

**Canadian Soccer Referees' Association  
Association Canadienne des Arbitres de Soccer**



(FOUNDED 1988)

**"WITH FAIRNESS & FORTITUDE"  
"COURAGE ET EQUITE"**

**MINUTES OF THE CANADIAN SOCCER REFEREES ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Held: Saturday, March 27, 2010 at the Holiday Inn Mississauga

President Joe Licandro welcomed everyone to meeting. Attendees were asked to stand for the playing of our country's national anthem and remained standing for a moment of silence for fellow colleagues that passed away since the last annual general meeting (AGM).

**1. ROLL CALL:**

Member associations present: BCSRA, MSRA, OSRA. Apologies: CDSRA

**2. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

The President welcomed the following: CSRA Past President Basil Gill, CSRA/OSRA Life Member Bill Hoyle, OSRA Past President Dave Cope, CSRA/OSRA Life Member Paul Avis, Canadian FIFA Referee Carol Anne Chenard.

Apologies: CSRA Treasurer Larry Eloy

**3. MINUTES**

MOTION: Approve the minutes of the 2009 AGM (circulated in advance and present at meeting): --

-OSRA/BCSRA M/S/C

**4. SPECIAL BUSINESS**

MOTION: Allow addition of the Brainstorming Session to the agenda:- OSRA/BCSRA M/S/C

**5. PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS**

Presidents Address – Joe Licandro

Honoured guests, life members, executive members and colleagues, welcome to our 21st Annual General Meeting, this may very well be a historic event. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the President of the OSRA Frank Cappizano, the executive and their members in hosting this event. In my dealings with Frank he has spent many countless hours in organizing this event along with his executive.

As many may recall at the 2008 OSRA first council meeting Council gave a unanimous decision to continue and support the CSRA, and defeat the proposed motion tabled not to affiliate with the CSRA. I was very pleased with the outcome and the results and a vote of confidence to move forward.

During this year our secretary Mr. Robert Hope had to step down for personal reasons and the executive thanks him for his service during this time. Our 2nd Vice President Mr. Elvio Chies stepped in and performed his duties to the best of his ability as interim secretary and is doing a remarkable job. On behalf of all members I would like to personally thank Elvio for his hard work and continued dedication to this association.

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On an information basis I would like to share with you statistics regarding Referees, there are 17,500 referee registered within their respective Provinces who referee regularly on games sanctioned by Provincial Associations. Included are 36 National level Referees operating in Professional soccer and 13 FIFA list officials operating at the international level. The executive board has to put in place a plan to take advantage or better still make use of these top officials to be ambassadors for the CSRA when they travel to Provinces that do not have Provincial Referees Association and are not affiliated with the CSRA. This would be a great opportunity to spread the news about the CSRA and how they can affiliate. Furthermore, here is an opportunity where the Meachin fund monies can be used to sponsor such a program and have the top official speak to referees who are not members. This program has to be planned and implemented in an efficient manner to make it work. Everyone has to contribute and put aside our differences and work together for the same goal.

Congratulations goes to Canadian International Referee Hector Vergara on being appointed to the list of Referees and Assistant Referees for 2010 FIFA World Cup in South Africa. Hector has been grouped with Mexican International Officials Benito Archundia and AR Marvin Torentera. Hector hail from Winnipeg, Manitoba and is a proud member of our Association and the first recipient of the Meachin fund award. He now is the longest Serving Canadian Referee on the FIFA list, 18 years.

This year there are seven referees who are expected to receive their National badge for the first time,; They are David Barrie, Carria Balgea, and Alain Ruche, and AR Marco Arruda, Marie Josie Charbonneau, Oscar Mitchel-Carvalho, and Christian Palvicino. I am sure they did not get there alone, somewhere someplace they received encouragement and support from members within our organizations. Congratulation to all for their achievements, I would like to extend congratulation to the entire grass root Referees who have achieved their personal goals. This allows me to bring up that Referee Associations are needed at all levels and specifically at the Grass roots to assist and mentor the progress of referee development. Provincial Soccer Association grooms their Provincial and Regional Referees and the CSA grooms their National and international referees. So where does this leave the majority of the District and Youth referees which makes up the bulk of registrants in Canada and more than likely finance the referee Development for the Higher level Referees in the country. This is where the Provincial RA's and the CSRA can play a large role to work with this group of Referees. The CSA will have no choice but to recognize this and see a benefit to utilize our services. If this program is to be achieved it must be done in cooperation with the Soccer Association and the CSA.

The plan put in place must not be duplicated where two organizations are doing the same thing. For this to be accomplished all parties need to contribute and must count on the collaboration of all those who are dedicated and passionate for our game and specifically refereeing.

As you may well know by now, earlier this year by receipt of the letter from Mr. Joe Guest of the CSA indicated that the CSA and CSA RDC could not support our request. This really "took the wind out of our Sails", "the Straw that broke the Camel's back" you can use any phrase you wish the bottom line is that this is reality and

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we have to face it. (If anyone wants to see the letters we have a copy here). This is why the executive decided to have a "Brainstorm" session which Life member Paul Avis will facilitate as part of the agenda.

To me this is very disturbing news but it also motivates me not to give up but rather move ahead and develop strategies to become stronger. Everyone has to be part of the plan. Yes I know that many referees first question is "what does the CSRA do for me", this happens at the Provincial level also. At this time referees have to change the mentality of thinking to get all concerned thinking the same.

I would like to bring up a message from a past President and his message was: If anyone questions why we should have Provincial or National Associations one has to point out that without an Association at both 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 do not understand or comprehend refereeing or referees. It is very important 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 R A as a member of a strong Nation Association but for this to happen we all have to put our minds together and focus on the principles and ideas which can enhance and improve our Associations.

Although the wind has been taken from our sails there has to be a will for the Association to continue and to build and implement changes. We must reflect on our existence in the Eastern Provinces. Many years past St. Johns Newfoundland was interested in hosting a CSRA AGM. I believe the executive should look into revisiting this idea and with previous mentioned ideas move forward to make it happen. We have to get to the magic number 6 of Affiliated Provinces to be recognized by the CSA. There is a lot of hard work ahead and this can be achieved if we put our strengths together to make it happen.

At this time I would like to thank the executive of this Association for their dedication and continued support, ideas and the hard work they put in. Thanks goes to Elvio for performing as interim secretary and doing a great job at that. Thank you to Paul avis for his input into the Brainstorm session of this meeting. Thank you to Carol Anne Chenard for accepting our invitation to speak in the afternoon. Thank you to Bill Hoyle for his input on the Constitution and Bylaws. Last but not least thank you to Frank Capizzano and the OSRA for hosting this meeting.

In conclusion just a few words to say let's all work together to improve soccer in our communities but also work together to improve and support our Provincial and National Referee Associations. Thank you and enjoy the rest of the day.

CSRA President

Joe Licandro

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**SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Dear Fellow Members of the Canadian society for Referees,

In making this short report I believe we must thank our former Acting Secretary Bob Hope who managed the position and had to step down due to ill health and other personal reasons. Bob stepped in upon the request of the executive at short notice despite the aforementioned issues and performed admirably.

I took over the position in late April in order to all continuity of the work that Bob. I did so with some trepidation as, being the head of a member association, my time was already stretched with the planning for the 40th anniversary of the BCSRA. However, as a former secretary at the branch level, I knew how important this position was to the functioning of a society and agreed to do so on a temporary basis.

Member associations were therefore kept informed on the main issues that came out of discussions from the past AGM, i.e., a request to the CSA for recognition of the RA by that body, contacting Virginia Meachin, the widow of the association's first president, regarding the Meachin Fund procedure update. . I was also took on the task of coordinating the teleconference calls and submitting the minutes of those discussions, whilst work on contacting other potential new member associations to join the CSRA. In the latter regard, we have seen a willingness on city/district RA's from Western Canada to join the CSRA. They endorse the concept of belonging to a society of one's peers. As usual, the clincher will be how do we answer the rank and file's question, "what do I get for joining the CSRA?"

Looking forward, we will need to find someone to fulfill this role who is not encumbered by executive positions at other levels. The good news is that I can honestly say, from first hand experience, the position is not as onerous as that of a branch level secretary. I would further suggest though that in searching for the same candidate we should look for someone with the same amount of passion and with good communication skills as the discussions at a national level are more ambassadorial in nature.

I thank my fellow members on the CSRA executive and all member associations for their patience during this transitory period.

Respectfully submitted,

Elvio Chies  
CSRA 2nd VP and Acting Secretary

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## 6. BRAINSTORMING SESSION

As agreed to by member associations, the President passed the chair to CSRA Life Member Paul Avis to facilitate a Brainstorming session titled "What could/should the role of a referee's association be in today's reality?"

A summary of thoughts expressed:

-99% of soccer is at the grassroots. CSRA is an umbrella group but not the grassroots. Can it help support the grassroots?

-Younger refs see themselves as individuals and not part of a greater body. Just getting one's badge doesn't immediately make them feel part of a larger group, especially as the refereeing community is unique.

-Need to find a way to motivate younger referees (who may not be willing to work hard) although it was expressed older refs can be thought of in the same vein.

-RA's need to be seen to doing things.

-If we want to reach them, assign them to a mentor

The allotted time expired and the participants agreed that more discussion would have to take place offline.

## 7. TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Larry Eloy was not available for the meeting as he was being presented with an award at the Manitoba Soccer Associations' Award Banquet that same night. Acting Secretary Elvio Chies briefed the membership on the details based on the information submitted in advance by the Treasurer. The association ended the year with a \$1721 loss owing to the extra expense of the previous Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Calgary. The executive had struck a deal with the Calgary District Soccer Referees Association (CDSRA): in return for updating the By-Laws of the association to allow City/District SRA's to join and for paying for the AGM and guest speaker presentation, the CDSRA would agree to join the CSRA. This indeed happened.

A budget for 2010 was presented with two amendments:

**MOTION:** To change the name of the line item from "Educational Allotment" to "Organizational Development"

-BCSRA/OSRA M/S/C

**MOTION:** To rebate the membership fee over the numbers identified in the 2010 Budget by member associations"

-OSRA/MSRA M/S/C

During discussion of the second motion it was agreed that member associations would be forced to submit fees up to the level stipulated in the budget. Should member associations be able to exceed these numbers in 2010,

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they could keep the extra portion within their own accounts.

MOTION: To accept the amended budget. – OSRA/MSRA M/S/C with BCSRA against.

MOTION: To table the setting of fees for 2011 until September 30, 2010. – OSRA/BCSRA M/S/C

In discussing the motion, it was felt that the result of the Brainstorming Session required more discussion offline which may impact the fees for the year.

In closing the Treasurer's Report, the Acting Secretary indicated the books were available for an audit. OSRA Past President David Cope and OSRA Vice-President Rich Carman agreed to act as auditors.

#### OTHER REPORTS

CSRA 1<sup>ST</sup> Vice President – Tony Troughton

Nice to be in Ontario again where we started the CSRA in 1989.

We looked hard at ourselves whether we need to reinvent the C.S.R.A. in order to be of use to its members in the future.

Therefore continued work on the CSRA Constitution and the John Meachin Fund was established to help make them more viable and appropriate. Thanks to Pat Harkness, John Meachin committee member for making many changes and updates to the document.

Dialogue has gone on all year with other Provinces trying to bring them in on becoming Members of the C.S.R.A. We do realize this will not be finished overnight; however, we are making a valiant, expedited effort to to work out the details to get them onboard.

Our web site continues to provide information for members and the world. With approximately 600 hits a month it is still a viable resource for the C.S.R.A. and best of all it is free!

And finally we continue to honour individuals who make a significant contribution to the Canadian Soccer Referee community by making them Life Members of the C.S.R.A. and that's why I am thrilled today to be part of the celebration for Eric Evans our newest life member.

Thank you

Tony Troughton

1st VP CSRA

MSRA

President Jurgen Titzer informed everyone that Canadian FIFA Assistant Referee Hector Vergara, who has now

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been appointed to his third World Cup, has started a prospect group for those that have the potential to go to National or higher. Youth Indoor finals are now complete. Central assigning has started using the internet but there have been problems with the software. A proposal has been made to the leagues to incorporate travel fees. There is still a referee shortage in Manitoba.

#### OSRA

President Frank Capizzano reported that an organizational change has been conducted with a new draft constitution being approved. An honourarium for an Administrative Assistant has been setup. There will be a Board of Governors meeting in two weeks (from the date of the CSRA AGM) where they will elect a new President, Vice-President and one Director. He concluded the OSRA will run more leaner than it has in the past.

#### BCSRA

Vice-President Nick Hawley briefly went over the association's new RA Business Plan. With a lifespan of three years, the mission is *To organize, support and coordinate regional referee societies*

- *To assist referees in all aspects of refereeing and development as referees*
- *To represent referees at BC SOCCER and BC SOCCER affiliated organizations*
- *To help promote consistency in officiating*
- *To take a lead from BC SOCCER in assisting in implementing BC Soccer's policies*

The plan hinges on working with the BC Soccer Association and finding Project Managers to make plans and then help implement them. The plan has now been approved by the membership and Phase 2 is under way (i.e. the hunt for Project Managers).

Newfoundland- The President reported that Brian Walsh had assumed role with Newfoundland Soccer. There is a goal to recruit within clubs to find 200 more referees.

Nova Scotia- The Acting Secretary indicated he had received a report from Cape Breton SRA President Wendall McGibbon and a member of the Nova Scotia Soccer Referee Development Committee. He reported there are eight city/district SRA's operating in Nova Scotia and almost 700 referees in the province, 124 of them being female.

MOTION: Accept the reports. –OSRA/BCSRA M/S/C

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: -none

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION- none

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS FOR THE YEAR ENSUING:

Member associations present: BCSRA, MSRA, OSRA. Apologies: CDSRA

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**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

The new executive is as follows:

President: Joe Licandro (last year remaining of a 2 year term)

1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President: Tony Troughton (elected by acclamation)

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice- President: Elvio Chies (last year remaining of a 2 year term)

Treasurer: Larry Eloy (last year remaining of a 2 year term)

Secretary: Lisa Waywell (elected by acclamation)