

# THE WARBLER

Monthly Magazine of the Woking Referees' Society

[www.wokingreferees.co.uk](http://www.wokingreferees.co.uk)



**Season 2012/13 April Edition**

# WOKING REFEREES ' SOCIETY

## FOUNDED 1927

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**The next meeting of the  
Woking Referees' Society  
will be held on  
Monday 8th April 2013**

Meadow Sports Football Club  
Loop Rd Playing Fields, Loop Rd, Kingfield, Woking  
Surrey GU22 9BQ  
7.45pm for a prompt 8pm start

**AGENDA**

- ♦ **8.00 Chairman's Welcome**
- ♦ **This Month's Speaker**

**Barry Rowland**  
**"Delaying the Restart"**

- ♦ **Society Business**
- ♦ **10pm Finish**

**Next month's meeting Monday 13th May 2013**

**The deadline for the May edition is  
Friday 3rd May 2013**

*The views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the  
Society or it's Committee*

# Chairman's Chat

Hello and welcome.

As this is my first "Chat" I would firstly like to thank everybody for the fantastic welcome I received at the AGM. I consider my election to this position a great honour and a privilege.

I am not sure that I can follow in Vince's footsteps, he is certainly a hard act to follow, however, I am determined to give it my best shot.

I was amazed and very happy to receive so many offers of help from my fellow officers and Committee members, this is much appreciated.

I know Vince has plans for pre Society meetings for young and newly qualified referees, and I am looking forward to assist him in these sessions.

I look forward to seeing you all at our next meeting on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April, when I will be holding an interactive session on "Delaying the Restart"  
I have included a potted history of myself below

Once again many thanks to you all.

***Barry***

## Barry Rowland Profile

Age: 66

Married to Jean, 2 sons and numerous Grandchildren.

Licensed Referee Instructor, Licensed Tutor Level 2

Licensed Instructor for Disabled Football, Futsal, and Football for the Blind or Partially sighted. Regularly delivering workshops and courses in schools (Charthouse) and local community ventures, also Mini soccer courses.

History: Football, played until I was in my 20's when I had two broken legs in consecutive seasons, I decided to pack up while the going was good! I started refereeing when my two sons were playing in local teams, back in 1985. Starting with little League and then progressing to adult football with local leagues and the early days of the Fulham academy, where I was lucky enough to work with such greats as Dermot Gallagher, and Kevin Keegan (when he was the England team manager).

I have over the years, worked on a number of leagues and for the last 10 years plus have been an official on the Suburban football league.

Continued →

I have been member of two referee societies, Wimbledon (until it folded) and Kingston and have had the honour to serve as training officer for both of these societies. But the greatest honour was to be elected as Chairman for the Woking Referees Society.

Occupation: Retired College lecturer. Teaching Health and Safety and Accident Investigation to students of the Built Environment. Prior to that I worked for a well known Local Authority for 32 years and took early retirement, when the Authority decided to put services out to tender, and no longer required the senior management tier.

**Barry**

**From the Treasurer / Membership Secretary**

**2013 Current Status**

General	£809.41
Supplies	£432.09
Belgium	£0.00
Youth Fund	£113.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,355.00</b>

**012/13 Membership**

As at 15th March 2013

**68 Full Members**  
**6 Friends**  
**2 Affiliate Members**

**PHYSIO CARE**



Details of products are;

Gold – This service includes a clinical triage call, clinical remote management and/or IA and max of 4 sessions of treatment – this is £35

Silver – This service includes clinical triage call, clinical remote management and/or IA and max of 2 sessions of treatment – this is £25

Both products are valid for one year from date of purchase.

Both products can be accessed up to 4 times per year for non-related non-reoccurring injuries provided terms and conditions are met

Valid for access for ages 18-65

In order to access the treatment service the individual must be off Refereeing duties for 5 consecutive days and the injury must not be a pre-existing condition

Treatment plans are at discretion of IPRS physiotherapist providing the clinical triage call (clinical assessment over the phone)



**WOKING SOCIETY - THE REFEREES ASSOCIATION**  
 Affiliated to the Referees Association & Surrey County Referees Association  
**Patron: Mrs Pam Wells**                      **President: Peter Guest**

## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP SEASON 2013 - 14

	COST	AMOUNT
FULL MEMBER - OVER 18 (INCLUDES RA & COUNTY RA SUBSCRIPTION + PA INSUR- ANCE) Expires 31/3/2014	£36.00	
FULL MEMBER – UNDER 18 (INCLUDES RA & COUNTY RA SUBSCRIPTION + PA INSUR- ANCE) Expires 31/3/2014	£29.00	
<b>AFFILIATE MEMBER</b> (i.e. Full Member of another Referees Society) Expires 31/3/2014	£20.00	
FRIEND OF WOKING SOCIETY Expires 31/3/2014	£20.00	
OPTIONAL RA PHYSIOTHERAPY INSURANCE Gold Cover £35 (£12 if paid by 24th March2013) Silver Cover £25 For Details of cover see “Physio Care”		
<b>DONATION</b> £1,£2,£3,£4,£5,£10 or Whatever		
	<b>TOTAL</b>	

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

.....POSTCODE.....

TELEPHONES (H)..... (M).....

E-MAIL ADDRESS.....

COUNTY FA REGISTERED WITH.....

FA NUMBER (FAN)..... REFEREE LEVEL.....

DATE OF BIRTH.....

**I AGREE TO ABIDE BY THE RULES OF THE SOCIETY**

SIGNATURE.....DATE.....

RETURN TO :-BRYAN JACKSON,  
 1 WOODSTOCK GROVE,GODALMING,SURREY,GU7 2AX.  
 Tel: 01483 423808  
 Email: membership@wokingreferees.co.uk

**CHEQUES PAYABLE TO:- WOKING RA** or  
 Send funds direct to 30 94 77, a/c no 02710897

## Proactive Refereeing

### ***Handball or not?***

I had the pleasure of watching a very experienced referee recently who was officiating at a Contributory level match. Twice he did something I have never seen before that prompted me to comment favourably in my report on his Match Control.

In the course of 90 minutes we had two 'walls' for attacking free kicks - one mounted by each team. On both occasions, as he was getting the wall back the statutory distance, he talked to the players about what he would interpret as a deliberate handball should an arm be struck by the ball. He did this without any great elaboration but within earshot of the player about to take the kick. This seemed fair to all parties.

It got me thinking about what any referee might reasonably do to make his and the players' lives easier.

Football matches are battles of wits between players and referees. There will always be players who play mind-games or seek to outsmart the referee. Some of this can be dealt with using the Laws - feigning challenges looking for free kicks, for instance. Persistent complaining about decisions that just falls just short of dissent is something we have all suffered. It is designed to erode our confidence and judgement and has to be dealt with assertively.

There is never a better time than early in a match to stamp our authority on proceedings. Often a significant foul presents the opportunity for a strong blast on the whistle and a word [or card, if called for] with the offender to demonstrate what will not be tolerated. Something I coach is indicating right from the start where throw-ins are to be taken. This sends a subtle signal about who is in charge - the referee, not the players.

These two examples are things that every referee can practice. There are other things that all referees can do that will remove doubt. One that I favour concerns the 'back-pass' to the goalkeeper. I see there being nothing wrong with communicating you will not penalise a goalkeeper if he picks up the ball when it arrives with him via a miscued kick by a team-mate. "It's OK keeper, not a back-pass!" is helpful to both sides in knowing what you are thinking. It is not contrary to LOTG and might even earn a little respect.

Being pro-active then is all about communication - helping players understand what you want from them and what is in your mind. In the several years since I took up the whistle, communications have greatly changed on the field of play. To a great extent referees only spoke if they were cautioning or sending off players; otherwise, they let the whistle do the talking. Nowadays, even on a Sunday morning, a referee who [but concisely] can explain what he wants and is doing is going to make life easier.

At the higher levels of football it has become the norm. A referee who cannot talk to players is going to be lost. Referees have to create a 'presence' and a bit of proactivity is a great comfort to players. Typically, throw-in restarts give the referee the chance to impose some authority. There is always some jostling before the ball comes into play and the referee positioned opposite and close to the dropping-zone can deal with this. "Hands down! Leave him alone 5!" is a way of giving some comfort to the potential victims of fouls and discouraging foul play by offenders. It works.

As referees we should not be robots -mere observers who only act in response to events by reacting with the whistle and cards. Preventative refereeing by discouraging foul play and then only having to deal with those who are determined to take no notice is to everybody's benefit.

We should never be in the position of cautioning a player for persistent infringement unless he has been duly warned our patience with him is wearing thin. The 'stepped approach' is now expected of us. Tell him he is at the last chance saloon and he has no grounds for complaint the next time he is brought to justice.

Referees have to learn to fully integrate with each game and to create an atmosphere that appears to be justice based upon a fair interpretation of the Laws. Too few players understand the laws and a modicum of explanation can help to quell dissent.

Unless we are natural communicators or perhaps come into refereeing with a day-job that involves stressful 'inter-personal communications', our early days on the football field can be daunting even if we are a former player.

Dealing with problems post facto on the FoP is mostly what we are taught on basic refereeing courses. The sooner we can learn to identify potential problems and try to eliminate them in a game the easier our refereeing will be for us.

*Len Randall*

*Courtesy of The Chiltern Referee*

To new beginnings, specifically to Tunstall Town FC, the Staffordshire club largely composed of near pensioners who haven't won or even drawn a game for aeons, but who still turn out week after week because they love playing. On Saturday they secured their first league point for six seasons, drawing 1-1 with rivals Whittington. It was a hard-fought affair. At one point officials from both clubs joined players on the pitch for a spot of unpleasantness, and the goalie was sent off. But these are details. Tunstall didn't win, but by heck they didn't lose.

*diary@guardian.co.uk Twitter: @hughjnuir*

## OH, WHAT A BAD KNIGHT!

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2013 : UEFA Champions League, Round of 16, 2<sup>nd</sup> leg : Manchester United v Real Madrid (1-2, aggregate 2-3)  
Referee: Cuneyt Cakir; ARs: Bahattin Duran & Tarik Ongun; 4<sup>th</sup> official: Mustafa Eyisoy; AARs: Huseyin Gosek & Mete Kalkan. All officials from Turkey .

The 2<sup>nd</sup> leg of the UEFA Champions League game, ManUtd v Real Madrid, had a big talking point after the 56<sup>th</sup> minute dismissal of Nani (ManUtd) for Serious Foul Play, namely, endangering the safety of an opponent, Alvaro Arbeloa.

It was a bad night for ManUtd who led 1-0 through a 48<sup>th</sup> minute own goal by Sergio Ramos, and a bad night for their manager, Sir Alex Ferguson, who was too 'distraught' after the game to appear at the press conference.

Sadly the media portrayed the decision by the referee to dismiss Nani as shocking. The argument was that Nani was attempting to control the high ball, coming over his shoulder, with his foot, and did not intentionally make contact with Arbeloa.

'Intent' was taken out of the Laws in 1995 by the International FA Board, our law makers – England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and FIFA make up the IFAB. With 'intent', referees were being asked to read the player's mind. Did he intend doing that? But now, referees are no longer required to do this.

Referees will now look at the outcome in an incident. Briefly, if, for example, a player is on the ground, the referee now has to forget intent. The player has got there because his opponent has been at least careless (no card), reckless (yellow card) or used excessive force (red card). Referees are also asked to bear in mind that a tackle that endangers the safety of an opponent must be sanctioned as Serious Foul Play, a red card offence.

The game is football : using the foot to play the ball; in fact, using any part of the body except the hand or arm. Heading the ball is also allowed. Guidelines for referees when considering 'endangering the safety of an opponent' in the Nani incident is, more or less, players are allowed to use their feet up to about waist high. Above that, the player can head the ball but if he uses his foot, he should make sure there is no player in the immediate vicinity whose safety will be endangered (red card).

Some people argued that Nani's action was Dangerous Play. Dangerous Play is now an indirect free kick if it involves no physical contact between the players. If there is physical contact, the action is no longer Dangerous Play but becomes an offence punishable with a direct free kick or penalty kick. So Nani was not guilty of Dangerous Play under the new interpretation.

A scissors kick is permissible provided that, in the opinion of the referee, it is not dangerous to an opponent.

In Nani's case the ball was above waist high. He should have been intercepting the ball with his head or chest or not playing the ball at all. It was up to him to make sure that, if he decided to use his foot at that height, his foot would not make contact with an opponent.

Nani's foot was up. His leg was straight. He made contact straight into Alvaro's chest. He could have fractured a couple of ribs. He did not but he could have. Nani, some people argued, did not intentionally aim to injure Alvaro, but intent no longer enters the equation. The outcome saw both players on the ground as a result of Nani's lack of consideration for the safety of Alvaro. It was a clear red card for Serious Foul Play by endangering the safety of an opponent.

In many employments, the employee would be cautioned (yellow card) or sacked (red card) if he broke company rules. And so it is in the best interest of the employee to be aware of those rules. But football is an employment which has employees working without knowing what their boss (the IFAB) regards as misconduct, not fully knowing what they can be yellow or red carded for. It seemed that, in Nani's case, the manager and his players were not aware that such an offence warranted a red card. And most in the UK media, sorry to say, were also unaware.

FIFA and UEFA have seminars where their officials are shown DVDs of incidents (fouls) and the interpretation that the Laws require them to make. If there is a referee who does not carry out the application of the Laws correctly then he might not be asked to referee many games or he could be demoted, and in certain circumstances possibly removed. He cannot referee a game using his own interpretations as Laws need to be uniformly applied worldwide.

Referees cannot use common sense. They used to. But then the media complained about the referees not being uniform in their decisions.

Now, not only are the Laws in a booklet, but also the Interpretations & Guidelines appear in the present day 'Laws of the Game' booklet. There should be no excuse for anyone misinterpreting a Law.

"The world will be watching" said Jose Mourinho, Real's manager, before the game. So what an opportunity for the world to learn the Laws and its new interpretations. Well, not that new as they have been around for a few years. The media owe it to fans to put over the correct interpretation of any Law especially if a Law has been amended or updated. But the media let everyone down.

The UEFA Referee's Observer at the match was Pierluigi Collina who backed the referee's decision and marked him 8.2 out of 10. He would have got more, Collina said, if he had not ignored Rio Ferdinand's clapping in his face after the final whistle. UEFA had 'no issues' with the red card.

Coaches must instil into their players they are not to injure or endanger the safety of opponents who are fellow professionals. Not being aware of the interpretation together with, what a number have said, the tactics chosen by Sir Alex, cost ManUtd the game.

*Continued next page*

It was not the referee's fault. He officiated in the manner his bosses required and was given a high mark.

Once a team is reduced to ten men, any manager should then have a different strategy. Mourinho, realising his team were now playing against ten men, brought on Luka Modric to replace Arbeloa. Seven minutes later, in oceans of space, Modric was allowed to shoot for goal and score from 25 yds, 1-1. Two minutes later, a goal kick started a 21-pass move between Real players without any ManUtd player touching the ball, and ending with a goal by Ronaldo, 1-2 and aggregate score 2-3.

ManUtd did not score themselves. Their goal was a 48<sup>th</sup> minute own goal by Sergio Ramos. So they went 90 mins without scoring. With 10-men including Rooney, left out of the starting line-up, now on for Welbeck, ManUtd had good chances to score but failed.

Real's manager reorganised his team to meet the 10 v 11 situation. He quickly seized the opportunity while his opposite number was still thinking about the decision to award a red card to one of his players at Old Trafford.

Sir Alex saw his team fail to score in the first half, score through an own goal, and then receive a red card for one of his players. He did not seem to have an immediate strategy for his players, now reduced to playing 10 v 11. They saw their manager descending the steps, wagging a finger at the referee, confronting the 4<sup>th</sup> official, and then looking for more support from the crowd!

Outcome? Real quickly scored two away goals, and Sir Alex was too 'distracted' to answer questions after the game.

Players reflect their managers. They saw their manager confronting the referee, wagging his finger. It was disappointing to see some of the ManUtd players after the game likewise confronting the referee.

A bad night for ManUtd and for Sir Alex.

**Mal Davies**

### **52 HOURS**

A group of footballers played for 52 hours in the world's longest match - scoring 1,703 goals.

The teams, from Peterborough, Cambs, and Reading, Berks, kicked off at 10.00 am Friday and finished at 2.00 pm Sunday. They smashed their own record, set last year, by ten hours.

Each team had a squad of eight players with five on the pitch and three resting. Visitors Reading won the charity game 895 - 808.

Organiser Conor King said : We are all tired but proud - and we won't be doing it again." (Sun 31.7.2012)

*Courtesy of Chiltern Referee*

## Showpiece Match Abandoned after 5 Players Dismissed

A SHOWPIECE football match between Wingate and Finchley and Thurrock was abandoned after the former had five players sent off 30 farcical second-half minutes.

The Ryman Premier League game, which was being played at the Harry Abrahams Stadium in Finchley on Sunday, was called off with five minutes remaining and relegation threatened Thurrock leading 1-0.

It was one of three games selected to promote a special "non-league football against discrimination" weekend organised by the Ryman League and football charity Kick It Out

But referee Sam Purkiss was left with no choice but to abandon the game, described by Thurrock chairman Tommy South as "a disgrace". He believes the home side were trying to get the game abandoned.

The league announced on Monday the 1-0 win would stand, meaning Thurrock will not need to replay the game.

The first red card was shown to Wingate's Armet Rifat for a dangerous tackle early in the 52nd minute.

Ten minutes later, former Thurrock player, Osa Obamwonyi, who had been booked for a deliberate handball earlier in the match, was shown a second yellow card for a foul on Danny Green in the box.

Stuart Thurgood, the Fleet skipper, [converted](#) from the spot to give his side a priceless lead in the 62nd minute.

The third red was shown to Wingate left-back, Ronayne Marsh-Brown while the fourth, the most ridiculous of the five dismissals, saw Jon Christianson boot the ball the length of the pitch after Thurrock had placed the ball for a free-kick.

Then after being on the end of a diatribe of verbal abuse, Mr Purkiss was left with no choice but to send off midfielder Scott Shutton with five minutes remaining.

It is thought to be the first time in the league's 108 year history that a game has been abandoned for this reason. It is the third fixture this year involving Thurrock that has been stopped before time.

Mr South said: "I thought it was an absolute disgrace. I thought they were trying to get the game abandoned.

"The referee had a good game, it was five sending offs. "For one of the dismissals, the player just came up when it was our free kick and booted the ball the length of the pitch having already been booked. It was at that point we thought they were trying to get the match abandoned.

"They were never going to score in a million years. But we might have scored more and if we get relegated on goal difference, having the game abandoned could be costly.

"I've never seen anything like it and i've been in non-league 35 years. It wasn't a dirty game at all. We had two players booked, they had five sent off."

In a statement, Aron Sharpe, the Wingate chairman said: "The club has taken the appropriate steps to address the issue with regard to the game versus Thurrock on March 10 that unfortunately was abandoned.

"We do not feel it appropriate to comment on any aspect until such time as the referee's report is made available."

***Spotted by Brian Reader in the Thurrock Gazette***

### ***Adie Socks it to 'Em***

As most of you are aware I have my own 'Office Area' in the corner of the Dining Room where all those allocations take place and Match Reports are filed. So, sitting at my workstation during the week – busy allocating, my printer threw up its warning of 'Low Ink' on the small screen.

This meant a trip into town to obtain some more cartridges. It is well publicised that I *do not do shopping!* I duly asked the question 'are you going into town on Saturday Diane?' The answer being of the negative format I then said that I would have to go in to source some ink cartridges. 'If you're going in I'll come with you' pipes up my better half. 'No way' was my reply. 'If you want some logs cut up I need to go in and get out fast so I am back by 9:30am'.

Setting my alarm for 7:30am I crept around and was in and back within 30 minutes. I will add that on my return I felt the need for a bacon butty with HP sauce. 'You don't shop' commented the lady of the house obviously annoyed, " You just buy things!!'

So now I know there is a difference but at least my plan came together!!

With the season approaching its final few months a small issue came to mind concerning the tape on socks. Most of us lesser beings who officiate on local parks have been correcting teams that are still coming out onto the field of play with different coloured tape or elasticated bands on their socks. Some clubs will be getting new kits for next season so if players have inadvertently lost socks the clubs (some of which operate on a shoestring budget) are not going to replace them. The result being that one or two players will have slightly different styled socks.

I am not suggesting for one minute that we drop our standards with the Law on tape and bands but I really do believe that on certain occasions (particularly in Youth Matches) a bit of leeway can be found. The important fact is that you can discern the difference between opposing players socks. So if one team has red socks and the other has blue, if a couple of players have blue socks with white bands on them they could cover them with blue tape but they have run out.....are you going to stop them playing?

Last Saturday I had a slight delay to my kick off because there were two players who had white cotton socks on top of their blue ones. I made them take the white socks off or wear them under the blue ones. One player had a pair of older socks with two white stripes on the top – to me not a problem. To be honest I think with some clubs you are lucky to get them all in the same colour socks!!

Enough from me on my soapbox, enjoy your matches.

*Adie*

## Hand Ball ? Or Ball to hand?

One appreciates that the passage of time does not necessarily make the subject matter topical but nonetheless I would like this time to highlight the hand ball situation the most serious of the problems coming in the Mansfield v Liverpool, FA Cup tie involving Louis Suarez. This is now so well documented that suffice it to say that the Liverpool player knocked the ball down with his forearm and slammed the ball into the net with the Officials deeming it accidental. Whilst several people have their doubts as to whether it was deliberate handball or not, should the goal have stood anyway. That great referee mentor and philosopher on the Laws of the game the late Ken Aston told this Society many years ago that if a defender tried to clear the ball and it hit an attacker's hand or arm and he then scored from possession of the rebound, or in either similar or identical circumstances pertaining to the Suarez incident the "goal" should be docked off as offending the spirit of the Laws. In an article following the incident by Graham Poll in the Daily Mail he too concluded the referee had power under this all pervading and overriding principle to have denied the said goal. Moving along from that and with some referees awarding penalties for handball and others refusing what look like legitimate appeals what then does both the Law and the advice to referees say on the subject. Firstly it is important to realise that like most of the interpretation of the Laws it falls within the opinion of the referee, but with handball subject to the instructions of the referee it can also fall within the opinion of the Assistant Referee. That said the Law itself that governs Handball is Law 12 "Fouls and Misconduct" which states that a direct free kick shall be given (a penalty if a defender handles in the penalty area) where a player "handles the ball deliberately". This season the word "blatantly" has been removed from the Law as it was thought to be redundant.

In terms of how the referee should interpret handball which has also some time ago been changed from "intentionally" to "deliberately" it is necessary to look at FIFA's "Guidelines for Referees" to the Laws of the Game". Here it is stated that handball involves a deliberate act of a player making contact with the ball with hand or arm.

The Referee is to take into consideration the movement of the hand to the ball (i.e. hand to ball and NOT ball to hand); together with the distance between the opponent and the ball, where it is implied that the shorter the distance the less likely the opponent can get out of the way. Interestingly in this respect the advice also is that "the position of the hand does not necessarily mean that there is an infringement".

So where does the oft quoted determination of "the hand or arm being in an unnatural position" come from? Well it would appear that each country's National Association is given some lee-way in interpretation of the Laws and this country being one of the main law makers on the International Board it may well be that that interpretation may well find its way into the "Guidelines" in due course.

*Thanks to The Observer writing in the Normidian Magazine*

## **Arm's length ( on the same subject !)**

*Questionable interpretation of a law is causing players to be unfairly punished*  
By CSABA ABRAHALL

Every week when watching Match of the Day I get a little bit angrier about handball. Once it was a punishment for players deliberately using their hands to gain an advantage but now it's a punishment for players being born with arms.

The headline finding from the inaugural European Managers and Coaches Survey, published by the League Managers Association (LMA) in November, revealed that 83 per cent of the 110 respondents feel that the handball law requires clarification.

No doubt the LMA members share my growing frustration at officials who award penalties for unintentional handball. Even though these injustices frequently determine the outcome of matches, it seems that the sport is doing nothing to prevent them.

Though their commitment to sportsmanship can be questionable, it's unusual for footballers to handle the ball deliberately. Penalties for handball should be reserved for the desperate defender tipping the ball over the bar, or sneakily patting it away from a forward. Instead they are liberally dished out by referees seemingly determined to find intent where there is none.

Take two incidents involving Arsenal in the month of the survey's publication. In the closing moments of their home game with

Fulham, Andrey Arshavin's cross hit the arm of Sascha Riether, standing a couple of yards away. Riether's arm was hanging by his side in its natural position, its only movement being the result of momentum as he twisted to face his opponent. This was the archetypal "ball-to-hand" incident, yet Phil Dowd saw enough intention in it to merit a potentially decisive penalty.

Earlier in the month Santi Cazorla conceded a spot-kick at Old Trafford when his raised arms blocked Ashley Young's cross. Few took issue with Mike Dean's decision, since movement of the arm upward or outward seems to be accepted as justification for a handball decision. But according to the rules, it isn't. "The position of the hand does not necessarily mean that there is an infringement", they say. In other words, you can put your hands where you like so long as you don't use them to handle the ball deliberately. Cazorla, and many others penalised in similar circumstances, did not. His was a reflex action of self-protection. A confused Scott Murray, describing the incident in the Guardian's, minute-by-minute report, acknowledged as much - "Cazorla puts up his hands to shield himself - but then contrarily condoned the resulting penalty decision, arguing that Cazorla "can have no complaints when the ball hits his mitts and the ref points to the spot".

In fact Cazorla did complain, perhaps inviting suggestions as to what else he could have done. His one alternative course of action may have been to let the ball smack him in the nose but it's debatable whether the instruction from his brain to do so would have overridden his instincts. For Riether, only the complete absence of a left arm would have saved him.

In taking action against the mere presence of the arm and the demonstration of its innate behaviour, referees are penalising the evolutionary process that has seen us make involuntary actions in response to stimuli and develop arms that protrude from our sides.

*Continued* →

They might as well send players off for having opposable thumbs. The game is being subtly changed and abused as a result. Opportunistic attackers may be aiming the ball towards their opponents' arms or faces, knowing that referees are suggestible enough to give them a penalty should it strike a hand. Aware of this, defenders have taken to tucking their hands behind their backs when a shot is lined up. This is ludicrous. In attempting to convince referees that they are not seeking to gain an advantage, they are giving themselves a disadvantage, foregoing the balancing properties that outstretched arms provide. That shouldn't be necessary. The laws of the game give officials the tools to deal with handball incidents sensibly, urging them to consider "the distance between the opponent and the ball" and "the movement of the hand towards the ball" to discourage penalising accidental contact. Still, though, referees are imposing game-changing sanctions for which the rules give them no mandate; and these severe punishments for phantom crimes are altering players' behaviour and challenging the game's integrity.

The LMA's survey pleads that "officials should be sure before penalising a player".

Really, this is not a request for clarification of the law but an appeal for it to be properly applied so that any collision between hand and ball isn't automatically deemed an offence. I fear the cause is already lost. Expect that figure of 83 per cent to have grown in next year's survey.

### **West's Words of Wisdom ( thanks to Cyril for these and the above article )**



Indecision is the key to flexibility.

If you find something you like, buy a lifetime supply, because they will stop making it.

All things being equal, fat people use more soap.

You can't tell which way the train went by looking at the track.

Be kind, everyone you meet is fighting a tough battle too.

This is as bad as it can get... but don't bet on it.

There is no substitute for genuine lack of preparation.

By the time you can make ends meet, they move the ends.

Happiness is merely the remission of pain.

Nostalgia isn't what it used to be.

Sometimes too much drink is not enough.

The facts, although interesting, are generally irrelevant.

The world gets a little better every day, and worse in the evening.

Someone who thinks logically is a nice contrast to the real world

The other line always moves faster... until you get in it.

## It's all in the Game !

I was amazed at the end of January by all the ballyhoo over the ball boy incident at Swansea when the Chelsea midfielder Eden Hazard was sent off for violent conduct after "deliberately kicking the ball boy, Charlie Morgan, when the ball went out for a throw-in. Hazard wanted a quick throw-in but was stopped from doing so by the antics of the ball boy. What the Chelsea player did was unacceptable, and he was appropriately disciplined both by club and the FA. But what the club did (through the antics of the ball boy) was just plain cheating - NOT simply gamesmanship. Yet the club and its officials have received virtually no criticism - that was reserved entirely for the player and the ball boy.

Yet in many of these cases of cheating the club is as complicit as the ball boys, who are simply carrying out their instructions. This was confirmed by Sky commentator Glenn Hoddle who said, "The ball boy will have been told to do that. I know for a fact in European games, you will tell people who are instructing ball boys that if you're winning, don't get the ball back quickly."

There are no regulations for ball boys, and clubs have their own policies regarding their appointment. But whichever way they become ball boys, we all know that much of what they do is cheating, which has not only become accepted, but actually encouraged. We know that these ball boys are under instruction from the home team officials (led by the manager) to give the home team the advantage whenever they can. What about the Stoke City ball boys offering towels to wipe the ball when it's a City throw-in, but not when the throw is awarded to the away team. In November 2011, QPR asked to use the towels so much that Stoke actually withdrew them at half-time. Again it's cheating.

But as I said, I'm not surprised. There have been plenty of examples over the years, which have been accepted and which have attracted little in terms of disciplinary actions. Some memorable examples: In October 2009, Stuttgart keeper Jens Lehmann was enraged when a 14-yr-old ball boy throw the ball over his head rather than into his arms. Lehman said, "I find it awful that ball boys are being taught to cheat.

Then there was the case of the Brazilian side Guarnay 1 – 0 down to Sergipe, a ball boy made a goal line clearance while their keeper was stranded at the other end chasing an equaliser. I

In the Argentinian second division, and with two balls on the field, Bocca Unidos goalkeeper Gaston Sessa was sent off for kicking a ball at a ball boy. But the young man took fully 12 seconds before deciding to go down with his "injury" and thus secure the red card for the opponents' goalkeeper. It's cheating!

Finally, the Spurs right back Kyle Walker spent time as a ball boy at Sheffield United, including in a match when defender Phil Jagielka went in goal. "I was behind the net and he kept telling me to slow down!" There are many other examples both in the UK and abroad.

Sad, but are we surprised? No, I'm afraid it's all accepted as part of the modern game - amusing gamesmanship. It's only good for filling newspaper columns.

***Brian Richards writing in the Chiltern Referee***

## On trying to "Defend the Indefensible"

It was one of the Woking Society 'high flying successes' who declared to us about two years ago that you should never try to defend the indefensible. If you or any one of a team of three officials on a game are or were definitely wrong with a decision, admit it, rather than offer reasons/excuses. The error will 'fade' much quicker, and respect is likely to be retained, in both directions.

In the distant, and now very dim, past, after a Sunday morning game at Stoke Rec. I would pop into The Wooden Bridge for a pint. So would some of the players, out would come the 'friendly' chat "Do you mind if I ask you a question?" which would always be about one incident in the game.

I quickly learned to say something like: "Not at all, so long as you accept my first answer and don't indulge in several supplementary queries."

One of the favourites was their version of handball, which included that : "It fell to his advantage !" Plus, even then, so long as a big toe just touched the ball it couldn't be a foul.

Being a League Officer provides a variation of that type of questioning. All Clubs, teams and players assume that from their always very sketchy incomplete description of one incident in a game they played in, which you did not see and have heard nothing about, you will be able to explain why the referee did what he did, and are also able to make sure (a) he never has their team again and (b) stops making such wicked errors. What is always a curiosity (to me anyway) is that they rarely know the name of the referee, frequently forget the name of the opposing team, and if two players from the same team are describing the same incident neither version would stand up in court.

But, sadly, I will admit that occasionally we are pushed back into a corner, and we have to agree that we do have a few referees "in it for the wrong reasons" or who 'do not always give the match their full concentration" Leaving us to explain about our place on the pyramid (the very bottom), mention that we do need more refs and subtly give details of the Training Courses. Reverting to the minute number of Referees who failed to read all about roll on - roll off they do us no favours at all as players think such referees ought to know all the rules.

The players know all the laws of course, so refs need not bother about that side of the game. Meaning that when a referee 'falls down' on Competition Rules, especially if the players themselves have convinced him what they should be doing, and he has 'bought it' (!) then they will be overjoyed to declare the erring whistler to be a complete idiot.

A long time ago I thought we might solve all or at least some of our refereeing problems if we were ever able to TRAIN more, loads more, referees. I even hoped to see a day when we could be 'picky', and use the better referees, whilst sidelining the ones we knew were not up to scratch. There are now, potentially, oodles of referees, but long gone are the 'every Sunday for your League' brethren. It is they who are more able to be picky, the journey to take a Pixham North End game being looked on as a marathon distance.

So we now have the quantity, but some of the quality by way of commitment and dedication is still missing.

**Cyril West**



Despite the rather poor uptake we still intend to run a 15 seater minibus on a first come, first served basis to enjoy a social weekend with our friends from Soleo,

Regrettably we will not be fielding a football side to participate in their tournament for the first time in our history which is rather sad.

For those interested in coming to Belgium for a purely sociable weekend without the football, David and Roy will require your names by either the February or March meeting at the latest with preferably a £50 deposit to ensure your seat on the minibus.

PLEASE NOTE THAT WE WILL GOING TO BELGIUM ON THE ABOVE DATES WHETHER WE HAVE 15, 6 or 3 MEMBERS BECAUSE WE BOTH BELIEVE THAT IT IS IMPORTANT TO KEEP THE FRIENDSHIP GOING BETWEEN SOLEO AND WOKING WHICH HAS BEEN ACTIVE SINCE 1983.

Please kindly Roy let or David know A.S.A.P. on 747800687 or 07766758029 and we sincerely hope we get a few people interested in this trip.

David and Roy

### Mexican Amusement



The Mexican maid asked for a pay increase.

The wife was very upset about this and decided to talk to her about the raise.

She asked, Now Maria, why do you want a pay increase?

Maria: Well, Senora, there are tree reasons why I wanna increaze. The first is that I iron better than you.

Wife: Who said you iron better than me?

Maria: Jor huzban he say so.

Wife: Oh yeah?

Maria: The second reason eez that I am a better cook than you.

Wife: Nonsense, who said you were a better cook than me?

Maria: Jor hozban didâ

Wife increasingly agitated: Oh he did, did he?

Maria: The third reason is that I am better at sex than you in the bed.

Wife, really boiling now and through gritted teeth asks, And did my husband say that as well?

Maria: No Senora! The gardener did.

Wife: So how much do you want?

# PlumTree

Surrey County FA Saturday Intermediate Cup Semi Final  
Referee ; Dave Lawton

Surrey FA Saturday Senior Cup final  
Assistant Referee ; Marcus Carmichael

Surrey FA - Saturday Premier Cup  
Walton Casuals -v- Westfield.  
Referee ; Jon Creswick

Surrey FA County Cup U11's.  
Reserve Referee ; Mike Ward

Surrey FA County Cup U 18s Semi Final  
Assistant Referee ; Robert Hughes

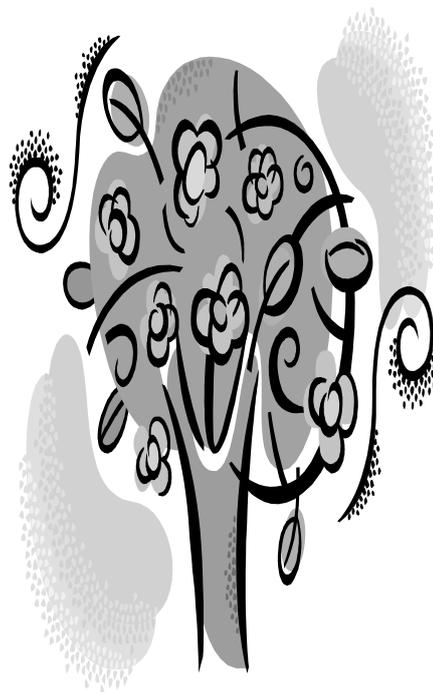
Football League Championship  
Leicester City v Leeds Utd  
Assistant Referee: Michael Webb

Surrey Elite challenge cup semi final  
Assistant Referee ; Dave Lawton

Camberley & District Football League Div III Cup Final  
Referee ; Tom Ellsmore

## Promotions

Dave Lawton level 6 to 5  
Dale Leacock level 6 to 5



Saturday morning I got up early, quietly dressed, made my lunch, and slipped quietly into the garage. I hooked up the boat up to the van and proceeded to back out into a torrential downpour. The wind was blowing 50mph, so I pulled back into the garage, turned on the radio, and discovered that the weather would be bad all day.

I went back into the house, quietly undressed, and slipped back into bed. I cuddled up to my wife's back; now with a different anticipation, and whispered, "The weather out there is terrible."  
My loving wife of 5 years replied, "And, can you believe my stupid husband is out fishing in that?"



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**Stop blaming referees for your team's failure - talkSPORT Opinion**

Manchester United were not eliminated from the Champions League because of a referee, they lost because Real Madrid scored more goals than they did. The great shame of this week's events was not the red card, but the disgraceful abuse given to the referee.

Match official Cuneyt Cakir has received death threats after giving Nani a red card. How utterly pathetic. He didn't have the benefit of countless television replays, he made a decision having seen the Portuguese player plant his studs into Alvaro Arbeloa's chest. We can all have an opinion on whether he made the right decision, but he was an experienced official making a call after viewing a second's worth of action from a particular angle. Try it some time, it's not easy.

Cakir didn't score a brilliant goal from the edge of United's box – that was Luka Modric. Cakir didn't construct a beautiful team move to set up a winner for Cristiano Ronaldo – that was the Portuguese attacker's team-mates.

'But United would have won if Nani wasn't sent off!' lament Cakir's fiercest critics. That is pure speculation. They may have won 3-0 on the night if it was 11 v 11, they may have lost 3-1. If, if, if. ITV's panel of pundits may not have agreed on the red card, but Roy Keane, Lee Dixon and Gareth Southgate were all in agreement that the tie was very much in the balance before United were reduced to 10 men.

Blaming the referee is an excuse. Sometimes it has a certain validity, but having a man sent off does not automatically mean you must concede two goals. United were not instantly doomed to concede twice, just as Real were not immediately guaranteed to score.

When a team goes down to ten men something has to give and, depending on the score at that moment, defensive solidity usually takes priority over attacking prowess. In this case, United lost an attacking player who, with some tactical re-shuffling, could have been replaced without necessarily compromising their defensive solidity a great deal.

Sir Alex Ferguson chose not to utilise his substitutes when Nani was sent off, instead moving Welbeck to cover Nani's position, leaving Robin van Persie up front, seemingly at the cost of his plan to have the England international stifle Xabi Alonso. Remember, United did not need to score again at that point to progress – if they could have kept a clean sheet they would have gone through.

Jose Mourinho, by contrast, made a quick substitution, bringing Modric on for Arbeloa, with Sami Khedira moving to right-back. This gave Real extra creativity in attack.

It seems as though Ferguson was not prepared to resort to the all-out defensive tactics that Chelsea deployed after John Terry's sending off in their 2012 semi-final against Barcelona. In that game, Roberto Di Matteo responded to the Blues being reduced to 10 men by pulling front man Didier Drogba into the left side of midfield, replacing Ramires, who moved to right-back, allowing Jose Bosingwa to cover Terry's position at centre-back. It meant Chelsea were effectively playing without a striker, as Di Matteo prioritised defending a score that would see his team through.

Chelsea were more in awe of Barcelona than United were of Real, but with half an hour left at Old Trafford and the Red Devils leading, pragmatism was called for.

*Continued* →

## Dates for your Diary

8th April	Society Meeting - Guest Speaker Barry Rowland
5th May	Society End of Season Dinner
13th May	Society Meeting
17th—20th May	Trip to Belgium (Soleo Referees' Society 75th Anniversary)
<b>5–7 July</b>	<b>Conference @ Hinckley Island Hotel</b>

Trip to New Wembley or White Hart Lane Tottenham

Colin Barnett is offering to organize a trip one of the above. If you are interested, please contact Colin on ;

C.barnett5978184@aol.com

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With the beauty of hindsight, Ferguson could have sacrificed the ineffective Van Persie and more of United's attacking potential, allowing Welbeck to [continue](#) his harrying job on Alonso, with Ashley Young brought on earlier to play on the left-hand side.

United's retention of an attacking threat after Nani's red card, but before Real scored, is borne out by match statistics that show, in the minutes after his dismissal, Fergie's team actually had three attempts on target to Real's none. With Modric on the pitch, scheming along with Mesut Ozil, however, Madrid went on to score two excellent goals.

The quality of Real's goals, United's defending and the substitutions of both coaches have largely been ignored, however, in favour of haranguing a referee's decision that, even if you vehemently believe was wrong, was certainly what is described in football as 'I've seen them given'.

So we can now add Cuneyt Cakir's name to those of Urs Meier (referee for Portugal v England at Euro 2004) and Anders Frisk (Barcelona v Chelsea in 2005) to a list of match officials blamed for a team's failure on the pitch. Not to mention subsequently harrassed to an unacceptable level for making an honest decision.

Had Chelsea lost to Barcelona in 2012, it is likely some fans would have chosen to blame the referee, but luckily for the man in charge that night the Blues played well enough to get through. The name of that referee? Cuneyt Cakir.



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## What Would You Do?

(answers to ~~February~~ issue)  
march

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**Q1.** The ball runs out of play towards where the substitutes are warming up. One of them instinctively puts his foot out to trap the ball - and stops it before it has completely crossed the line. What would you do?

**A1.** Stop play. It may seem harsh, but show the substitute a yellow card for entering the FoP without your permission. Restart with an indirect free kick to the opposition from the point where the ball was when you stopped play.

**Q2.** Through no fault of their own, a Sunday League side have lost their corner flags. So they have improvised by taping toilet rolls to the top of each flag post. The groundsman and captain both say it will help visibility, and will not be a danger to the players. The players agree. What would you do?

**A2.** Flag-posts are compulsory but flags are not, so the game can go ahead. All you have to do is ensure the toilet rolls are safe, and include the details in your post-match report.

**Q3.** In the first few minutes a Blue defender trots over to you and complains about the "distracting" bright green strapping a winger is wearing round his ankles. He says it is giving the opponents an unfair advantage. What would you do?

**A3.** It's a valid complaint. The law says that "any tape or similar material must be the same colour" as the part of the sock to which it is applied. At the next break in play, ask the player to leave the FoP to remove/replace the strapping. This should have been noticed in the pre-match inspection.

**Q4.** A Red attacker (No.11), about to take a corner, calls a colleague (No.8) over to him. As the No.11 trots away he nudges the ball with his foot but it does not leave the quadrant. The Red No.8 then sprints in with the ball and fires it straight into the net. What do you do?

**A4.** Award a goal. There was no infringement of the law - the ball only has to be kicked/moved. Hence no disciplinary action is required.

**Q5.** When you decline a Blue defender's loud appeal for offside, he immediately shouts back at you, again loudly, "Open your eyes, ref! He was miles offside". At the same time the ball is cleared upfield. What would you do?

**A5.** Stop play and caution the player for dissent. Restart with an indirect free kick.

**Q6.** You award a direct free kick to Reds. A Red attacker lines up his opponents' wall and then deliberately kicks a defender hard just before the ball is kicked into the goal. What do you do?

**A6.** Disallow the goal, and dismiss the red attacker for violent conduct. Retake the free kick - the ball was not in play at the time of the offence.

(Ed. Questions 1-3 were from "You Are The Ref" by Keith Hackett and Paul Trevillion. Questions 4-5 were set by Sid Harrison for the Nat RA Quiz, 2012)

Courtesy of the Chiltern Referee

## What Would You Do?

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**Question 1.** A Red striker is clipped by a Blue defender as he rounds the goalkeeper, but he manages to stay on his feet, so you play and signal advantage. However the ball immediately bobbles up and he controls it with his hand before firing it into the net. What would you do?



**Question 2.** Before a game and during your pre-match inspection you spot that a winger is wearing tiny shin-guards with the sides cut away. He insists that only the shin bone needs protecting, that the guards are adequate and that you should allow him to play with them. What would you do?

**Question 3.** The Blue goalkeeper fumbles a catch, deflecting the ball behind him. As he turns he sees it rolling slowly towards his empty net. So in desperation he hurls one of his gloves at it - and successfully diverts it to safety over the goal line. What would you do?

**Question 4.** You award an indirect free kick to Blues inside their own penalty area.

The goalkeeper takes the kick, but before the ball leaves the area the Blue No.5 controls the ball with his hand in a deliberate attempt to prevent a Red opponent gaining possession of the ball. What would you do?

**Question 5.** You award a penalty to Reds. As you blow for the kick to be taken, a colleague of the Red kicker, outside the penalty area, runs forward near the goal-line to take advantage of a possible save. The kick is successful and the ball enters the net. What would you do?

**Question 6.** A Red attacker and a Blue defender challenge for the same high ball, each with a foot raised high close to the opponent's chin. The Blue player is marginally quicker and plays the ball with the sole of his boot. There are claims and counter-claims for a free kick. What would you do?

*(Ed. Questions 1-3 were from "You Are The Ref" by Keith Hackett and Paul Trevillion. Questions 4-5 were set by Sid Harrison for the National RA Quiz, 2012)*

### QUOTE OF THE MONTH

*"I'm not just involved in football, I'm committed to it.  
Do you know the difference?  
Think of ham and eggs - the chicken is involved, the pig is committed."*

(Anon)

*(Submitted by Mike Coventry)*

Courtesy of the Chiltern Referee

Ninety minutes before a match, there's not much a manager can do. You can't talk to players, so you sit drinking tea.

*SVEN-GÖRAN ERIKSSON, England manager, 2006*

In my line of work, if you win, you continue. If you don't, you're out. I must build something special this year. If I don't, I'm a dead man walking.

*CLAUDIO RANIERI, Chelsea manager, 2003*

Football managers are like a parachutist. At times it doesn't open and you splatter on the ground. Here, it is an umbrella. You understand, Mary Poppins?

*RANIERI under growing pressure at Chelsea, 2004*

A manager can't give players what they haven't got. The job is to make them find what they need inside themselves.

*DAVID BECKHAM in his book My Side, 2003*

A lot of players think they'll go into management and stay friends with everybody, but you have to make unpleasant decisions that will hurt people. If you don't like that, don't go into football management.

*GEORGE GRAHAM, former manager, 2002*

I have mates who did become teachers and I know that I couldn't have done it. It's ridiculously hard – far harder than what I do.

*STEVE COPPELL, Reading manager, 2006*

Sometimes I'm still at work at three in the afternoon.

*PAUL MERSON on being caretaker player-manager at Walsall, 2004*

People say you have to take your coaching badges to be a manager. I don't agree. When I went to Newcastle my only qualification was 1,000 rounds of golf in Spain, but it didn't do me any harm.

*KEVIN KEEGAN, 2007*

I never wanted to be a manager; I wanted to be a coach. But to have the power of coaching you've got to be the manager because the manager tells you how to coach. So the only reason I'm a manager is to be a coach.

*GORDON STRACHAN at Southampton, 2003*

Courtesy of the book of football quotations

# WARBLER REFERENCE GUIDE

THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION www.TheFA.com	Wembley Stadium PO Box 1966 London SW1P 9EQ
FA Refereeing Department National Managers "name"@theFA.com	Ian Blanchard ; Senior National Game Referee Manager Roger Vaughan ; Recruitment, Retention & Development Neale Barry ; Head of Senior Referee Development
Surrey County Football Association www.surreyfa.com Referee Competition Manager Appointments Secretary  Referee Development Officer	Connaught House 36 Bridge Street Leatherhead, Surrey, KT22 8BZ 01372 373543 Mark Wood mark.wood@surreyfa.com Rod Wood 0208 979 2477 & 07860 400995 Rod.wood@surreyfa.com Tim Lawrence 01372 373543
The Referees' Association www.footballreferee.org <a href="mailto:ra@footballreferee.org">ra@footballreferee.org</a> Tel 024 7642 0360 Fax 024 7767 7234	Unit 12, Ensign Business Centre Westwood Way Westwood Business Park Coventry CV4 8JA
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Southern Youth League Assistant Referees' Secretary	Peter Harris 01252315856 / 07967 988840 Peter.harris1767ntlworld.com
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