



CanSoRef

CanSoRef is the official Newsletter of the Ontario Soccer Referees' Association.

June 2007

We've come a long way since the AGM last November

One of the big questions being asked last November at last year's AGM was what is going to happen in the following year. Despite much effort and many initiatives, we were meeting obstacle after obstacle and it appeared all we were doing as an organisation was spinning our wheels and going nowhere fast.

Communication with the OSA was almost nonexistent, CanSoRef was only published once in the previous 12 months, the Seminar booked for January was stalled, and council meetings were poorly attended. Clearly we needed to focus and regroup.

First up for a fix was CanSoRef. It was proposed that the magazine go electronic, and be published regularly by email. A new editor was put in place, and the first electronic edition was published within a week of the AGM. It has been published every 4-6 weeks since although content from the Branches, with one or two exceptions, has been sparse.

The Referee Development Seminar (or Symposium as it was called back then) was put back on track, resulting in over 100 referees attending the function at Oak Ridges on January 27. Although well received, it was not perfect and we learned some valuable lessons. With those in mind, it is anticipated that we will be holding more seminars in the future.

Dialogue with the OSA, and the CSA, is now taking place, with more interaction anticipated. Most recently, our president, Dave Cope, has been invited to Ottawa to join a group involved in discussions to develop a new referee entry level programme.

On education, we have set up an Education Committee, headed up by our Life Member Peter Johnson and joined by Don Pearce and Tony Munton, to implement the proposal approved at Council in April. We would like to restate that we are not looking to take over any upgrade programme run by the OSA or CSA – our aim is to take to the next level what we have been doing since our inception – providing a high quality education programme for the broad spectrum of referees in our Association who are not in an upgrade programme.

This should also be an effective support to the referee development objectives of the OSA and CSA. More details of the programme will be provided over the next few months, with a full report at the AGM in November.

Your Executive has been working hard on all these initiatives. In Dave Cope, we have a President who steers a clear and steady course for the future. Vice President Rich Carman provides drive and initiative to get things done. Don Pearce plays the devil's advocate by using his wily experience to seek out the unseen pitfalls of ideas and proposals. Secretary Renato da Costa brings years of referee experience and the perspective of a District Referee Coordinator to our discussions. Mike Cvetanovic also has years of senior referee experience to contribute, along with his able handling of the equipment portfolio. Paula Francisci ensures that the female referee's point of view is not forgotten. And Treasurer Rich Oliveira brings the viewpoint of a young referee to the table as well as keeping the books and registrations in order.

As you can see, a good deal has been happening; the report at the AGM on the year's activities should be a full one. An area still requiring work to be done is improving attendance at Council meetings. That is the primary way for members to make their views known. So talk to your representatives and ask them to pass along your ideas, or come to Council yourself. It is also possible to send ideas and suggestions directly to any member of the Executive; we look forward to hearing from you.

What's in your kitbag?

So the outdoor season is a week away, it's time to take a look in the old kitbag and make sure everything is as it should be. Only in my case there are three bags.

The first is a my holdall. This year it's looking a bit tatty and even the wife says it needs replacing. I check through the equipment in the holdall. Pockets first:

Sunscreen, bug spray, anti itch cream, all recently purchased are all tidily stashed in the side pocket, together with two extremely large plastic bags. The plastic bags are for putting my holdall in when it rains to keep the contents dry.

Another pocket holds my personal first aid kit and foot powder, and the last pocket holds a variety of knee braces and ankle braces, testament to the damage our hard grounds can do to our bodies.

Into the main compartment: A clipboard. This can be replaced with the new lightweight board with a smaller flatter clip that was given out at the Seminar in January. Two sets of flags. The lightweight set has a small 3 corner tear in the centre flag. They'll do for 1 man system games. The other set, somewhat heavier and fondly known as my Weapons of Mass Destruction, are in perfect condition. A small towel is confiscated by the wife as being too tatty even for the garbage, and a new one is presented and safely stowed. My OSRA cap and a tuque with two pairs of one size fits all gloves are next. Finally the large ziploc bag, containing old laces and some small tent pegs, handy for fixing nets that are tattered. I resolve to get some of those plastic things that electricians use to keep tables tidy.

Now I open up bag number two, which is kept in the holdall. This is actually one of those cooler bags kids put their packed lunch in. I find it very handy to keep the tools of my trade in, all tidy and in one place ready for use:

Pump, pressure gauge, three watches, five whistles, two different flipping coins, 5 yellow cards, 4 red cards, three notebooks, 5 pens, 3 pencils, pencil sharpener, a wad of spare game sheets for my notebooks, OSRA badges, lip salve, more anti itch cream, everything is in order!

Finally, I place my newly laminated OSA Referee 2007 Registration Card into the mesh pocket, this bag is good to go.

Last but not least to bag number 3. This contains my spare shirts (6), shorts (1) and socks (1 pair), and is kept in the van not least because you never know when your services may be required. Everything is reloaded into the van and I place a pair of flip flops on top of bag #3 and I'm ready for the new season.

Around The Branches

Windsor Branch

From "The Windsor Star" 30 May, 2007

Frank Pavicic and his brothers grew up playing soccer barefoot on the streets of his Croatian village.

Unable to afford a leather ball, they improvised with a wad of rags stuffed inside a nylon stocking.

As a teenager, Pavicic came to Canada with his family and after much pleading, his father purchased the boys a real soccer ball.

Now 67 years old and retired from Chrysler, Pavicic hasn't strayed far from his childhood roots.

When this area hosts not one but two Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations' (OFSAA) championship tournaments next week, Pavicic will be right in the middle of it all as Windsor's longest-serving official.



This summer is his 35th season with the Windsor Soccer Referees Association.

Marching on "As long as I have good health I will march on," he said of the future. "I've always said my wife (Nada) is a widow to three sports — soccer, bowling and bocce."

As a player, Pavicic started at right fullback for Lowe's 1962 SWOSSAA championship team and later helped form the Croatian club team.

For 10 years, he was both player and coach, until turning his attention to refereeing at 33 years old. "The hardest thing when you start is to get the respect of the players," he said.

When Pavicic began carrying a whistle on to the field back in 1972, the landscape was far different than today. Most of the players were recent European immigrants, like himself, and were recruited by local teams according to nationality.

"It was pretty tough in those days to officiate because some of the attitudes and hostilities of the past were still noticeable," he said of the heated ethnic confrontations that occasionally marred club competition. Pavicic worked his way up to a Class 1 level, which led to several plum assignments such as the 1977 Ontario Summer Games and exhibition matches involving Dinamo Zagreb, Sheffield Wednesday and Trevor Francis and the Detroit Wheels. Leo Moscone has known Pavicic from the perspective of player, coach

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and now fellow official.

“The number one thing with Frank is his positive attitude,” said Moscone, a teacher at Catholic Central. “He loves the game of soccer and you can see it. “He’s still a kid at heart.” Having to make tough decisions on an emotional battlefield can lead to some unflattering critiques by coaches and parents alike.

“That is a difficult thing,” Pavicic said of the verbal blows.

“I don’t care who wins. I just want to be fair. The sooner you’re able to tune all of that out, the better.”

During the course of Frank’s years as a member of the Windsor Soccer Referees Branch, he has worked with many officials and has been a great role model for many of Windsor’s up and coming referees. Frank is always eager to assist younger members with the laws of the game, easy to talk to when an opinion is needed from a senior official and always enjoyable to be with. The Windsor Soccer Referees would like to congratulate Frank on his 35 years of service and his continued success as a member of our branch and the Windsor Soccer Community.

Brampton

Our Winter Branch Meetings and Education sessions (held bi weekly January through May) were of the highest standard, and were well attended, averaging over 60 referees. Thanks to Mike Winstanley for his help in making this years education programme the best ever. Special thanks also to all the Guest Speakers.. John Wright, Francis Martin, Ed Kohl, Tony Atkins, Isaac Raymond, Steve Mortimer, Gerry Foley – some names you will recognize as excellent educators of longstanding reputation, others have come on the scene in the last year or two – Isaac Raymond’s presentation was particularly impressive. Every education session was delivered using PowerPoint and was enhanced with video clips.

The Branch purchased a package of tickets to the FIFA u20 World Cup, the top prize every week in our raffle was two tickets to a World Cup game at BMO field, these were supplemented by various prizes generously donated by Brampton Adult Soccer and others. Special thanks to Dave Fone and Barrie Fineman for the excellent job is selling the Raffle Tickets every week.

With the season underway, Brampton referees have been busy serving our local clubs and leagues. There were many local school games with many last minute schedule changes causing major headaches for our scheduler, Charlie Theuma, we sent referee’s to OFSAA finals held at Centennial Park in Etobicoke, where our very own Rich Oliveira was selected to do the middle in the Final.

Scarborough

Ramee Arbaji Scarborough Referee of the year 2006



Congratulations to Ramee Arbaji who was selected Scarborough Referee of the year 2006.

Ramee is one of our up and coming referees in the District of Scarborough.

Don Pearce and Basil Gill were recognized for their respective roles in the development of the Scarborough Branch of the OSRA. The following profile will project a picture of what they have done, especially in the early years of our Branch.



DON PEARCE 33 YEARS SERVICE

- DON PEARCE IS THE LONGEST SERVING PRESIDENT OF OUR BRANCH. HIS TERM STARTED IN 1984 AND ENDED IN 1993, A TOTAL OF 10 CONSECUTIVE YEARS AS PRESIDENT. DON JOINED THE BRANCH IN 1974. HE CONTINUES TO BE AN ACTIVE BRANCH MEMBER AND HAS SERVED IN OTHER POSITIONS SUCH AS EDUCATION OFFICER AND DISTRICT REFEREE COORDINATOR.

BASIL GILL 26 YEARS OF SERVICE



- Basil Gill Served as President for 5 years;
- Vice President for 2 years and as a Director / Education Officer for 5 years.
- Basil joined our Branch in 1981 and continues to be an active member.

Nick Eisfeld (1934-2007)



Sadly we have to advise that Nick Eisfeld passed away following a massive heart attack at the Mississauga Hospital in the early hours Saturday morning, June 2, 2007. He was 72 years old.

A member of Toronto Branch for many years before joining Mississauga Branch and then Brampton and District, Nick was always an eager participant in Branch meetings.

A highly regarded referee and a national assessor, Nick loved the beautiful game with a passion, and was in his element advising new and not so new referee's how to improve their game. Nick also coached, and took his team to win five Ontario Cups.

Nick was instrumental in setting up and organizing the Referee Exchange programme with the Bavarian Soccer referee's in the 1990's.

Nick's other passion was his sailboat, and would often take his fellow referee's sailing on Lake Ontario in his boat "Enzian," named for a small blue flower from his homeland.

Other hobbies Nick enjoyed included ballroom dancing and playing guitar. Nick's approach to life was "I can do anything if you show me how", and being a perfectionist, he usually did it well. His latest venture was learning to use his computer.

OSRA Brampton was proud to make Nick a life member of the Branch earlier this year, along with Dave Fone, Charlie Theuma and Harbajan Singh. Nick's big smile and easy positive nature will be missed by us all.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Nick's wife, Pauline, and the family at this difficult time.



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WANTED

Please send your news, articles, photographs, anything you think may be of interest to be published in CanSoRef.

CanSoRef is your magazine, we are all interested in reading and seeing what other Branches are doing, how problems are tackled (successfully and unsuccessfully), sharing our "war" stories, etc, etc, etc.

The magazine can only flourish if the material is made available to the editor. Send to osra_webmaster@rogers.com.

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