

Canadian Soccer Referees' Association

18th Annual General Meeting
Holiday Inn, North Vancouver, B.C.
17th February 2007

Basil Gill (President) opened the meeting at 10.10am with a moment of silence.

Notable Attendees and Guests

Elvio Chies (BCSRA President) introduced:

Jose Branco (BCSA Referee Development Coordinator),
Hans Clodius (National Assessor),
Neil Ellet (National Assessor),
Alex Milne (National Assessor),
Werner Winsemann (National Assessor, FIFA world cup referee, retired),
Hector Vergara (Canadian FIFA assistant referee, Manitoba),
Mauricio Navarro (FIFA referee, BC)
Michelle Pye (FIFA referee, BC),
Paul Ward (FIFA referee, BC),
Bill Hoyle (Life Member),

Roll Call

Present: Manitoba, Ontario, BC

Apologies: Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Saskatchewan, Alberta, CSA Referee Development Committee (Kevin Jones)

Minutes of Previous AGM

Acceptance proposed by Ontario, seconded by BC, accepted.

Matters arising from Previous Minutes

None.

Correspondence

Invited CSA to CSRA AGM

Joe Guest (CSA Director of Refereeing) sent his apologies, cannot attend because of a previous CSA commitment.

Executive Reports

Presidents Address – Basil Gill

We have to thank the BC Soccer Referees' Association for stepping forward to host this AGM and for arranging Hector Vergara as the guest speaker.

Hector has achieved more than any other Canadian referee and his record comprising two world cup appearances will be very hard to beat. We are very fortunate to have Hector here.

The year 2006 produced a major set-back for us when Eric Evans, our secretary for the past 14 years, suffered a stroke last March.

Eric was the mainstay of the Association, arranging all the conference calls, AGM venues and contributions to the John Meachim Fund.

For a while we were like a ship drifting without a rudder as all the files were in Eric's safekeeping and , for a short time, we were unable to access them.

Eric still has not regained his full powers of speech but he can understand everything that is said and can act accordingly. However as he will not be able to fulfill his duties as secretary the executive have appointed Rich Carman, Vice-President of OSRA, as secretary for the remainder of Eric's tenure (1 year), as per article 12 of our constitution. Rich brings a wealth of experience with him and I am sure he will be a great asset to the CSRA.

I have been negotiating with some people who may decide to fund an AGM in Newfoundland. Perhaps the next President and Executive can keep this in mind as we need to show a presence in the Eastern Provinces to bring them all permanently into the CSRA.

Reports have been received from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Newfoundland & Labrador.

In some quarters we are still coming up against the idea that the CSRA and Provincial Associations are unions with devious intents! This is particularly so in Nova Scotia, Quebec, Alberta and Manitoba and we have seen a minor resurgence in Ontario.

If people would only put the game first and get rid of self aggrandizement and work together in harmony we would all be better off and the 'game' would progress rapidly. But human nature being what it is I suppose that is too much of an idealistic world to attain. However Hope springs eternal.

At present there are only three Provinces – BC, Manitoba and Ontario – who are keeping the CSRA alive.

Alberta blows hot and cold and Saskatchewan has never recovered since their Referees' Association fell into disarray after the CSA instructed all Provinces to have nothing to do with us when we were initially formed.

Incidentally we now have excellent relations with the CSA but the damage has already been done.

Nova Scotia joined after I addressed their AGM some years ago when I was Vice-President but they too fell by the wayside when their President, Fitzroy Eddy, resigned to study law full-time. After he went their Association splintered into small groups.

When Wendel McGibbon attempted to resurrect their Association he was charged by Soccer Nova Scotia with trying to form a sort of union contrary to SNC's constitution, plus a few other charges, and was suspended for 5 years from holding any executive position and one year from refereeing.

CSA declined to help as, according to them, this was a Provincial matter, and Wendel did not want us to get involved as he took the issue to court. However proceedings were prolonged and his suspension is almost over without the case ever getting into the courts.

The foregoing should send a chill down ones spine.

If anyone questions why we should have Provincial or National Associations one only has to point to the foregoing. Without an Association both at Provincial and National levels we would be like a voice crying in the wilderness and we would be virtually left behind and be at the mercy of individuals who either do not comprehend refereeing and referees or who are just anti-referees. It is essential we have some form of recognition and input, no matter how small, in order that we represent our members and present their ideas and concerns at all levels. What better form than solid Provincial Associations as members of a strong National Association.

Newfoundland is in favour of the CSRA but we have no real presence there. I undertook a trip to St Johns last year (at no expense to the CSRA) and met with Bryan Walsh, a referee and Business Manager for Newfoundland & Labrador Soccer Association. He was very keen on us having an AGM in St Johns.

Hence I again repeat if we are to bring in the Eastern Provinces we must find a way of holding an AGM there sooner than later.

We also have to find a means of communicating better with the Provinces without involving any large financial outlay as our bank balance would not support that.

OSRA has managed to reduce the cost of its publication – CanSoRef – by utilizing e-mail. We could probably use this method in some practical form as the present Secretary, Rich Carman, was instrumental in arranging this and also looks after the OSRA web-site.

This is all food for thought for the new executive.

As I stated last year, I will not seek re-election. I have been on the executive for 13 years in all, 7 years as 2nd Vice-President and 6 years as President and have attended every meeting since inauguration in 1989.

I feel it is time for a new President with fresh ideas to help move this Association forward. It has been an honor and privilege to serve this Association and I would like to thank the Executive, Life Members and all past and present members who have assisted us during the years since inception in keeping the CSRA a viable Association. May it progress and flourish.

Secretary's Report - Rich Carman

None, due to Eric Evan's illness

Treasurers Report - Laurent Eloy

The accounts for 2006 were presented and questions were taken from the floor and answered.

Meacham Fund currently stands at \$8,296.

2008 fees to be kept at \$3.50 (Proposed BC, seconded Ontario, accepted)

Auditors appointed – Sergiu Surdu (BC) and Bill McNaughton (BC), will audit the accounts after the AGM has concluded.

Motion to accept BC, seconded Ontario, accepted.

Delegate Reports:

Nova Scotia submitted by Wendell Mac Gibbon, read by Rich Carman, CSRA Secretary – see Appendix 1.

Newfoundland and Labrador submitted by Martin Batterson, NLSA Director of Officials, read by Rich Carman, CSRA Secretary – see Appendix 2

New Brunswick submitted by Ray Grenier, read by Rich Carman, CSRA Secretary – see Appendix 3.

Manitoba submitted and read by Jurgen Titzer, MSRA President – see Appendix 4.

Ontario submitted and read by Dave Cope, OSRA President – see Appendix 5.

British Columbia submitted and read by Elvio Chies, BCSRA President – see Appendix 6.

Motion to accept BC, seconded Ontario, accepted

Unfinished Business

CSA (Joe Guest) could not attend AGM or conference calls.

Canadian Rugby called to discuss our game fees so they could align their game fees. We were able to utilize our CSRA website for the information.

Tony Troughton presented attending Provinces a 3 hour CD with Bob Sawtell, Bill Hoyle and Esfandiar Baharmast.

Elections

Vice President Tony Troughton conducted the elections:

President: Joe Licandro (Ontario) acclaimed

Treasurer: MAN Laurent Eloy (Manitoba) acclaimed

2nd Vice President: Elio Chies (BC) acclaimed

Tony Troughton presented outgoing President Basil Gill with a plaque recognizing Basil's long and distinguished service to the CSRA.

New Business

Our new President Joe Licandro presided over the rest of the meeting.

Tony Troughton (BC) voiced disappointment in the Nova Scotia Report that another Canadian FIFA official took them self off the list because of the lack of appointments from the CSA. This seems to be a yearly continuing problem that the CSA has to address and rectify.

Elvio Chies (BC) suggested the CSRA host a dinner and gift for FIFA referees attending the FIFA u20 world cup.

Hector Vergara (Manitoba) says this is doable, but would have to be when they arrive (a week before the competition), and CSA would need to be onboard.

Motion from the floor to the Executive to investigate and act accordingly on both the dinner and a gift.

Bill Hoyle (Life Member) suggested we get on the agenda of CSA, otherwise we will be overlooked and left behind..

Basil Gill (Ontario) negotiating with people to fund AGM's... this all hinges on CSRA to facilitate the sale of a referee kitbag, containing flags (in a flag bag), tracksuit, 2 referee shirts, 2 pair referee shorts, 2 pair referee socks, whistle, coin, ref notepad and card holder, pen, to our members. Numbers to sell and cost to be determined, but we think we could be looking at 1,000 units @ \$180.00. A sample was shown to those attending.

Basil Gill (Ontario) Eric Evans was 14 years as secretary – suggests we recognize his long and distinguished service with a plaque.

AGM location for 2008. Jurgen Titzer (Manitoba) will investigate the possibility of Manitoba hosting in Winnipeg..

Motion for Executive to use John Meacham fund to fund young referees. This will take an amendment to the Fund's constitution before it could be approved.

Questions and Answers

none

Meeting was adjourned at 12.00 noon

Proposed Manitoba, seconded BC, carried.

Appendix 1
Report from
Nova Scotia

Nova Scotia Soccer Referee Report

Submitted by: Wendell Mac Gibbon

In the past year we have seen the resignation of Ryan Feron as the chair of the referee development committee (red), and replaced by Terry Mc Nutt of Truro. In turn Ryan has replaced Tom Pollock as the Maritime representative on the board of the Canadian Referee Committee. In order to put much of his energies towards referee development, Ryan has relinquished his National badge.

Jose Farias has resigned his appointment as a FIFA referee, due to a lack of opportunities. He was hoping to remain as a National referee, but that does not seem to be in the works. Richard Moses was nominated as a National assessor and is fully on his way to achieving that status.

Shauna Poirier, a nominated national referee, was an assistant at the China vs. Canada game(s) played in Newfoundland. Her status on taking the most appropriate route for her is up in the air at this moment, either assistant or in the middle.

The past year has seen James Keast take over the assessment program and Carmen King take over the instructor program.

There were many Class 3 clinics the past year but no Class 4, 2 or 1 clinics.

There was pre-season resource clinic that invitations were sent out to all Class 2's and above and the attendance was about 65. Many facets of the game including offside, misconduct reports, professionalism, etc were discussed.

There was a mentor program, chaired by Dave Horn, who tried to ensure that all first and second year referees were observed and influenced by "older" referees.

We attempted to prepare the fitness for referees after the season began by taking part in a session on the UEFA fitness test. This 200 metre test, which consists of 150 metres in 30 seconds and 50 meters in 40 seconds times 10 laps, seems to be more indicative of referee expenditure of energy in a game rather than the “Cooper test”.

We have sent referees to parts of the country which had all-star, club and university tournaments. The results of these hopefully will show in years to come.

There is still no Provincial wide referee association as most decisions that reflect on referee development must have the final say from the Executive Director of Soccer Nova Scotia with input from the rdc.

**MINUTES OF THE
REFEREE DEVELOPMENT MEETING
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2006
SOCCER NOVA SCOTIA BOARDROOM**

| | | |
|----------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| PRESENT: | Greg Fletcher, Chair | Casey VanderToorn, Valley |
| | Greg Smiley, Dartmouth/Halifax | James Keast, Chief Assessor |
| | Carman King, Chief Instructor | Len March, Pictou |
| | Dave Horne, Mentoring | Joey Sarty, South Shore |
| | Howie Gibson, Ethics | Scott Aikman, Valley (non-voting) |
| | Bryce Reid, Scotia | George Athanasiou, CEO |
| | Laura Willman, Recording Secretary | |
| | | |

1. CALL TO ORDER

George welcomed all to the meeting and proceeded to introduce Greg Fletcher as the newly appointed interim Chair, having been voted in by the regional referee associations to replace Terry MacNutt who stepped down due to work commitments. Greg's interim position will continue until the May 2007 AGM. Greg proceeded to call the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

Before continuing with the meeting, Greg asked for the ratification of the nomination of Shauna Poirier as female representative on the committee (replacing Louise Sutherland who resigned). Ratification was given, and at this point, Shauna joined the meeting.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MARCH 25, 2006 MEETING

MOTION

"To approve the minutes of March 25, 2006."

CARRIED

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF MARCH 25, 2006 MEETING

There was none.

4. REPORTS

a. Chief Instructor

Carman King reviewed his report. He noted the following:

- Despite several attempts by those in the area, Central Colchester did not hold a clinic because of lack of interested participants.
- All 2006 clinics took place in a one-month time frame, making it difficult to find instructors. The time-frame should be expanded in future years.

- The Committee was reminded to look at the RDC website (<http://snsrdc.xdal.org>) for valuable resources on fitness tests, refreshers, etc.
- Joe Guest, CSA's Director of Referees, is visiting Halifax in January to introduce the new instructional package for clinics. Carman asked for names of interested people ASAP, as there are limited spots available.
- There will be a Class 2 clinic in 2007. Therefore, the Committee was asked to submit names to Laura for consideration.

b. Chief Assessor

James reviewed his report. He noted the following:

- The assessment program went well, although several assessors were not able to carry out their assignments.
- James will be helping with referee assignments for the 2007 Senior National Championships.
- SNS sent one female referee and one male referee (Amanda Lombard and Colin Gillis) to the National All-Stars. It was suggested that we send two female and two male referees next year, and consider sending Amanda again so she can continue to improve.
- Rob Kennedy attended and passed the Class 1 clinic in PEI and is now considered a 1P referee.
- James requested nominations for upgrading clinics, along with some pertinent information on the nominee to help in the consideration process. The committee was asked to the information to Laura by January (exact date to be determined). Greg, James, and Carman will meet and decide who will attend.
- Laura and James will compile names of those who have been upgraded recently and inform the committee for their records.
- Those who faced downgrading of class were contacted this year. There are several factors to consider before downgrading an official. If an official is downgraded, they can appeal the decision.

c. Mentoring Coordinator

Dave Horne reviewed his report. There were no problems.

d. Female Representative

There is no report. The outgoing representative did not provide one.

e. Halifax/Dartmouth

Greg reported that HDSRA had a good year. The amalgamation with Dartmouth has gone well, and there were no major problems to report.

f. Scotia

Bryce reported that the region has had trouble keeping referees, with many leaving the province to work. The Association implemented fitness tests for all referees.

g. Colchester

There was no representative from Colchester.

h. Valley

Casey reported that the Valley hosted several large tournaments as well as the national private school championships, which included over 50 games in three days. He requested input on policies for travel fees due to the amount of travel required for some referees in the Valley.

i. South Shore

Joey reported that fitness tests were completed by almost all referees, in some cases only the 12 minute run for Class 3's. The Mentor program went well, but will be improved next year. He expressed there is difficulty communicating with Yarmouth because of the distance from the rest of the region. It was agreed that Greg, Joey, and George will discuss how to service the Yarmouth area more effectively.

j. Antigonish

There was no representative from Antigonish. Dave Kearney submitted a brief report via email for the records.

k. Pictou

Len reported that there has been no increase in officials, given that young referees often leave the area for work, and few new referees enter the system each year. There have been no new faces in the organization, meaning few people do all the work. George agreed to contact Andy Kenny, the Highland District Administrator, to discuss the possibility of amalgamating with the Fundy, Central Colchester, and Antigonish referee associations.

l. Cape Breton

There was no representative from Cape Breton.

5. PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE SNS POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Howie reviewed the document with the Committee. Several changes were recommended (see attached).

MOTION

"To approve the proposed revisions to the SNS Policies and Procedures as amended."
CARRIED

6. CAPE BRETON AND CENTRAL COLCHESTER

The Committee discussed the lack of leadership in the Cape Breton and Central Colchester areas during the past couple of years, especially Cape Breton. Currently, for Cape Breton, SNS is communicating with Ken MacLean, President of Soccer Cape Breton so the referees are kept up-to-date as much as possible. It was agreed that every region needs appropriate representation.

MOTION

"That the Referee Development Committee Chair and the SNS CEO re-organize the Cape Breton Soccer Referees Association."

CARRIED

MOTION

"The Referee Development Committee directs the SNS CEO and the Referee Development Committee Chair to explore the feasibility of amalgamating the four highland area regional referee associations - Central Colchester, Fundy, Antigonish, and Pictou."

CARRIED

7. EASTLINK PREMIERSHIP ISSUES

James brought forward several items for discussion regarding Eastlink coverage of Premiership games. George agreed to contact Joe Guest, CSA's Director of Referees, whether cameras can or should be attached to goal nettings, and whether referees can or should wear microphones for televised games. Eastlink also inquired whether Eastlink patches could be worn on referee uniforms for Eastlink Premiership games; however, Soccer Nova Scotia is currently sponsored by Aliant for various programs, so this is not possible.

8. GAME APPOINTMENTS – CONFIRMING PROPER SANCTIONING

Greg Smiley expressed concern that referees have been officiating games that have not been sanctioned by Soccer Nova Scotia, sometimes unknowingly.

MOTION

"That the Chief Assessor (or the Referee Development Coordinator if one is hired) be appointed as assignor for all games for which one-time sanctioning has been given. Referees shall not conduct a game unless appointed by the Chief Assessor."

CARRIED

9. POLICY FOR PLAYOFF ORIENTATION SESSIONS AS CRITERION TO ASSIGNING

James asked the Committee for input regarding what should be the criteria, if any, when considering assignments for provincial championship games. This year, several factors were

considered, including attendance at meetings/sessions. The Committee did not bring forward any items at this time. James will set criteria for 2007 and will circulate to the committee prior to the March 2007 meeting, for consideration at the meeting.

10. OFFICIAL JERSEY COLOURS – REFEREES AND TEAMS

Greg Smiley informed the Committee that there has recently been an increase in colour conflicts between referee and player jerseys, given that more teams are using black/navy and yellow uniforms. He therefore proposed that a third colour for referee jerseys be available. George will contact Adidas for their selection. Also, Greg Fletcher and Greg Smiley will explore different possibilities, and will bring some samples to the March 2007 meeting.

11. GAME FEES

The Committee discussed how game fees for provincials varied throughout the province this year. There was no agreement in place to standardize game fees, so SNS was instructed to write the referee cheques based on the league rate in the area where each provincials was held.

MOTION

“That game fees for provincial and inter-district leagues shall be negotiated with the Chair of the RDC or his appointees and game fees for district leagues shall be negotiated with the District Referee Association.”

CARRIED

12. REFEREE REGISTRATION DATES AND THE OFFICIAL LIST

The Committee agreed that a referee’s registration would be valid from May 1st of one year to April 30th of the following year.

Currently, leagues can assign referees from the previous year’s list until the end of May; however, they will be informed that they must use only referees who are registered on the current year’s list.

George informed the Committee of an issue where cash was stolen from a referee assignor. The assignor received cheques from tournament organizers as well as a local league and had cashed the cheques, intending to pay the referees for their work in the tournament and league games. This obviously caused a great deal of trouble for the tournament and league.

MOTION

“In cases where a league assignor distributes referee payments on behalf of a league, payments must be made in cheque form. “

CARRIED

13. GEORGE SHADBOLT AWARD

Greg proposed that an award be created to be named after George Shadbolt, who has been involved with soccer at all levels for many years in Nova Scotia and has been an invaluable contributor to the game.

MOTION

"That Soccer Nova Scotia creates, and the Referee Development Committee administers, an annual youth award to the province's most outstanding referee. The award, to be given annually according to a set of criteria to be developed by this committee, will include excellence on the field, respect amongst peers and other members of the soccer community, conduct away from the field and contribution to the game in other areas."

CARRIED

George will bring this to the Executive committee's next meeting.

14. EMERITUS STATUS REQUEST – SAM RIDDELL AND BRYAN ROBERTS

Terry MacNutt had requested that Sam Riddell and Bryan Roberts be given Emeritus status according to the RDC guidelines. The Committee discussed the nominations.

MOTION

"That Sam Riddell be given Emeritus status as a Class 2E referee."

CARRIED

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a. Waiver Forms

Given new insurance policies in place for all participants of soccer, the back of the referee registration form will now include a referee liability waiver form that must be signed by every referee upon registering.

b. Annual Plan 2007/2008

George circulated a Referee Development plan that he prepared for the committee. He stated that he did so given that the outgoing chair did not prepare one before his job took him away. George reminded the committee that the SNS Board requires a plan annually. The committee discussed the proposal. The Committee agreed in principle with the concepts provided in the plan. George will forward the documentation to the SNS Finance Committee and then to the SNS Board in January for ratification.

c. Budget for 2007/2008

The 2007/2008 budget was circulated. Following minor adjustments, it was agreed that the budget be sent to the SNS Finance Committee.

2007/2008 RDC Budget

INCOME:

| | |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| Assigning | \$ 1000 |
| Referee Registrations | \$37250 |
| Clinic | \$20000 |
| Nat. Travel Contribution | <u>\$ 500</u> |
| | \$58750 |

EXPENSES:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Committee Meetings (2 per year) | \$ 2000 |
| CSA Registration | \$ 4000 |
| Program Coordinator | \$10500 |
| Development Coordinator | \$12000 |
| Professional Development (Instructor) | \$ 1500 |
| Professional Development (Assessor) | \$ 1500 |
| Inter-provincial opportunities | \$ 1500 (Assessors) |
| Level 2 or 1 clinic | \$ 1500 |
| Female referee mentoring | \$ 1000 |
| Female assistant referee mentoring | \$ 1000 |
| Recognition Awards | \$ 500 |
| Referee Assessment Program | \$ 4000 |
| Referee Clinics | \$14000 |
| Administration | \$ 6000 |
| Miscellaneous | \$ 500 |
| Travel – Nationals | \$ 3000 |
| Local Referee Assoc. Contribution | \$ 3500 |
| Referee Mentor Program | <u>\$ 8250</u> |
| | \$76250 |

d. Status of Referee Development Committee

George extended his gratitude to the RDC for the level of professionalism they have displayed when dealing with referee matters. The Committee has been working unselfishly toward the improvement of the referee development program, and should be commended.

16. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Appendix 2

Report from

Newfoundland and Labrador



Annual Report of the Director of Officials

**Presented by: Martin Batterson
Director of Officials**

Presented to: NLSA AGM

St. John's

November 2006

Highlights

Referees Professional Development Day a success

Introduction of Provincial Referee Shirt

~200 officials provided with training through our clinics

3 Referees and 2 Assessors appointed to National tournaments

~40 field assessments of our officials completed

3 officials already upgraded, and more to come

Committee Structure

The Chair of the NLSA Officials Committee is appointed by the President of the NLSA. This year it has been my privilege to be appointed to that position. The committee is appointed by the chair. In 2006, the committee (and responsibilities) was composed of:

Martin Batterson (Chair)

Jean Thompson (Assessments)

Dan Maher (Education)

Mario Simon (Fitness)

Brian Walsh (Finances)

Rob Antle (Referee Representative)

This year several members of the referee community from outside of the metro St. John's area were recruited to act as liaisons with the regional structure. These were Jim Loder (Burin), Colin Reid (Avalon), Corey Parsons (CBS), Gary Martin (Mount Pearl), Jeff Haines (Central) and Trevor Paine (Labrador).

The Referee Committee meets on an irregular basis through the year. The committee's responsibility falls into five broad areas: Education and training; appointments and advancement; assessments; fitness; administration.

I am pleased to report that advancements were made in all areas of the Referee Committees mandate, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of the committee. It is largely their hard work that is reflected in this report.

Registration/Retention

The number of registered officials is still an issue and remains one of the major areas of concern. Several NLSA tournament games were short of officials due to a shortage of officials. Approximately only 20% of those officials we train in our clinics return to officiating the subsequent year. This is not only a Provincial, but also a National problem in all sports. Reasons are many, but include burn out, unsuitability, relocation, and employment, but also includes abuse. The latter issue continues to be a major challenge to all sports. The new NLSA discipline policy has significantly increased suspensions levied against players and coaches, and we applaud this move, which should hopefully help to reduce attrition of the referee pool as a result of problems on the field of play.

In 2006, the NLSA had approximately ??? registered officials (numbers not yet finalised). This year we have developed a Provincial Database that will be used to document our pool of Officials. This database will be used to track those available for upgrading and to provide the regions with numbers of officials available to them for tournaments. Data is still being inputted, but it is anticipated that the database will be fully functional by spring 2007.

Clearly retention of officials is an important component of the program. This is a difficult issue, and one without any clear solutions. Part of it is mentoring of new officials and the encouragement of our officials to feel they are part of a cohesive group, but despite our best efforts we are likely to continue to consistently lose officials.

As a contribution to the 'team' approach, the Referee Committee developed a new Provincial Referee shirt. The shirt bears the crest 'NLSA Referee' and is available to anyone who has completed a referee training course. The shirt is designed to provide a consistent branding for our officials, to encourage the feeling that they are part of a large group and recognises the fact they are NLSA officials. The shirt has been well received by most regions, and we hope to see all regions adopt the shirt for next season.

Registration Recommendations:

1. Registration needs to be completed well before Provincial tournaments. Tournament organisers, as well as teams, should be aware of referee availability.
2. Registered referee numbers from the previous year should be considered in the selection of venues for Provincial tournaments at Spring planning meetings. Although needs have been met in previous years by sending out referees from the metro area, this may not always be the case.
3. The Provincial referee shirt should be used in all Provincial tournaments if a brand-name referee jersey is not available to the referee.

Education and Training

1. Clinics

Referee development proceeds from the Entry Level course (Level 4) to senior level courses (Level 1). Youth officials are expected to take the Level 4 course and then progress to Level 3. Senior players who want to start officiating are offered a Level 3 course modified to their skill and experience level. Instructors are drawn from the senior referee pool (Level 1 or above officials), and are appointed by the Referee Education chair to individual clinics. This season we have undertaken 9 referee training courses. The following is a breakdown of participants:

| | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Level 4: | 152 |
| Level 3 (Youth) | 35 participants |
| Level 3 (Senior) | 16 participants |

Most of these courses were in the northeast Avalon area, although 1 Level 3 clinic was held on the Burin Peninsula and 1 in Western Newfoundland.

2. Referee Professional Development Day

This year the Referee Committee implemented a Referee Professional Development Day. It was held in St. John's in May and included 23 officials. Most were from the northeast Avalon, although there were 4 participants from Corner Brook. Kevin Pittman facilitated much of the proceedings. The day involved a refresher course and discussions of interest to the referee community. It also acts as a mechanism for bringing the referee community closer together and provides the opportunity for officials from across the province to meet. Overall, it was very successful and feedback from the participants was positive. We anticipate this will become an annual event.

3. Referee Development in the regions

A valid criticism of the referee development program across the province has been the lack of opportunities for officials outside of the Avalon or Burin Peninsulas. Regions still suffer from a shortage in officials. To attempt a solution to this problem several initiatives were developed this season. The first, the Professional Development Day has been outlined above. The second initiative was a Cross-Island Referee Development Trip. The Referee Committee was pleased to avail of the services of Kevin Pittman, National Assessor, to conduct a cross-island trip to develop officials in the regions. Travel expenses were funded by the Referee Committee, with individual clubs/regions asked to pick up accommodations. Although the concept was a good one and initial contacts supportive, only 2 regions (Western and Gander) responded and were included in the trip which was planned for the end of June. The trip to Corner Brook can only be described as disastrous. Only 3 participants showed up to the Level 3 clinic (all of whom were under the age of 15 and should have been taking the Level 4 course), one of which didn't return to the second day and therefore did not complete the course. Planned assessments as part of referee development were cancelled, apart from one in Deer Lake, because many officials and players were out of town. This was an expensive trip with little or no return for our investment. The trip to Gander involved a meeting with Gander Minor Soccer (no response from elsewhere in the region), and some work with Gander Minor Soccer staff.

Training/Development Recommendations:

- a) The NLSA should schedule clinics. There were a few scheduling conflicts this past summer with several clubs/regions requesting clinics on the same weekends. We propose that the NLSA will schedule clinics and anyone from the regions/clubs may avail of the service. These clinics will be in facilities which are conducive to the clinic being offered, e.g., for the Level 4 clinic a classroom and adjacent fields are preferred. Regions could then be billed for those who attend.
- b) The Cross-Island Referee Development trip is potentially an extremely valuable development tool for officials in the regions. We are certainly willing to try this again, but would require improved commitment and communication to ensure its success.

Appointments and Advancement

Officials within the NLSA Referee program continue to be recognised at the National level. Rob Antle of St. John's refereed the USL game between Vancouver Whitecaps and Toronto Lynx in July, and was appointed to the National Seniors Men's/Women's Club Championships in Vancouver. Rob was an integral part of the Canada-China Women's National team friendly series in St. John's where he was appointed to Referee one game and was 4th Official on the other – a fantastic achievement. Mike Edmunds of St. John's was promoted by the CSA to a Nominated National official and was appointed to the National Under 16 Club Championship in New Brunswick. Jessica Singleton of Paradise was appointed by the NLSA to the National Girls All-Star Championships in Saskatchewan, and was subsequently appointed to 4th Official in the recent Canada-China series. More recently, Jessica was appointed by the CSA to the National Under 16 Club Championships in New Brunswick. This is the first time for many years that the NLSA has had 3 officials appointed to National competitions. Our National Assessors have also received CSA recognition, with Jean Thompson (who also serves on the CSA Referee Committee) being appointed to the National Girls All-Star Championships in Saskatchewan and the upcoming National Women's University Championships in Victoria, British Columbia, and Kevin Pittman was appointed to the National Under 16 Club Championships in New Brunswick. Overall, an excellent showing and congratulations to all.

On the local scene the Referee Committee has already made upgrades to 3 of our officials. Dave Liverman was promoted to a Level 2 Assistant Referee, and Shannon Tobin and Damian Masterson were upgraded to Level 2 Officials. Officials are responsible for submitting their own

portfolios to the committee for upgrade and we anticipate that several more upgrades will be made before year end.

NLSA Tournaments

These include Challenge Cup, Jubilee Trophy and all Provincial All-Star tournaments. Officials to minor tournaments are generally supplied by the host club/region, and are all expected to be qualified and registered. Some clubs, notably Mount Pearl, arranged to provide assessments/mentoring to their officials and this approach is to be commended and encouraged as a model for other clubs to adopt. Several officials from metro area travelled to Gander to assist with the Under 16 Boys Mega tournament, and although arrangements such as these may be possible in most years, clubs/regions should not depend on it and should endeavour to train their own officials.

Shortage of officials during some time periods can always be expected, although officials would normally be assigned to Challenge Cup/Jubilee Trophy on a priority basis. All officials at the Challenge Cup/Jubilee Trophy final weekend were assessed, and the level of officiating at that event was excellent.

Recommendations

1. The mentoring of younger officials should be adopted by all clubs/regions at minor tournaments.
2. Assignment of officials to Challenge Cup/Jubilee Trophy games should be given the top priority over other scheduled matches.

Assessments

Assessments are obviously a fundamental component of the upgrading process, and the committee has made strides in having as many officials assessed as we can given the overall lack of officials in our program. Assessments have been completed by our senior level referees under the guidance of Jean Thompson. To date, over 40 assessments have been completed, and while we are sure this number can be improved upon it is an increase over previous years. The timely write up of these assessments is an important component, and needs some improvement with yours truly being one of the most delinquent!

Fitness

The Referee Committee maintains that fitness training is a major component of the referee's ability to successfully officiate a match. For some years, we have held the position that potential selection to Final Round Challenge Cup, Jubilee Trophy and University soccer is dependant on successful completion of the CSA-endorsed Cooper Fitness Test. Of our referee pool, 13 officials completed the fitness test. Next season we expect that the Cooper Test will be replaced by the FIFA test, and we will inform officials when changes are made.

Program Administration

The Provincial referee program is administered by the Referee Committee. Rules and regulations for NLSA officials are contained with the 'NLSA Referee Handbook'. This document is updated on a yearly basis and is available on the NLSA website as a pdf. Referees are informed of changes to regulations by e-mail, which ensures a rapid transmission of information.

The NLSA website has been a valuable tool for the dissemination of information and we fully support its expansion as the main vehicle of communication for the NLSA.

Liaison with the CSA

The CSA has recently acquired the services of Mr. Joe Guest, formerly of the English Football Association. The Referee Committee had the opportunity to meet with Mr. Guest in August, at which

time he outlined an ambitious program to restructure the CSA Referee program, including recruitment, assessing and instructing. Obviously, it is important for the NLSA Referee program to be in step with the CSA, and the Referee Committee will be working with the CSA to deliver the appropriate services to our officials. To date, a working paper 'Working together to achieve excellence' has been prepared which outlines the CSA's plans. We anticipate welcoming Mr. Guest to our Professional Development Day in 2007.

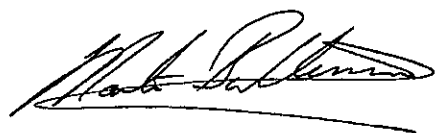
Future Plans

This past year has seen some important developments in the Referee Program, and these will be continued in the current year. These include:

- Ensure as many assessments as possible be completed.
- Professional Development Day, perhaps including extra sessions on assessing/instructing. We have received an offer from the CSA to conduct such sessions.
- Improve our training schedule in consultation with the regions.
- Completion of the database.
- Consider development of more formal mentoring program for new officials.
- Continued liaison with the CSA to deliver a consistent development program to our officials
- There'll be others!

On behalf of the Referee Committee I would like to thank the Clubs and Regions for their support over the past year, as well as the NLSA Executive and staff, who have provided a consistently high level of service and support.

Respectfully submitted,



Martin Batterson
Director of Officials

Appendix 3
Report from
New Brunswick



Print - Close Window

Subject: FW: Yearly reports for 2006 for CSRA's AGM

Date: Tue, 23 Jan 2007 13:56:59 -0500

From: "Grenier Ray (NPB-CNLC ATL)" <GrenierRFJ@NPB-CNLC.GC.CA>

To: "BASIL GILL" <basilgill2198@rogers.com>

Hi Basil,

Here is a brief outline of events we had in 2006. Sorry for being so slow to respond. See you in Halifax.

Ray Grenier

Manager Regional Corporate Services

Tel: (506) 851-6347

Fax: (506) 851-6926

E-Mail: grenierfj@npb-cnlc.gc.ca

Here is the list of competitions and meetings based on my daytimer:

March 17-19 - Senior & U18 Indoor Provincials

April 1 - NBSRA Executive Meeting

April 21-23 - Youth Indoor Provincials

May - Provincial Assessor Clinic (by Derek Wisdom)

June 23-25 - U16 Aliant Atlantic Cup in Moncton (24 matches)

July 27 - Meeting with Joe Guest

August 11-13 - Wisdom Cup, Van Horne Cup (32 matches)

August 19-20 - Aliant Division 1 Provincial Championships (104 matches)

August 26-27 - Aliant Premier Provincial Championships (21 matches)

September 16-17 - Michael Dunn Cup (15 matches)

October 4-9 - adidas Cup, U-16 Boys & Girls National Club Championships, St. John (55 matches)

November 19 - NBSRA Executive Meeting & AGM

In addition,

- Some 450 Premier (NBSL) games were officiated by teams of 3 officials;
- Some 500-1000 matches per regions were officiated at the Division 1 and Houseleagues levels;
- 118 people become certified Entry Level Referees through approximately 8 different clinics;
- the regions hosted about 10 different Refresher Clinics under the new standardized format;
- 50 assessments were conducted by 8 different assessors;
- the NBSRA approved a new Entry Level Assessment Program to be introduced in 2007.

Appendix 4
Report from
Manitoba

Manitoba Report
CSRA AGM
February 17, 2007
North Vancouver, British Columbia

I would like to thank the B.C.S.R.A. and its volunteers for hosting the AGM this year in Vancouver.

At the end of 2006 there was a big change at the MSRA Executive level. We held our AGM on the second weekend of October and we have only 1 remaining person on the executive from last year. I was elected President of the MSRA and my goals are to bring back the social and family atmosphere back to the Association that had gone away for quite a few years.

In Manitoba, the biggest news we had this year was Hector Vergara going back to the World Cup in Germany. We all know of Hector's achievements and I am sure we will all be waiting to hear him speak about his adventure this afternoon. We are quite lucky to be able to use Hector's knowledge for educating our referees.

Once again we held our 6th Annual Award Banquet in October after the AGM. Hector was the Guest Speaker and he gave a lecture about his trip to Germany. Also, as usual we gave our Awards to Rookie Of the Year, Angelo Santilli and Shirley Mulhall. Most Improved Referee, Helen Down. Most Contribution to the MSRA, Chris Golden and Laurent Eloy.

This year we have had many officials other than Hector who received the chance to represent Manitoba. James Williams, Jesse Vivanco and Helen Down we all able to go to the CSA All-Stars. John Delacruz and Matthew Tessier both attended CSA Club Nationals. Dominic Scali, officiated in a few A-League games in Vancouver, Toronto and Montreal.

A month ago the CSA held a meeting for all Canadian FIFA Officials and the MSRA was involved with the event in transporting the officials from the airport to the hotel and also the University of Manitoba track so they were able to run their fitness test. After the Saturday night dinner that was held for the FIFA Officials, the MSRA hosted a hospitality room for the officials. It was great to see a former MSRA member who now lives in Alberta receive her FIFA Badge in her home Province. We are all proud of Darci Konowalchuk.

Our biggest concern in 2006 was the negotiation of contracts with the Leagues that we due prior to the outdoor season. All of the Leagues we not happy that we were asking for some significant increases to be able to match up to the fees with our other Provinces. In the end we were able to get increases that were significant that the membership agreed with. Because of the turmoil of negotiations, the MSA is looking into wanting to make

changes to their by-laws that the Province would set the fees for all of the Leagues. This is not something the MSRA wants to see.

The MSA Referee Shortage Task Force, to which the MSRA attends, helped out in several factors this past outdoor season. A balance schedule where Leagues could not schedule more than 10 games per night for a total of 30 games/50 assignments, Mandatory Minimum on Dismissal that the league disciplinarians had to follow, all League had to reduce their games from 22 games per season to 18 games, and the Leagues could not increase their membership. The meetings for the Task Force are still on going for the 2007 outdoor season and all the League Administrator and Referees are working together to help solve our shortage problems.

Jurgen Titzer
MSRA President

Appendix 5
Report from
Ontario

ONTARIO SOCCER REFEREES' ASSOCIATION REPORT TO CSRA AGM 2007

The past year for the OSRA has been a relatively good one in which the organization has managed to maintain its membership. The approximately 1200 members (two thirds of them senior referees) is a slight increase from 2005.

The Executive has been working to move the organization towards becoming a more professional and dynamic body. There have been three significant steps to that end.

- Effort has been directed at making the website (www.osra.ca) a useful source of information, primarily for members, but also for others interested in soccer refereeing in Ontario.
- Our magazine, Can-So-Ref, has undergone a change. The effort of producing the magazine quarterly in its former format for mailing to members and others has proved to be a major challenge. As a result, we had only one issue in 2006. Consequently, the Executive adopted an alternate approach as a trial, which was approved by the OSRA Council in early February. There will be more frequent editions, but shorter and in an electronic format which can be read on the website and sent to members by email. The aim is to create a more effective communication tool for getting information to members on a timely basis.
- The AGM in November was a good one, with a booklet handed out that contained the material for the meeting. The intent for 2007 is to produce a document that can be distributed in advance to members and used as a means of stimulating interest in the AGM.

In the fall, there was a confrontation between one of the local branches and their district soccer association, in which the members were told that they would be subject to discipline if they wore the OSRA badge when officiating. There has been a long-standing tradition in the province that the OSRA badge is acceptable and that it is not obligatory to wear the Ontario Soccer Association badge. After considerable delay and following pressure from the OSRA, the OSA stated that the OSRA badge may be worn, except for provincial or national appointments. The statement was made by the Executive Director of the OSA at the OSRA AGM, and this was followed by a written communication to the OSRA.

Also on the badge front, there has been ongoing discussion within the OSRA about whether the badge itself should be changed. Some members have felt that the existing badge is too large and heavy, especially now that shirts are made of much lighter and less substantial material and it is common to affix the badge with velcro instead of sewing it on. However, there has been consistent support for the traditional badge as the official one for the organization. As a trial and in order to gauge demand, the Executive had an alternate badge produced for the AGM, a 3-inch black disc with the traditional gold maple leaf reduced to fit inside

the circle. It proved to be quite successful and has now been adopted as an approved alternate to the official OSRA badge when doing games.

Soccer refereeing in Ontario, as elsewhere in the country, is facing challenges with the new directions that are being proposed by the Canadian Soccer Association and the new director of referee development, Joe Guest. The OSA is fully supportive of the ideas being developed. What remains to be seen is how many of the ideas are actually able to be carried out. And, of course, the continuing debate, at least in Ontario, is the relationship between the OSA and the OSRA. The CSA ideas only serve to emphasize the need for the two Ontario organizations to sort out their differences in order to create a better atmosphere for the support and development of referees in the province.

For its part, the OSRA is committed to working on improving the relationship and finding a way to be more effective, particularly in the education of referees. Ideas are being developed by the OSRA along that line, with the aim of creating a more formal education format for Ontario referees. An important and successful first step was a seminar hosted by the OSRA in January. Emerson Mathurin, OSRA life member and a major figure in Canadian soccer referee circles, was the speaker. About 100 referees attended, at no cost to themselves. Most had never been exposed to Emerson as an instructor, so it was an excellent opportunity to learn and receive insights into the art of refereeing from a master. Now the next step is for the Executive to develop a formal proposal for an education program to be considered by the OSRA Council at its meeting at the end of April.

In closing, there are exciting developments for soccer in Ontario. The hosting of the FIFA Under-20 World Cup this summer will be a significant event. And the arrival in April of the Toronto FC is exciting. There is a buzz in soccer circles and beyond which can only enhance the stature of the game in the province.

David Cope
President
Ontario Soccer Referees' Association

Appendix 6
Report from
British Columbia

BC SOCCER REFEREES ASSOCIATION

Assisting, supporting, and advocating for referees since 1969.

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February 17, 2007

BC REPORT TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE CANADIAN SOCCER REFEREES ASSOCIATION

Members of the CSRA Executive, Life Member, fellow members and honoured guests,

On behalf of the Referees Association of B.C. I would like to officially welcome everyone to the province and North Vancouver, the site of this year's Annual General Meeting. I would be remiss before starting my report by expressing my thanks to various people: to Hector Vergara for graciously accepting the invitation to speak later today, to our membership for agreeing to host the AGM, to our Vancouver Area branch for hosting the traditional hospitality night to kick-off the weekend, and especially our provincial Treasurer Robin Woods and Vancouver Area branch President Marc Bowley for the coordination in making the event come to life.

Since we last met the refereeing scene has witnessed a monumental shift. One of our members, Jose Branco, was appointed to the position of BC Soccer's Referee Development Coordinator. The governing body also re-instituted the Referee Development Committee and I am happy to report that all members appointed come from the ranks of the Referees Association (RA). It is still early days for the Committee and we look forward to their initiatives and will inquire how we can contribute. Regrettably, we "lose" a loyal member in Jose Branco to the refereeing scene at-large and a seat on that body. However, as Jose has shown his allegiance to a society of his peers, by renewing his membership and a willingness include us in his plans, we now ask has our role now evolved, i.e. the parent body worries about the standards of refereeing so should we now turn our attention to the hearts of referees by fueling their passion for the game and raising their self-esteem to make them feel proud to be a referee?

We take pride in the accomplishments of our members:

- Congratulations to members Mauricio Navarro and Simon Fearn for being re-appointed to the FIFA List and to new additions Michele Pye and Paul Ward.
- Members officiated internationally, nationally, in Provincial Cup finals and the 2006 National Club Championships held in Surrey this past October.
- Of the four referee-centric awards at the recent BC Soccer Awards Banquet, all four went to RA members.
- We congratulate long-standing member Tom Reakes on being elected as the latest Long and Meritorious Service Award recipient.
- Several members are personally involved in mentoring of younger officials.

RA member and National Referee Instructor John Nielsen returns to the fold as a member of the parent body's Referee Development Committee. Our membership honoured his work by creating the John Nielsen Referee Education Award with John as its first recipient. Expected to be an annual award, we should not be surprised if from time to time they may not be a recipient as John has set a high standard to imitate.

Looking to the future, it has been reported by BC Soccer the average age of referees, like society itself, is rising; younger blood is needed. Our membership agrees and to ensure younger members stay with our society in their formative years, the membership has indicated cost should not be a deterrent. Those officials under the age of 21 who are promoted to Class 3 will see their membership fees graduated on the basis of age.

In closing, I now enter the last year of my term and soon the day will come when I must hand over the reins. It is a shame as I believe we now have a provincial executive that is starting to form into a cohesive unit. At the same time, I believe they are equipping themselves to handle future challenges.

Respectfully submitted,

Elvio Chies, President