

# THE WARBLER

Monthly Magazine of the Woking Referees' Society

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Season 2017/18 April Edition

# WOKING REFEREES ' SOCIETY

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# The next meeting of the Woking Referees' Society will be on Monday 9th April

Meadow Sports Football Club  
Loop Rd Playing Fields, Loop Rd, Kingfield,  
Woking  
Surrey GU22 9BQ

## AGENDA

- ◆ **7.30 Academy Meeting**
- ◆ **8.00 Chairman's Welcome**

- ◆ **Guest Speaker**

**Graham Ekins**  
**Chairman Surrey Youth League**

- ◆ **Society Business**
- ◆
- ◆ **10pm Close**



**Next month's meeting will be on  
Monday 14th May  
The deadline for May is Friday  
4th May 2018**

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

# From the Chair

Hi Everyone,

Thank you to everyone who attended the AGM, and I would like to thank all the members of the committee who continue to support the society and keep it moving in a forward direction.

As the new promotion season starts, good luck if you have chosen to go for it. Remember to stay fit, don't do too many games in a week and risk injury; and to those members waiting to hear if they were successful last season, fingers crossed.

On Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> March, I was lucky enough to help out at a Football For All event at the Walton Excel Centre. I have done a lot of various disability football over the years, but on that Sunday I was privileged to Referee the U12 pan disability section. This involves children of all disabilities to just play a game they love and enjoy. The score is not important and not recorded and there is no "winning team" but there are a lot of winners, including the coaches, the players and for once the referee. It was a very rewarding experience and I urge all of you, if you get the chance to do anything like this, then do it and remind yourself how much fun football can be



I Look forward to seeing you at the April Meeting

**Pat**

## Membership and Accounts

2017/18 Membership	2018 Current Status	
127 Full Members	General	£2,513.46
7 Friends	Supplies	£214.35
1 Affiliate Member	Belgium	£0.00
66 Referees trained in 2016/2017	Training Fund	£1,134.89
92 Referees trained in 2017/2018	Youth Fund	£113.50
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£3,976.20</b>

## Just a Sec!

- ◆ This month's speaker is Graham Ekins, Chairman of the Surrey Youth League on which many of our members ply their trade. Graham made news headlines a couple of years ago when he famously stated that the behaviour of some parents was so bad that he felt someone could get stabbed if matters were not resolved. Make sure you come along and find out what the League did to redress the situation and become National League Respect Winners and National Charter Standard League of the year, an unprecedented double.
- ◆ CRC /CRB I have been advised that my CRC is due for renewal, as I suspect are a number of referees. I have been in touch with Tim Lawrence who has confirmed that he needs to "sign us off" so to speak.
- ◆ The RA/FA are once again dishing out free tickets to referees for the Non League Finals at Wembley on Sunday 20th May. This was a great success last year as those who attended the 2 games will testify. It is hoped to once more hire a mini bus, funded by the Society. As it only holds 16 it will be on a first come first served basis. Please let me know if you'd like to attend.
- ◆ The last meeting of the season is on May 14th, when we will be celebrating Woking Society's 90th Birthday with cake and nibbles and a glass of something fizzy. In addition, our own Andy Bennett and Tom Ellsmore will be regaling about their first year's experiences as level 3 referees. It should be a great way to end the season so make sure you come along.

## Academy News

6 members attended the March Academy meeting and we welcomed a new member, straight from his recent course. The topic for the evening was forthcoming League and County Cup Finals to which many of the attendees have been appointed. We discussed their expectation on the day and the pre match preparations, using members previous experiences and stories to give the member who have been appointed to a final for the first time, an insight of the duties of match officials on Cup Final Day.

As discussed at the last academy meeting we would like to run a practical session at the April academy meeting on the 9th April at Loop Road 7pm prompt start .

The topic you picked was Assistant Refereeing and 4th Official work to prepare for your County and League Cup Finals .

Everyone is welcome to attend, However please can you let myself and Andy Bennett know if you wish to attend this session if there isn't enough people confirming attendance we will not be able to run the session.

**Gareth**



## Last Month's Meeting

The March meeting saw 23 members gather at Loop Rd, including a good number of our younger members, who had attended the Academy meeting beforehand, to enjoy Jim De Rennes' presentation on Communication. Jim decried the expression "selling" a decision. "We are not" he explained "in the selling business, but good communication is the key to players accepting our decisions". We then discussed the various methods which referees have at their disposal to effectively communicate with players. These included use of the whistle, voice, body language, appearance, to name but a few. We proceeded to discuss each method in detail, often embellished with Jim's not inconsiderable experiences and words of wisdom.

It was an entertaining and very informative evening and we hope Jim will be able to make his way back to Woking RS again in the near future.

The 90th AGM was then held and a summary of the salient points are listed below. Members who wish to read a full copy of the minutes should e mail Mac at macmcbirnie@gmail.com.

**Attendance**—23 members , 7 apologies

**Minutes of 2017 AGM** : No matters arising

**Chairman's Report.** : Another successful year although no FA Hub training events. Pat thanked the committee for their hard work and for the support and commitment of all members who attend the monthly meetings.

**Secretary's report.** : Monthly meetings average attendance 23 last year

Highlights of last year include attendance at Non League Finals at Wembley, £200 received from RAFA fund. The Christmas Dinner was once again a big success. The sad loss of Mike Ellsmore was a low point of the year.

**Treasurers and Membership Secretary's report** : The accounts showed a modest profit for the year. Subscriptions voted to stay the same.

Membership as at 31/12/17 : 119 Full members, 7 Friends, 1 Affiliate Member—an increase of 11 Full members from 2016

**Training Report** : Gareth thanked Tutors for help and support running the Academy. Tutors also ran a number of new referees courses on behalf of the Surrey FA . *(It should also be noted that the Woking RS Tutors donated their fees for running the aforementioned course to the Society Ed)*

**Supplies Report** Callum not present but request made for members to donate redundant kit for re-sale

**Warbler** Mac thanked the advertisers for their support and those members who had contributed during the season.

**Presidents Report** Vince thanked the committee for their hard work in particular Pat, Bryan and Mac. He went on to say that although we have a strong Society we must **all** continue to work towards encouraging new members to Woking RA . He also thanked Martin Read for again organising an excellent Society Christmas Dinner.

**Officers and Committee** . A vote was taken and the Officers and committee were re-elected en bloc as per the proposed list in the March warbler and posted on the inside cover of this issue.

Pat formally thanked Richard Adams and Meadow Sports for their friendship and support.

The meeting closed at 21.35hrs

# This Month's Speaker

## Graham Ekins

I have been involved in the administration of football for over 20 years. As with most people you just fall into these roles, as there is no one else involved. The football journey itself, was from a person who was an average parks footballer, who broke his leg at the age of 22, then took up refereeing, back in 1983.



Did ok at this, but then marriage, families and to be honest my preferred sport of Cricket just stopped me progressing to any decent standard. From there I then got involved in helping to run the Junior Section of Aldershot Town as my two boys started to play in the mid nineties, and then in early 2000's got involved with the Surrey Youth League as a fixture secretary. As with all these things people move on and you look around and find yourself as Chairman for the last 10 years. During this time I also went back to a little bit of refereeing as my son wanted pocket money, and would I do the course with him.

Within the Surrey Youth ; between myself and Frank Thompson we have overseen the introduction of electronic league admin – Prawn Sandwich, the Youth Development Pathway, pioneers of such, and of course more recently the Respect Campaign. Consequently, and not by any form of luck, but hard volunteering, the League is currently the National League Respect Winners and National Charter Standard League of the year, an unprecedented double.

Married to Nicky with one son now living in Australia, and one still at home. Still loving my Cricket.

**Graham Ekins**  
**Surrey Youth League Chairman.**

### Supermarket Shopping !



- Defile - where deaf people can meet in the supermarket
- Textile - where you can send text messages in the supermarket
- Infantile - where you can find baby food in the supermarket
- Erectile - where you can find Viagra in the supermarket

I just got hit over the head with a Power Tool. I was sitting there minding my own business, then next thing I know ...  
 .....”Bosch”

## A Touch of the Verbals

As a County FA Mentor (where have they all gone?) I was always on the look-out for useful ways of addressing various training points of relevance to all referees and their performances. One typical way involved inviting my mentees to raise points that concerned them for an informal discussion. They were both educational and enjoyable, and interactive.

One topic a mentee raised the issue of **Verbal Confrontation**, and how to deal with it. He had issued a few yellow cards for it and found that it had attracted criticism (surprisingly) from one assessor and some colleagues. During the enthusiastic discussions that followed we tried to split the types of verbal confrontation into categories, differentiating them in terms of severity and appropriate action by the referee. On the back of a match report card (for brevity), we identified five different but progressive stages that did not involve offensive or abusive language or gestures. They are neither exclusive nor exhaustive. I repeat them here -:

**Appeal** e.g. "Our ball!", this is often an automatic reaction by the player, and should be either ignored or if persistent, dealt with by a quiet word, probably whilst play is in progress.

**Enquiry** e.g. "Wasn't that a foul ref?", delivered in a calm but not angry manner. This requires a more obvious word.

**Question** e.g. "What was that for?" delivered in a more challenging way, and now a firm loud word for all to hear is required. This does not include the sarcastic delivery by word or action (clapping of the hands), which should be the subject of a loud rebuke or caution

**Protest** e.g. "How can you give that?" or "That was never a penalty!" delivered in a loud, aggressive manner. A firm public rebuke is now in order, usually holding up play to speak to the miscreant, thus showing the seriousness of the action.

**Dissent** e.g. "That was never a penalty; keep up with the play" or "Which game are you watching?"— such open dissent demands either a very loud rebuke or a caution, whether or not it is the first occurrence.

Of course, these categories do not actually exist in law, but they do provide a useful way of considering what your reaction as a referee should be. Moreover, the boundaries clearly overlap, and there are other factors to take into account (e.g. the temperature of the game, persistence, repeat behaviour, manner of delivery, language used, etc).

But it is important that referees, especially inexperienced referees, do realise that as far as *verbal confrontation* is concerned, you don't have to issue the yellow card immediately. There is a range of behaviours, each of which requires a different reaction, i.e. a cascade or stage approach is both sensible and required. Moreover it should become a critical factor in developing your ability to manage players, in acquiring "preventative refereeing" skills, and in minimising the number of yellow cards issued.

*Brian Richards*

*Courtesy of the Chiltern Referee*

## ON WE GO – WHERE?

So I'm standing there with the rain dripping off the peak of my cap, my Referee Coach *Notepad* (courtesy of Hertfordshire FA) getting wetter and wetter as I scribble notes; and the referee I observed some three months ago is in the middle doing exactly the same things that my report said he shouldn't be doing!!! Not a good way to get from Level 6 to Level 5, and no chance of a 'double-jump' to Level 4.

Well, my apologies if what follows is somewhat repetitive of earlier Corners e.g. CC229 which reminded us that LotG 2017/18 p189 clearly states that the whistle is not needed to restart play from *most* free kicks, goal/corner kicks, throw-ins or a dropped ball. My Observee (not sure if that word exists!) didn't consider the value of quick free kicks, always paced 10yds (even when not necessary) and always whistled the restart.

Going forward a page we find the first bullet point telling us the whistle is needed to start play (1st/2nd half of normal play/extra time) and after a goal has been scored. A call of "On we go" was not featured, but was none-the-less extensively used in this match. Despite the detail above corner kicks were awarded either a whistle or "On we go"; strangely, I can't recall what happened at goal kicks.

Level 4 criteria requires the referee to attempt to maintain the ball and play between referee and the assistant referee. I would suggest the requirement applies at all levels of the game and perhaps my Observee would not have been seen in the penalty area, back to qualified assistant, watching play on the left wing.

Adopting optimum position for play restarts should be considered mandatory rather than following play, good sprint or not! What we shouldn't have is moving away from the goalkeeper (in possession, taking nine seconds to release) with back to the play. Very much a "Not on you go."

The ongoing issue in the match was the constant, sometimes vehement, complaints against the referee who, it has to be said, was mostly correct in his decision making. Conversations were initially held face to face, with, more often than not, dialogue continuing with the player turning his back and walking away. Not a card to be seen!!!

Following receipt of my report the referee has asked me to mentor him to obtain Level 4. I am considering quitting life as an Observer so what he has subsequently said leaves me in a quandary: *I promise you from every game moving forward I will listen to your advice, your help as an assessor has improved my game and I very much appreciate your help.*

Does this mean 'on we go'?

Courtesy Of The Chiltern Referee

*Mike Coventry*

*I spotted this article in a Doncaster and District Referees Society Newsletter  
It is an extract from the memoirs of a former Referee, Les Hayes . Mac*

### **Les Hayes Remembers**

What induces someone to become a referee and expose himself to open resentment, abuse both verbal and physical? I quote my own personal experience. I never regretted becoming a referee and have to say I got more pleasure from refereeing than playing.

My playing career came to an abrupt end when playing for Crossfield Villa (a Skel-low team of some years ago) I still recall very vividly our trainers response to my clash of heads with an opponent, when he saw the resultant lump on my forehead, he took out his tobacco knife and said "I'll just cut it and let out the fluid." My playing career ended instantly at that moment.

The match referee, one David Ambler, on hearing my concern suggested I took up refereeing. My response was to laugh loudly, however after three Saturdays shopping in Doncaster I changed my mind.

Having made contact with the local coach, Len Richardson, I visited his home for six lessons. Like all players I thought I knew the laws of the game. After the first lesson I realised how little I knew about them. I suddenly knew there were nine, YES NINE, offences for which a penalty kick can be given. My estimation was about three, i.e. TRIPPING UP, THUMPING A PLAYER, HAND BALL. Can you name all nine? The "Referees Chart" also made the very controversial offside law seem far less complicated and involved than is made out. I well recall in my playing days the linesman was always wrong, also on my visits to watch Doncaster Rovers, unless it was in your favour. Today's candidates have the advantage of two further lessons with modern teaching aids.

At last it was the day of my first game, Toll Bar Central v Railway Hammers. Having played against both teams I knew that Toll Bar fed on nuts and bolts and the Hammers used iron filings to clean their teeth.

There I was, the dreaded man in black (in Toll Bar too). My brand new uniform was somewhat soiled having to change in a disused fish and chip shop. The fans conversed with me from the start with things like, "Where did they dig thee from?" "Gerrup wi play, tha's like an owd farm 'oss" and many other such niceties.

We kicked off and sure enough Toll Bar's Big Bill made a typical "Toll Bar" tackle on an opponent, suddenly war was declared. I blew my brand new whistle and to my utter amazement a truce was called, probably to see how the "rookie" would deal with the situation.

I went across to Big Bill who stood some 6' 3" tall, and was a very ferocious looking person as well. His response to my "polite" warning was to tower over me and shout loudly "What's up wi' thee!! Didn't thar see wot 'ee did to me, is thar blind or summat?????" Unfortunately he won that confrontation as I was somewhat non-plussed as to how to answer him. Needless to say other players "caught on" and my task was even harder until half time.

I knew I wasn't very popular as drinks were served all round except to me. It was very lonely in the middle of the pitch with only the match ball for company.

The Hammers secretary, the late Mr. Wilson, finally came to me and said, "Come on referee, they're only human beings and will take advantage of any weakness shown by you. Someone is going to get a broken leg and you are here to stop that. Sort them out, and, if my players give you any trouble, I'll help you."

The second half started where the first had left off. Big Bill committed another of his tackles on an opponent. I called him to me in a hopefully commanding voice. I remember wondering what I would do if he refused to come. To my surprise he ambled across to me, he stood with his hands on his hips and a smug grin on his face. I thought it's you or me mate, so I gave him a really good Yorkshire telling off. To my utter amazement, he said "Sorry Ref, I know what's what now and thar'll have no more bowver from me."

From that moment no player was too big in stature or masculinity to stop me carrying out my duties as a referee. As for the crowd they were even more abusive to me, they suddenly began to amuse me, in fact, helped to keep an atmosphere that was "noisy". Guess what, suddenly I was beginning to enjoy being a part of it. I was reasonably happy with my first attempt on the "other side".

### IS IT TRUE? ( Warbler Oct 1991 )



Colin Harvey had a torrid time at the start of the season and decided, much against his better judgment, to approach Kenny Dalglish for advice.

"Kenny, tell me how is it that I spend more money than you on players, yet you're always the top team." "Well, it's like this," replied Kenny, "I only sign players with some intelligence."

In order to prove his point, Dalglish called in John Barnes and asked him the following question. "Tell me, John, who is your father's father's son's son?" "No problem, boss, it's me," came the instant reply. "See what I mean," Kenny added, "It really pays off"

Back at Goodison, Harvey decided to check out the Dalglish theory, so after training he called in Pat Nevin. "I want to ask you a question, Pat. Tell me, who is your father's father's son's son?" A bemused Nevin looked down then replied, "Can I think about that boss and tell you tomorrow?"

After a sleepless night mulling over the conundrum, Pat reported for training. He couldn't do a thing right; he missed every shot, overstruck every cross and failed to beat even one player. This total loss of form proved too great a mystery for Neville Southall to keep quiet about. He asked Nevin what was up. The boss asked me a question yesterday and I don't know the answer." Neville replied, "Ask me, I might be able to help out".

"OK. Tell me this. Who is your father's father's son's son?" asked Pat. That's easy, it's me isn't it."

Armed with this new found knowledge, Pat strode into Colin Harvey's office. "Right boss, ask me again."

"All right. Who is your father's father's son's son?" "No problem, it's Neville Southall!" to which Harvey replied, "Don't be so stupid - it's John Barnes you idiot!"

From *The Arbiter (Barking & Dagenham RS)*

## Interesting Offside Situation

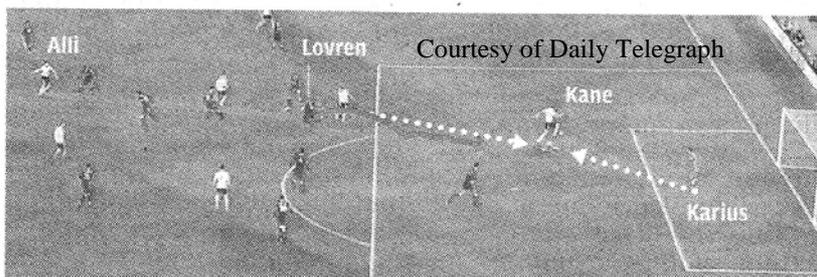
The final minutes of the Liverpool v Tottenham game on 4th February threw up more controversies than we usually see in any whole game. The commentators and pundits on this live broadcast match had a field day giving opinions that, in part, were based on a questionable interpretation of the law. Newspapers since then have added to the confusion.

### Page 94 of LoTG 2017/8 states:

A player in an offside position receiving the ball from an opponent who **deliberately** plays the ball (except from a deliberate save by any opponent) is not considered to have gained an advantage.

The wording of this law harks back to the days when a player in an offside position could be, so called, 'played on' by an opponent touching the ball. The wording above in the current law was, I'm sure, designed to cover the situation where a defender, for instance, deliberately passes the ball back to a goalkeeper and that back-pass is intercepted by an attacker. The key word I've highlighted is 'deliberately'. The obvious back-pass is clearly a deliberate act.

What happened in the match in question calls into question the interpretation of 'deliberate'. Alli, the Spurs midfielder passed the ball forward 15 metres to



forward 15 metres to Kane, who was clearly in an offside position with only the goalkeeper between him and the goal line.

As the ball travelled forward a Liverpool defender, Lovren, took a wild hack at the ball failing to clear it upfield but instead just touched it and deflected it to Kane.

The point here is that the defender did deliberately play the ball but the ball didn't go where the defender had intended it to. The question is then: did this miskick constitute a deliberate playing of the ball? Some experts said yes; some no. I say yes since the law does not question the quality of the accomplishment of playing the ball. So 'playing' could mean merely touching the ball deliberately – as happened.

The referee stopped the game when the goalkeeper, allegedly, illegally brought down Kane but only after the assistant's intervention. There had been no offside flag but [presumably after speaking] there was a lengthy conversation between the officials that was picked up on the pitch side microphone. What became clear was:

- ◆ Neither the referee, nor the assistant knew if Lovren had actually touched the ball; TV replays showed he had.
- ◆ The assistant's application of law was technically correct in saying that, if Lovren had touched the ball, he would have been deemed to have touched deliberately.

- ◆ Two players got involved in this conversation and the referee failed to send them away, which didn't help.
- ◆ The referee was then heard to ask the fourth official if he had a view and/or had the television picture shown anything.

In the end, it seemed to be assumed that Lovren had touched the ball and, therefore, had played Kane onside. I think this is a correct interpretation of the law as written and I'm sure that, although the law was framed to cover intentional back-passes, not accidental contacts, the contact with the ball was deliberate, just erroneous.

The penalty kick was awarded rather than the offside penalised. Kane took the kick and it was saved. Perhaps a fortunate and poetically just outcome? It was an interesting talking-point and one that IFAB ought to quickly rule on.

*Courtesy of The Chiltern Referee*

*Len Randall*

## *Mac's Musings*

Well it had to happen I suppose. I finally sent a player in a Surrey Primary League U17s game to the sin bin for 10 minutes for dissent. Needless to say he wasn't too popular with his team mates. But Brian Richards article on page 8 did make me think at which point would you send a player to the "sin bin". My instinct is that it would be at an earlier point than that of a caution. Probably at the "Protest stage" in Brian's sequence, particularly, if as I now do, the players had been reminded before the game of the likely consequences of disagreeing verbally (or by action) of the refs decisions. I'd be interested whether colleagues on the SPL feel the same.

Interesting situation the other week. I was running a line when an attacking player running with the ball along his right wing, about 15 yards or so from me was tackled by 2 defenders. He was in my opinion, tripped by one of the defenders. I glanced up to see where the ref was—he was about 15 yards away on the other side of the players. I was about to flag for the foul when the ref blew his whistle. I was surprised when he then awarded a free kick to the defenders. Apparently as the attacker fell, he handled the ball. I did wonder whether I should have flagged a few seconds earlier, but refs instructions were, as in most cases, to first look to see what he was doing and where he was, which I of course had done. One of the consequences was a caution to the attacker for dissent.

Mike Coventry's article on page 9 had me referring to the IFAB Laws of the Game. Page 188 states ; "The whistle is needed to *start play (1st and 2nd half of normal play and extra time), after a goal has been scored.* . Now I must admit on occasions I tell the players taking a kick off after a goal to "play on" or just a nod and "Ok." On the next page the Laws state that the whistle is NOT needed for "goal kick, corner kick, throw-in or goal" So I wonder why Premiership Refs often blow for an obvious corner?

Speaking of Premier Refs, I watched the Spurs V Chelsea game on TV last weekend (COYS) and I think Len Randall would have had a fit. (see page 15) Andre Marriner was constantly pointing at various players and points on the pitch - Very odd !

**Mac**

## Oh What a Night !

What a night I had in the Raynes Park Rovers -v- Metropolitan Police game in the Semi of the Surrey U/18 Flood-Lit Cup a couple of weeks ago (Feb 22nd)!

At 7:20 there is a knock on the changing room door.

A rep from RPV says, "Someone has accidently turned off the floodlights! They have been turned on again but it will be fifteen minutes to reach full power," Well that's okay, as K.O. is at 7.45, I think to myself. We will be on time. That's when he comes out with, "Met Police want a twenty-minute warm up."

The game finally gets underway at 8.15 in real brass monkey weather. No incidents during a competitive and stoppage-free first half. The second forty-five is the same as the first, until RPV score on 68th.

Cue the wild challenges and stoppages for the remainder of the half! As the temperature of the game goes up, a challenge on the home keeper is the signal for a RPV sub to run from the bench and throw a punch at the nearest opponent. As the ref is dealing with this, I watch a separate incident:

The RPV Keeper is body-slammed to the ground by a Met player in true Mick McManus style. I draw the ref's attention and we have a second send-off within a couple of minutes. The game continues and another heavy challenge on an RPV player by the Met forward earns him a second yellow.

As the game reaches the 90th minute, I am told there will be stoppage time of 7 minutes!!!

RPV are defending their one goal advantage against the 9 men of the Met. As I look at my watch thinking it's time for the final whistle...you've guessed it! In goes the equalizer and the tie goes to extra time.

It is now well after 10pm as we start the 30 mins E/T. Night air is -1 and I mutter to myself that in the next life I'm coming back as a polar bear. The Met score straight from kick-off and look to have enough to hold on as RPV have a man sent off. We are approaching the end of the game as the ref plays an extra five mins stoppage!!!!

RPV score so it's going to be a penalty shoot-out. Met score with their first three as RPV have their first three saved and that's it. We can all go back to the dressing rooms at 10.55!

***Rod van Niekerk***

Chairman Sutton Referees Society

Writing in Touchlines

## A Pointed Comment

I confess to having written some years ago on the subject of improper 'unofficial' referees' signals. Having watched another weekend's football from the comfort of an armchair I am raising the specific issue of referees pointing at some incident in a way that they feel conveys some message but is it understood and, more importantly, is it the right message?

Two Premiership referees, each several times in successive games, made exaggeratedly theatrical pointing gestures at the ball from a crouching position they had adopted. Every occurrence was immediately after a robust challenge for a ball on the ground and I, and I expect others, interpreted this to mean "there is the ball that was played by a supposed offender – it was a fair tackle". On all occasions I saw, there were no appeals from players for a foul, incidentally. Of course, others watching might have interpreted this signal another way while more might just have been left confused.

My, and I suspect the most likely, interpretation was that the referee believed the 'offender' had played the ball and so there had been no foul. Do any readers have a better idea as to what that signal meant? What I saw was vague and unhelpful in conveying a clear message of the referee's judgement. Worse, if that was the meaning of the signal, it is a total misapplication of law.

It was several years ago that Law 12 was amended to remove the reference to having to play the ball before making bodily contact with an opponent in initially judging the fairness of a challenge. So the "played the ball" connotation in this referee's signal has absolutely no significance in the modern game. Law 12 says nothing at all about playing the ball in judging the fairness of a tackle. The referee just judges the robustness of the challenge and considers the recklessness or danger it carried.

It is bad enough when pundits and commentators get the law wrong; it is shameful when our leading referees seem to be equally guilty of incorrect interpretation and application of law. That's how I see it, anyway.

As an observer I am required not just to criticise but to offer a suggestion of what action is preferable. This is simple. Firstly, if it ain't broke, don't fix it; i.e. if there are no player appeals, just let the incident go. Don't draw attention to yourself at something that never was and start a rumpus. Second, if there are player appeals – just as frequently happens in the case of appeals for a penalty kick – use the well accepted and easily understood 'mowing the grass' signal perhaps with a shout of "No foul!" or "Fair tackle!".

*Courtesy of The Chiltern Referee*

*Len Randall*



### NEWS ALERT

A Northern city has been stolen!  
Police have no  
Leeds

### MURPHY'S MEANDERINGS

It was an FA cup third round qualifying match which had been played in a competitive manner and good spirit. However, there was one talking point in the game. A home team player had broken into the away team's penalty area and only had the goalkeeper to beat. He was to his left of the goal and the goalkeeper had come off his line taking up a position which forced the attacker to go even further to his left if he was to get past him. It made it a very acute angle if he was to score and it took him further away from the goal. The attacker feinted to the right and then went to his left over hitting the ball. The goal keeper dived and caught the player's ankle, tripping him up with his hand. I gave a penalty and ran to the goal line as per the instructions at that time. Nobody said anything, it was an obvious penalty kick.

The goalkeeper looked at me and I called him to me. There was a look of resignation on his face as he approached me and he half smiled as if to say, "What else could I do". I asked his name. He gave it to me and then turned and started walking towards the changing rooms. "Where are you going," I said, "I haven't finished cautioning you." "You're not sending me off," he replied." "It's only a caution because it wasn't a goal scoring opportunity." I replied. The look of relief on his face was plain to see. Nobody said anything, nobody questioned my decision. The attacker placed the ball and promptly made the score three nil. As we ran back to the centre the attacking player who had been brought down, ran alongside me. I thought he was going to have a go at me for not dismissing the goalkeeper but he surprised me by saying, "That was a good decision ref, many refs would have sent him off. I went too wide and wouldn't have scored so he did me a favour, you were right not to send him."

After the game, we were in the changing room when the home team manager came in. I thought he would be quite happy as his team had won comfortably but he wasn't. "Why didn't you send their goalkeeper off, he should have gone after that foul," he said. "It wasn't a goal scoring opportunity so it was only a caution," I replied. He then started to go on about lack of consistency among referees, not doing my job, etcetera, so I cut him short and he left the changing room fuming. I mentioned the matter to the Secretary later and he said they'd had a player sent of a few weeks earlier in controversial circumstances and he was still upset about that. I suppose you can't please everybody.

\*\*\*\*\*

I watched the match between Manchester United and Everton recently and was interested by the Manchester United goal that was disallowed for offside, not so much the decision but the commentator's reaction to it.

In real time they thought it was the correct decision and praised the Assistant for a courageous decision.





## Using VAR was the only obvious mistake at Wembley

### *Danny Murphy writing in You are the Ref*

My views on VAR were only hardened by events at Wembley as England continued their preparations for the summer with a positive performance and a draw against Italy.

I've already gone on record with my fears that future delays while all goals are checked will only deny supporters their spontaneous enjoyment, and I'm afraid the way the penalty was awarded at the death in this game has only confirmed that the risk of letting subjective opinions intrude is so big that it actually threatens to make a farce of the World Cup Finals.

James Tarkowski will forever remember his decision to pursue Federico Chiesa late on during his full international debut, but the interpretation of the extent of his contact with the Italian's foot should have been left to the official closest to the incident, in my opinion.

It was never a penalty in a million years, but the mere fact many people would and have disagreed with that isolated verdict of mine in itself illustrates a massive flaw in the thinking behind the whole concept of the video ref: if there are so many people with different points of view on an incident then it can't be a clear and obvious error, can it!

When Deniz Aytekin, the German referee whose task it was to make the TV gesture with his hands that we are coming to dread, actually got around to pointing to the spot, it was hardly amid a storm of protesting blue shirts. OK it was only a friendly, but the most they were asking for was a corner!

So I'm in complete agreement with England manager Gareth Southgate in calling for the referee's decision to be final in general, as well as questioning whether there was an error to correct in the first place on the night itself.

The only upside I think we could realistically hope for would be if some of the minds that matter were to get together after this international break to ask themselves: can we narrow the remit for VAR down to different criteria in time to avoid disaster in June, in what is such a global, one-off show-piece for our sport?

***Courtesy of Mal Davies***



# Plum Tree

Surrey County Cup Girls under 14s Semi final  
ACC Wimbledon v AFC Bournemouth  
Referee : Robert Hughes

Surrey County Cup under 12s  
Leather head Youth v Esher Wizards  
Referee : Robert Hughes

Surrey FA Sunday Junior Cup Semi Final  
Claygate Casuals FC V Mitcham Strollers FC  
Referee : Gareth Heighes.

Surrey Youth League Under 14s Semi final  
Letterhead youth v farnham town blues  
Referee : Robert Hughes

Surrey Youth League Under 18s Semi final  
Elm grove Rhinos v. Corinthian Casuals  
Referee : Robert Hughes

SCILW - Reserves Challenge Cup Semi Final  
Knaphill Athletic Reserves v Woking & Horsell Reserves  
Referee : Will Siegmund  
A/R : Pat Bakhuizen

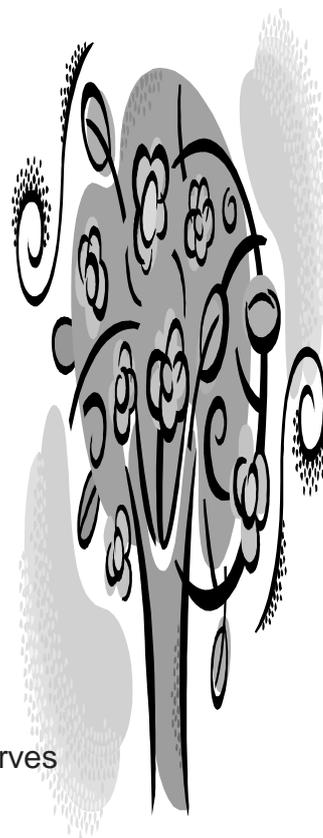
Fulham U23s v Stanford University  
Played at Motspur Park  
A/R : Will Siegmund

SCIL Reserves Invitation Shield Final  
at Godalming town FC. 2<sup>nd</sup> May  
A/R : Carl Jones

Surrey Primary League U16's,U17's and U18's.Finals Day 15<sup>th</sup> April  
At the Walton Excel.  
Referee : Mike Ward

Surrey Primary League U11 Finals  
Referee : Glenn La Roche

Guildford and Woking Alliance Intermediate Cup Semi Final  
Hersham v Farncombe Athletic  
A/R : Roy Butler



# Pages From Yesteryear

## THE GERMAN WAY

I was always told that officiating at a football match was the same the world over. Well, let me tell you, my friends, that this is not so. Anstoss, Abstoss, Einwurf, Elfmeter, Freistoss, Straffseit and other peculiar foreign words are what you must learn before even attempting to referee on the German network.

After finishing my career in REME, I (Jeff Mills) settled down happily here in Germany thinking that my refereeing days were over. But living in a small German village, an Englishman soon gets to be known so it was not long before I was persuaded to take up the whistle again.

Even though I had twelve years experience behind me, I had to attend a Referees course. Being slightly annoyed, I decided to get it over and done with, and now I am pleased that I did. I was pleasantly surprised to find over forty people, eight being of the fairer sex, attending as well. The course consisted of two weekend seminars and ended with both written and physical tests. The latter showed me just how quickly you can become unfit after leaving the Army! Needless to say, I passed - again!

In Germany, there are many leagues of varying standards and I was astounded to find that women play football throughout the land. They won the Women's equivalent of the World Cup last year which indicates just how seriously they take the game. I was fascinated to see many clubs with teams as young as four years old and as old as fifty playing in different leagues. The very junior teams were no problem to officiate at all - it was the parents watching them! But it is nice to see that most clubs have at least six teams on their books. They are well organised and tend to be the centre of interest for the town. They are not poor either!

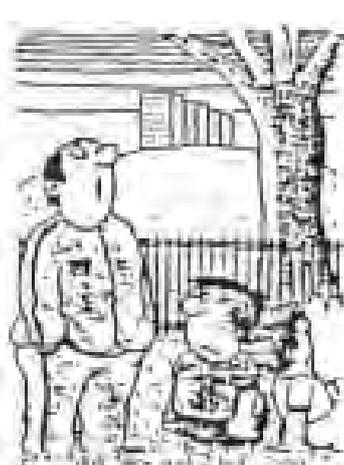
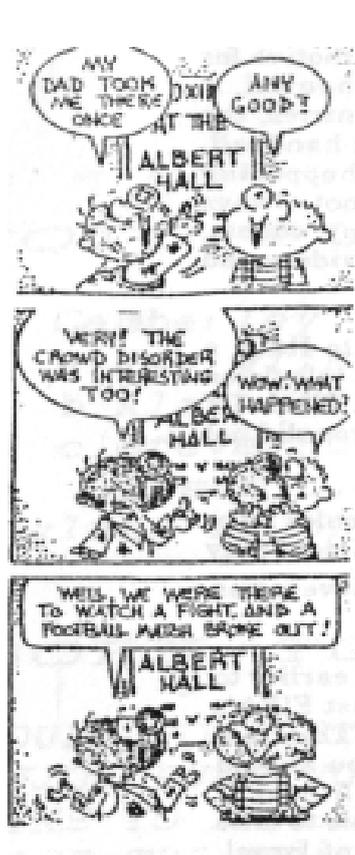
In Germany, a referee must be affiliated to a Football Club of his choice before being able to officiate. Most belong to their town or village teams. Clubs welcome referees with open arms as the more they have on their books, the less money they have to pay to the League. My club, for example, has twelve referees and yes, we have our own football team! The club is responsible for fully kitting out the new referee with uniform, boots and trainers. I was allowed to buy two new sets per season. A great improvement on refereeing in the UK, don't you think? One marvellous perk is the referee's Ausweiss (Club Card). This allows me into any top professional Bundesliga soccer ground free-of-charge. It has saved me a fortune over the seasons watching Borussia Dortmund!

At each match that the referee officiates, both team managers must show him the Ausweiss of every player. These include photographs so there is no chance of the club playing an illegal player. The referee then checks the photos against the players which also gives him the chance to get to know them. Once this is completed, the home team manager must pay the referee before the game commences. Perhaps this is so the referee can make a quick get-away should he have a stinker! The result of the match is then forwarded to the Secretary of the league including a list of those cautioned/sent off. Disciplinary reports follow within three days.

In amateur football throughout Germany, a further Law has been added to the game. A referee is able to send off a player for a ten minute cooling off period, similar to ice hockey which I have found to be an exceptionally good idea. Sometimes, second offences do not always merit the 'Red Card' and this is a good solution to the problem. The ten minute (Straffseit) penalty time is usually used after a player has received a 'Yellow Card', and can only be used once. If used for a first offence then the next offence must be a 'Red Card'. I have used this 'Special Law' time and time again, especially for dissent, and I can tell you it really has hurt a team if two or three of their players have received it.

I find that many German referees tend to shy away from using the 'Yellow Card' or Straffseit for dissent. The Germans are Infamous for dissenting decisions and perhaps this is the reason. I soon became well known on the local soccer scene as 'Die Verruecker Engländer' (the mad Englishman) who gave out Yellow Cards like dolly mixtures! Within a few months though, they toed the line with me and we both had enjoyable games. I only wish that some of my German colleagues had the courage of their convictions to stick to the dissent law,

I enjoyed two seasons on the German League but found them very hectic as sometimes I was getting four appointments a week. My career was cut short by an accident and I have had to hang up my whistle. However, I still attend meetings and give talks to fellow referees about the English refereeing system and it is with pride that I am able to- speak highly of our referees, especially those in the Armed Forces. I can fully recommend participation on the German leagues to anyone considering settling down over here. You will certainly enjoy it.



You'll never be the complete player until you learn to use BOTH elbows"



I hope my little lecture isn't boring you Jones



THERE'S NOTHING IN THE RULES ABOUT GLOVES!

All the above first appeared in the Warbler December 1991

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## Adie's Fords and Finals

I have no doubt that many of you will have 'lost' games due to the inclement weather and are raring to go with any game that comes your way. However, please spare a thought for the Fixture Secretaries who by now are tearing their hair out with so many postponements. There will obviously be many evening games over the next month or so and should you wish to make yourself available please let your Ref Sec's know.

In the SCILW the Cup Final Match Officials have been informed of their appointments and I will be selecting the G&WAFL during this week. Dates for the Finals are planned as follows:

Tuesday April 10<sup>th</sup> Cyril West Trophy Abbey Rangers 7:30pm  
 Thursday April 19<sup>th</sup> G&WAFL Abbey Rangers 7:30pm  
 Tuesday April 24<sup>th</sup> G&WAFL Abbey Rangers 7:30pm  
 Thursday April 26<sup>th</sup> SCILW Res Challenge Cup Westfield 7:30pm  
 Wednesday May 2<sup>nd</sup> SCILW Invit Shield Godalming Town 7:30pm  
 Thursday May 3<sup>rd</sup> SCILW Premier Cup Final Westfield 7:30pm  
*There is one more final in the G&WAFL that has to be confirmed.*

An issue that has raised its ugly head was brought to my attention recently was the disrespect that is being shown to the Club Assistant Referees. To my mind it is immaterial whether they have attended a course or not. Often it is one of the substitutes and they are rotated throughout the game so you have 3 or 4 different people running the line in the 'lower divisions'. It is a thankless task and many are not that keen to take up the flag. That said, they are your representatives on the line. The players would not say things to you so there is no reason for them to say it to the CAR. I brought this issue up at the Full Council of the SCILW and requested the Clubs to pass on the instructions to their teams. We will see what transpires but I will bring it up at the next G&WAFL meeting.

With the snow and ice our roads are getting worse and the pot-holes are becoming more prevalent. I decided that although my Mondeo is well sprung and absorbs a lot of the ruts it does have low-profile tyres and it is only a matter of time before we rip one to shreds down some lane. I paid a visit to Hendy Ford at Horsham, had a try-out in a demo and then they sourced an excellent Ford Kuga for me. I cannot praise these guys enough for their service and helpfulness. I am now in possession of a well sprung SUV with big tyres and with this cold weather appreciative of the heated seats and wing mirrors. Plenty of room in the back for when we beetle off to Jersey with the body-boards, so very happy with my purchase. Diane loves driving it although she was sad to let the Mondeo go.

Enjoy your games

**Adie**



# Willie the Whistler The 'Red Card' Referee

## Part 68 – 'What the players shout'

Teams: Port Dale Dynamos - v - Allfull Town

Venue: The best club house in the league

League: Division Two - Sunday Park League (North)

Weather: A big improvement in recent weeks but still a little muddy

Match: My 25<sup>th</sup> of the season but not many more matches remaining

I blew my whistle for half time. This was a Division Two match for me so I must have been doing something right in the eyes of the Referees Secretary in my recent matches. Maybe a top flight Division One fixture is coming my way soon.....in fairness it has been a long time coming but I live in hope. In fact I hope this happens soon as in the next few weeks the local parks will be taking the goals down to be replaced by cricket.

The club house and changing rooms are right beside the pitch and the players always return to the changing rooms at half time. Port Dale Dynamos are a very hospitable club and they have arranged a lovely cup of tea for me to enjoy during the half time break. Can you believe it.....the last time that I was here they offered me two biscuits which were neatly placed on a matching plate. What more could a referee ask for?

The players so far had generally behaved themselves and as yet no yellow or red cards.....they obviously know of my 'red card' reputation and they had all accepted my decisions for the first forty five minutes. I hoped they all responded exactly the same for the next forty five minutes.

As I sat in the changing room drinking my tea I started to think how the players had behaved and that no one had shouted at me..... yet. This made me think of the most popular comments used by the players during the match -

*'I won the ball'*

*'I never touched him ref'*

*'He dived'*

*'That was never offside'*

*'It came off him last'*

*'How was that a foul throw'*

*'But we have retreated ten yards'*

*'You're not going to send him off for that'*

*'What do you mean five minutes to go but you told me that five minutes ago'*

*'You must be joking'*



That was my top ten. Do you agree? What have the players been 'shouting' at you this season?

This leads on nicely to the top ten items that are sometimes conveniently '*forgotten*' by the players and the managers -

*Boots*

*Shorts*

*A change of kit to avoid a colour clash*

*Shin pads*

*Team sheets*

*A pen to write out the team sheet*

*A change of top for the goal keeper to avoid a colour clash*

*Oranges*

*Paying the match officials*

*Correct change for the match officials fees*



Maybe I have become an 'old' cynic but if only the clubs could perhaps make a little more effort to be organised that would be of a great benefit for not only the officials but also the players. Why do the clubs keep us waiting so long after the match has ended to pay us the match official's fees?

I have listed only ten and maybe you have a completely different top ten of your own!

Time flies and I have finished my tea so time to restart the second half now.

This has been a good season for me which I have enjoyed immensely. I hope your season has also been a good one!

Enjoy the close season but stay fit as the pre-season friendly starts very soon.

### **Willy the 'Red Card' Referee**

#### **He's A Poet**



The National Poetry Contest had come down to two semifinalists: a Yale graduate and a redneck from Wyoming. They were given a word, then allowed two minutes to study the word and come up with a poem that contained the word. The word they were given was "Timbuktu".

First to recite his poem was the Yale graduate. He stepped to the microphone and said:

*Slowly across the desert sand*

*Trekked a lonely caravan.*

*Men on camels, two by two*

*Destination---Timbuktu.*

The crowd went crazy! No way could the redneck top that, they thought. The redneck calmly made his way to the microphone and recited:

*Me and Tim a-huntin went,*

*Met three whores in a pop up tent.*

*They was three, and we was two,*

*So I bucked one, and Timbuktu.*

The redneck won hands down!



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## What would you do? Answers to March Issue

**Q1.** During a game you notice that one of the managers has been using Jedi mind tricks to gain an unfair advantage. But when you go over to reprimand him, he informs you that he is not the manager you are looking for. What would you do?

**A1.** Tell him to leave the technical area, and warn him you'll include details in your post-match report.

**Q2.** Two players are making their debuts - Mr Tickle and Mr Bump. Mr Tickle can't resist tickling opponents at every opportunity, while Mr Bump accidentally runs into the posts, other players and you every few minutes. What would you do?

**A2.** Yellow card for Mr Tickle - he is guilty of deliberate unsporting behaviour - and a quiet word with Mr Bump - he is only guilty of innocent clumsiness. It's down to his manager to realise that with his erratic behaviour he could hurt himself (or others) and it might be wise to make a change.

**Q3.** In a crucial cup game in Lapland a defender badly slices a clearance skyward - only to see it ricochet off a low-flying reindeer and back into his own net. What would you do?

**A3.** This is an intervention by an outside agent - disallow the goal and restart with a dropped ball taken from right underneath where it hit Rudolph. A good pre-match inspection would have avoided this type of incident.

**Q4.** You turn up to referee the third game of the season for a new team in the league. In your pre-match inspection something doesn't look right: it is very wide but very short, just filling the space available. You point this out to the home manager dressed as Father Christmas. He laughs and says that both previous referees had noticed the same thing, but both had paced out the dimensions and found that the width and length were both exactly 100 yards, which is the min length and max width allowed. What would you do?

**A4.** The pitch is not legal. Law 1 states that the touchline must be longer than the goal line. Report the details to the relevant authority.

**Q5.** Blues take their positions for an attacking free kick on the edge of the red penalty area. A fantastic shot dips over the wall, swerves out of the keeper's reach and drops over the line off the angle of post and crossbar. As the blue team celebrate, the red keeper throws the ball to you. It is clearly semi-deflated. What would you do?

**A5.** Disallow the goal and retake the free kick using a new ball (it is not a dropped ball, as it did not happen during open play). Law 2 states if the ball becomes defective, play is stopped and restarted by dropping the replacement ball where the original ball became defective. If the ball becomes defective at a kick off, corner kick, free kick, penalty or throw-in the restart is retaken.

***Courtesy Of The Chiltern Referee***

## What Would You Do ?

**Question 1.** A defender who is trying to block a goal-bound shot suddenly appears to suffer some sort of seizure - flinging an arm out and deflecting the ball wide before collapsing. As you call the physio on, you've no idea whether or not he was faking it. What would you do?

**Question 2.** Midway through the second half with the home team 5-0 down, the home captain is seriously injured. After the ambulance is called, the home manager tells you that his team are now too traumatised to continue. He wants an abandonment. What do you do?

**Question 3.** On a very slippery surface a clumsy defender launches himself into a sliding foul, right by the corner of the 18-yd box. Initial contact is made outside the area, but the foul continues into the box. The pair end up sprawled in a heap outside the area. What do you do?

**Question 4.** Minutes after a dispute over an offside call a defender blasts a clearance out of play right at your assistant. As you run over the defender says, "He didn't see the offside, and he didn't see that coming either. He needs glasses". What would you do?

**Question 5.** Your match has been physical throughout. The Red's physio has been very active, and his latest job is to treat his keeper, who had been badly winded in a collision with a Blue forward. With the keeper back on his feet the physio leaves the FoP over the goal-line, but remains in the vicinity in case the keeper needs further assistance. Play restarts with an awful back-pass to the keeper causing him to dash from his line to dive and parry an attempt at a shot. The ball spins free inside the area and the still somewhat groggy keeper seems to be taking an age to regain his feet. Meanwhile the forward's momentum has carried him over the goal-line beside the goalpost where he immediately spins to run back on to the FoP and regain the loose ball. The Red physio, realising that the forward will get there before the keeper, grabs his shirt band holds him back as the grateful keeper finally falls on the ball. Neither physio nor forward are on the FoP. What do you do?

**Question 6.** You are reffing a high-profile match. The score is 2-2. In the final minute a Blue defender makes a mistake from which a Red attacker races into the penalty area onto a pass from a team mate. Before the Red player reaches the ball, the Blue defender attempts to recover his error. He slides in from behind and brings him to the ground. As you blow for a penalty, your assistant raises his flag. The Red attacker had run from an offside position. What do you do?

*(Ed. Questions were taken from "In the referee's opinion" in Touchlines - Sutton RS, and from "You Are The Ref" by Keith Hackett and Paul Trevillion in The Observer).* **Courtesy Of Chiltern Referee**

# WARBLER REFERENCE GUIDE

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