

President Report 2017

I stepped in half way through the year when Dave Sullivan resigned. It is unfortunate as Dave brought a lot of business knowledge to the running of our association.

Women's World Championships

BC hosted the world women's football championships in Langley in June. The British Columbia Provincial Football Association (BCPFA) hosted the event. Officials from around the world and across Canada were brought in to officiate. They were short a couple of officials so Brian Findlay and myself volunteered. There was no pay for any of this just a lengthy time commitment for game days and video review on off days. Great experience and different as it was all American rules. Sandy Bains also stepped up to help with the sticks. (Although he constantly complained) A few other community officials also came out to assist. Mark Newlove served as the local RIC.

Most of the officials had day trips planned for some of the off days. I brought all of them to the RCMP helicopter hangar in Langley for one afternoon. All were thrilled to get pics in our helicopters. One of the officials was from the Australian Federal Police. I made sure they all left with some RCMP swag.

Thank you to all that helped make this event happen. (Sorry if I missed anyone by name) The BCPFA was very pleased and expressed their appreciation to me.

New Societies Act

By Nov 2018 we have to be compliant with the new act. Rod Fehr stepped up and is redoing our constitution to comply. Thank you Rod!!

BCPFA

I represented the BCFOA at their board meetings. I have known most on the board for many years. Looks like Football Canada wants to make some big changes for safety. One such change is having an official on the sideline to assess concussions and remove players. This needs to be fully discussed as they have liability issues attached and I would be opposed. I was asked to be part of their committee for proposed rules and safety changes. Having a seat on the BCPFA gives us a voice for many issues.

Having a recognized PSO allowed B.C. to participate in the U16 and the Canada Cup for the first time in many years in June and July. As we are part of the recognized PSO we were asked to supply officials to those games. Deepak Sharma was selected for the U16 in Red Deer Alta. Tim Louman-Gardiner was selected for the Canada Cup in Nova Scotia. Selections for the International Bowl in Dallas Texas in March 2018 was made from the evaluations done on the officials in the Canada Bowl. Tim was selected, congrats!

Final thoughts

This last few weeks was interesting following the high school AAA final. It emphasized how we have to remain professional despite the barrage of negative comments. Thx to Benny for acting quickly with the high school liaison so some social media comments were removed. Social

media is never our place to discuss games. As much as I always want to get the last word in, we all have to take the higher road. I hope everyone understood where I was coming from in sending out that message.

I wish everyone and their families to please have a safe and happy holiday season.

Nigel Bushe Interim President BCFOA