

AGM 2006

Report of Club Head Referee

Over the past year the Club has provided opportunities through Referee Clinics for those members who wish to participate in the Referee Program. During the 2005-2006 Indoor Season the Club used the services of 42 referees. The majority of those referees attended a Clinic for the first time and returning officials participated in the refresher workshop to cover indoor games. For the 2006-2007 season the indoor referees were given an exam on the Indoor Laws of The Game. 45 people were in attendance and all successfully passed the exam.

Our 2006 outdoor program saw approximately 80 individuals take part in the OSA Class 4 Referee Clinic. From that body of game officials, together with returning officials, we were able to adequately supply qualified referees for all games. We used 153 referees in our outdoor program.

While it is easy to criticize the quality of referees, we need to remember that as we create referees, they must be given the opportunity to gain experience on the field. Consistently, as "problem" referees were reported to me and subsequently observed, I have generally found that they are performing at an acceptable level given their limited experience. There have been very few exceptions and they were dealt with to everyone's satisfaction.

The membership should be proud to support their referees, some of whom are now gaining recognition throughout the region and beyond. My personal congratulations to Natalie Pringle and Matt Davidson. Matt, who is now attending Trent University, received one of our scholarships in recognition of his many years of participation with the club. Natalie was appointed to be an Assistant Referee at the Canadian Soccer Association Under 14 Boys/Girls National Championship which was held at the OSA Centre, Vaughan, 4th – 9th October, 2006. Natalie performed to a very high standard and, as a result, was appointed to be one of the Assistant Referees on CSA National Under 14 Girls Final. To perform at this level with National level officials is an extremely high and well deserved honour particularly for someone 17 years of age. Both of these young people are great role models and a credit to the Club and the community.

I appreciate having the support of the Board in giving these young referees an opportunity to experience officiating for the first time and where appropriate for them to pursue further training and development.

I consider it a privilege to be part of an organization with such high level technical staff as Jens Kraemer and Paul Nesbitt and look forward to working together towards some of the exciting projects proposed for 2007.

Should anyone wish to become a referee, clinics will be scheduled for early in 2007. Watch the website for further details: www.whitbysoccer.com.

Gord Arrowsmith
Club Head Referee