



# The Whistleblower

Volume 1, Issue 1

March 2007

## Coming Events

**What:** Canterbury Referees Coaching Night

**When:** Tuesday 13 March, 7.30pm, drinks from 7pm

**Where:** English Park

**What:** Coaches training on Laws of the game. All Mainland Soccer League Coaches are required to attend. Referees for this league are encouraged as are all referees to attend also.

**When:** Wednesday 14 March, 7.30pm

**Where:** English Park

**What:** Inspectors (coaches) course with Ken Wallace for those who need to re-qualify. Those interested in becoming inspectors (coaches) are encouraged to attend.

**When:** Saturday 28 April

**Where:** English Park

**What:** Course for referees run by Ken Wallace and local coaches. Reply to Wayne Stapley by April 21 to confirm attendance.

**When:** Sunday 29 April, 9am - 4pm

**Where:** English Park

## Editorial

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*Having only arrived in the Garden City in the last week, I have already been roped into producing a monthly newsletter for the region. It is something I am definitely pleased to be doing as it is a good relief from study!*

*For those of you whom I haven't yet met, my name is Isaac Trevis and I have moved down to Christchurch from the great region of Taranaki to study at the University of Canterbury. I was responsible for a similar newsletter in the Naki last year and consequently was asked to do the same here.*

*Another winter season is almost upon us and everyone will have their own new challenges and goals to face. For me it is the challenge of finding each new football ground in the city, for others it might be refereeing at a particular level or working towards having a part in the summer leagues of 2007-08. No matter what level you are refereeing (or coaching referees) at, it is important to have goals and expectations in mind in order to keep focussed and be the best that you can be for the teams involved. We are out there to enjoy the game, but also make the game enjoyable for the teams.*

*So set those goals, aim high (even if that is to make it through the 90 minutes of your first game), and most of all enjoy what I'm sure will be another great season of football. If anyone from any branch in Mainland has news please e-mail me and I will include it in future newsletters.*

*Yours in football.*

Isaac Trevis.



## A-League to Stay in New Zealand - For Now...

New Zealand Soccer announced on Thursday the 2nd of March that they will back the Wellington bid for a New Zealand team in the Hyundai A-League for the 2007-2008 Season (and beyond). The licence will only be handed over when

the Wellington group can raise the minimum capital investment needed of \$2 million. Assuming that they manage this, the news is great for all people involved in football in this country. It is likely that several of the games will be played at venues outside of Wellington, with Christchurch being named as a possibility.

The benefits of having such a team in NZ are huge, as it is a massive step up from the NZFC to a professional league such as the A-League.

Looking at it from a refereeing perspective, there are only positives to a professional team being based in New Zealand. Obviously there will be officials from this side of the Tasman who will be used on the league for home games. It is a step between our NZFC and FIFA that is invaluable for any official here looking to advance their refereeing career.

## Spot the Ball

Can you spot the ball that Henry Faarado and Michael Mayne are after? (Answer Page 3)





## NZFC at English Park

Saturday the 24th of February saw the second to last home game for Canterbury in the 2006-07 NZFC season, when they hosted Team Wellington at English Park. In what was a scrappy and unstructured game of football, which ended 2-1 to Wellington, there was little debate that the best team on the day was the four officials. Referee Chris Kerr along with Assistants Darrin Mitchell and Glen Lochrie and fourth official Darren Sund-

born, handled everything that the two teams threw at them, or kicked at them - I'm sure Chris will be over that headache by now!

The game, which proved why neither of the teams involved will be taking part in the playoffs, handed its biggest test to the officials early in the second half. After a foul tackle by a Team Wellington player, the Canterbury player responded with a punch and resulted in several players squaring up with each other. Referee Kerr and AR Mitchell restored order and the Canterbury player was dismissed.

The officials on display were of a good standard and we wish them well for the remaining two rounds of the competition.

Canterbury United's last home game is at English Park against Youngheart Manawatu on the 10th of March. The officials for the game are: Referee - Gabriel Streza, AR's - Mark Rule and Darrin Mitchell, Fourth Official - Darren Sundborn. Good luck guys.

## Mainland Football - Referee Review

The Referee Review that was outlined in the last Mainland Referees Newsletter (Sep 06), has since been completed. Following this review Canterbury Referees and Mainland Soccer will come into line with most other Associations in New Zealand. The original intention of the Federation system, introduced in 1999 was to bring together all of the Football and Referee Associations in a federation and run them collectively. Canterbury Referees (CSRA), have up until now continued to exist and run their own organisation.

Over the past few months a review has been run with the intention of the referees here following the path that NZ Soccer had created. An agreement has been reached between Ash Connor (on behalf of CSRA) and Mike Coggan (CEO Mainland Soccer), which will see finance and administration roles handed over to Mainland Soccer, taking pressure off the referees who will concentrate on referee recruitment and retention.

It is also the job of Mainland Soccer to employ an RDO (Referee Development Officer). They have committed to not only a Mainland RDO, but also one for Nelson and Blenheim.

This season is a time of change, especially for the referees in the region, and I am certain that the results will be positive for the referees as well as the players and Mainland Soccer.

**JOIN THE MEN & WOMEN IN BLACK**

Refereeing is a great way to stay right in the middle of all the action, keep fit and achieve new goals.

You may have hung up the boots and want to stay involved in the game, or see refereeing as a career in the most popular sport in the world.

To find out more about becoming a referee visit [www.nzsoccer.com](http://www.nzsoccer.com)

REFEREING. A REWARDING EXPERIENCE.

### Guess Who?!

Can you tell who this distorted (and well 'loved' Referee) is?



# Spectators Handed Two Year Ban From English Park



**Above:**  
Otago Utd  
coach, Terry  
Phelan.

Albert Laverack and his adult son, Michael have been banned from Canterbury United football matches for the next two years. The ban follows racial abuse directed towards Otago United coach Terry Phelan at a recent NZFC match at English Park. Phelan who is English born with Irish and African heritage laid a complaint after the two men abused him from behind the technical areas during the match. The response by Canterbury United officials has been admiral. Upon receiving the complaint they approached the police, who recommended a trespass order. Both New Zealand Soccer and Phelan have been impressed by the swift reaction of Canterbury United who are making it clear that mindless racial abuse at any person whether it be a player or official is not acceptable in the game of football in this region. From a referees perspective it is great to see such measures taken, and it is our job when out in the middle on a game of any level that we ensure that such abuse is not tolerated and is dealt with seriously. I am sure that this is an isolated incident and such behaviour is not common place around local football grounds.

## "Homer's"

*(An extract from the book 'Soccerpedia' by Andrew Ward. Arranged in A to Z format, this entertaining and authoritative book offers the chance to get to know the Laws of the Game and its history in detail.)*

Referees are called 'homers' if they appear to favour the home side, supposedly swayed to do so by the presence of home supporters or the size of the home club. During a match in the 1950s, Len Shackleton (Sunderland) consistently called the referee 'Mr Khayyam'. At the end of the match, when the referee asked him what all the 'Mr Khayyam' was about, Shackleton explained that he thought the referee had the same first name - Omar.

Home ground is considered to be an advantage, and statistics show that home teams generally score more goals than away teams. It is not necessarily refereeing that produces this. Home sides are favoured with a more generally supportive crowd, a familiar environment and less travelling to matches. What may seem like home bias, in terms of refereeing decisions and the issuing of cards, may be down to home teams attacking more and exerting more pressure. More penalties are awarded to home teams than away teams, but again this may be what one would expect if home teams spend a disproportionate amount of time in the opposition penalty area.

During a match between Manchester United and Newcastle United, Alan Shearer (Newcastle) intercepted a back pass and tried to go past goalkeeper Tim Howard (Manchester United) when his leg was clipped (January 2004). The referee did not award a penalty but video replays showed that he could easily have done so. That incident provoked a discussion about whether Manchester United, at Old Trafford, had had fewer penalties awarded against them than would be expected. In fact, there had been only three awards between December 1993, when Fox scored for Norwich City, and the Shearer incident over ten years later.

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger was in trouble with authorities after contesting the referee's decision to give a penalty-kick to Manchester United, saying that it was to be expected from a referee who had given eight penalty kicks to United in the previous eight matches he had refereed at Old Trafford (October 2004).

Who else but:

## Graham Poll



Alan Nevill, Nigel Balmer and Mark Williams have researched the 'homer' issue. They found that referees watching a videotape with the sound turned down awarded 15.5 per cent fewer fouls to the home team than referees watching with the volume up and the crowd noise apparent. But the more experienced the referee, the more balanced they were.

George Best has summed up the players' definition of the homer: 'its human nature, isn't it, if you're a referee? If you go to Leeds and you've got forty thousand people screaming at you, or you go to Liverpool or Old Trafford, you're going to go with the flow. That's what used to happen, and it still does to a certain degree. Referees are going to make decisions that the home fans want to know about.'

There is another meaning of 'homer' - the referee who likes to get home safely after the match.

[\(So just block out the noise of that massive crowd at English Park!\)](#)

## Did You Spot the Ball?

