

# FLAG & WHISTLE

Official Newsletter of the BC Soccer Referees Association • June 2015



## REFEREES NEEDED FOR BEACH BLAST – AUGUST 7-9

The Vancouver Area is looking for referees to officiate in this year's installment of Beach Blast. The annual event is held at Spanish Banks and serves as VASRA's fundraiser to help with projects including contributions to the *Dan Kulail/Jack Tinnion Memorial Scholarship*. Games feature 14 minute halves and are

started and stopped from a centralized horn.

In return for helping out all referees will receive a uniform, yours to keep, and free lunch. Those interested are asked to contact VASRA President **Marc Bowley** at **604-278-9302** or email: **marc.bowley@telus.net**.



**Referees Honoured  
at BC Soccer Awards  
and Scholarship Luncheon  
All Details on Page 2**

# Referees honoured at BC Soccer Awards and Scholarship Luncheon

Information pulled from BC Soccer website article dated May 26, 2015

Amongst all the recipients at the recent BC Soccer Awards and Scholarship Luncheon on Saturday, June 13th, four referees were honoured by soccer's provincial governing body. Those being presented with awards were as follows:

**Andy Pinter**

*Adult Official of the Year*

**John Barrett**

*Award of Merit*

**John Nielsen**

*Life Member*

**Michelle Pye**

*Woman of Distinction*

Former FIFA Assistant Referee **John Nielsen** is the latest referee to be inducted as a Life Member of BC Soccer.



*John Nielsen*

This marks the second consecutive year a referee has been honoured as such, with Former FIFA Referee and BCSRA Founding and Life Member **Werner Winsemann** being honoured in 2015. Life Membership of BC Soccer is presented to individuals in recognition of long time services and distinguished contributions to soccer in British Columbia.

Long time is generally defined as over 20 years. Service must include volunteer participation in club, district, league and provincial programs. Service may also include time contributed to the Canadian Soccer Association. The recipient may be currently active in soccer or retired.

Current FIFA Referee **Michelle Pye** was awarded a the inaugural recipient of the new "Woman of Distinction" award.

"It is with great honour to present these awards to all of the recipients as they have devoted countless hours to bettering the game in British Columbia," said **Roger Barnes**, BC Soccer President (as posted on BC Soccer's website).



*Michelle Pye*

"New this year is the Women of Distinction Award, and we think this is a wonderful addition and the inaugural winner, Michelle Pye who is refereeing at the 2015 Women's World Cup Canada, should be incredibly proud."

Andy Pinter receives his Adult Official of the Year award having just come off refereeing the Women's Provincial Cup Final last month.



*Andy Pinter, right*

**John Barrett** is the latest recipient of the Award of Merit, presented to individuals in recognition of contributions to soccer, during a period of ten (10) or more years, as a player, manager, coach, official, or administrator at the club/league or district level.

The F&W congratulates all colleagues on their well deserved awards!



*John Barrett (right) receives award from Rob Brown*

## 2015 Dan Kulai/ Jack Tinnion Memorial Scholarship Recipient Announced

This year's scholarship recipient is Aydan Corrigan from Lake Country near Vernon. Aydan has been refereeing for four years now in the Okanagan taking the District entry-level course in 2011.

He has has numerous assessments and continues to seek advice from his referee mentors and BC Soccer Referee Development Officer Shannon Mazereeuw.

He scored the highest number of points from the eighteen applicants, obtaining 41 out of 50 points in the selection criteria.

He will be entering the Heavy Duty Mechanics trades program at Okanagan College.

Congratulations to Aydan on being selected for this award.

## Scholarships awarded



*Nicole Conquergood at right*

Congratulations to BCSRA member **Nicole Conquergood** who was the recipient of this year's *Alex Leitch Soccer Express Scholarship* at the recent BC Soccer Awards and Scholarship Celebration.

New member **Fiona Brown** (not pictured) is the recipient of the South District Girls Soccer Association funded, *Sandra Duncan Memorial Scholarship*.

Congratulations to both on their respective honours!

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**Elvio Chies**  
**Tom Babic**  
**Mynor Campos**  
**Emil Udovich**

*Lay-out*

**Dieter Freundt**

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

**Chantelle Schwartz, Eric Diver, Ivan Rincon, Nick Hawley.**

Letters to the editor are welcome and should be directed by email to:  
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or by mail to:

**BC Soccer Referees Association**  
c/o 8130 Selkirk Street  
Vancouver, BC, V6P 4H7

## Members elect new Provincial Executive

The result of the elections from this year's Annual General Meeting for the new provincial executive is as follows:

*President*

**Nick Hawley**

*Vice-President:*

**Chris Wattam**

(Elected by acclamation to a 2 year term)

*Secretary:*

**Laurie Miller**

*Treasurer:*

**Robin Woods**

(Elected by acclamation to a 2 yr term)

*Director-Without Portfolio:*

**Bill McNaughton**

(Elected by acclamation to a 2 yr term)

*Area-Appointed Directors:*

**Larry Cade**

(VISRA)

**Elvio Chies**

(VASRA)

**Andy Pinter**

(FVSRA)

After the elections the members were informed that Secretary Laurie Miller will be stepping down after wrapping up the business from the AGM to pursue other ventures.

President Nick Hawley thanked Laurie for her hard work and dedication over the past three years as Secretary and two years as Vice-President.

The provincial executive will start the work of finding a replacement for Laurie to fill the remaining year in the term.

The F&W congratulates all members of the executive on their posting. Best wishes for success on the road ahead.

## BCSRA MEMBER PROVES LANGUAGE IS NO BARRIER

**Ed note:** *Chantelle Schwartz is taking her refereeing to La Belle Province where she is enrolled at McGill University. Here she presents an interesting anecdote from one of her matches.*

It's a sunny and warm Sunday afternoon in early October, one of the last such days left before the harsh Montreal winter forces us inside for the season.

I was officiating a friendly for a local club; a good, clean game, both teams evenly matched. I watch as one of the players goes up for a header.

I can see her timing is wrong, and she misses spectacularly, her flailing arm striking the ball as it sails by.

As if a neon sign had just lit up off set announcing "complain," I was surrounded by protesting players before my whistle had even reached my lips.

Let me tell you, there's something odd-

ly patriotic about being cussed out in both your country's official languages.

The resolution to this situation was no dramatic affair. I reminded the players that yes, I do indeed have functional eyes and however much I appreciate their concern in ensuring the Laws are upheld, I am finding it rather difficult to signal for a free kick given I don't have enough room to raise my arm without hitting someone.

Sadly, my wit was lost on most of the players, so I pulled out my universal translator; there is no misunderstanding a yellow card, no matter your language.

## Referee Logistics in an 8,000 km wide Country

**Did you know:**

- After initially meeting in Vancouver, the referees were split in half – half going to Montreal, half staying in Vancouver?
- While **Massimo Busacca** would remain in Vancouver, his assistant former FIFA Referee **Dagmar Damkova**, would lead the others in Montreal?
- That referees would be flown in/out of their respective hubs for matches?

- That daily briefing sessions would be handled via Skype, for example both groups huddled around the PC, to view clips from their respective cities?

- That each of the hubs has a Referee Liaison Officer to work with either Massimo or Dagmar – (**Bob Sawtell** in Vancouver, **Pari Arshighouni** in Montreal)?

Well, now you know.

## Canadian Referees and AR Assignments

### 2015 FIFA Women's World Cup- How Have Our Other Canadian Women Been Doing?

Thanks to **Eric Diver** who has been tallying the appointments of our Canadian FIFA officials. The all Canadian crew of Ref **Carole Anne Chenard**, A/R-1 **Marie Josee Charbonneau**, A/R-2 **Suzanne Morisset** and 4th Official **Michelle Pye** took charge of the June 7, Germany vs Ivory Coast 10:0 contest & on June 17, England vs Colombia 2:1.

Stats from those 2 games as a complete Canadian crew:

Germany vs Ivory Coast: 39 fouls, 6 yellow cards, 17 corners, 2 offsides.

England v Colombia : 28 fouls, 4 yellow cards, 7 corners, 2 offsides.

#### Additional Canadian appointments:

On 13 June 2015 for Brazil vs Spain 1: 0; Referee Carole Anne Chenard, A/R 1 Marie Josee Charbonneau, A/R 2 Suzanne Morisset

Michelle Pye was 4th Official at both France vs England 1:0 on June 9, and France vs Colombia 0:2 on June 13.

Carol Anne also took charge of the Germany and France 1:1, which Germany won on penalty kicks.

## Life of Pye takes World Cup turn

*From Kamloopsthisweek.com (edited to fit into this issue).*

**(Ed note: Eric Diver, VASRA-affiliated member who is now in England, has spotted this local article about Canadian FIFA Referee Michelle Pye. We thank Eric for his astuteness and bringing it our attention.)**

It started 17 years ago with a newspaper ad in Kamloops. The story of **Michelle Pye's** refereeing journey will reach its zenith at the 2015 FIFA Women's World Cup.

"It was the epitome of my goal, of all these hundreds of hours that I've spent, and all the sacrifices that my family makes for me to be able to do this," Pye said. "The chance to achieve a World Cup is such a faraway dream. It's so cool to actually get that opportunity."

Pye, 36, and 38-year-old **Carol Anne Chenard** of Ottawa are the two Canadians among the 29 referees appointed to the tournament by FIFA's Referees Committee, which picks only the best of the bunch from across the globe to work the World Cup. The River City ref didn't pick up a whistle until she was a 19-year-old student at the University College of the Cariboo, when her mother saw the newspaper ad recruiting officials to take a certification course.

Working in the Kamloops Youth Soccer Association ranks seemed like a nice way to earn some extra coin, to help pay tuition. It turned out to be a lot more than that. Pye has climbed the officiating ladder, juggling duties with her family — a husband, a three-year-old daughter and 20-month-old twin boys — and her job as a teacher in Vancouver while honing her craft.

"To get here after so many people thought there was no chance like, 'You've

had twins. You had to lose 60 pounds. How can you possibly do this?' Pye said. "There is no other female international referee in the world who has three kids."

Pye's husband, **Alain Ruch**, is a former all-Canadian soccer player with the UCC Sun Demons and a national-calibre soccer official.



*Michelle Pye receives the commemorative coin and world cup watch from FIFA's Head of Referees Massimo Busacca during the official Referees Dinner on Tuesday, June 2nd, 2015*

Thoughts of calling games at the highest level became more realistic when Pye refereed at the under-17 women's World Cup in New Zealand in 2008. In 2010, she worked the under-17 World Cup in Trinidad and Tobago and was appointed to officiate at the Youth Olympic Games in Singapore. Last year, she was part of the crew at the

## Dominic Pace elected as newest Life Member

Past VASRA Treasurer and current National Assessor **Dominic Pace** was elected as the latest Life Member at the recent BCSRA Annual General Meeting. Dominic, who was VASRA Treasurer from 1983-1993, is also a former National Referee and was on the list of officials of the old North American Soccer League (NASL) and Canadian Soccer League (CSL).

Congratulations to Dominic on being bestowed the BCSRA's Highest Honour!

## By-Laws amended for Life Membership

At the recent Annual General Meeting (AGM) the membership unanimously endorsed the proposed change to the BCSRA By-Laws to eliminate the maximum limit of provincial Life Members the association may have at any one time.

Previously, the By-Laws indicated a maximum of 15 provincial Life Members (Area Associations, i.e. branches, are exempt from this limitation and can elect as many local Life Members as they choose).

The By-Laws were also changed to allow up to four Life Members to be elected in a year, up from the maximum of one.

under-20 women's World Cup in Canada.

After giving birth to twins, Pye took extended leave following her allotted maternity absence from Handsworth secondary in North Vancouver to ensure she could remain in peak physical condition this year while taking care of three children. There was still another roadblock in her way — Chenard, Canada's ace women's soccer referee, who already has World Cup and Olympic experience under her belt.

"Carol is excellent. If they were ever going to appoint two referees from the same country, though, this would be the time. But, there weren't any favours done because Canada is hosting," said Pye, one of four female international soccer referees in the nation. "We're up against the exact same standards of all the referees in the world."

*Cont'd on page 5*



FIFA technical staff and FIFA head referee at awards dinner.  
Michelle stands beside Massimo Busacca.

Those standards are exceptionally high.

The list of 44 potential World Cup referees was released in December and each of them flew to Portugal in February for sprint, endurance and agility testing. They met minimum requirement benchmarks or they left their dreams in Faro. FIFA trimmed the list to 29 after the Portugal camp, but the monitoring had just begun.

Each referee is required to download and complete six training sessions each week, recording their results using Polar watches

and uploading them for review by FIFA. One of those sessions must be a match. Pye patrols the pitch during men's and women's soccer games on weekends in Vancouver.

The officials will gather again in Zurich for fitness testing, blood work, technical sessions and video analysis that begins on April 18 and wraps up on April 24.

Ten days before the World Cup kicks off, there will be one final seminar in Vancouver, where the list of 29 referees will be cut down to 22, with the remaining seven to act as fourth officials at the tournament.

"However I can be there, I'll be totally satisfied with that," Pye said. "After having the twins, feeling like all you do is change diapers and wipe noses all day long, it's an achievement." As for the pressure of officiating at a World Cup on home soil, Pye acknowledged it will be immense.

"There are 40-plus cameras around the field watching every decision we make and we sit in a room after the game with 40-plus referees analyzing the clips and picking them apart," Pye said. "We're used to the pressure. Of course, you don't want to make mistakes in your own country, but I don't want to make mistakes in any country."

What Pye decides to do on July 6, a day after the World Cup final at BC Place Stadium, is a matter she will have to discuss with Alain.

"With the kids, it's hard for me to have to ask my husband to hold the fort down while I'm off chasing my dreams around the world," Pye said. "But, you know, the Olympics are in 2016 — and that's not too far away."

**Ed note:** *our very own Michelle Pye was also mentioned by the BBC during a break in play of the France-England match when an England player was being treated. The actual quote was "Mark Sampson is not getting a lot of change out of Michelle Pye, the Fourth Official from Vancouver, British Columbia. He is obviously discussing the incident we have just seen."*

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## FIFA Women's World Cup – on the BBC

**Ed note:** *Eric Diver is watching the Women's World Cup from his native England. Here we present a collection of sound bites that have mentioned on the BBC and in English papers.*

**Day 2:** Re: possible penalty in last minute of the Germany-Ivory Coast match: When the male co-commentator said, "I reckon she (the referee) decided that ten was enough and let it go" the lady commentator retorted with "I disagree as there will be somebody up in the stands marking her and you have to give a penalty whenever in the 90 minutes of play and whatever the score, I think she got it wrong thought the defender got a piece of the ball."

**Day 3:** Only one major Ref talking point. Was the Japan penalty v Switzerland a correct call? The two Lady pundits were split on it one thought Swiss keeper's momentum took her into the player **after** she had got a piece of the ball.

With games starting in Vancouver for the first time the montage at top of the show featured mainly Gastown and the clock, the Aquarium, the 2 bears up at Grouse, but surprisingly no Skytrain or Granville Island, but very nicely done with 3 great overhead shots of the City.

**Day 7:** The BBC announces the best player after all games are complete. No surprise **Fabienne Hum** (Switzerland) got the BBC "Wonder Woman" tag for her fastest hat trick ever.

**Day 8:** Headline here today "**Temper throw costs France**"

In case any of you missed it, a French player in a bad temper threw a ball back to a colleague to take a throw in but it entered the field of play and the Ref, great decision I thought, called it a foul throw.

From the throw, now of course turned over to Columbia, the South Americans created 45 seconds later the opening goal off their first shot on target.

**Day 11:** The Cameroon team deservedly took all the headlines today even though the 2015/16 Premier Division League fixtures were published on same day.

**Day 15:** Four pundits all had their say re Germany pen v Sweden. All adamant it should not have been a penalty **HOWEVER** not one mentioned Referee angle of the incident.

**Day 16:** Referee **Teodora Albon** from Romania was praised for her action in 1st minute of her game (Brazil v Australia.) Just 20 seconds after kick off **Cristiane** of Brazil was not fouled and protested to the Ref that she should have been awarded a free kick.

As soon as ball went out for a throw 11 seconds later, Referee halts play and gives player a talking to. A studio female pundit remarked at half time that this was very good Refereeing stamping your authority on the game early without producing a card, however by having a word this lets the players know you are in control.

# Leading up to the 2015 Women's World Cup Inside the FIFA pre-tournament Referees' Secret Meeting

Anytime a FIFA tournament rolls around there is always the speculation of what the Referees will be looking for. Everyone knows they're cloistered together in their own little backroom discussions, shrouded in secrecy from the rest of others.

At the 2015 BCSRA Annual General Meeting, that silence was broken for short time. Members were treated to former FIFA Referee **Ms. Dagmar Damkova**, who was the guest speaker at this year's annual event. Ms. Damkova, who hails from the Czech Republic and refereed in the 2008 Beijing Olympics, was in town as assistant to **Massimo Busacca**, Head of Refereeing for FIFA (see sidebar "Referee Logistics in an 8,000 km Wide Country").

Ms. Damkova explained the referees would be advised to concentrate on several "hot topics." Among them were:

## POSITIONING

This was the first and foremost the most important topic. The referees would be told that while everyone makes mistakes, if one understands football, one can anticipate and move into the right place. This will allow the referee to trend towards recognizing their movement, for example, exploding a change in direction when teams lose possession of the ball, getting the correct angle of view between players.



*BCSRA President Nick Hawley and Ms. Dagmar Damkova*

## TACKLES

Being able to distinguish between careless, reckless (i.e. yellow card) and excessive force (i.e. red card) offences. Speed and intensity are important considerations as is the location of where the foot is placed. For example, a foot raised in the air is a sure candidate for consideration in potential send-offs.

## HANDBALL

Ms. Damkova lamented, much perhaps to the chagrin of TV commentators, there may never be consistency when calling hand balls. As such, FIFA is preparing the teams in advance. She indicated there has been success in this venture pointing to the reduction of hand ball offences in the 2014 World Cup Brazil where players could be seen holding their hands behind their backs.

Still, the referees would be advised on certain criteria, for example the placement of hands. Distance and force of a kick against a player are also an important criteria. Sometimes balls are played with such pace at close range that a player has no time to react. And what about female players who disguise protecting their chests by placing their arms in front of them and then using them to purposely re-direct the ball? Ms. Damkova advised that a



*Ms. Dagmar Damkova and BCSRA Director Bill McNaughton*

bit of preventative medicine could go a long way. For example, why not talk to players in the wall about not taking advantage of our compassion to allow the players to protect themselves?

## TECHNICAL FOULS

The topic of denying an obvious goal scoring opportunity, DOGSO, was front and centre. In general, all four criteria, control of the ball (i.e. close to feet or within playing distance), number and location of defenders, direction of the play (i.e. towards goal) and the distance to goal (i.e. close to goal) must be present. If it's not an obvious goal scoring opportunity, a yellow card would suffice.

## TEAMWORK AND OFFSIDE

Ms. Damkova indicated that too many referees are relying on their headsets as communication with their assistants, i.e. if one doesn't hear anything, the referee assumes nothing occurred which may not be correct. Also, the referee must learn to help the assistant on offside decisions. Sometimes, the assistant cannot tell whether a defender last played the ball or not on a cross.

## SIMULATION

- If clear contact we have to call the foul regardless the embellishment
- No clear contact: Play on
- Clearly no contact: Indirect free-kick plus a caution to the simulating player

A question was raised: when embellishment occurs, why not award the foul but caution the player embellishing the contact via Unsporting Behaviour (i.e. bringing the game into disrepute). Perhaps playing to a Canadian audience Ms. Damkova offered her personal wish: "I would love to have what hockey has – a penalty (i.e. punishment) for someone who is fouled but embellishes the contact. But nobody has found out a way how to make that happen (within the Laws of the Game)."

In closing, it was an inspiring presentation and all that were present would agree it was basis to move forward in our own matches, in theory, it all makes sense. However, theory is not always easy to apply which is always the challenge for us as referees, which we try to reach. As for the tournament, at the time of the presentation the World Cup had yet to start. By the time you, the reader, get to read this, the teams for the final will have been decided, if not the final itself would be played. Did the referees manage to uphold what their mentors asked them to do? You be the judge.



**Know  
Your  
Fellow  
Member**

**Name:** Chantelle Schwartz

**Resident:** Richmond

**Number of years refereeing:**

Coming up to 8

**Reason You Started Refereeing:**

Because 11 year-old me was convinced if you want something done right, you have to do it yourself.

**Most Memorable Moment in Refereeing So Far:**

In a U-10 boys match, one of the first I ever officiated, an attacker pulled down the shorts of his opponent during the set up for a corner kick. His coach subbed him out and his red-faced mother took him to task right there on the sideline.

**Advice You Would Give To Someone Starting To Referee:**

Coaches and players can smell uncertainty and will take full advantage. Be confident or else fake it 'till you make it!

## DID YOU KNOW?

Many of you may have seen the documentary *"The Referees"* which was a first hand, reality-like film revolving around four referees appointed to Euro 2008. If you did you will recall there were some pretty open discussions that were presented.

One of those referees was **Massimo Busacca**, Head of Refereeing for FIFA, who is here for the FIFA Women's World Cup.

As editor of the F&W, I was given the opportunity to ask Massimo while he was here when the referees were informed that they would be the subject of the film.

"We didn't know", said Massimo matter-of-factly. "We knew they (the cameras) were there but we didn't know why!"

Massimo then went on to say he, naturally, felt great consternation after finding out that while just acting naturally and sharing his thoughts, they were being filmed for posterity. So for all of you who had any doubt how genuine reality shows are, here's one that you can take to the bank.

# FIFA paid Ireland Not to protest costly Hand Ball

By ANDREW DAS; June 4, 2015 NY Times.com

The chief executive of Ireland's soccer association said Thursday that FIFA had quietly paid compensation to his federation after a controversial hand ball by France's(a) **Thierry Henry** prevented Ireland from qualifying for the 2010 World Cup.

"We felt we had a legal case against FIFA because of how the World Cup hadn't worked out because of the Henry hand ball," the executive, **John Delaney**(b) said in an interview with RTE.

Delaney said he had raised the issue of relief for Ireland directly with FIFA's president, **Sepp Blatter**, after Mr. Blatter shrugged off Ireland's complaints immediately after the game.

"We came to an agreement," Mr. Delaney said. "That was a Thursday, and on Monday the agreement was all signed and all done."

A FIFA spokesperson confirmed the payment Thursday afternoon, saying that in an agreement completed in January 2010 it had extended a \$5 million loan to Ireland's federation to construct a stadium in Ireland. But FIFA's statement also noted that UEFA, the governing body for soccer in Europe, "also granted the F.A.I. funds for the same stadium."

In its statement, FIFA said, "While the referee's decision is final, and the Football Association of Ireland ultimately accepted it as such, in January 2010 FIFA entered into an agreement with F.A.I. in order to put an end to any claims against FIFA."

The terms agreed between FIFA and the F.A.I. in January 2010 were that the loan would be reimbursed if Ireland qualified for the 2014 World Cup. Ireland did not qualify, however, and FIFA decided that "in view of the F.A.I.'s financial situation,

FIFA decided to write off the loan" on December 31 of last year. The hand ball occurred in the second leg of a UEFA playoff between Ireland and France on Nov. 18, 2009. France won the first leg in Dublin, 1-0, but after Ireland responded with a Robbie Keane goal at the Stade de France outside Paris, the second match went to extra time.

About 13 minutes into the first extra period, Mr. Henry(c), used his left hand to stop a bouncing ball at the end line just to the left of Ireland's goal — and then crossed it to **William Gallas**. As the Irish defenders who had seen the hand ball began to protest, Mr. Gallas headed the ball into the net for the goal that sent France, a 2-1 winner on aggregate, to the World Cup in South Africa.

Furious Irish officials(d), demanded that the game be replayed, but FIFA rejected their appeals because the referee had not seen the hand ball.

"We feel cheated," the Irish defender **Sean St. Ledger** said at the time.

Even Mr. Henry admitted what he had done. "I will be honest, it was a hand ball," he said. "But I'm not the ref. I played it. The ref allowed it."

Citing a confidentiality agreement, Mr. Delaney on Thursday refused to confirm the amount of the payment, but he chuckled and complimented the interviewer, **Ray D'Arcy**, after Mr. D'Arcy suggested a figure of "five million."

But Mr. Delaney left no doubt about the intent of the payment; FIFA had offered the money to persuade Ireland's federation "not to proceed with the legal case." He called the secret settlement "a very good and legitimate deal" for Ireland.

## EDITORIAL – THE ACT OF A POOR GENERAL

Being appointed to the FIFA List is supposed to be an honour. An honour which comes with a lot of responsibilities. And by and large, it has been shown that FIFA Referees take this responsibility seriously—they train hard, they keep abreast of latest changes to the Laws and work to continuously hone their craft. In return, given all the pressures and technology aimed to push them off their pedestal, the governing body will support them to hilt

Until now. If it's true that FIFA paid the Irish FA to keep quiet, to not pursue a legal

appeal of the match, then this is a slap in the face to all referees. A study by The Times of London (featured clearly showed the position of the offence could not be seen by either the referee or the assistant, despite proper positioning. So then, even if we can't call what we can't see, it's still our fault?

And while one can empathize with Ireland for their misfortune, the very idea of a court overturning a result of a match is totally absurd.

*Cont' on page 8*

# OBITUARY:

## BCSRA and VISRA Life Member Len Bridgeman Passes

**Ed note:** the following obituary was posted in the Victoria Times Colonist on June 16th. A funeral was held June 22nd at First Memorial in Victoria. Our thoughts and prayers are with Len's family at this time.

Len was taken from us just a week before his 88th birthday. Dad was born in Middlesex, London (a true cockney) to parents **George** and **Ann**.

Len was one of seven children. Predeceased by **Dolly**, **Hilda**, **Ted** and **Roger**.

Len's surviving brothers **Fred** and **Ken** reside in England. After serving in the Royal Navy at the last part of WW-2, Len immigrated to Canada in 1953 along with his wife **Margery** (predeceased him in 2013) and his two sons, **Stuart** and **Stephen** who were 4 and 2 at the time.

The family settled in Victoria and over the next few years had three more children, **Stephanie**, **Christopher** and **Teresa**. Dad was a long time employee of BC Forest Products Plywood Division and ended his long time job in the sawmill division in 1983 after an industrial accident.

Len loved soccer and was behind the beginnings of Lake Hill Soccer. He coached for many years and then he went onto refereeing. Many a weekend he was out doing games, rain or shine.

Dad spent many years as President of the Vancouver Island Referees Association., Vancouver Island Soccer Disciplinary Board and the BC Youth Soccer Association.

Dad was a respected referee and when he showed up at the park you could hear the chatter amongst the coaches to their players. "Hey guys, Bridgeman's reffing, watch your language and tuck in your jerseys."

Len also coached Lakehill Little League and the whole

family was involved in the games from working the concession, to scorekeeping, playing, coaching and umpiring.

Dad worked hard all his life and had many accomplishments, but none made him happier than his children who gave him 14 beautiful grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

He was a proud Grandpa when he had the opportunity to watch his grandkids play sports or referee or doing whatever they loved.

Dad also enjoyed travelling, entertaining at the house, cleaning the pool, playing Santa, candy man at the mill picnics, gardening, cribbage, darts, horseshoes and summers at their trailer in Parksville. He was also a member of the 800 Pacific Wing for many years and loved to tend bar.

**Stuart (Jeannette)**, **Stephanie (Phil)**, **Chris (Jacqui)**, **Teresa (David)** and **Stephen** (deceased 1991) wife, **Mary Anne** including all of his grandkids and great-grand kids will miss him dearly. Free from your wheelchair, may you be dancing with mom once again, enjoying a good cup of tea and a cookie.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks, to all the wonderful caregivers at the Glengarry Hospital, who treated our Dad with kindness and dignity.

See more at: [www.legacy.com/obituaries/timescolonist/obituary.aspx?n=leonard-bridgeman&pid=175103948#sthash.qa7JIHqg.dpuf](http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/timescolonist/obituary.aspx?n=leonard-bridgeman&pid=175103948#sthash.qa7JIHqg.dpuf) <http://www.legacy.com/obituariestimescolonist/obituary.aspx?n=leonardbridgeman&pid=175103948#sthash.qa7JIHqg.dpuf>

### A POOR GENERAL *cont'd from page 7*

What court would actually come out and demand FIFA to replay the match? Courts know where their limit is. Clearly, one wonders whether the Irish FA were looking at this incident to gain some financial recompense, period.

And what about the hypocrisy of the Irish players on the field? Some could be seen kibitzing with Henry after the match. Good thing they weren't Canadian because the gloves would be off at that point.

All this has appearance of a poor general (FIFA or Sepp Blatter, take your pick) blaming his soldiers (FIFA Referees) for the loss of a battle. Why is it that we never heard **any** condemnation from the governing body, or the mainstream media for that matter, of Thierry Henry?

Why instead couldn't FIFA have

taken leadership, used the evidence available and banned Henry from playing the World Cup (because that was France's next FIFA competition)? On what grounds you say? For putting the game into disrepute! After all, doesn't FIFA say "My goal is Fair Play"?

Lastly, as for Mr. Henry, one wonder if he considers himself one of the great players to have played the game.

If he does, I for one don't know. The greatest players, **Pele**, **Beckenbauer**, **Eusebio**, and **George Best** all played in North America as well **and** on artificial turf, something Henry explicitly stated in his contract with NY Red Bull that he would not do.

Followers of the soccer world can form their own opinion about Mr. Thierry Henry!

### After Blatter, who will win the Top Job in World Soccer?

Bobby McMahon mused philosophically in a recent article, with the above title appearing on Forbes.com, as to who will be the next FIFA President.

Bobby is best known to us as the intrepid analyst on the old Fox Soccer Report (Ed note: which originated out of Winnipeg before some corporate bigwigs decided to pull the plug...but I'm not bitter).

As Bobby wrote, "With so many of the obvious candidates looking unelectable does this open the way for a dark horse candidate? Someone such as **Pierluigi Collina** perhaps?"

As a referee Collina's credentials were impeccable and he was and still is respected around the world.

"After four decades of increasing corruption and secrecy Collina would surely offer a fresh start to the embattled organization."

# Dropped ball and the unwritten rules of soccer

## A Referee and Mentor Conversation

**Ed Note:** *VISRA-based member Ivan Rincon brought the following scenario of a drop ball to the attention of BCSRA President Nick Hawley recently. Together, they have written this article of a referee/mentor discussion.*

### **Referee**

A couple of months ago, while refereeing a high level youth game, one of the attacking players got injured in an accidental play close to the penalty area. I let the play continue, the ball went close to the corner flag and I was waiting for the ball to go out of play, but one of the defending players got to the ball. I looked back and since the attacking player was still on the ground and the ball was well out of reach of any contested play, I decided to stop the game and let the fallen player be taken care of.

### **Mentor**

Question, when does the referee **have** to stop play for an injury? Answer: for head and or serious injuries. In this situation we have to assess a) the level of seriousness and b) the level of acceptance of leaving a 15 year old boy on the ground in pain. In a professional game the referee would likely have let play continue. At the local parks, there is no real negative impact to stopping the game to allow treatment.

Fact: players do not have to kick the ball out. If they decide to, you have likely let play go on when it should have been stopped (not always). When they decide to they take the decision and so control of the game away from you. They are telling you that you messed up in their eyes.

### **Referee**

What happened after kept haunting me for a few days: As per the rules of the game, I restarted play with a drop ball. The way I did it, since the original play stopped when the defending team was in possession of the ball, was to give the ball to the defending team. I asked the attacking player to take a few steps back to let them play the ball freely.

### **Mentor**

Why did you do this? Where in the laws of the game does it say that you can decide who will and who won't challenge for the ball? There certainly is a code of conduct between most players that if a team doesn't challenge they will be given the ball in a safe place (deep in their half) they also have a code that the team who the play was stopped for will challenge and return the ball, **but** none of this is in the *Laws of the Game* and so is not for us to interfere with. We must only drop the ball and ensure that it hits the ground.

### **Referee**

The defending player let the ball bounce and took a hard kick towards the opposite field. The ball was received by a teammate who also decided to kick it long. The ball went quickly into the opposite team's half, where a very speedy forward took the ball, passed a couple of defenders and scored a goal.

### **Mentor**

So now you have gone outside the laws and influenced a situation which certainly favours one team.

### **Referee**

The coaches from the opposite team went crazy. They were screaming and yelling at me. The game continued without any additional issues. When the game finished, one of the coaches politely came to me and told me I had made a mistake giving the ball to the other team uncontested and it had cost them a goal against.

**Mentor:** He has a good point here.

### **Referee**

I explained to him that a drop ball does not have any requirement (as per Law 8) as to how many players should challenge for the dropped ball, how it is played (other than, of course, dropping the ball), or any other condition.

### **Mentor**

You are absolutely correct, so what allows you to ask a player to stand back – giving the advantage to the other team? By influencing the number of players you acted outside the laws of the game in such a way as to make the game protestable.

### **Referee**

He was adamant that protocol calls for one team kicking the ball to a player of the opposite team in the spirit of fair play, not giving the ball to one team.

**Mentor** This is another myth or code of unwritten conduct between players. They often choose to play the ball back to the opposition. But they don't have to.

### **Referee**

This looks like a great example of what fellow referees call an "unwritten rule" a concept not only used in soccer but other team sports.

### **Mentor**

We should only apply written rules (and apply good people management skills – without breaking the laws)

### **Referee**

However, the drop ball protocol is hard to assess given the straight-forward approach to the rule. As a matter of fact, the interpretation section of the official "Laws of the Game 2014/2015" (p. 105) states: "Any player may challenge for the ball (including the goalkeeper). There is no minimum or maximum number of players required to contest a dropped ball. The referee cannot decide who may or may not contest a dropped ball." This last sentence got me thinking long and hard because in most game situations that is exactly what happens.

### **Mentor**

Very good point – but why is that not what happens? Because a referee instructs them differently (without authority to do so) or because the teams agree to a code of their own?

### **Referee**

We direct teams to "kick the ball to the opposite goalkeeper", "kick the ball out of play" or "give the ball back to the other team." There seems to be a direct contradiction between the spirit of the law and the spirit of fair play.

### **Mentor**

Now you're getting it. Yes many referees are not fully familiar with the laws of the game and so make all the mistakes you just listed – and risk protested games.

### **Referee**

The solution seems to be simple: teams should decide what to do and when to contest a dropped ball or not. But, in a highly contested game, is it fair to expect that a play stopped while the ball is still in play will continue to be contested after the dropped ball, whatever the "fair game" circumstances cause the stoppage?

### **Mentor**

You've got it! Well done. The teams decide what to do, you proceed with a drop ball as per the laws and if the teams decide to break their own code of conduct – so be it.

### **Referee**

In my mind, this is an example of game management, one of the areas where good referees excel. And that is also something that has to be practiced and assessed as a referee matures. The law is the law but game situations call for some interpretation of the law to be able to properly manage the game.

*Cont'd on page 10*

## Ramon Blanco

### Peru referee's five red cards in five minutes

Four red cards, a manager sent off, riot shields on the pitch and a police escort from the ground - it was a quiet final five minutes on Sunday for Peruvian referee **Ramon Blanco**.

In the 86th minute of *Alianza Lima's* clash with *Real Garcilaso*, the 36-year-old may have thought he could start winding down for the afternoon until, suddenly, chaos broke out. Like a rag to a bull, the sight of red left Alianza players – trailing 1:0 – wanting more and more punishment and in Blanco, they found a man willing to dish it out.



Red cards for a **Gabriel Costa** hack in midfield and manager **Guillermo Sanguinetti's** protests, two more as an elbow and vicious kick saw **Marcos Miers** and **Pablo Miquez** hit the showers, before **Christian Cueva** saw red for trying to stop Blanco from reaching for a card.

Not even the sight of riot police attempting to address the chaos on the pitch could fluster Blanco during his five-minute red-card bonanza.

Peru's Association of Professional Referees said Blanco was "correct" and congratulated him on a "very good job\*." That was a view probably not shared by all as he was escorted through a scrum of media, with a vacant look on his face, and into a car driven away flanked by police cars with lights flashing\*\*.

There's nothing like a quiet Sunday. For what it is worth, Garcilaso held on to win 1-0 and lead Peru's top flight.

\* [www.facebook.com/APAF1948](http://www.facebook.com/APAF1948)

\*\* [depor.pe/futbol-peruano/alianza-lima-real-garcilaso-ramon-blanco-torneo-apertura-apaf-facebook-1043108?href=pultimas\\_1\\_9](http://depor.pe/futbol-peruano/alianza-lima-real-garcilaso-ramon-blanco-torneo-apertura-apaf-facebook-1043108?href=pultimas_1_9)

## Clint Dempsey gets two-year US ban

*BBC Sport; Eric Diver brought it to our attention*



**Clint Dempsey** has been banned from the US Open Cup for two years after ripping up a referee's notebook during a game.

The Seattle Sounders forward, 33, flicked the notebook out of **Daniel Radford's** hand, picked it up off the pitch and then tore it into pieces after a team-mate had been sent off.

The ex-Fulham and Spurs man was duly sent off, as Seattle ended with seven men in a 3-1 loss to Portland Timbers.

The US captain is banned for six games or two years – whichever is longer.

Dempsey, who had already been banned for three Major League Soccer games for the incident, has chosen not to contest the new punishment.

During the game, **Brad Evans** was sent off and was followed by **Michael Azira** – which resulted in Dempsey's extra-time outburst. Obafemi Martins also went off injured with all three substitutes used.

Dempsey, capped 112 times by the US, had to be restrained by team-mates and sarcastically applauded in the face of an assistant referee as he made his way off the pitch.

**Ed note:** *Clint Dempsey did place a tweet on Twitter apologizing for his actions after hearing of his punishment).*

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## Dropped Ball *Cont'd from page 9*

### **Mentor**

Ok – so lets look at a way to manage the game successfully. You could ask both teams if they wish to contest the drop ball so that everyone is clear on what is going to happen. If they look quizzically at you you could say – “sometimes if the play was stopped for you player you may want to give the ball back – your call. But make sure everyone has agreed before you drop. Or you could drop the ball quickly before everyone is ready, so that play just picks up from there naturally. The worst situation is where everyone stands around you waiting to kick out as the ball drops – that will cause injuries.

### **Referee**

As I replay the situation in my mind, I don't think I would have done things differently. I will be more careful ensure the game is properly managed according to the laws of the game and with players safety top of mind.