

AUGUST 2007

## EXPRESSION OF LOVE AND CONCERN: RECEIVED

Our RDO Alexandra Maclennan is making good progress through gruelling But healing exposure of Chemo-therapy, Alexandra reports at time of writing that she has one more session and then a welcomed rest from the therapy.

"I am determined to overcome, with God's help and come through this with all bells on!"

Though sounding a little weak, Alexandra's attitude and spirit remains strong and focused. Alexandra has been encouraged by the flowers and calls from the Referee's Federation.

"The phone calls, flowers and kind thoughts are deeply appreciated and are helping me make good progress, please express my many thanks, I just want to get back to my work that I love and help the referees."

Indeed such words from Alexandra are not only our hope but also our positive thoughts and prayer for her recovery!

**Note:** *Alexandra has had a number of blood transfusions and all referees are encourage to donate Blood as an expression of support for Alexandra and for the needs of others going through The same therapy!*



## PRIZE GIVING

Stephen Budai Chairman Federation Two Soccer Referees Centre

How quickly we are drawing to the close of yet another winter Season of football, I am conscious, like every one else is, of the speed by which this year has moved through the Months!

So we need to bring to everyone's attention the End of Year Awards Night to be held at the Pakuranga Country Club on 3<sup>rd</sup> of November to celebrate the honouring of our colleagues success.

Tickets available on the basis of first in best dressed and cost \$45.00 per person and can be paid for by cash or deducted from our match expenses.

People can contact Sarah, Robbie or Mark Fletcher or me (SB)

As recipients of well earned and deserved prizes at last years End of Year prize giving we will need the cups returned at your earliest convenience to either Mark Fletcher or myself as we will need them for this years forthcoming event.

Please ensure that the trophies are returned in a clean and polished state.



Stephen Budai

## INTRODUCING

**Ben Norman and Peter Cardwell**

My name is Ben Norman I'm 15 years old I became a Club based referee last year and at the end of last year Alexandra got me to do a level 1 course.

I became a referee because I like running the line for dad's team.

I like to play sports like badminton and sometimes a bit Of rugby. I also played soccer until this year but I still play soccer for school.

I hate Annoying parents that stand on the sideline and yell at you like they know all the laws of the game.



**BEN NORMAN**



**PETER CARDWELL**

I'm Peter Cardwell and I'm 16 years of age.

After playing soccer for about six or seven years I was encouraged to do a level one referees course, I past And started refereeing in April 2005.

I enjoy refereeing the greatest sport in the world and I hope to develop my skills more and more every season. Hope to see you all around refereeing. (GO CHELSEA).

## APPOINTMENTS PANEL Report by Craig Borland

Craig Borland has been appointed to the NZS Appointments Panel (AP).

Representing the three Northern Federations: – United Soccer 1, Soccer 2 and Force 3.

Some seven months on from my appointment it is interesting to reflect upon the role to date and what challenges have been confronted during this period. It was a little bit of a sink or swim situation at the time (And I am not the greatest of swimmers!) – I had no clear understanding of what the role might require of an individual when I decided to throw my name in the hat.

This was highlighted after just a couple of days when I quickly became embroiled in the issue of both mandatory breaks and fitness tests for existing members of the NZFC.

The mandatory break issue was resolved to the satisfaction

of most members – a nice win/win situation as it was an issue more about being aligned to what our members were seeking rather than arguing the merits of a break.

More flexibility in the way they were taken.

As I remind most people on this issue – it is no different to

the business environment. Employers only provide holidays to refresh you (not because they are necessarily nice people!). The fitness tests were in part addressed although I should make it very clear that a failure to adhere to the requirement of mandatory fitness tests during the currency of the season are at the peril of the referee.

I personally see no reason for compromise in this arena given the critical importance of fitness as it relates to the elite level of the game currently. In other words, the day of centre circle refereeing are behind us. Remember, NZFC teams are effectively playing now for US\$1m (world club champion). We owe it to the game to perform to the appropriate standard.

As an Appointment Panel member (one of three) my main area of responsibility is referee appointments, inspection and the promotion process for all match officials in relation to FIFA and all the national competitions (NZFC, NWL, NYL and Knock Out Cups). By removing this aspect from the NZSRC (at one time this function sat with them) it enabled this committee to focus more on planning, recruitment, retention and setting policy to assist referees to move forward in their game.

As a panel we tend to meet only twice a year although it is possible that this may extend to three times. On other occasions we can get together by telephone link up. It is beholden on me to have a sound knowledge of all referees in my area (in this case the three northern federations) and it is expected that I would be a NZFC Inspector. My appointment in December was made jointly by the Chairman for the NZSRC and the Deputy CEO of NZ Soccer.

So how confident can you be that I have your interests at heart? It is a fair question. Be assured, I do take the role very seriously. Many of you will be aware that I have almost an obsession with the mentoring model. In business, mentoring has become the buzz word. It has actually extended



**CRAIG BORLAND**

beyond just individuals. Within my business environment I am a mentor to a number of colleagues. At times I can spend hours with work associates passing on my experiences and knowledge of the environment I work in. It is no different for football. Every step of the way as a referee we are dealing with adversity in the game. It is critical that each area have a robust model that assists referees to deal with this. Furthermore, it is important to enhance the development of any referee with the potential to progress towards a higher level of the game. Hence, mentoring. As an aside, I hope I can assist any referee that feels the need to discuss their aspirations and challenges they are confronted with at any time. Remember, our game is not just about understanding and interpreting the laws appropriately – there is also that critical component of how we interact with players. They must be treated with respect however they may choose to communicate with us.

I keep an excel spreadsheet that monitors all those referees that I feel have the potential to progress in our game. I keep regular contact with those people responsible for your development and provide timely guidance when requested. There is nothing more invigorating in an environment such as ours when the incumbents are being kept honest by those pressing to make a statement about their own credentials. To this extent, I am very excited about the young members of our collective federations who are currently plying their trade. A breath of fresh air and it does give you confidence that the game here in New Zealand will be the richer for this talent coming through. All of us have a collective responsibility to assist the cause. What I have seen to date suggests that we are making a fair fist of it. Long may this continue.

In closing, I am also mindful of the importance of those who assist on the coaching front. This is a critical component of any federation and whilst numbers involved in this aspect are spread rather thinly there is still some excellent contributions being made. For those members thinking of hanging up their whistles in the future – give some thought to this valuable aspect of our game. Once again, coaching is another dynamic learning curve with how we interact with people. Another of life's valuable experiences

Best wishes to all those who have achieved their goals to date and long may you continue to strive higher. Please take any opportunity to chat with me or drop me a note if I can be of any assistance. I am a busy person but this is no excuse for me not assisting as appropriate. If it means that one of my other passions in life – driving my 1969 Mach One Mustang – takes a back seat then so be it. There will always be another fine day around the corner to take my drive!

## Wet Weather Report/ Postponements/Cancellations/Ground changes By Martin Baucutt Competitions Manager Soccer2



With all the wet weather we have had over the past weeks, and with new people coming into administration of the game in clubs each season, I thought it would be useful to remind everyone of what the processes are for ground usage and late fixture changes on a disrupted weekend.

On Friday lunchtimes, I receive ground reports from councils, sometimes simply closing some grounds altogether, but often only restricting the number of hours of play per pitch over the weekend. These restrictions are based on what the council thinks would be acceptable for Saturday and Sunday play without ruining the grounds for future weeks.

On Friday afternoon I take a number of steps to play as many games as possible within the restrictions - that is always my aim. I have a number of options:

- \* cancel some individual fixtures within a league
- \* Cancel some leagues altogether (so that a whole round can be rescheduled later in the season)
- \* transfer matches from closed or restricted grounds to ones that have some 'free' times - this may involve changes to venue, field and/or kick-off time.

Individual teams and coaches need to know that their match being cancelled is NOT always an indication of ground closure - if a team rings to ask a club why the 14Boys are playing and the 13 Girls were cancelled, the answer probably lies in the above!

Also it is vital to note that games are changed to agree with the council's times per pitch, therefore it is imperative that the teams play on the pitch they have been allocated, and not move to another because it looks to be in better condition. You will be using somebody else's pitch allocated to them for later on in the day. Please don't!

All changes are published on the Soccer2 website at [www.soccer2.org.nz](http://www.soccer2.org.nz) as a list, and are also input against individual fixtures on the competitions part of the site. Club secretaries are also emailed and/or faxed a list of all cancelled/changed games.

I usually reach a final position for the afternoon before 5pm, but the signal that I have is the message on the Soccer2 website home page, and the publishing of the list there.

Anyone checking the competitions website during Friday afternoon should be warned - I may not have finished!

The weather can change overnight, for the better or for the worse. Improvements in weather will not affect the changes made, as by then the information will have been passed down the chain to individual teams and players.

However, if the weather deteriorates overnight Friday or even Saturday there may be further changes that are made, on council recommendation, from very early on Saturday morning. In addition, some clubs make their own inspections during the day, even as the early junior and youth matches are going on.

All further changes are put onto the website as I make them, and all teams, referees/coaches/managers and players should use that as their first port of call for the very latest information.

The early morning Newstalk 1ZB cancellations service may be used, if so listen for the words Soccer2. Any other references to football could be other areas, other non-Soccer2 leagues, or even individual clubs' in-house programs.

However, if it is a bad weekend, they simply do not have the time to communicate all the changes that have been made.

In short, information on 1ZB should not be relied upon as the sole source.

The website is the best source, as any change I make is immediately posted to the site as it happens.

I will also try to make contact with a club direct, but a 12 o'clock kick off may be postponed as late as 10 o'clock, so on a bad weekend keep checking!

## What if the weather changes overnight or even during the day?

I act on information from council inspections, but a club may look at its venues in a morning, or see that pitches have deteriorated due to play in early games. In that case the club may call me on **0272 582612**: to let me know that they wish to close the ground to protect it.

I may have some other grounds that I could move the game to within a close proximity that can accommodate your game.

On bad weekends don't bank on it, but it's worth a try. I will do the rest on the website, and contact clubs if I can. But I need a couple of hours notice, please.

## What if you turn up for a game and don't think the pitch is playable?

If you are the official referee, then you will be the only person who will call off the game if you deem it unfit for play.

If the pitch is fine but its cold and wet I don't expect teams to turn around and go home - this is a winter sport and if the pitch IS OK you should play!

If the pitch is unplayable, again, you could call me on **0272 582612** to see whether I can move you to a nearby alternate venue. If that's not possible any postponement should be reported to me at Soccer2, fill in a Match Report or Ground Report.

We all hope for good weather (especially me!) but when it turns nasty let me assure you I do try to get as many games as possible inside the council restrictions, and I do make all the information available as quickly as I can.

I'll end with one final message - the website is king!

## GREAT OPPORTUNITY

### Chris Kerr

This year, the U19 Youth Championship held in Napier will again be over Labour weekend (Sat 20th - Mon 22nd October)

I've got beds booked for those referees that wish to go as accommodation is as rare as rocking horse turd at that time of the year and if you haven't booked in advance, you will have no show. The motel we have booked at is The Best Western Spanish Lady Motel 348 Kennedy Road, Napier and it's about \$33 per person per night (based on single bed).

At this stage, there are no double beds left as a few from last year have re-booked. If you are interested in going to referee at this tournament you most likely need to advise Alexandria/Ian that you will be there and Tony Simmonds, who is the referee controller for the tournament. You can advise Tony on [tony.simmonds@nzwtta.co.nz](mailto:tony.simmonds@nzwtta.co.nz) that you will be attending as a referee.

If you are interested in going, could you please email me (Me as in Chris, not the Motel) with the following if you wish to have accommodation:

[Chris.Kerr@xtra.co.nz](mailto:Chris.Kerr@xtra.co.nz)

Names:

How Many People:

How Many Nights: (Bear in mind that the tournament kicks off Saturday 9am and finishes Monday 2pmish)

Bed Type preference (I will not stick one person in a double by themselves as that is a bit off with the limited number of beds available, also couples will be given preference) Children:

Special Requests:

'Too late, too late" will be the cry once the accommodation has all run dry.

This is a fantastic tournament with good football and even better camaraderie!

## FROM THE SHERIFF (Discover Your Level of Incompetence!)

From the Chronicles of the Sheriff who always gets his man/women each Monday night! His eyes sweep to and fro across all fields of play, his mind sharp as his pencil, his motto: "All reports are published without mercy, all are guilty, all are fined, and none are found innocent!"



The sheriff reports to Full Time:

- The Sheriff first reports on himself!  
Leaving his whistle, cards, appointment  
Cards and watch at home!
- Nick Waldron wanted his game postponed due to the rain may "interfere with my hair gel"!
- Mike Hester was Fourth Official with an electronic substitution board. He had it over his head displaying – nothing!  
It was not switched on!

### Sheriff Perry Topsett

For all scandalous news, gossip, stuff ups, flag, whistle dropping, tripping over, forgetting the Laws, loosing clothes, watches, car keys, or simply not even turning up to do an appointed game; call the Sheriff Perry Topsett - satisfaction guaranteed!

Phone: 09 636 9616 or see the Sheriff on Monday nights.

All fines go towards the Social Funds of the Federation.

## Volunteer Referees Requires

Every Year Three Kings United host the National 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Small Whites Tournament. As has happened in previous years they require volunteer referees to assist. The tournament is held at Keith Hay Park from Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September to Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> September. It is small fields, 20min each way and a lot of fun. Anyone interested please contact Mark Fletcher by email [markfletcher@ihug.co.nz](mailto:markfletcher@ihug.co.nz). Last year there were 24 teams both boys and girls and any help is really appreciated.

## Be Part of Full Time

Anything you want to see in 'Full Time' be it a piece you would like to add, a funny moment you wish to share or points of law that you want clarified. Be part of Full time by sending your contribution to Wayne Buchanan [companyb@xtra.co.nz](mailto:companyb@xtra.co.nz) or see Wayne most Monday nights.

If you know of referees that do not have email or cannot receive this newsletter then please let the RDO know – Alexandria has a list of members who prefer to have the magazine posted.

## REFS MEET

Monday night meetings: Grafton United Clubrooms at Victoria Park 7:30PM