



# CanSoRef

CanSoRef is the official Newsletter of the Ontario Soccer Referees' Association.  
June / July 2009

## From The President

August 3, 2009

To All OSRA Members,

At last, summer weather seems to have arrived. I am sure many will welcome a reduction in the amount of rain and being able to do games without wondering if one should have brought gloves to the pitch.

As the OSRA makes its way through its 50<sup>th</sup> year, not only the weather seems unsettled. There are many changes underway. The CSA has exerted its influence and we now have a consistent referee system across the country, and a new badge to go with it. The OSA, for its part, is flexing its muscles and trying to establish a much more dominant role for itself in the province. That includes expressing complete disdain for the OSRA as an organization and the support a strong referees' association can bring to the game.

This attitude by the OSA is an unfortunate development, but it does provide the impetus for the OSRA to reconsider its role and how it can continue to support referees. To this end, the Executive has called a meeting of Branch presidents for September 10<sup>th</sup> to come up with a plan for moving the organization forward. It would be helpful if members would bring forward ideas about what the OSRA should do in the future and how it should function. These should be passed on to the members of your Branch executive in August so that they will be able to discuss them and bring the results to the meeting in September.

Now is the time to bring fresh new ideas to the table so that the OSRA can continue to be an effective organization for referees in its next 50 years, just as it was during its first 50. Be a part of making that happen!

Also, look for news soon about the celebration that is planned to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Yours in soccer,

David Cope  
President

## Dates set for 2009 3<sup>rd</sup> Council Meetings and AGM

**Our 3rd Council Meeting for 2009 will be held on Sunday October 4.**

The meeting will be held at the Armenian Youth Centre commencing at 10.00am.

The Armenian Youth Centre is located at 401 and Victoria Park at:

50 Hallcrown Place  
North York, ON M2J 1P7  
(416) 499-4781  
[Get directions](#)

The 2009 AGM, which is our 50th AGM, will be held on Sunday November 15 at a venue to be determined.

## 2009 Robbie Tournament

The 2009 Robbie Tournament held on July 4<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> came to a successful conclusion.

The Robbie would like to thank all referees who officiated, not only this year, but all previous of its 42nd years of operation. Referees play a vital role in the success of the Robbie and they are publicly acknowledged during the 3 days of its operation.

Special thanks to the following Districts for their commitment to the Robbie: Durham, York Region, North York, Toronto and Scarborough

### Robbie Pictures:









## Around The Branches

### Brampton

The Branch is somehow managing to buck the trend, we have grown to over 100 paid up members We retained all but 3 members from 2008, all three have pledged to join the Branch, so this is a gentle reminder to them to get their registrations in to Rich Oliveira.

Mentoring has been our big thing this year. Since the start of the season, the OSA registered assessors in our Branch have been very busy, so far we have mentored / assessed over 50 of our members, with more to come, at no cost to our membership. In particular we have been active at most of the Ontario Cup Round Robin Tournaments in our area. It is also very heartwarming that members are actually analyzing and questioning their own performance and are not frightened to call and ask for advice and guidance. Needless to say we have also sent someone to take a look where it was felt by both parties it would be of benefit, again at no cost to the member. This year we expect to spend over \$1,000 in providing this service to our members.

We were very disappointed to hear that Mr. Bradbury and Mr. Backer at the Ontario Soccer Association have told the Provincial Executive that the OSRA has no part to play in delivering Education to Ontario referees. No doubt they will download the Education responsibility to the District Associations, (in our case, PHSA), and will expect the Districts to organize and deliver (and presumably pay for) said education.

We look forward to seeing how the 10 education sessions we offered at our Branch (with similar numbers at Halton Branch and more at Mississauga Branch) will be covered in 2010 by the OSA / PHSA.

**OSRA Brampton Referees at Ontario Cup u12g, Eidelweiss Park, Bolton  
on July 18 and 19, 2009:**



Adam Kanji, Eric Asare, Eoghan Gibney



David Cowl, Wayne Norman, Mark Mooyer



Karim Kanji, Joe Bukovscak, Michael Tepper  
(Michael's mum was very disappointed he had his hands in his pockets 😊)



Karim Kanji moving with grace and pace to maintain good position  
and keep up with the play

## Scarborough Referee of the Year 2008

Archie McPherson was selected referee of the year 2008 for the District of Scarborough. Archie is a good example for young referees who are seeking to enhance their refereeing careers. In just 10 years Archie was able to move from an entry level referee to a Provincial referee.

Congratulations! Well deserved Archie.



Jacques Tjonasan (Treasurer) making award presentation while Leslie Wong, President looks on.



A Picture is worth a thousand words!!

## OSRA Merchandise

### Equipment Prices

- Rain Jacket \$60.00
- Golf Shirt (assorted colors) \$30.00
- T Shirt \$13.00
- Uniform Badge \$5.00
- Referee Cap \$13.00 (New Stock just arrived)
- Toque \$6.00
- Tie \$20.00
- Uniform Badge \$5.00 (10 or more – special price \$3.00 each)
- 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 Mike Cvetanovich directly at [mikecvetanovic@hotmail.com](mailto:mikecvetanovic@hotmail.com).**

# How My Sight Was Saved!

By Lisa Waywell

It should have been a normal Thursday morning, August 7, 2008, when I awoke to get ready for work.

But I did notice something was different.

In the inner aspect of my left eye was a curtain, a veil of grey which I could see through, but I knew should not be there.

I looked on the Internet to see if there was any information about such a problem, and there was something – a detached retina. The description fit exactly what I saw.

I phoned my Ophthalmologist's (Eye Doctor) office, but unfortunately he was on holidays. His office suggested the Emergency Department at the local hospital.

I was seen by the Chief of the Emergency Department, who happened to be the nephew of some friends of my parents. By this time my folks had joined me on this unreal and unexpected adventure.

Upon examination, the doctor believed there may be something amiss, so he referred me to the on-call specialist. We trotted off to an appointment to see the specialist.

Within a few minutes, the specialist was on the phone to St. Michael's Hospital. There seemed to be an urgency in his voice as he spoke to the Resident-on-Call.

In 45 minutes, through rush hour traffic we drove down to St. Mike's. We spoke to several levels of doctors and I was examined several times using various optic devices.

It was determined that I did, in fact, have a torn retina. The good news, they suggested, was that a course of laser treatment might work. The bad news was the location of the tear was not conducive to the laser treatment being successful.

I decided, after a few stressful tears, to try the laser treatment route rather than the full surgical procedure. I was willing to position my head in a face down pose for 21 hours a day if that is what it took to avoid surgery.

During this time at the hospital, I had to phone Harry DiCiacca of Scarborough who had given me a local game for the next weekend. I figured I could not look at my shoes and referee at the same time! He said no problem and for me to take care.

That evening, the doctors at St. Mike's, Drs Yoganathan and McAlister, inserted a gas bubble in the eye to ensure that adequate pressure was maintained on the retina. Before you stop reading....the rest of my story is not graphic so don't worry.

By Saturday, I had laser surgery, but, as expected the tear was not in a good position for this to work adequately.

So, by Monday, it was clear that my vision needed surgical intervention. Ugghhh!

The procedure took about 1 hour and 30 minutes. Drs Chow and Yoganathan performed the surgery and I was discharged from the hospital that night.

By the next day I looked like a prize fighter – the one who lost.

The next four weeks were spent at home, with the achy kind of pain and puffed up like a balloon. And most of the time, I was not able to read or watch much television comfortably.

I went back to work partial days after that for a couple of weeks, then full-time.

The surgery changes your prescription, so in October, I got a new set of glasses.

Is the adventure finished at this point? Unfortunately, no.

You see the surgery to correct the torn retina has an unfortunate side effect. You develop a cataract in the affected eye. My cataract developed quickly and two weeks ago on July 9<sup>th</sup> of this year I had surgery to insert a new (bionic) lens in the left eye.

In another two weeks I will stop the various eye drops and I will receive a different prescription for glasses. Interestingly enough, the lens implant will result in me receiving glasses which are less strong than my current pair – it has actually improved my vision!

The reason why I have shared this story with you is to make you aware of the need for urgent care on eye issues. If I had ignored this curtain appearing in my eye, I would have gone blind – plain and simple.

The greatest risk factors for retinal tears or detachment are being male or over age 60 – both of which I am not and which most of those reading this story – are.

Regular eye examinations are important and can sometimes catch these things early. In my case it was a spontaneous event with no head trauma – just being nearsighted was the factor in my case.

I am grateful to have my sight back, even though there is an inconvenience of eye drops that seems never ending. I am also grateful that our healthcare system has produced so many skilled doctors, both male and female, who are dedicated to improving sight for so many people. And finally to my family and refereeing colleagues who have been a tremendous support through this whole adventure. Thank you.

## Chinese soccer player banned for life for referee attack

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS (CP) – August 1, 2009

BEIJING — A Chinese soccer player who chased a referee for half the field before pushing him to the ground has been banned from the game for life.

The Chinese Football Association said in statement late Thursday that Tianjin player Zhao Shitong had been banned for life, and that five other players were suspended for two to three years.

The players attacked referee He Zhibiao after losing 3-1 to Beijing in a July 26 provincial playoff for the National Games. He gave three Tianjin players red cards during the second half of the game.

At the end of the game, Zhao and the other players started yelling and pushing through security guards to get to the referee. Zhao then was seen in footage broadcast on state television chasing He and pushing him to the ground.

The pushing and arguing lasted 20 minutes before security officials got control of the situation.

"We hope clubs enhance the management and education of coaches and players and improve match discipline in order to prevent such thing from happening again," Wang Xiaoping, the association's director of discipline, said in a statement.

The association also kicked Tianjin out of the National Games to be held in October.

Soccer is very popular in China, but there are serious problems in the game. The domestic professional league is tainted by bribery and brawling. China's top league returned to national TV in March, ending a four-month ban imposed because of on-field violence.

You can see what happened here:

<http://www.epochtimes.de/articles/2009/08/02/474430.html>

***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 August 2009 issue is August 15, 2009.***