



CanSoRef

**CanSoRef is the official Newsletter of the Ontario Soccer Referees' Association.
November - December 2008**

2008 AGM



The 49th Annual General Meeting of our Association was held at the Quality Hotel Parkway Convention Centre on Sunday November 16, 2008. There was a healthy dose of referees in attendance, as well as Clive Wilkinson, Vice President of OSA, Andrew Backer, OSA Referee Development Manager, Joe Licandro, President of the Canadian Soccer Referees' Association and Elvio Chies, President of the British Columbia Soccer Referees' Association.

This year all attendees were given an OSRA badge. Outgoing Director Don Pearce reminded everyone that OSRA badges may be worn on blazers, track suits and anything else, but the new CSA badge must be worn on the field when officiating.

After the opening business of Executive and Committee reports were taken care of, our invited guests were asked to speak.

Mr Wilkinson iterated that we may contact him directly, through the OSRA Executive, with any issues regarding referees. He was particularly concerned with regard to treatment of young referees' as well as young players.

Mr Backer explained the new system of grading for referees' in Ontario and Canada for 2009. He made a point of mentioning the new CSA badge that must be worn on referees' uniform. Mr Backer also gave an overview of the upcoming Assessors and Instructors clinics and suggested that those members who would like to become an Assessor or Instructor should contact him. He also reminded us that the OSA website is a good source of information if clarification is needed.

The motion from last year's AGM that the Executive take a look at our membership of the CSRA and present wording changes to the constitution that would enable us to withdraw if that was the desire of the membership was not acted upon, and Dave Cope, our President, apologized to the membership for the oversight. A Special General Meeting will be held immediately before the first Council Meeting of 2009 to address this issue.

After lunch, the elections were held:

Rich Carman (Brampton) was acclaimed Vice President.
Paul Cannon (Hamilton) was acclaimed Treasurer.
Mike Cvetanovich and Bahrum Sarvian were elected as Directors.
Rich Oliveira and Pat Lennon were elected as Auditors for 2009.

Service Pins were awarded by Life Members Angelo Magliocco and Peter Johnson to those members present who had 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 and 35 years service with the OSRA.

Elvio Chies addressed the meeting, indicating that BC referees' have similar problems and concerns as the OSRA. He gave a brief outline of what is being done in BC regarding uniform and badges.

Joe Licandro then outlined the progress the CSRA is making.

Leslie Wong (Scarborough) informed us that the "Robbie" International Soccer Tournament was being inducted into the Scarborough "Walk of Fame" The "Robbie" is considered one of the most famous and prestigious soccer tournaments in the world, and with the help of the OSRA has raised over one million dollars in aid of Cystic Fibrosis and Muscular Dystrophy. The referees' of Ontario are the major sponsor of the tournament, donating their time each and every year since it started in 1967.

Presidents Address 2008



The past year has had high points and low points. For me, the high point has been the successful introduction of our education program. We were able to provide instructors to those branches who wanted to use the service, and we were able to deliver special seminar sessions for referees seeking to upgrade.

In the past, we have been challenged by the OSA to create an effective role for ourselves in the soccer community. I think we are demonstrating that we have the ability to fill a void in the area of referee education. It is my hope that we can expand and improve the program so that it is recognized as an essential part of the training of referees in Ontario.

This program would not have been the success it is without the leadership of our life member Peter Johnson. He has been the driving force that has given the program shape and substance. It has been very satisfying to have him once again active in organization. I am very pleased that he has agreed to stay on as chair of the education committee for another two years.

I would also like to recognize the service that Tony Munton has given to the education committee. He has been instrumental behind the scenes in making the program a success. Don Pearce worked hard to help get the program started. Now his place on the committee has been taken by Leslie Wong, who brings an interesting new dimension to the committee. I am certain that Peter, Tony and Leslie will ensure that the program continues to improve.

A low point was the unfortunate situation which led the Executive last month to remove the Secretary from office. I feel strongly that the step was necessary and that the Executive acted in the best interests of the organization. Since that decision has been appealed, it will be up to Council to determine whether or not the action by the Executive was appropriate.

Another disappointment was the loss of Ottawa and Windsor as members. No reasons have been provided; in fact, I was led to believe each branch was just slow in sending in the registrations.

These low points present us all with a challenge for 2009, the year in which the OSRA celebrates its 50th year. The organization was created by individuals coming together so that they could achieve changes which were not possible for individuals acting alone. They were very successful, and the OSRA flourished. Although times have changed, there is still a need for a strong group that looks after the needs of referees.

Next year will see major changes to the referee system, as mandated by the CSA. Each referee will adjust to the changes in his or her own way, but the individual cannot deal with problems alone. Good work can be done by OSRA branches dealing directly with their local soccer associations, if those branches have the support of the referees. But that is not sufficient, particularly in those areas where the local soccer association does not respect the needs of referees. A strong provincial body is needed to bring the referee point of view to the attention of those who direct soccer activities at the provincial and national level.

That means that individual referees must look beyond just their own needs. As the OSRA moves into its 50th year, I challenge all Ontario referees to set aside their differences and look to the larger picture so that we can all have a voice that will be heard.

David Cope, *President*



OSRA Merchandise

Mike Cvetanovich
Director of Equipment
Email Mike at mikecvetanovich@hotmail.co

Equipment Prices

- Rain Jacket \$60.00
- Golf Shirt (assorted colours) \$30.00
 - T Shirt \$13.00
- Uniform Badge \$5.00
- Referee Cap \$13.00
 - Toque \$6.00
 - Tie \$20.00
- Uniform Badge \$5.00
- Dress Badge \$20.00
 - Pin \$4.00
 - Flip Coin \$3.00
 - Clipboard \$5.00
- Whistle (Fox 40) \$5.00

Please support the OSRA by purchasing OSRA merchandise.

Contact him directly at mikecvetanovic@hotmail.com.

Peel Halton Referee upgrades

Submitted by Mike Winstanley, PHSA District Referee Coordinator

REFEREES

Promoted to Provincial for 2009

Alex DELLA SCIUCCA
Mack MELOCHE

Promoted to Regional for 2009

Scott BOWMAN
Matthew CHOPIANY
Milenko CIMBUR
Graham ELDER

Promoted to Regional for 2009 (continued)

Peter IBBOTSON
Ibrahima KOUROUMA
Edward NSUBUGA
Neil WESTWATER
Giancarlo FLORIO

ASSESSORS

Promoted to REGIONAL assessor

Frank CAPIZZANO
Keith GODSAVE
Stephen POTTS
Hassane RIFAI
Mohammed SALMAN

Promoted to PROVINCIAL assessor

George McLELLAN

INSTRUCTORS

Promoted to PROVINCIAL Instructor

John FREIHAUT
Francis MARTIN
Mike WINSTANLEY

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE ABOVE
ON THEIR PROMOTIONS!**



*All members of the OSRA
are cordially invited to attend the
20th Annual General Meeting
of the CSRA to be held in Calgary on
February, 2009. Exact details will be
communicated in the next CanSoRef.*

Around The Branches

Peterborough

Carlos Ferreria, Peterborough Branch President in action at the High School Boys Final, St Peter's (Peterborough) -v- St Mary's(Cobourg) on October 30, 2008.



Mike Smith makes a presentation at the OSRA Peterborough AGM.

Scarborough



Since Isaac became a National Referee in 2005, he has travelled far and wide and have refereed many high level soccer games in Canada. Isaac executed his duties as soccer referee with a high standard of professionalism. He is always willing to help younger referees not only in Scarborough, but also in other Districts

The District of Scarborough has always been proud of his accomplishments and is somewhat saddened that his reign as a National Referee will be over as the 2008 season comes to an end.

Isaac was appointed to the following games in 2008:

Assistant Referee:

Canada U20 v Argentina U20 at BMO stadium

Wisla Krakow (Poland) v Brazil U20 at BMO stadium

USL 1st Division - 4 matches in Montreal and one match in the quarter final in Vancouver.

MLS Reserves - 3 matches at BMO stadium

Refereed in the OSL, OWSL, OUA, OCAA and CSL.

Appointed to Senior Club National Championships in St. John's, Newfoundland, where he refereed the Women's Gold Medal Match.

Referee Championship match of CSL (Broadcast on Rogers Saturday Nov 1 at 8pm)

Referee Gold Medal match of OCAA Men's.

Assistant referee Gold Medal match OUA Men's at York University on Nov 2nd.

This game will be his SWAN SONG as a National Referee

Isaac is going out with a bang!! and a heavy work load: The last 5 games listed above were all done in the last month of regular season.

Although Isaac will be retiring from the National Referees List at end of this season, he will continue to be an active referee and will focus his energy on assessing and education

Isaac has posted pictures on the web, click this link to view [2008 Senior Nationals.html](#)

More action pictures of Isaac click this link [2008 CSL Final.html](#)

Scarborough Branch held their Annual General Meeting on November 13th 2009

Attending the A.G.M from O S R A is no other than the President himself, David Cope.
David is seen here addressing Scarborough Branch members on referees' related matters.

The following are some pictures from this meeting.





Brampton

Our AGM was held at the Glasgow Rangers Supporters Club on November 3rd, 2008. Over 50 members turned for an enjoyable evening. The business side of the meeting was conducted quickly and effectively, Rich Carman (President), Bill Gardner (Vice President), Rich Oliveira (Treasurer) and George McLellan (Secretary) were all returned to office by acclamation.

Bill Gardner has done sterling work liaising with Brampton Parks over the state of our local fields. Many of our concerns have been addressed

Congratulations to Alex Della Sciucca on achieving Class 1 (Provincial Referee for 2009), Graham Elder, Neil Westwater, Ed Nsubuga and Peter Ibbotson, on achieving Class 2 status (Regional Referee for 2009).

There were also promotions for two of our assessors, congratulations to Steve Potts (to Regional Assessor) and George McLellan (to Provincial Assessor).

Hamilton

Attached are photos of the game officials for the Championship games of the Hamilton & District Oldtimers Soccer League (A, B, C, and D Divisions) in the order in which the games were played:

You will note that the OSRA is well represented (and I plead guilty for not making sure that my badge was properly aligned!). (Submitted by Paul Cannon)



D Division - Arun Pillai, Romolo Furi and Jose Martins.



C Division - Paul Cannon, Bob Sandhar and Arun Pillai.



B Division - Domenic Di Pasquale, Paolo Catarino and Paul Cannon.



A Division – Domenic Di Pasquale, John Maida and Domenic Toscani.

The Hamilton AGM was held at the Spectator building on November 24th. A good turnout complimented a well run and organized meeting. Here is a picture of our new Executive.



North York

The North York AGM was held on October 25, here is a picture taken at the meeting.



Revisiting Holland & Italy 2008

As we enter another “season” of education sessions at our branches throughout Ontario, how do our instructors, who will be lecturing on “Offside”, answer any question that refers to the “offside Goal” that occurred in the Holland/ Italy game?

Its been some months now since the “offside goal” controversy of the Holland /Italy game in the 2008 European Championships. Officialdom seems to be waiting such a long time for FIFA’s International Board to give their opinion.

Regardless of the so called “expert” opinions expressed by some, I am still of the firm belief that the goal scored by van Nistelrooy was, to all intense and purpose, a breach of the offside Law.

The offside law clearly states “ *A player is in an offside position if; he is nearer to his **opponents goal line** than both the ball and the **second last defender.**”*

There is no doubt that van Nistelrooy was **nearer the goal line that the second last Italian defender who was on the field of play at that time.** The claim by some of course, is that Italy’s Panucci, who was lying on the ground “outside the field of play”, was in fact playing van Nistelrooy onside.

The law allows officials to decide whether the player off the field, **left the field on purpose with the intent of playing a forward offside.** If that is the case, the referee is obliged to allow the play to

continue and to caution the offender for misconduct (Q&A page 23 LOTG item 3.) at the first stoppage in play.

A number of questions come into play in this case.

1. According to the Laws of the game (LOTG) the field of play is that area bounded by both goal lines and touchlines. **The area outside these lines are not considered part of the “playing area”.**
2. The LOTG require all injured players to remove themselves from the field of play for treatment of their injuries.
3. Players leaving the field of play without permission of the referee are required to be cautioned, as is a player returning to the field of play without the referees’ permission.
4. An injured player removed for the purpose of treatment may not return unless given the signal to do so by the official in charge.

Under Law Five, the referees “Powers and Duties “ three of the items deal strictly with the injury of players. **One of which directs the referee to remove the injured player to the “non playing area” OUTSIDE THE FIELD OF PLAY.**

In the actual incident leading up to the goal, we have a **player who is forced off the field** during the play and lays injured behind the goal line. The player, Panucci, remains lying on the ground and makes no attempt to regain his position on the field. The referee, quite rightly allows play to continue, knowing that the injured player has the right to treatment while in that position.

In the meantime, the ball is returned to van Nistelrooy, who is standing in an offside position and scores the goal.

Now the questions and answers,

- a. Was the injured player given permission to leave the field? Obviously not.
- b. If so why was he not cautioned on his return?
- c. Did the player deliberately leave the field of play? Not in this Case.
- d. Did the injured player AVOID returning to play to put the Dutch player offside? Again NO, he remained on the ground awaiting treatment.

Now, let me be the “Devils advocate”. If both the Assistant referee and the Referee himself had given van Nistelrooy offside would those “so called experts” have condemned that decision as an incorrect interpretation of the offside law?

OF COURSE NOT.

I have watched the video of the play at least ten times and I remain convinced that the decision of awarding the goal was an error of judgment that should not occur in such a world-class competition.

The very fact that van Nistelrooy could not believe his luck, which is shown by both his reaction and his body language, confirms my opinion. This, with the opinions of other well-known Referees throughout the world, leads me to question the powers that be, which “approved” of the decision.

Maybe when the International Board finally come down with their decision, we trust they will keep in mind what effect such a decision will have on “Local” games throughout the world. Whenever that happens it will be too late for this instructional season, in the meantime, instructors must stick to the letter of the LOTG.

Peter T. Johnson, FIFA Referee, Retired.

We would like to publish your Branch Report, or any article, you may consider sharing (including photographs) in future issues of CanSoRef. Please send to us [here](#). Copy deadline for June 2008 issue is June 15, 2008.
