

February 2005 Update

Our 16th AGM is now behind us and we are well into the new year. Despite a snow storm the attendance in St. Catharines was the highest we've ever had and we enjoyed guest speakers, Sonia Denoncourt, Emerson Mathurin and Dr. Paul Biondich. Below are the extended highlights of the proceedings from January 22nd

Notable attendees:

FIFA Referees: S. Petrescu, A. William (St. Lucia), S. Denoncourt

FIFA A/R: A. Deluca, K. Babb (Guyana)

Former FIFA Referees: P.T. Johnson, P. Avis, D.C.Emerson Mathurin

CSRA Hon. Life Member: W. Hoyle

OSRA Hon. Life Member: A Magliocco

CSA Referee Committee Member K. Jones

Delegates from 11 branches of the OSRA

Delegates from SWRRA

Delegates from B.C., Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba & Ontario

The meeting commenced at 10:15am, some 15 minutes late due to the weather.

President's Address:

Basil Gill welcomed everyone to the 16th AGM and thanked the OSRA for hosting the event. He indicated that he had brief reports from Quebec, Nova Scotia, PEI and New Brunswick. Basil touched upon the conference calls that continue to be the main means by which all the provincial referee associations keep in touch with each other. Basil mentioned that we will continue to invite special guests to participate in the conference calls. This is to enhance the image of the CSRA and lay the ground-work for further cooperation with soccer authorities. He encouraged provincial delegates to consider this as a way to dispelling any misconceptions that may still linger regarding the purpose of the CSRA.

Saskatchewan is still struggling to revive their R.A. Inadequate funding and finances prevents delegates from the Maritimes from attending our annual general meetings but they regularly take part in the conference calls. Basil stated that the rank and file members in most provinces hear very little about the CSRA although for a time the "Black & White" was published and distributed to all provinces. Delivery of this pamphlet was erratic and uncertain and ceased after about 18 months. Use of our web site should be made to communicate with as many members as possible. He concluded by saying that the CSRA needs a strong, active referee association in each province that is working in harmony with the provincial soccer association.

Secretary's Report:

Eric Evans mentioned that he was beginning his 13th year as the Secretary, having assumed the position from Emerson Mathurin in 1993. He went on to provide an insight into his activities during the year.

◇ 300 – 400 e-mail items sent or received, received more than 100 letters, over 50 fax communications.

- ◇ well over 100 telephone communications
- ◇ Organized 4 conference calls
- ◇ Mailed out several updates in addition to minutes of conference calls
- ◇ Maintained the CSRA Directory
- ◇ Prepared list of participants of National Referee Program
- ◇ Mailed out over 200 letters as part of advertising the John Meachin Award
- ◇ Raised over \$1000.00 in donations for the Meachin Award
- ◇ Kept Virginia Meachin apprised of Meachin Award activities
- ◇ Assisted in arranging H. Vergara's visit to B.C.
- ◇ Maintained communication with the Meachin Award Evaluating Committee
- ◇ Communicated with CSA on numerous issues.
- ◇ Sent special letter of congratulations to D. Robinson and H. Vergara regarding their appointment to the Olympics.
- ◇ Will continue to campaign to have the date of our AGM moved to March to avoid the worst of the winter.
- ◇ Will seek to have the CSA authorize the awarding of Honorary National Certificates and Badges to qualified officials at our AGM.
- ◇ Gave CSRA badges to D. Robinson & H. Vergara to distribute at Olympics.

Eric finished by urging the members to think about seeking office in the next two or three years as the President & Secretary each have been on the Executive for more than 12 years.

1st V. President's Report:

Tony Troughton reported that during the last 12 months he had maintained the Association's web site, which had received in excess of 1500 hits. He had taken a leading part in the organization of the 2004 AGM in Victoria and initiated Hector Vergara's visit to B.C. by taking advantage of the funds available through the Meachin Award. Tony had participated in each of the 4 conference calls and had attended both BCSRA's Spring Council Meeting and B.C. Soccer Association's AGM in Vancouver. Tony also served as a member of the Meachin Award Evaluating Committee.

Delegate Reports:

Nova Scotia: Basil Gill read out report submitted by Ryan Feron. An amalgamation of several of the district referee associations has been proposed. Although some districts are still holding Class IV clinics Soccer Nova Scotia no longer recognizes Class IV referees. SNS proposes to put on special clinics for referees wanting to officiate in mini soccer. The assessment form is being revised and a clinic for new assessors is planned. All Class I & Class II referees are to be assessed each year. A Class II clinic will be held this year. Shauna Poirier was nominated to the National Referee Program and Richard Moses nominated as a National Assessor. Over 60 assessments were conducted during the year.

Newfoundland & Labrador: Basil reported that a Class I & a Class II clinic had been held during the previous 12 months that had seen the majority of officials successfully

pass their respective exams. Rob Antle was nominated to the CSA for FIFA this year. The best young prospect appears to be 23 year old Mike Edmunds who was upgraded to Class I in 2004. The majority of the top game appointments were awarded to Rob Antle, Mike Edmunds and Keith Pike.

New Brunswick: Basil stated that referee registrations in New Brunswick reached 401 in 2004, the first time it had exceeded 400. A total of 161 new referees registered following 8 entry level clinics that were held during the year. Two Class III clinics involving 32 officials had also been held. Paul Avis visited Moncton to run the first entry-level clinic and will return in April of 2005 to run a further one. New Brunswick hosted the Canada v Germany U-14 Girls international in 2004 that was very successful.

Quebec: Martin Hamel reported that referee registrations in Quebec reached 5000 in 2004. 85 Class III clinics had been held in the province during the year, in addition to one Class I clinic and 2 Class II clinics.

Manitoba: Orest Konowalchuk reported that the MSRA currently had 123 members. He mentioned Hector Vergara's trip to the Olympics and several notable game appointments by their members. Dick Derrett had received the Frank Major Award of Merit. Darci Konowalchuk had been nominated to the National Referee Program. CSRA Treasurer, Laurent Eloy has been appointed as a Referee Development Chairman and Hector Vergara is now the Chief Administration Officer – a new position created by MSA. A joint initiative by the MSA & the MSRA will see 12 clinics put on for all officials which will include practical sessions for referees at every level from Class IV up to National Program level. The MSRA is on track to meet its goals for 2005.

Saskatchewan: Kevin Jones indicated that a good deal of progress had been made with respect to the Provincial Referee Development Program. A referees' retreat had been held which went a long way to inform officials what was required of them at the next level to which they aspired. The exchange of officials and assessors between Alberta and Saskatchewan continued and saw Saskatchewan referees work in the Alberta Major Soccer League and the Rocky Mountain Cup Competition. The National All-Star Girl's Tournament was hosted in Prince Albert in July and numerous officials participated in it. Little progress has been made to effectively revive the provincial R.A as yet, although the desire to do so is still strong.

Ontario: Joe Licandro presented the report. It had been a very challenging year for the OSRA, which saw one branch withdraw from the Association. Two former branches re-joined however. Total membership in the OSRA declined slightly in 2004 to just over 900. A successful seminar had been held to prepare candidates for the Class II exam. A similar seminar is planned this year following favourable responses from participants. The OSA had made the position of Referee Development Officer redundant and released Lisa Waywell. A new C.E.O., Guy Bradbury, has replaced Brian Avey who retired after more than 25 years' service. The total referee registration in the province hit an all time high of 10,252 during 2004, of which 2500 are registered as Class III or above. The new OSA referee development program saw a pilot scheme introduced in one of the regions with a group of young officials receiving priority in training, game appointments and

evaluation. The OSA & the OSRA met to discuss ways they can cooperate with each other, which bodes well for the future.

Alberta: Read by Kevin Jones. The membership in the ASRA remained fairly steady at just over 200 – Calgary being the dominant association with 110 members. The ASRA consists of 7 area associations with Medicine Hat still attempting to become the eighth. The Alberta Soccer Association now run the program “Look Sharp – Be Sharp”, originally started by the ASRA. This program is only offered in the major centres of population. The ASRA picked up the slack in these other areas with a series of clinics tailored to meet local requirements. The ASRA continues to offer a fair play trophy during the national finals of the CCAA soccer championships. The two professional soccer franchises in Alberta, Calgary Mustangs and Edmonton Aviators, folded during 2004 and will not operate in 2005. The ASRA is looking to replenish its supply of CSRA badges.

British Columbia: BCSRA President, Elvio Chies gave the report. The BCSRA had celebrated its 35th anniversary in 2004 for which they had a special coin minted for their members. Hosting of visiting official for World Cup qualifying games, National Championships and All-Star games was mentioned. A number of high profile game appointments were touched upon. Hector Vergara had visited Vancouver and Victoria just 2 weeks earlier as part of the John Meachin Award. Graham Anderson had passed away and Hans Clodius had suffered a heart attack but is recovering. Membership is down by nearly 30%, which may be part of a backlash against BC Soccer. For the second year in succession there won't be enough candidates for a Class I clinic to be held in the province. Several efforts are under way to increase recruitment in the BCSRA, which includes producing a video and better marketing.

C.S.A. Referee Committee: Kevin Jones brought greetings from CSA President, Andy Sharp, and Director Technical, Dick Labrom. A successful National Symposium had been held in Toronto during 2004, to which all FIFA officials and National Instructors and Assessors had attended. The Class IV entry-level clinic has been presented across the country but not all provinces have embraced it. A pilot mentoring program was introduced at the National All-Star Championships. 2004 saw the introduction of the on-line game appointment system for the A-League, which will be expanded in 2005 to include all National Program game appointments. A new National List exclusively for Assistant Referees will be introduced this year as will a National List for female referees.

The National Program manual has been re-written and the assessment form revised. Denise Robinson and Hector Vergara had been appointed to the Olympic games in Greece and Charlene Douglas had gone to the FIFA U-19 Women's World Cup. Sonia Denoncourt has now been appointed as a FIFA Referee Instructor. Communications with the CSRA are excellent and members of the Committee regularly participate in the conference calls.

Treasurer's Report: Larry Eloy presented the accounts and balance sheet, indicating that we are still relatively sound, financially. He indicated that it was hoped to raise the

subscriptions for 2006 from the current rate of \$3.00 per member to \$3.50, as agreed during the August conference call. Two volunteers from Ontario agreed to audit the accounts and sign the Auditor's Certificate later in the day.

Induction of Honorary Life Member: Ontario had nominated D.C. Emerson Mathurin for Honorary Life Membership. Joe Licandro spoke first and then introduced OSRA Honorary Life Member and Former FIFA Referee, Peter T. Johnson to talk briefly about Emerson's many achievements. Emerson was presented with an Honorary Life Member Certificate by President, Basil Gill.

There were no changes to the Constitution.

B.C., Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario and Labrador were registered for 2005. All but Labrador answered the roll call for the year ensuing.

Elections: President – Basil Gill acclaimed
2nd V.Pres. Ken Montague acclaimed (E. Chies – nominated – declined)
(O. Konowalchuk nominated – declined)

Treasurer Larry Eloy acclaimed

New Business:

Fees for 2006: The Treasurer proposed that the fees for 2006 be raised from \$3.00 to \$3.50 per member. Seconded by B.C. Following much discussion the motion was defeated.

B.C. Delegates responded to the failure of the CSA to reply to a letter sent early in 2004 requesting a more timely distribution of the Law book. The delegate offered to photocopy the Law book when they received it and distribute across the country. Sonia Denoncourt mentioned that this proposal would be a breach of copyright.

Ontario raised the matter of the CSA not replying to the letter seeking their endorsement for the establishment of a referee association in each province. It was decided to use the conference calls to which members of the CSA Referee Committee take part to further this goal.

B.C made a motion, seconded by Ontario, requesting the Executive to look into whether it would be feasible to permit area or city referee associations to be members of the CSRA. The premise being that it would be better to have them in the Association rather than to exclude them. Motion carried. Executive to report to delegates at time of conference call.

One of the Ontario delegates mentioned that FIFA recognizes only one form of indoor soccer – Futsal. He asked that the CSRA assist in promoting this version of the indoor game. A short discussion ensued which highlighted the fact that Futsal is played in very

few places in Canada. It will take 5-10 years to bring about the necessary transition to enable Canada to field a specialist Futsal team.

1st V. Pres., Tony Troughton, presented all provincial referee associations in attendance with enough copies of John Nielsen's latest educational DVD to give one to each of their area associations free of charge. These were courtesy of the CSRA.

All provincial referee associations were asked to go back to the members and seek support to raise fees to \$3.50 per member for 2007.

The meeting closed at 12:45pm. Lunch until 1:20pm

Guest Speaker, Sonia Denoncourt, kept the meeting spell bound for over an hour touching upon her many achievements as a referee with a colourful power-point presentation.

Following Sonia was Dr. Paul Biondich, Chiropractor. Paul touched upon a number of muscular injuries and the secondary effects that they can have; their treatment and demonstrated several stretching exercises to improve flexibility.

The afternoon session concluded with Emerson Mathurin, who covered in great detail the process by which both CONCACAF and FIFA follow to determine which officials may be selected for the World Cup Finals. Identifying such officials begins with each national association who must promote officials early enough to ensure that they can break into the international arena before they reach the age of 35. Canada has the oldest group of male FIFA officials in CONCACAF. Emerson displayed numerous statistics that indicated that Canada generally was lagging behind other national associations in this part of the world.

The day concluded with a banquet in the evening. The food was excellent, the conversation stimulating; meanwhile, the snow storm never let up for one moment.