

Interview With...RON SHAFFER

This is the start of a new feature. Each month, we will be highlighting one of our Livermore referees. For our first feature we chose, Ron Shaffer, who was interviewed in 2006.

Ron Shaffer has not ventured far from his home town of Castro Valley. He grew up in Hayward and settled into Livermore in 1988. Straight out of high school, Ron has been working for Pitney-Bowes for 23 years. We hope he will have the same staying power as a Livermore referee. In his first year, this Grade 8 referee has given his time and energy for many games already. After refereeing a recently game late one night, Ron gave us a bit more of his time to know him better.

Livermore Referee Association (LRA): How did you become a referee?

Ron: A while back I volunteered to work the sideline for my son's game what was missing an Assistance Referee. Van (Hensen) saw me and thought I did a pretty good job. He suggested that I take the referee course.

LRA: What finally made you decide to sign up for the course?

Ron: As a member of the league for eight years, it was time to volunteer. I also wanted to become more knowledgeable about the game. Becoming a referee gave me that knowledge and the opportunity to help the league.

LRA: What does your family say about you becoming a referee?

Ron: Since I have enjoyed my referee work so much and signed up for a number of games, sometimes I hear "You have another game to do?" But the family really is supportive.

LRA: What is your favorite soccer team, besides your son's team?

Ron: I have been following the Celtic from Scotland.

LRA: Any activities outside of soccer?

Ron: I am a season ticket holder for the Oakland Raiders. Boy Scouts have been a large part of my family's life for the last eight years. I am currently an Assistant Scout Master.

Camping and bowling are also things my family does together.

LRA: What words of wisdom would you like to impart to others?

Ron: Refereeing is not as hard as it looks. In fact, it is a lot more fun than you might expect.

LRA: What has becoming a trained referee changed you?

Ron: I used to think I knew the rules of soccer. After becoming a trained referee and actually doing games, I can now say that I not only understand the actual Laws of the Game, but have a better understanding of how they are implemented in a live game.

LRA: Anything else you would like say?

Ron: Thank you to all the experience referees that continue to give me valuable feedback. Their input has helped me improve my skills and confidence on the field.

Thank you, Ron, for your time refereeing on the field and granting us this interview. See you on the fields!



Ron Shaffer, Oct 2006

"I used to think I knew the rules of soccer."