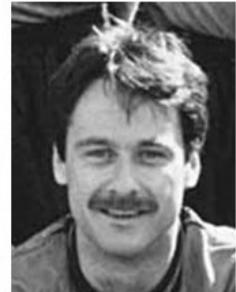


Date: September 29, 2020

At the suggestion of a member, the VMSL will now be naming the nine one-off “Cohort” Cups.

The four open age cups will be named to pay tribute to four influential leaders of the VMSL Board who have retired over the last number of years.

The five age-specific cups will be named to commemorate five of the inspirational members of the VMSL who have been taken away from us too early.



## *Influential past leaders of the VMSL Board*



**William Azzi**



**Ruben Tremarco**



**Bob Allen**



**Roy Nosella**

## **The William Azzi Premier Cup**

### **VMSL President**

**BC Soccer AC Sanford & Life Member**

**Columbus FC, Coquitlam Metro Ford SC**

For 24 seasons, William “Willie” Azzi was the heart and soul of the Vancouver Metro Soccer League. Willie left his role at BC Soccer in the mid 1990's to save the VMSL from imploding under the weight of hundreds of thousands of dollars of debt following the infamous VMSL embezzlement scandal. He brought the league back to its former glory, working diligently, administering and overseeing its operation and penning his weekly report of the Premier Division for two decades. Many current VMSL members will fondly remember Willie holding court during the weekly Office Hours on Friday and Saturday mornings.

However, Willie’s involvement in the Lower Mainland soccer landscape runs even deeper. Willie was founder of the powerhouse Metro-Ford soccer club of Coquitlam in the 1980s and dedicated years to its coaching and administration. His family roots in the local soccer scene run even further, with his older brother having been a founding member of the distinguished Columbus FC.

The Vancouver Metro Soccer League is proud to honour Willie and his lifetime of service to both the league and local soccer by naming this unique competition’s flagship Premier Division Cohort Cup after a man, without whose unique contribution, this league would not exist as we know it.



# VMSL 2020 Cohort Cup Tributes

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## **The Ruben Tremarco Division 1 Cup**

**VMSL President**  
**Coquitlam Metro Ford SC**

After almost 30 years of distinguished service, Ruben Tremarco will just this fall step down from the Vancouver Metro Soccer League Board of Directors as Vice President and Discipline Chair. Ruben is a past league President and long time scheduler and has done every job in the league at one time. His enthusiasm for, and commitment to, the VMSL will be difficult to replace. Despite having to overcome several health and personal challenges, Ruben dedicated himself unwaveringly to the league and its endeavours. He has always been the first to arrive and last to leave at league events and pioneered the now popular annual Premier Division Opening Day and All Cups Day during his tenure at the helm of the league. He has been the face of the league with Willie for decades and his departure marks the end of an era.

The Vancouver Metro Soccer League once again extends its undying thanks and gratitude to Ruben and is proud to honour him by naming this season's Division 1 Cohort Cup after him and his legacy with the VMSL.

## **The Bob Allen Division 2 Cup**

**VMSL Board member**  
**BC Soccer AC Sanford & Life Member**  
**VMSL-NASL-FIFA Referee**  
**National Club Champion Player**  
**Firefighters FC**

Robert "Bob" Allen was a pioneer in the British Columbia soccer landscape. During his playing days, Bob suited up for the storied Vancouver Firefighters Football Club. Bob was a member of the Firefighters side that were Pacific Coast League Champions and Canadian National Amateur Champions in 1965. That season culminated with Vancouver Firefighters defeating San Francisco to claim the John F. Kennedy Cup, played in Los Angeles.

It is not primarily his playing career, though, for which Bob will be remembered. Bob Allen was one of Canada's foremost soccer referees. He was appointed to the Canadian National Referee List in 1977 and was a member of the FIFA International Referee list from 1982-1987. His career highlights include being an assistant referee for the 1982 NASL Soccer Bowl in San Diego, being named BC Athlete's of the Year "Official of the Year" and refereeing at the Canada Games in St. John, New Brunswick in 1985, being honoured with Canada Soccer's Ray Morgan Award for refereeing and refereeing at the FIFA/CONCACAF Championship in Trinidad and Tobago, assistant refereeing at the U16 World Cup hosted by Canada in 1987 and taking charge of the National Men's Amateur Challenge Cup Final in 1988.



# VMSL 2020 Cohort Cup Tributes

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The Vancouver Metro Soccer League is proud to once more recognize Bob Allen's extraordinary contribution to soccer and, in particular, officiating by naming this season's Division 2 Cohort Cup in his honour.

## **The Roy Nosella Division 3 Cup**

**VMSL Board member**  
**BC Soccer AC Sanford & Life Member**  
**National Club Champion Player**  
**Columbus FC**

While he was an exceptional baseball player, including a two year stint playing in the Minor Leagues, Roy Nosella also had a passion for soccer. After a successful playing career, which included lifting the Challenge Cup as Canada's Men's National Amateur Soccer Champions in 1964 with Columbus FC, Roy turned his attention to giving back to the sports that had given him so much. Roy sat on the Board of Directors for both BC Soccer and the VMSL for seven years. However, his longest tenured position was a 43 year stint serving on the Vancouver Athletic Commission.

Roy also refereed in the Metro Women's Soccer League, where he instituted a mentorship program to help develop more local referees. For his lifetime of dedication and exceptional service to soccer in the Province, Roy was honoured with BC Soccer's prestigious AC Sanford Award. Additionally, Roy was inducted into the Burnaby Sport Hall of Fame in the Builders category in 2014.

The Vancouver Metro Soccer League is proud to honour Roy Nosella and recognize his extraordinary contribution to local soccer by naming this season's Division 3 Cohort Cup after him.

*Inspirational members of the VMSL who have been taken from us too early*



**Bevan Footman**



**Brandon Bassi**



**Bruce Foreman**



**Bobby Rosenlund**



**Simon Turrell**

## **The Bevan Footman Over 35 Premier Cup**

**Imperial Cup Champion Player**  
**Club Inter / PCOV**  
**1979-2020**

A few months ago the Vancouver Metro Soccer League and the entire Lower Mainland Soccer family lost a great member when Bevan Footman passed away following a year long battle with cancer. Bevan was a stalwart defender at Capilano University before stints with both Club Inter and PCOV in the VMSL. He won the Imperial Cup with Club Inter. Bevan's lifelong love for soccer had him playing right up until his illness prevented him from continuing and the measure of his loss to the soccer community was apparent by the multitude of love and tributes he received from not only those with whom he had played, but from those who he had played against as well.

The Vancouver Metro Soccer League would like to dedicate this season's Over 35 Premier Division Cohort Cup to Bevan Footman and pay tribute to his legacy by naming the trophy in his honour.

## **The Brandon Bassi Under 21 Cup**

**Provincial A Cup Champion Player**  
**BB5 / SFU**  
**2000-2019**

In May of 2019 the VMSL and soccer community across the Lower Mainland was rocked by the news that one of its most brightly shining young stars had been taken from them. Brandon Bassi, known as



# VMSL 2020 Cohort Cup Tributes

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the Young King by his CCB LFC United teammates, was tragically killed in a motor vehicle accident just weeks after he and his teammates had lifted the BC Soccer Provincial “A” Cup in Nanaimo. CCB LFC United would go on to claim the Challenge Cup as Canada Soccer’s Men’s National Amateur Champions that October in St. John’s, Newfoundland, in a performance that they dedicated to Brandon. Brandon Bassi was a standout performer as part of Simon Fraser University’s distinguished Men’s Soccer program and exploring potential professional soccer opportunities. In the summer of 2020, CCB LFC United renamed their club BB5 United in honour of their Young King, Brandon Bassi, who was taken from them, and the soccer community, far too soon.

The Vancouver Metro Soccer League would like to dedicate this season’s Under 21 Division Cohort Cup to Brandon Bassi and pay tribute to his legacy by naming the trophy in his honour.

## **The Bruce Foreman Over 35 Division 1 Cup**

**VMSL Board member**  
**Bombastic FC all time leading scorer**  
**Bombastic FC founder (est.1992)**  
**1966 – 2016**

A lifetime of travel never dissuaded Bruce Foreman from putting down strong roots in the Vancouver soccer community. He was a founding member of Bombastic FC, a club that continues his legacy to this day with three teams in the VMSL. Bruce was prolific goal scorer and to this day remains the all time Bombastic FC A leading scorer. Bruce had a lot to give to the soccer community having worked in the sports and entertainment industry with the Vancouver Canucks, Vancouver Grizzlies and San Francisco 49ers. He helped the VMSL enormously as the league recovered from its financial difficulties in the mid to late 90s and then he served on the VMSL Board during the early 2000’s. Bruce left the soccer community much too soon after a valiant battle with cancer in 2016 at age 49. Bombastic FC already hold an annual Bruce Foreman Cup but this year’s plans for Whistler (it has been held as far away as San Francisco) have been stalled by the pandemic and to award the fifth annual as part of VMSL competition this year is a welcome opportunity.

The Vancouver Metro Soccer League would like to dedicate this season’s Over 35 Division 1 Cohort Cup to Bruce Foreman and pay tribute to his legacy by naming the trophy in his honour.



# VMSL 2020 Cohort Cup Tributes

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## **The Bobby Rosenlund Over 45 Premier Cup**

**National Team**

**CPSL**

**National Club Champion Player**

**Firefighters FC**

**1964-2017**

Robert “Bobby” Rosenlund was a gifted soccer player from a young age. He was named the prestigious “Sun Soccer Boy” in 1980 before representing Canada at youth level throughout the 1980s. Bobby was drafted by the New York Cosmos of the NASL and played with the Edmonton Eagles in the CPSL. Bobby is perhaps best known for his 22 year long career of service with Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services. This, naturally, led Bobby into the ranks of the powerhouse Vancouver Firefighters in the VMSL where he anchored a formidable midfield during the Firefighters most dominant era in the late 80s and early 90s. The Firefighters won multiple VMSL Premier Division and Imperial Cup titles in the 80s, culminating with their Provincial Cup Championship in 1990. Representing BC at the Challenge Cup tournament that year, Bobby would score the lone goal of the final match in extra time against host side Nova Scotia to see Firefighter crowned Canadian Men’s National Amateur Champions. After an eight year battle with cancer, Bobby passed away in 2017 at age 53.

The Vancouver Metro Soccer League would like to dedicate this season’s Over 45 Premier Division Cohort Cup to Bobby Rosenlund and pay tribute to his legacy by naming the trophy in his honour.

## **The Simon Turrell Over 45 Division 1 Cup**

**VMSL Board member**

**Provincial A Cup Champion Player**

**Westside FC President**

**1963-2018**

Never one to back down from a challenge, Simon Turrell’s exuberance and enthusiasm for soccer ensured that he would have a massive impact on the local game, both on and off the pitch. As a player, Simon’s incredible work ethic and tenacity were part of a burgeoning Westside FC side that began to turn heads as a potential top side in the late 1980s. Simon was a part of the Westside team that claimed its first major trophy when it won the 1989 Provincial Cup Championship. He would then go on to be the President of Westside FC throughout its most successful era in the 1990s. During this time he also gave his time to the VMSL as a member of the Board of Directors. Simon’s unbridled spirit and passion led to Westside FC naming an annual club award after Simon upon his passing in 2018.

The Vancouver Metro Soccer League would like to dedicate this season’s Over 45 Division 1 Cohort Cup to Simon Turrell and pay tribute to his legacy by naming the trophy in his honour.