

THE WARBLER

Monthly Magazine of the Woking Referees' Society

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Season 2019/2020 April Edition

WOKING REFEREES' SOCIETY

Founded 1927

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Vice Chairman Colin Barnett	Life Vice Presidents Roy Butler; Ken Chivers ; Neil Collins David Cooper; Peter Guest ; Chris Jones,
Treasurer and Membership Secretary Bryan Jackson 01483 423808 1 Woodstock Grove, Godalming, Surrey, GU7 2AX	Secretary Anthony (Mac) McBirnie 01483 835717 / 07770 643229 secretary@wokingreferees.co.uk
Training Officer Pat Bakhuizen 07834 963821	Editor : The Warbler Mac McBirnie, macmcbirnie@gmail.com 07770 643229
Welfare Officer Gareth Heighes garethheighes@btinternet.com 07707118446	Supplies Officer Gareth Heighes garethheighes@btinternet.com 07707118446
R.A Delegates Brian Reader 01483 480651 Tony Loveridge	Committee Chris Busby ; Jonty Bolland ;Callum Peter Martin Read ; Paul Saunders ; Will Siegmund
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The next meeting of the Woking Referees' Society on Monday 6th April

Has Been Cancelled



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

**May meeting will be on
Monday 4th May 2020 (Virus permitting)
The deadline for the May Warbler is
Friday 24th April**

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

Chairman's Chatter

Hello everyone and welcome to another addition of the Warbler.

This month's Chairman's Chatter is obviously going to be a bit different to normal due to the unprecedented events taking place around the world currently with Covid-19.

I'm not going to even discuss football that much and the various outcomes of what will happen to the season as there are more important things going on right now.

Please note that as a Committee, we have decided to cancel our April meeting due to the Government restrictions on group gatherings and non-essential journeys etc. This is 100% the correct thing to do and I can only hope that you all support us with this sensible decision. Our main priority right now is to keep ourselves and our loved ones safe; to protect them and the vulnerable from this pandemic.

In the interim, please make sure we stay in touch with each other – it could be a simple phone call, a message or a knock on the door to make sure that person is doing as well as can be. Little things go a long way so if any of you fancy a chat or to discuss anything, please feel free to call me on 07538 714747 or email me andy@euroboozers.co.uk – it's good to talk as the old advert used to say!!

In more positive news, two of our members, Jackie & Eliza Bisley recently attended the National Referees Development Day for Women at St Georges Park.

Having spoken to them about the day, it sounded like an amazing experience and I believe that Eliza has written a piece about the day which is published elsewhere in this edition. Jackie & Eliza – we're so proud of you flying the flag for our society and for female referees in general – keep up the good work!!

We also had a great turnout for Pat's Academy Meeting last month which was based around being an Assistant Referee/4th Official for League & County Cup Finals.

It was superb to see so many faces in the room interacting and working towards being the best they could be leading up to the cup final. It is no surprise that our younger members and new referees continue to develop with the help of people like Pat, Gareth, Callum to name but a few.

I'm gutted that several in the room that night will have lost the opportunity to officiate at their final due to the current restrictions on all football BUT they will 100% have learned a lot from that session with Pat – another example of learning and development for ALL members, whatever their age and experience.

So finally – to you, our members – please stay safe. Please also listen and act on the advice out there to remain at home unless absolutely necessary. Do NOT mix in groups, practice social distancing, wash your hands properly and regularly. By doing all these things, we can help make this go away a lot quicker.

Thanks everyone – stay safe, stay well, be kind, be thoughtful and as the Chancellor said in his speech to the country – it's on all of us.

See you soon.

Andy



Just a Sec!

As you should have now read, we have cancelled the April meeting due to government guidelines regarding social gatherings.

A decision regarding the May meeting has not been made yet, although with the Covid—19 virus still very much with us and according to the scientific advice, likely to be so for at least another 12 weeks, I can't see us being able to meet then either. But we will let you know as soon as possible.

Meanwhile, keep safe and for those of us who have hit that watershed age of 70, (*although only just! Ed*) it looks like a prolonged period of decorating and gardening is on the agenda. No excuses now I'm afraid.

One thing that you can do now is renew your Referees Society membership. Bryan has sent out an application form and there is also a copy on page 7.

We have already lined up some great speakers for you next season so get your cheque books out, or even easier, just transfer your subscriptions to the RA account detailed on the application form.

You should also have received notification from Surrey FA that all games have been cancelled until further notice, which also means that we are not allowed to referee **any** games. So don't be tempted with requests for any "friendlies". Although I think it would be totally irresponsible for any clubs or teams to do so.

Membership and Accounts

2019/20 Memberships renewed
87 Full Members
6 Friends
2 Affiliate Members
76 Referees trained in 2019/2020

2020 Current Status	
General	£1,972.31
Supplies	£198.14
Belgium	£0.00
Training Fund	-£174.03
Centenary Fund (formerly Youth Fund)	£213.50
Total	£2,209.92

Academy News

So another successful academy session on preparing for your final as an assistant referee and 4th official at our March meeting

It was good to see new faces from the SPL who had been invited along to get some last minute preparations.

Although the finals have been postponed (or cancelled) hopefully those who attended found the session useful for the future, and it's something to keep practicing while we are sat at home waiting for the season to kick-off again. There are lots of videos online to look at of assistant referees doing it well and not so well!

There is no meeting this month for reasons I do not need to explain, I was going to look back at your seasons and experiences and problems you may have encountered and how you dealt with them.

So with this in mind I would like to hear from you. Why not drop me a line ? My email is patric.bakhuizen@gmail.com and in the next warbler I can do a problem and answer page.

I'm hoping members old and new will contribute, to make it a fun and worthwhile read.

Stay safe, look after yourselves and I look forward to hearing from you

Pat





WOKING SOCIETY - THE REFEREES ASSOCIATION
 Affiliated to the Referees Association & Surrey County Referees Association
 President: Vince Penfold

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP SEASON 2020 - 21

I HEREBY WISH TO BECOME A MEMBER OF WOKING REFEREES' SOCIETY, AND ENCLOSE MY SUBSCRIPTION / WILL SEND MY SUBSCRIPTION VIA INTERNET BANKING AS FOLLOWS:-

	COST	AMOUNT
FULL MEMBER - OVER 18 - Printed Warbler (INCLUDES Paper copy of Society Magazine, RA & COUNTY RA SUBSCRIPTION + PA INSURANCE) Expires 31/3/2021 - National RA membership until 30/9/2021	£36.00	
FULL MEMBER - OVER 18 - Electronic Warbler (INCLUDES pdf copy of Society Magazine sent by email, RA & COUNTY RA SUBSCRIPTION + PA INSURANCE) Expires 31/3/2021 - National RA membership until 30/9/2021	£25.00	
FULL MEMBER - UNDER 18 - Printed Warbler (INCLUDES Paper copy of Society Magazine, RA & COUNTY RA SUBSCRIPTION + PA INSURANCE) Expires 31/3/2021 - National RA membership until 30/9/2021	£25.00	
FULL MEMBER - UNDER 18 - Electronic Warbler (INCLUDES pdf copy of Society Magazine sent by email, RA & COUNTY RA SUBSCRIPTION + PA INSURANCE) Expires 31/3/2021 - National RA membership until 30/9/2021	£14.00	
AFFILIATE MEMBER (i.e. Full Member of another Referees Society) Expires 31/3/2021	£20.00	
FRIEND OF WOKING SOCIETY Expires 31/3/2021	£20.00	
OPTIONAL RA PHYSIOTHERAPY INSURANCE If required please contact Bryan Jackson		
DONATION £1,£2,£3,£4,£5,£10 or Whatever		
	TOTAL	

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

.....POSTCODE.....

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

E-MAIL ADDRESS.....

COUNTY FA REGISTERED WITH..... FA NUMBER (FAN).....

REFEREE LEVEL..... DATE OF BIRTH.....

BY PAYING MY SUBSCRIPTION I AGREE TO ABIDE BY THE RULES OF THE SOCIETY AND THE REFEREES ASSOCIATION. I ACKNOWLEDGE THAT WOKING REFEREES SOCIETY WILL ONLY CONTACT ME BY EMAIL, MAIL OR TELEPHONE WITH REQUESTS AND INFORMATION RELATING TO SOCIETY BUSINESS, REFEREEING OR OTHER RELEVANT FOOTBALL INFORMATION.

I ALSO AGREE FOR MY DETAILS TO BE SHARED WITH THE REFEREES ASSOCIATION FOR THE PURPOSES OF BEING A MEMBER OF THE REFEREES ASSOCIATION

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

www.wokingreferees.co.uk

Mac's Musings

This page was originally reserved for our April guest speaker, Dave Phillips who started officiating on the Football League in 2008 before retiring on 3rd May 2014 having officiated on 324 matches with PGMO. Since his retirement he has continued with the PGMO as an Observer and has covered over 255 matches to the present day.

Luckily Dave has agreed, work commitments permitting, to come along to our September meeting and present his talk entitled "Through the Eyes of an Observer" It promises to be a fascinating evening.

So everything is on hold and oldies such as myself have been advised to "self isolate" I did however venture down to Sainsbury's (other supermarkets are available) when they had an "over 70's and vulnerable customers only" hour. Well all I can say is that I wished that I looked as young as the so called 70 year olds that were charging round the shop to get to the rapidly diminishing pile of bog rolls. Then there was the queue for the checkouts which stretched up to the central aisle. I was chatting to the chap in front, whilst trying to keep the regulatory 2 metres away, and wondering why our queue hadn't moved for about 20 minutes when the rather harassed checkout supervisor appeared and told us that the checkout scanner had stopped working and it would take about 10 minutes to re—boot. Deep joy ! I reckon I was in that queue for an hour !

The February Walking Football tournament was another wash out. After getting soaked at the January session in Dorking, this time a hailstorm battered us at the Excel Centre Walton, and Mark Blythe had little option but to call the whole thing off. What the elements have against Walking Football I don't know. I should have been in India the last 2 weeks of March, but that naturally was cancelled, so I was due to miss the March session, which obviously was also cancelled, but I do believe the sun was shining that day! Typical.

As you are no doubt aware, we often have clubs or individuals asking for a referee or an assistant for a particular game and I usually email out such requests to all our members. Well recently, after sending out such a request, I was appalled to hear that the referee who kindly took up the offer was only offered, after the game, £25. This was on a League where other clubs pay £40 for the ref and £30 for the assistants, plus they are usually offered refreshments at half and full time. I know we always say we don't do it for the money, although of course for many of our younger referees who are at college or school it is a useful way of earning a crust (or a beer more likely) but in this circumstance I feel the manager was taking the proverbial "michael" . Needless to say I will not be sending out requests from that club in future.

Oh well! Back to the decorating and gardening I suppose!

Keep safe everyone

Mac

Last Month's Meeting

Chairman Andy Bennett along with 30 members and guests, welcomed Lee Markwick, National RA Welfare, Representation & Partnerships Lead, to Woking, who gave a fascinating talk on the subject of "Looking After our Match Officials"

With "Safeguarding and Duty of Care" currently high on most Society's and County FA's agendas, Lee 's visit was a timely reminder of our responsibilities in this area. Lee has also represented one of our members who had been brought up on a charge by the County FA.

It was comforting to hear that the RA are there to help, support and give professional and legal guidance when things do sometimes "go wrong" especially in relation to all types of abuse or being charged by the FA for a breach of regulations.

Many officials are unaware they must adhere to the FA's Code of Conduct in relation to their own behaviour. Lee gave us some great tips on the management of players during the game especially the Caution and Dismissal process and, how not to get drawn into arguments or 'Banter' with players and managers that has led to officials being charged by the FA for inappropriate behaviour and comments.

The safeguarding of U18s in open age football was discussed along with the requirements when working with U18 officials, such as separate changing rooms.

Lee also listed the points he is hoping to raise with the current Sports Minister through his local MP and the Football Association, to help curtail the constant abuse still being experienced by officials. These Including the bringing of abuse to referees as a "Hate Crime", similar to the protection offered to NHS employees and other first responders. Incidents involving U18s should be regarded as a Safeguarding and criminal offence first before an FA reporting matter.

Many views around the room agreed that change must come from the top. Lee's visit showed that us that the work of the RA is going some way to help shape that change. Lee urged us all to write to our local MP in order that we help support the changes needed in football.

Andy thanked Lee for a fascinating and informative talk, before presenting him with 2 bottles of wine.

The Society AGM then took place. The minutes of which have been emailed directly to members.

Andy closed the meeting at 10.25pm



Adie Bumps Elbows and Goes to Pot (hole)

This past weekend was far better for football with only a couple of games off. In comparison to the previous week when we only had a total of seven over both the SCILW and the G&WAFL I for one was delighted as we were looking at a massive amount of evening games. There will be some coming up soon in the SCILW that I know of so please keep me updated on your evening availability as I will be counting on your support.

I was very pleased to see in the Chancellor's Budget that 2.5bn is being allocated over 5 years to address the potholes (Adie's biggest hate). My only problem is that they will have to employ persons to carry this out and, hopefully, properly. So many so called 'repairs' seem to last until, the next frost or downpour and all the 'infill' is scattered across the road and another poxy great hole in the road. I came out of Bramley garage tonight after filling up with fuel and dodged 3 massive holes in the road. The last time I took evasive action like that was about 45 years ago in Canada on a motorbike skirting around the gopher holes!!!

The corona virus (now declared a pandemic by WHO), no that's the World Health Organization not the Doctor. We dutifully carried out the 'elbow bumps' last Sunday at the Chelsea Academy, the young players seem to think this is a great hoot and were bumping elbows with all and sundry, basically anybody they could. I did advise about 10 days ago in the SCILW to refrain from the Respect Handshake, we all have to do our bit to reduce the spread of the virus and I cannot afford for a load of you to go down ill. We will be carefully monitoring the situation as the government has predicted the worst will come in the next two weeks. There are some excellent articles of advice from the NHS on line so if you are in any doubt take a look and take it on board.

Current project on this large French door-step for son Graham's customer is going well. Last Friday I got the large router out and spent a happy few hours ploughing out the tongue. (*sounds painful Ed*) Pleased with the results of my labours I was in the process of clearing up and Diane appeared home from school. Commented that the 'umpa lumpa' men were back and disappeared into the house no doubt to laugh at my expense. This wood is African Sapele so does come off an orange/brown colour. The fact that I was covered in it I guess was her source of amusement.

Enjoy your games

Adie



Female referees: The FA say there has never been a better time to train

By Tejas Kotecha

The FA say there have never been better development opportunities to become a referee as more than 100 young officials attended its annual Women's Grassroots Refereeing Development Event.

The FA is on course to reach almost 3,000 female referees by 2021 as the popularity of the women's game continues to grow.

Farai Hallam is a National Referee Manager at the Football Association and says it is now the perfect time for young females considering a career in football. There's never been a better time to be a referee, especially being a female referee. The opportunities that are available are the best there have ever been. The support that's there is absolutely fantastic," he told Sky Sports News.

The Football Association held its annual Women's Grassroots Refereeing Development Event, where development and inspiration were key themes for young referees who were mostly in the age range of 14-18.

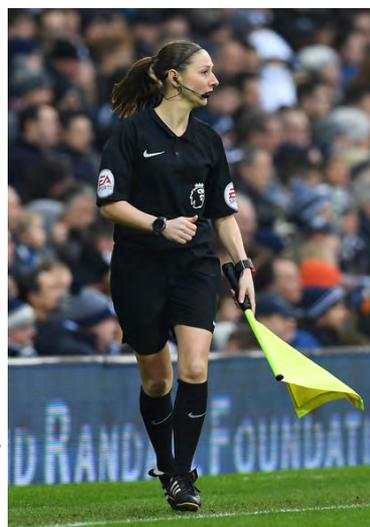
Joanna Stimpson, the FA women's referee manager said: "We invite female referees across the country to partake in development and education opportunities here and enable them to engage and network with fellow female referees across the country."

Phoebe Cross, a level 4W referee, was one of those taking advantage of the FA event at St George's Park. She said: "I enjoy meeting people and made lots of new friends I speak to most days and as well as that, it's going out there and being able to contribute to football every weekend."

Premier League assistant referee Sian Massey-Ellis is one of the role models for future officials. In October 2019, she became the first English female to officiate in a men's European game.

There was also some top level advice on offer for the referees of the future, including from Rebecca Welch, a referee for FIFA and the Women's Super League.

She said: "It's a tough job, a difficult job and it's just to remember when times get hard it's to keep plugging away at it, you know? Develop yourself, learn as you go and speak to other referees. We do have a good community within, like the women and girls who referee. The highs outweigh the lows massively and I know that standing here, being over 10 years into my career."



Sian Massey

Via Mal Davies V & A

David Elleray says offside law is going backwards with VAR

Former Premier League referee David Elleray believes the offside law is 'going backwards' following the implementation of Video Assistant Referees (VAR) around the world.

If you speak to any assistant referee, they are instructed, with offside, if in doubt, you keep the flag down. So, the attacker gets the benefit of the doubt.

The greater use of technology, through VAR, means that technology has taken that doubt away so, in fact, we have started going backwards a little bit.

"The purpose of offside was to stop attackers getting an unfair advantage. A lot of football is saying 'well, three centimetres just in front is not a major advantage', while others are saying you're either offside or you're not.

"So, what we're saying is have we got the law right now, particularly given the greater accuracy of judgement to say should we be looking at it slightly differently to make sure that we continue to encourage attacking football and the opportunity to score a goal."

Elleray says "many lessons have been learned" by the Premier League during their implementation of VAR this season.

"I think most people would say that it hasn't been a howling success [in English football]," Elleray told Sky Sports News, following an annual general meeting of the International Football Association Board [IFAB] in Belfast.

"But many lessons have been learned and those lessons will be put into place next year. I think we've been aware, over the last four years or so, of VAR that any competition that has started using it, it hasn't always gone well at the beginning. They've adjusted, they've modified."

The former referee says he would be "astonished" if the Premier League maintained its policy of using pitch side monitors sparingly next season and believes VAR can be "too forensic" in the decision-making process.

"I think English football's use of pitch side monitors has been different from most other competitions in the world," he said. "It rarely works when one group is doing something very differently from the rest of the world so I would anticipate some changes in the future.

It's impossible for any major changes to take place during this season because, clearly, the integrity of the competition means that the way matches are being controlled so far couldn't change. But I would anticipate a change next season.

"The benefit of the pitch side monitors is very much that the referee remains at the centre of the decision-making process. The referee's authority is maintained and, also, the referee on the field feels the atmosphere, understands what goes on.

"Whereas somebody away in a van can be in a slightly more, almost, antiseptic, hermetically sealed environment where, perhaps, they can be too forensic."

Football Association chairman Greg Clarke has welcomed IFAB's review of the offside law.

We want to encourage attacking football, attacking goals," Clarke told Sky Sports News. "We don't want an outcome from the use of VAR that we're losing more goals than we're scoring, which is where we are at the minute. We've agreed to look at the rules of the game to say, 'does the offside rule need to change?'. The fundamental issue is the rules, not the technology."

"The offside law has worked very well until technology has effectively removed the benefit of the doubt," explained Elleray. "The benefit of the doubt meant that the attackers were more favoured than defenders. Defenders, I'm sure, will disagree with me, but attackers will now say they have lost that benefit."

"Therefore, we need to say, 'is the law doing what it should do?', which is to prevent attackers getting an unfair benefit by their position relative to the defenders."

Lawmakers will review whether to allow any communication between the referee and VAR to be heard by supporters during a game.

Sky Sports News revealed in December that IFAB may allow competitions to broadcast a direct audio link involving match officials to fans.

The present laws of the game prevent in-game communication to be relayed during a match, but competitions can release audio after the final whistle.

We're going to review how much we should publicise, and open up, any discussion between the referee and the VAR," explained Elleray.

"There are positives and negatives to all these things. We have to understand that referees and VARs are under huge pressure, particularly at key moments when they're reviewing.

"It could generate more upset than not. Competitions can, post-match, release video and audio of the conversations so people understand the process. So, the debate now is 'does the game benefit from that being done live or not?'

Sky Sports via Mal Davies V & A

Check out this interview with FIFA referee Kirsty Dowle, who recently spoke to The FA's Tom Dean.

Kirsty Dowle has loved football her whole life but never even considered becoming a referee until after she had written her dissertation on them.

That was six years ago, now the 28-year-old is Level 3 qualified and regularly taking charge of top-flight women's football in the Barclays FA WSL.

But what has happened in between now and then? We put some questions to the official...

How did you first get into refereeing?

I've played football since I was about six years old so it's always been a part of my life – I love it.

For some reason, while I was writing my sports science dissertation at the University of Portsmouth, I decided that I would choose refereeing to focus on.

I interviewed lots of very interesting referees and a few of them suggested to me that I give it a go – and then I thought to myself that I might be able to make it further than as a player.

Name: Kirsty Dowle

- Age: 28
- Years refereeing: Six
- Level of refereeing: Level 3 & W1
- Location: Ashford, Kent

Where did you take your first course and then where did you officiate your first game?

I enrolled at Ramsgate and my first game will have been reffing for the Sandwich U10s.

A colleague of mine brought me a spare kit to use and I remember putting it on and it was so big it felt like I was wearing a nightie.

The main thing I remember from the game was that I allowed one team to make a sub while the goalkeeper held the ball for more than six seconds and I just allowed them to play on.

Nobody said anything, nothing came of it either but I knew I had made a massive mistake – I just thought to myself: 'I will never let that happen again'.

Is there one moment from your early experiences of officiating that has stayed with you ever since?

It was still early in my career because I was officiating youth football still, but it was an U16s match and I remember the conditions were awful but both teams agreed to play.

The game was rubbish but all I can remember from it is both of the managers just shouting at me relentlessly.

It's hard to put into words how that makes you feel but my parents were there watching, they told me that I had done a good job but because of the way I was shouted at, I had such a low opinion of myself.

You know it isn't personal, because they've said it during the game and it isn't like you've been offended in the street, but you have to put things into perspective and know what you're letting yourself in for – not that that makes it right.

What are the main benefits or enjoyments that you take from officiating?

Off the pitch I work on the railways and I actually encounter a lot of conflict and confrontation doing that.

I think refereeing has definitely helped me with the way I talk to people and has given me the confidence to tell people straight if I need to.

Of course, other people you need to speak to differently because everybody reacts differently and it's helped with the way that I'm able to pitch myself in certain situations.

Do you have specific ambitions to reach a certain level in the game?

This is my first year as a FIFA referee so I think I'll have a lot to learn over the next few years. Hopefully I can start to climb that ladder and see where it takes me.

What would be your advice to anyone who is thinking of starting out?

You need to be completely open to learning and be a 'yes' person who takes the opportunities that come your way because that is the only way you can develop.

Every level I get to, I start to think straight away 'how can I get to the next one?' So you need to be a sponge and absorb everything you can that is going on around you.

Can you tell us something we don't know about refereeing?

I didn't realise how much commitment it is, but that's only because of the amount I want to put into it.

It takes up a lot of my time but only because I want it to. I train six days a week to stay fit and then if I ref a game it's the same hours as a full day's work.

People I have spoken to think it is a matter of turning up for 90 minutes then going home but there's a lot more that goes on behind the scenes that I don't think people realise.



And we do care about the decisions we make and our performances – if I get something wrong I can't sleep at night and I don't think people are aware that we think like that.

Courtesy of RA Website

Women's Grassroots Development Weekend

Sunday 1st March was a day of development and consolidation of skills for over 100 female referees, attending the Women's Grassroots Refereeing Development day at England's amazing training facilities at St George's Park. #

I was delighted to represent Surrey FA and to partake in the variety of physical training activities and development sessions run by the officials of the Conti Cup final.

The events of the day ranged from laws of the game questions combined with fitness, to building confidence and improving body language.

A helpful tip from a sport psychologist was to write a proud moment from each game on separate Jenga blocks to build a physical tower of confidence, as a reminder that you are an able referee, particularly on the days where you lack self-belief.

To any one who is a fan of English football, I'd highly recommend a trip to St George's park.

Eliza Bisley



Practising flag waving at St Georges Park

Coventry's Corner

Balls (unchanged according to LOTG 2018//2019)

Did you know that the British have larger balls than Europeans? It's all there in Laws of the Game, Law 2, and bullet point 3: the ball must be of a circumference of between 70 cm (28") and 68 (27"). 28" is actually 70.12 cm whilst 27" is 68.58 and the resultant maximum diameters consequently 8.913" against 8.772" which only proves that the British may have bigger balls than Europeans I know what I believe.

Mike Coventry

Coventry's Corner

Couldn't disagree

It had been a long drive, even a long walk from the 'facilities' to the FoP, but it was worthwhile; I was able to start my 5 to 4 assessment thus: I couldn't be critical of a single incident of foul recognition. I meant it too; I still do. I just wish I had been closer to that 'situation' in the eight-eighth minute.

I like to stroll along the touchline (or adjacent thereto) when assessing; getting as near to the 'line of action' as I can. I like to hear, as well as see, what's going on.

So, I am down in the bottom corner, more or less, when the ball is belted upfield. The referee goes zooming after it. Your Favourite Reporter opens his book – 'cos you've got to give examples – and writes: 87 – Good Sprint. In soccer vernacular, the Lad's done great.

As I close the book there is frenetic whistling starting up about as far away diagonally opposite as one could get. The Lux rating of the floodlights is lower than that in my bathroom. Frankly, I had no idea of what had/was happening.

"What's going on over there?" a spectator shrieks at me.

I'm prepared to make positive responses when a point of Law is queried, and often assume deafness when there appears to have been an error of judgement. Sometimes "He was closer than me" covers the matter.

"Sorry, didn't see it" says your assessor, looking for a place on *Would I Lie to You?*

"You're an assessor" the spectator hurls back at me, "You're supposed to see it!"

'QBX' thinks your Favourite Reporter (that's an old and highly unofficial 'Q sign' from my Morse code days) then "I can't watch and write at the same time" as I move quickly away. The red card is being shown to the home Right Winger. The majority watching is not impressed.

Three minutes later (that's 90+1mins, please keep up), the home 'keeper holds a shot at goal and takes a gentle shoulder nudge from an opponent and tumbles. Even as he is falling, he is looking at the referee as much as to say "Are you carding him for that?" I laughed and the referee correctly called 'play on' – "That's two disgraceful decisions he's made in two minutes" is yelled in my ear by the home Manager. "No way" say I. Four minutes later the final whistle blows.

Walking off, I do my debrief (I've got visitors at home) and soon ask about the sending off. Apparently, there was a foul (the first whistling), confrontational comment (the second whistling) and the ball kicked at his opponent by the right winger (third whistling). Violent conduct, a decision supported by the Level 5 assistant. I did suggest strong voice intervention might have been a better option.

And I'm there again in three weeks (it didn't happen – it was rained off – I've not been back since!).

Mike Coventry

Writing in *The Chiltern Referee*

It's official!
The Sin-Bin is working
The FA move is reducing dissent

The prospect of being sent to the Sin Bin and letting down their team mates, is encouraging players to behave better..... that is the assessment of Paul Lawler, chairman of the North West Counties League, after studying evidence gathered during the first half of the current campaign.

"It's hard to argue with the numbers," he told the NLP. "The bigger picture, beyond the data collected so far, goes further. Lads are changing how they conduct themselves on the field. By the end of November, there were 95 recorded instances of dissent in his competition that resulted in a player being dismissed temporarily.

At this stage last season, a total of 246 yellows had been shown for the same offence. Lawler added: "The feedback we've had so far from our members is that the impact has been positive. However, it's probably too early yet to draw firm conclusions." The FA trialled sin bins across 31 grassroots leagues during the two seasons prior to this one. Of those 25 reported a reduction in dissent. More broadly there was a 30% fall across the competitions that took part in the pilot.

A survey of close to 1,500 participants afterwards revealed a significant majority of players, managers and match officials wanting the bin-bin rule to remain. The governing body then chose to implement the change up to Step 5 of the National League System.

"It's been brilliant" said Steve Wilkins, manager at Northwich Victoria. "There is no screaming in the referee's face any more." Midfielder Harvey Whyte was sent to the sin-bin as punishment for sarcastically applauding a decision by the referee when "Vics" visited Longridge for a Premium Division fixture in October.

The score was 1-1 when he left the field and Eliot Pond scored a winning goal for the hosts whilst the youngster watched from the touchline. Wilkes added: "It hurt us". He believes his players are even less likely to err as a result. It is a view shared by Joe Doran his counterpart in Bootle. He said: "When it happens to one of your players, it's definitely an effective deterrent." But he is unconvinced sin-bins are a solution to the problem of dissent predicting the experiment won't work. ... "I'm all for nipping it in the bud". This feels like a half-way house. Lawler agreed but reflects optimistically. "We may not stop dissent, but if sin-bins are making people think, then that's the main thing."

*This piece appeared in the NLP, issued 5.1.20, and submitted by Bryan Hardy)
And spotted in The Chiltern Referee*

Dates for your Diary 2019/20

- 6th April Society Meeting - Cancelled
- 4th May Society Meeting - ?????
- 22nd May Eve of Final Rally - AF Bentley Priory Museum, Mansion House Drive, Stanmore, HA7 3HT.
- 4th / 5th July Development Weekend - De Vere Staverton

20/21

- 10th August Society Meeting - Pat Bakhuizen Law amendments
- 7th September Society Meeting - David Phillips
- 5th October Society Meeting - Tony Dean
- 2nd November Society Meeting - Charlotte Crook
- 14th December Society Christmas Dinner



BODY LANGUAGE – WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Much of my working life was involved with interviewing people for a variety of reasons. One subject that I studied in an attempt to make me more successful was body language. I have to admit that much of it I considered pseudo-science but there were certain things that stuck and even helped in refereeing.

The term body language is often bandied around in refereeing, but what does it mean to us? It is mentioned in the Laws of the Game where it says, 'Body language is a tool that referees use to control the match, show authority and self-control'. It doesn't say what it is or how you show it, but goes on to say, 'body language is not an explanation of a decision' So it tells us what it is not so what is it?

The best way I can think of explaining it, is to go through the first occasion in a match when you should use it, the coin toss. I watched a video last season taken in a local rec. The referee blew for the captains and when they arrived, he shook their hands but never once looked at them, his eyes were looking at the ground the whole time. This was an experienced referee, in fact an FA Tutor.

What I have always recommended to new referees is that as the captains approach, pull your shoulders back and then take a step towards each captain with an outstretched hand, a smile on your face and look them in the eye when you greet them. After the toss another handshake with eye to eye contact as the captains go back to their teams. What would your body language be saying? I think it tells each captain that you are a friendly guy and you respect him but that you are in control.

Mike Dean recently admitted in an interview that he does a little play acting when he steps onto the field of play. There is nothing wrong with that. There is an old saying. 'Act Confidently – Be Confident'. This doesn't mean to be theatrical.

Where else should you use body language? Let's take for instance when you award a free kick. Ah you might think that's all covered in the Laws under Referee Signals. You would be right but there is another old saying, 'it's not what you do, but the way that you do it' After a nice clear whistle. players, offender and offender, will almost always turn to look at you. Stand tall. arm out straight. Cuts out a lot of dissent.

Far be it for me to criticise someone with over 500 Premier League appearances but sometimes I think Mike Dean, when awarding a penalty, is a little too dramatic. It's almost a 'gotcha' gesture. Better to walk head held high calmly pointing to the penalty mark.

What about when you have to take a player's name or otherwise admonish him? Again body language can be most important with two points to bear in mind. Firstly, everyone has their own personal space. This can differ due to where they live. In crowded towns and cities people are used to less space but in the country their personal space may well be bigger.

When lining, I have seen referees stand almost toe to toe with a player, well into their personal space and the uneasiness of the player is plain to see.. It can lead to greater aggression.

We go back to the eyes for my other point. Experience has shown that rather than look the player in the eye, you look at what I can only call an imaginary triangle spreading out Just above the top of the nose. It is widely recognised that this creates a serious atmosphere and the player will realise you mean business.

Act confidently – be confident.
Let your body do the talking

Dick Sawdon Smith



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Willy the 'Red Card' Referee

Hang up the whistle

*Hang up the whistle
Put away the red cards too
When your legs move slowly
And there's nothing you can do
When your control path is ten yards either side of the half way line
Maybe listen to your legs
Perhaps that's a sign*

*The other refs in a brand new kit
And yours is ten years old
You can and try and sell yours on ebay
But they will never be sold*

*You could buy new kit
But feel each game could be your last
Are there many games for the future?
Or are the best games in your past?
Twenty five games a season
You show five cards on average every game
That's over a hundred cautions
And the players always give you the blame*

*So 5000 cards produced over forty years
That has produced many players to tears
Your acme thunderer whistle is metal
And your wind up watch runs slow
You're old enough to be all the player's grandfather
Is that a sign to go?
The refs all do a warm up
And they run around the pitch three times
You just stand on the half way mark
Just staring at the touch lines*

*Players come and players go
But you are still here
There must be many players
Who wished you would disappear*

*Laws may come and laws may go
The VAR has made things slow
No more contested drop ball
Substituted players can leave anywhere
Now there is a sin bin
But do the players really care?*

*The younger referees seem so fit
At least you try to do your bit
Experience is useful and good to have your say
But no good giving the right decision from twenty yards away*

*In the old days of pounds, shillings and pence
I think the laws made more sense
Why wear blue socks with small white ones on top
I tell the players this really has to stop
Can you guess in 1975 the referees match fee?
It was £2-00 and no one laughed at me
Nowadays some say the fee is greedy others say naughty
The fee this season has gone up to forty!
Back in the day when I would buy a round
And still get change from my match fee of two pound*

*We referees do work hard
Red and yellow we show those cards
Some scary moments but referees have to be brave
If only players accepted the decisions we gave
Professional referees talk about protein and nutrition
Their height, weight and size
You're more concerned about your dinner
And eating those two steak and kidney pies*

*Not enough refs for all the games every week
Not enough refs it seems so bleak
Because of the shortage that's my reason
I'll carry on for another season!*

**We do it because we love it!
Keep blowing that whistle and waving that flag!**

Willy the 'Red Card' Ref



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Flags- £4.50

Woking RA Polo Shirt - £12

Woking RA Hoodie - £18

Surrey FA badge- £4

Referee socks- £2.50

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All Change for Surrey Tutors

Colleagues,

A meeting was held on 24th February where the majority of Surrey's tutors were present. The general consensus was that we had misgivings about renewing tutor status and the proposed changes to the referees' course. Some of the main points were:

- ◆ Under-appreciation by the FA of the role of volunteers who conduct referee tutoring.
- ◆ Lack of consultation with tutors at county level who are expected to deliver the proposed new course (which has yet to be finalised). (Surrey FA piloted the present practical course and have not been consulted in the development of the new course.)
- ◆ Proposed new course to include Mini Soccer and 9v9/11v11, which will lead to confusion as the Laws are different.
- ◆ Whereas tutors don't do the courses for money, the available budget has been reduced (referee training receives 10% of funding when compared to football coaching).
- ◆ Lack of assessing by FA to gauge whether tutors are delivering to standard.
- ◆ An expectation that tutors would be required to deliver courses in neighbouring counties in addition to their own, when tutor numbers are (a) likely to decrease, and (b) travel expenses are now included in the fees. This does not take into account that tutors are volunteers and many work for a living, so this expectation is laughable.
- ◆ Lack of foresight by the FA, as more tutors = more courses = more revenue for the FA. Whilst the tutor applications "progress" there will be no courses run until we know just how many tutors have been successful. This makes it very difficult to plan ahead, especially as the venues we use for training are asking for dates of courses. Sutton CC has been booked Sept/Oct 2020 but whether it goes ahead is uncertain as I'll no longer be a tutor by then and there may be insufficient tutors anyway.

A few tutors have emailed the FA with their concerns/observations and, as yet, have not received any reply. I may sound embittered, but I've come to the conclusion that FA doesn't stand for Football Association but Faceless Administration.

Best Regards

Peter Watson

Referee Tutor / Promotion Coordinator Sutton Referees' Society
(*Courtesy of Touchlines*)

The IFAB agrees to implement substitution trials to address concussion incidents

The International Football Association Board (The IFAB) at its 134th Annual General Meeting (AGM), held in Belfast, Northern Ireland agreed to draw up protocols to be used in trials for substitutions in cases of concussion.

Following feedback from the recent meeting of the Concussion Expert Group (CEG), The IFAB also agreed that more research data is required before proposing possible changes to the Laws of the Game. FIFA indicated a strong interest in having trials at the Men's and Women's Olympic Games football tournament in July 2020, with other competitions also being able to take part in the trials.

The AGM agreed to consultation with all the relevant stakeholders, including The IFAB Technical Advisory Panel (TAP) and the Football Advisory Panel (FAP), to review the offside Law to foster the spirit of attacking play.

The IFAB will continue to look at measures within the Laws of the Game to tackle mobbing of match officials and confrontations between players which should have no place in the game.

Members were updated on the use of video assistant referees (VARs) around the world, highlighting the success of this innovation, while also considering future developments, including improving communication and potential technological advances.

The meeting also agreed on the importance of finding solutions to allow competitions with restricted budgets to be able to access and use VARs, with such solutions being led by the working group for innovation excellence that has been established by FIFA.

The AGM reviewed the changes to the 2019/20 Laws of the Game and noted their positive impact on the way the game is played and the image of the game. The AGM also approved clarifications to several existing Laws to the 2020/21 Laws of the Game. These changes relate to Law 10 (yellow cards are not carried forward into kicks from the penalty mark), Law 12 (handball, to differentiate more clearly between the arm and shoulder) and other clarifications.

The meeting was chaired by the president of the Irish FA, David Martin, and was attended by representatives from FIFA, led by the FIFA President, Gianni Infantino, the FA, the FA of Wales, Scottish FA and The IFAB's administration.

Via Mal Davies V & A

You Must Be Joking

Got a job at the toy factory. Just 2 of us work on the production line for Dracula figures. I have to make every second count.

I've just been turned down for entry into drama school. I'd RADA not say which one!

Digital has killed my record collection so I put them away in the attic. It's their vinyl resting place.

A chap goes into a chemists and asks for something to kill Corona virus. The pharmacist says 'ammonia cleaner'. The bloke says 'I'm sorry I thought you were the pharmacist'.

Went to Bosworth battlefield today. There's a plaque in the ground there that says, 'King Richard III fell here'. I'm not surprised. I nearly tripped over it myself.

Dialysis - Phone up a female sibling.

Forensis - Sister abroad.

Genesis - Provide a female sibling with important information.

The real meaning of foreign words : Al Dente - under cooked

I'm thinking of opening a vegan restaurant and I need some steak holders to help finance the project.

I went to the doctors to seek help for my Sinead O'Connor obsession. Guess what he told me? Guess what he told me?

I guessed orange, but it was chocolate; I guessed toffee, but it was peanut; I guessed strawberry, but it was coffee. I was wrong on so many Revels...

I've been searching for Alien life today... I actually found it down the back of the SETI... I'll get me coat...

I just broke a mirror, does it reflect badly on me?

I let a pasta chef borrow my car and he returned it all denty.

Paul Young just came in my house and took his hat off. I said "You're not staying here!"

Brexit : What an overweight Barnsley lass does when she sits on a cheap plastic garden chair.

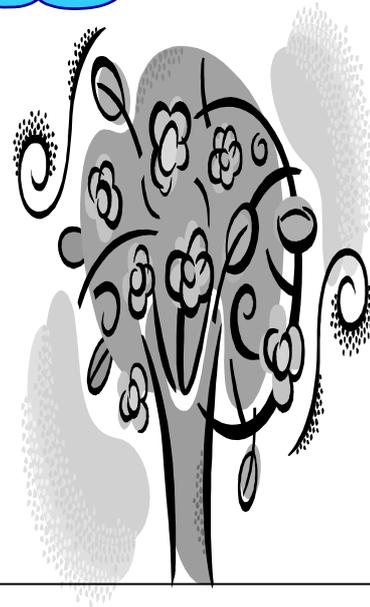
My mate Gavin has died after taking an overdose of antacid pills. I can't believe Gaviscon.

A dyslexic terrorist has stormed in to London Zoo making ransom demands. He has taken six ostriches.

Plum Tree

Sunday April 5th Wembley Stadium
EFL trophy Final
Portsmouth v Salford
Wembley stadium
Assistant Referee: Michael Webb

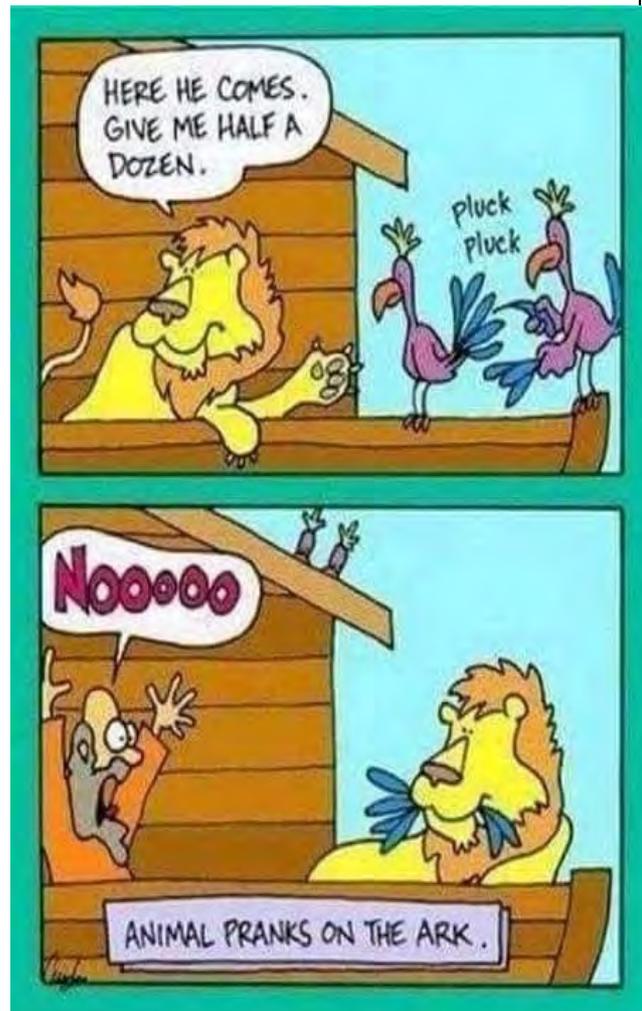
University Cup Final
Bucks New University v Greenwich University
Referee ; Paul Gorringe
Asst Refs: Daniel Crump and Erno Vajda



You Must Be Joking



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FA Refereeing Department National Managers "name"@theFA.com	Neale Barry ; Head of Senior Referee Development
Surrey County Football Association www.surreyfa.com Referee Development Officer	Meadowbank Football Ground, Mill Lane, Dorking Surrey, RH4 1DX 01372 384190 Tim Lawrence 01372 387094
The Referees' Association www.the-ra.org contact@the-ra.org Tel 024 7642 0360	1c Bagshaw Close Ryton on Dunsmore Warwickshire CV8 3EX
Surrey County Referees Association Honorary Secretary	Brian Reader 01483 480651 ramblingref@gmail.com
Guildford & Woking Alliance League Referees' Secretary	Adrian Freeman 01483 894351 / 07814 516911 A.freeman@homecall.co.uk
Surrey County Intermediate League (Western) Referees' Secretary	Adrian Freeman 01483 894351 / 07814 516911 A.freeman@homecall.co.uk
Suburban League Assistant Referees' Secretary	Dave Goater dave.gosubrefs@outlook.com
Combined Counties League Assistant Referees' Secretary	Philip Nash 07951 415046 assistantreferees@combinrdcountiesleague.co.uk
Southern Youth League Assistant Referees' Secretary	Nick Clark
Camberley & District Sunday League Referees' Secretary	Richard Harris 07708 813978 (m), richard@harris-net.co.uk
Surrey & Hants Border Sunday League Referees' Secretary	Bob Dick 07803 007233 bobmdick@btinternet..com
Farnham & District Sunday League Referees' Secretary	Colin Barnett 01252 328953 cbarnett5978184@aol.com
Surrey Elite Intermediate Football League Referees' Secretary	Richard Brum 07956 185602 richard.brum@sky.com
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