the people who belong to VASRA and that summer I spent in Vancouver. I hope I will have a chance to return someday!



Know Your Fellow Member

Name: **Nick Hawley**

How long have you been a referee?

Since 1999 (16 years) but I retired last year.

What got you started in refereeing?

I was coaching a U8 team on a horrible cold Saturday morning. Our goalkeeper got run over by two of the little boys on the other team and started to cry.

The 14 year old girl referee didn't stop play, but shortly the ball went out for a throw in.

I asked to be allowed to help out my goalkeeper and she said yes. But then restarted the game while a) I was on the field, b) the crying goalkeeper was still crying and had his GK shirt halfway off to give to the new GK c) the replacement hadn't got his gloves nor GK shirt on. Resulting in 5 small opponents piling down on all three of us.

I couldn't believe how awful the referee was and decided that I had better become one to help out. Later I realised how much pressure and how little training we give these young kids and I have championed their cause ever since – developing a mentor program and re-writing the small sided laws.

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

Assistant referee for the **Zinedine Zidane** charity game at Swanguard. He is the most charming soccer player I have ever met and was incredibly fast (I had to keep up with him!) -

What advice would give to someone starting to referee?

If you don't love soccer – don't do this. Don't do this for the money. If you aren't enjoying refereeing - give up.

You need to be incredibly confident to referee and have total self belief. You cannot worry about whether people like you or not and must never doubt yourself.

These characteristics don't really make us people who are great to go out on a Saturday night with – so recognise your limitations!



Know Your Fellow Member

Name: **Phil Allen**

How long have you been a referee?

13 years ... **Bob Sawtell** was my instructor when I took the Referee course at the beginning and he was very inspirational and positive. This was a very good start for me as a soccer referee.

What got you started in refereeing?

I played soccer in my youth and adult years and then started coaching when my children wanted to get into the game. I coached soccer for 15 years and during that time I was coach/manager/club executive among other duties so I thought I might as well add Referee to the list. I thought I knew everything about the game before joining the referee ranks but boy was I wrong.

All coaches should take a referee course as it would definitely make them better coaches!

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

Well, other than refereeing the Canadian Women's National team in an exhibition game in Coquitlam many years back when **Even Pellerud** was managing the team with an upcoming world class star for Canada playing (**Christine Sinclair**), I would have to say it would be passing my Provincial Upgrade course, FIFA Fitness test just over a year ago when I was 57.

I had great support from my Referee colleagues to reach this goal (thanks Jose, Igor, Stephen, among others) and I very much appreciated that!

What advice would give to someone starting to referee?

Be respectful and professional at all times especially when others are not. Network with you fellow referees, work hard (it will pay off!) and remember to have fun!

BOOK REVIEW SOCCERNOMICS

Members looking for books on soccer may be interested in reading about the game from a different angle-statistical analysis. *Soccernomics*, by **Simon Kuper**, and economist Stefan Szymanski, can probably be described as to soccer what the book "Moneyball" is to baseball. It's subtitled "Why England loses, why Spain, Germany, and Brazil win, and why the US, Japan, Australia – and even Iraq – are destined to become the Kings of the World's most popular sport."

The book comes highly recommended by BCSRA and FVSRA Life Member **Hans Clodius** who says, "As the title and subtitle indicate, the paperback book, 400 pages long, is all about the different countries' soccer associations and what they did to reach the top.

Everything is based on solid research and backed up by many numbers and tables. Although many soccer players, coaches and managers are named and instances on the field discussed, not one referee is mentioned! Overall, I found the thoroughly researched book a very engaging read.

The F&W thanks **Hans Clodius** for his recommendation. Members who wish to recommend books should send their review to F&W Editor Elvio Chies now, via email to Lvo@direct.ca.

BC-based Referee makes MLS List again

Congratulations to National Assistant Referee **Marco Arruda** of Coquitlam for making the MLS list for the upcoming 2015 season.

At the F&W's editorial deadline, Marco was the only BC-based and Canadian official that could be confirmed.

Hopefully we'll see Marco in action, either on TV or even in our own home confines of BC Place!

HELPING A FELLOW REFEREE IN NEED

Ed note: Keith Liddiard, former Executive Director of the old BC Youth Soccer Association office and now with the Kamloops Youth Soccer Association, copied members of the soccer community in BC on this announcement that was addressed to the Kamloops soccer community. It's about Colin Guise, a fellow referee and administrator in that area. This is presented to members as information and asked to take this to heart.

Attention Kamloops Soccer Community!

Some of you may have heard that KYSA Vice-President **Colin Guise** is seriously ill in hospital.

Colin suffered a brain hemorrhage just before Christmas. He has undergone two operations since being admitted to hospital and there's possibly of the need for another. The prognosis is that Colin will be off work and in hospital for an extended period.

As you are likely aware, Colin is one of the most devoted volunteers we have. He has taken on the unheralded role of chairing our Discipline and Volunteer



Colin Guise

Screening Committees for the past two years, and done a remarkable job in this challenging role. He has also served on the KYSA board for close to a decade and has acted as V-P for the past two years.

Colin is also passionate about the offici-

ating side of our great game and has refereed in both the adult and youth leagues for more years than I care to remember. He has also served on the Kamloops Soccer Referees Association executive on and off for many years.

Like us all, incidents like this can cause a great hardship on a family—particularly financially.

With this in mind, the KYSA is asking the Kamloops soccer community to come to the aid of the Guise family through a donation of whatever you can afford. The KYSA is making a donation to kick things off.

Here's how you can donate:

1. Go on the KYSA web site www.kysa.net. Click the "Register Now" button on the home page. Click "Colin Guise Donation Account".

This should lead you to a form that will allow you to donate \$25, \$50 or \$100 online. Our system will not accept any other denominations.

2. Leave your donation (cash or cheque only please; if a cheque, please make it out to: "Kamloops Youth Soccer Association") at Hansport (#1 – 8th Street, North

Kamloops) or drop into the office upstairs at the Kamloops Soccer Dome.

3. Drop your donation off at the KYSA office on McArthur Island between the hours of 9:00am and 4:00pm, Tuesday through Friday.

The KYSA can issue you a receipt, however, we do not have the ability to offer a tax deduction at this time.

Of course, every penny of every dollar donated will go to the Guise family.

Colin has a tough few months ahead of him and whatever we can do to ease the burden on him and his family will be greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kindest regards,

KEITH LIDDIARD

Executive Director,

Kamloops Youth Soccer Association

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BC Soccer Grassroots Referee Development Seminar held in Kamloops

BC Soccer held the first Grassroots Referee Development Seminar in Kamloops on Friday January 30 and Saturday, January 31, 2015.

BC Soccer's Grassroots Referee Development Program is an initiative that was launched in January 2014 as part of BC Soccer's Strategic Plan.

The Grassroots Referee Development Program is designed to better meet the needs of registered and potential new referees at the grassroots level.

BC Soccer has announced that the first Grassroots Referee Development Seminar is to be held in Kamloops on Friday January 30 and Saturday, January 31, 2015.

"We are pleased to offer this opportunity for new and existing grassroots referees at the Small Sided, Youth and District levels to gain further education, training, and access to their future mentors—our referee development officers and head referees," said John Reed, BC Soccer Referee Committee Chair.

The Grassroots Referee Development Seminar will provide training to small sided referee instructors, education for current BC Soccer registered referees, as well as bring together Referee

Development Officers (RDO) and Head Referees in preparation for the 2015 interior soccer season. The seminar will be hosted at the Kamloops Soccer Dome and the instructor training and referee education sessions will be conducted both on-field and in the classroom.

"BC Soccer Grassroots programming helps ensure referees are trained consistently and to a high standard, no matter the region. I am very excited that Kamloops is hosting the RDO annual meeting and the BC Soccer Grassroots Referee Development Seminar in January," said **Neil Farber**, Referee Development Officer for the Thompson-Okanagan region and Secretary of the Kamloops Soccer Referees Association.

BC Soccer has designed this seminar to provide Head Referees and Referee Development Officers across BC with structured content and information that they can share with the districts and clubs they serve.

"As the RDO for the Thompson-Okanagan Region, I've seen first-hand the value of Grassroots programming and the positive impacts it is creating.

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The Thompson-Okanagan region hosted two referee mentor instructor clinics this past year, and as a result, more than 70 new referees received personal mentoring. This is more than triple the number from the previous year. Feedback from referees, parents of young referees, and the Kamloops Youth Soccer Association has been overwhelming positive” said Farber.

BC Soccer Grassroots Referee Development Program

Launched in January 2014 as part of the BC Soccer Strategic Plan, the Grassroots Referee Development Program is designed to better meet the needs of registered and potential new referees at the grassroots level.

The goals of the Grassroots Referee Development Program are:

- To raise the level of competence of all registered referees at the grassroots level across the province,
- To provide support and foster recruitment, education, development and retention of referees,

^a To supply timely and relevant reporting about the referees to BC Soccer and the Referee Committee via the Referee Development Coordinator.

The learning environment of the Grassroots Referee Development Program is one that is fun, challenging, and educational. These environments allow opportunities for registered referees and potential new recruits to develop a passion and love for refereeing while being supported by their Head Referee, Head Mentors, Schedulers and their local club/organization.

The program educates and supports Head Referees and Referee Mentors through theoretical and practical referee education sessions along with educating/training Referee Schedulers in 'best practices' to assist in building a solid foundation for the development of referees across the province at the grassroots level. The



Administrators, Officials, and Instructors at the Meeting.

Rick Tolhurst Photography, Kamloops

Program's success will be measured by the number of referees who are retained over the years and continue their personal development within the referee program and soccer in general.

BC Soccer has trained nine Referee Development Officers throughout the province who are now in the process of reaching out to Head Referees, Mentors and Referee Schedulers within their assigned region to start setting the schedule for the required workshops.

More information about the upcoming Kamloops Seminar can be obtained by contacting Neil Farber at: krsasecretary99@gmail.com

EDITORIAL – THE VIEW FROM THE TOUCHLINE

The Professional Referee Organization (PRO), the arm of the MLS which schedules and advises the officials used in the League, have stated that during the upcoming 2015 season they plan on focusing on dissent and persistent infringement as areas for review.

No explanation was given as how they will go about addressing these two concerns. Rather than resolving these two areas of concerns they are merely looking at reviewing them. Their choice of words are troubling to say the least.

Last year, their main two initiatives were to make the game flow better and looking at the holding, shoving, pushing, and blocking that happen in the penalty area. They achieved success with the flow of the game initiative as most matches were allowed to flow with minimal interruptions. However, their attempt at their second initiative was questionable.

During many a corner kick last season, referees tended to ignore the shoving, pushing, & blocking unless it was brazen and allowed play to continue unabated. Which begs the following ques-

tions. How will PRO address these two identified concerns & still keep the game flowing from an entertainment perspective? Will this be the responsibility of the referees? Or will the league take action with player fines after the match has been concluded?

We here at the Flag&Whistle are troubled with the 2014 PRO argument that it's better for the game, for referees to ignore misconduct and fouls so as to let the game flow than it is to make the necessary calls, stop play, and have the game be played as our founders had envisaged. We understand that the league wants the game to flow for entertainment purposes but during last season, too many fouls occurred without consequence.

Let us look at what options PRO has at their disposal. They employ a diverse group of referees that have significant experience and have been vetted by an experienced group of assessors to ensure that they are deemed fit to referee at this level. Further, PRO are given the responsibility to assign referees to matches as they seem fit. By controlling refereeing

assignments, PRO can assign referees whose player management styles are best suited to the scheduled matches to ensure that they are conducted fairly and to minimize misconduct.

Within their group of referees, player management styles differ from the lenient referee who lets things go and takes action only when an incident erupts to the referee who will chat up the problem players prior to and during the match to dissuade them from acting out on the pitch. Further there are referees who fall somewhere in the middle of these two extremes.

We at the BCSRA newsletter are troubled with PRO's review of the two identified player management concerns. Rather than glancing over these concerns we'd like to see them addressed in a concrete manner. Simply be transparent to us the fans and the refereeing community by explaining what your plans are for this review! **Ed note:** To see the original article that spawned this editorial, please go to: www.proreferees.com/news-pro-identifies-two-areas-for-officials-to-review-during-2015.php.

Triple Punishment *Cont'd from page 3*

The IFAB agreed that the punishment is too harsh and that a solution must be found. The proposal put forward by UEFA, including a provision that detailed specific instances where a referee should issue a caution instead of a red card, was rejected. After much debate, The IFAB agreed in principle that one element of the triple punishment may be removed and that this element should be the automatic one-match suspension that is currently defined in the FIFA Disciplinary Code.

In relation to **Law 3 - The Number of Players**, The IFAB made a ground-breaking decision to allow for return substitutions in the lowest levels of football. It follows the success of two separate pilot programmes run by The Football Association and The Scottish Football Association, the results of which demonstrated substantial increases in participation levels across the game. The new provision outlines that the use of return substitutes will be subject to agreement of the member association concerned.

Also in relation to Law 3, The IFAB remains of the view that a total of three substitutions is the appropriate number for a football match. It was agreed that the proposal for a fourth substitution in extra time, which was on the agenda today, should be assessed by the advisory panels before any further discussion by The IFAB.

With regard to the potential use of video to support match officials, an extensive discussion took place during the AGM including feedback from the two advisory panels. The IFAB decided that this topic should continue to be discussed by the panels in more detail.

Other topics to be referred to the panels include handling the ball, the potential use of "sin bins" and the interpretation of the offside law. A proposal from US Soccer regarding stopping the clock was not approved.

The modifications to the Laws of the Game made at today's AGM will come into effect on 1 June 2015. The 130th Annual General Meeting is set to take place in Cardiff, Wales, on 4-6 March 2016.

Don't blame Referees

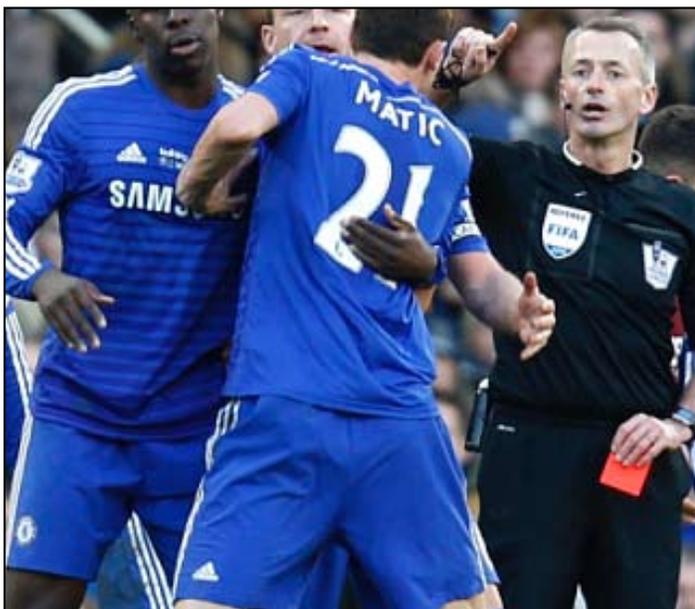
Blame the FA and FIFA for refusing to help them

FA's failure to correct Atkinson's error and IFAB's rejection of video trial show Governing Bodies are living in the Past

By Henry Winter, Football Correspondent, The Telegraph

Ed Note: this editorial has been edited to fit into this space.

The man tasked with keeping the peace between the players of Chelsea and Tottenham Hotspur at Wembley spends part of his week talking to young offenders. **Anthony Taylor**, the Capital One Cup final referee and formerly prison officer at Strangeways, does plenty of good work trying to rehabilitate criminals, showing them a more positive pathway for when they leave prison.



Referee Atkinson mistakenly shows red card to wrong player.

Wembley may confirm the need for referees to enjoy access to proper assistance. There will surely be one major incident, probably more, underneath the grand arch which the television commentators and pundits will analyse, which the media will view on monitors in the press box and which the fans can judge from streaming or Vines on their phones. The most important individual in all this, Taylor, is the least informed

That is why IFAB's failure to accelerate the trialling of video technology, building on the meticulous testing work undertaken by the Dutch football association, is so damaging.

The quickening pace of the game, the duplicity of some professionals, pressure from managers added to the unsympathetic judge and jury of social media have all served to intensify the spotlight on referees.

Recent Ifab changes had proved successful. Referees have been helped by the introduction of goal-line technology following **Frank Lampard's** frustration in Bloemfontein at the 2010 World Cup. The use of vanishing spray has ensured attackers do not nick a yard and that walls are back the required distance.

The argument that video technology undermines the authority of the referee makes little sense. Each passing weekend without the proposed screensaver undermines them further.

A full-scale trial would have reveal its suitability. If it simply slows the game to the point of ennui then it can be shelved

And other forms of justice like sin-bins and more retrospective action can be turned to. Ifab could have been legitimately smug; currently it just resembles dinosaurs.

Cont'd on page 10

There was a justifiable concern over whether the weaker officials would be pressured by players and managers into consulting the video ref over every perceived infraction.

One solution, is for each manager to be allowed one appeal per half. The Dutch experiment focuses on incidents involving goals, red cards and penalties but would need expanding.

It certainly deserved a wider trial. So much technology is involved in preparing officials for games and then in post-match performance analysis, that it makes a mockery of Ifab's reluctance

to allow them to utilise it when they need it most.

For all the poor perception of referees, these are an intelligent bunch. Five of the 17 select group referees (*Ed note: from the English Premier League*), **Taylor, Marriner, Mike Jones, Stuart Attwell** and **Kevin Friend**, are in the final year of studying for Masters degrees at the University of Gloucestershire. Such studying involves technology. It is used in other sports. As the FA vice-chairman **David Gill** observed on the eve of the IFAB gathering: *"We can't live in the past."* Yesterday showed they still are.

More Technology for Soccer Officials put on hold and why that is good

Bobby McMahon, Forbes.com

Ed note: *and now, a short but contrasting opinion on the latest IFAB decision to delay the use of technology. Again, this article has been edited to fit into this space.*



Bobby McMahon

It is probably one of the least known organizations in world soccer but arguably the decisions made by the International Football Association Board (IFAB) have more far reaching impacts on the sport than any other body.

Despite what many fans seem to think FIFA does not control the Laws of the Game but that responsibility falls to the eight member IFAB.

The membership is made up of eight members with four nominated by FIFA and the other four coming

from the four UK associations.

The four UK positions is a nod to the genesis of the organized game and FIFA has long recognized the IFAB as custodian of the Laws of the Game.

The IFAB requires 75% of the membership to approve any changes so FIFA cannot push through law changes any more so than the UK associations can.

Decisions by the IFAB are made once a year and this past weekend the group met in Northern Ireland. Sometimes no decisions are made – although no decisions are still decisions – and it was video technology that stole the headlines again.

The IFAB delayed live trials of video technology proposed by the Dutch Football Association for use in the Dutch Cup next season. The Dutch plan was to focus on incidents involving goals, red cards and penalties and needless to say the IFAAB have been roundly criticized for not moving aggressively on integrating more technology into the sport.

The IFAB became an easy target for journalists, pundits and bloggers who rolled out decisions they disagreed with and they assured us that referees, with technology assisting, would surely have ruled differently if only it had been made available to them.

It is rare to give FIFA secretary general Jerome Valcke credit but in the case of video technology he made a good argument for a slow and exceptional cautious approach given the far reaching impact that an expansion of video technology will (not might) have on the sport. "It's the biggest decision which will come out

of IFAB ever. It's not a question of years - it's making the biggest decision ever in the way football is played," he said on Saturday.

The flippancy of so many of the protechnology crowd is potentially far more damaging to the game than a more reasoned and measured approach.

The greatest threat posed by the increased use of video technology is another Law but not one of the Laws of the Game.

It is the Law of Unintended Consequences that will be part and parcel of allowing the technology genie to escape the bottle.



*No escaping the watchful eye of Referee **Gordon Rogers** as he calls a foul on a Fusion player (in red). The match, which pitted Fraser Valley FC's U-16 against Fusion FC of the BCPSL, ended in a scoreless draw.*