

THE WARBLER

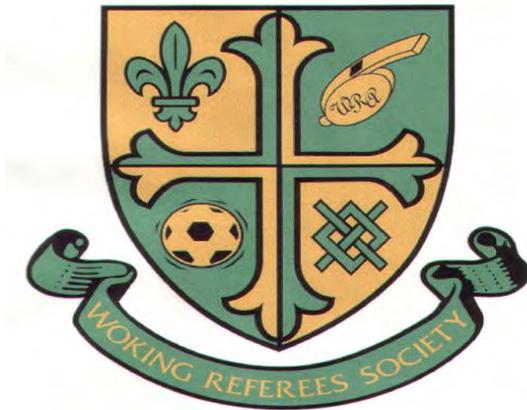
Monthly Magazine of the Woking Referees' Society

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Season 2015/16 April Edition

WOKING REFEREES ' SOCIETY

FOUNDED 1927

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The next meeting of the Woking Referees' Society will be on Monday 4th April 2016

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

AGENDA

- ♦ **7.15 Academy Meeting**

- ♦ **8.00 Chairman's Welcome**

- ♦ **Guest Speakers**

Michael Webb & Chris Powell
"Recognising Challenges"

- ♦ **Society Business**

- ♦ **10.00 Close**



Next Month's Meeting
Monday 9th May

The deadline for the May Warbler is
Friday 29th April

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

From the Chair

I would like to say thank you to all the members who attended the AGM and voted for the committee and myself. I've enjoyed my time as Secretary and now look forward to helping the society to move into its 89th year, keep it growing and moving forward.

Congratulations to all those members who have received cup finals and well done to the members who got promoted. For the rest of us its business as usual, keeping on doing our best every game and enjoying what that brings.

I hope you enjoy our guest speakers Michael Webb and Chris Powell, although unfortunately due to my wedding anniversary, I will not be there. So I will wish you a belated happy Easter and see you at the May meeting.

Pat

Dates for your Diary 2015/16

4th April	Society Meeting	Michael Webb & Chris Powell
9th May	Society Meeting	TBA
Friday 20th May	Eve-of-Final Rally. Meet the FA Cup Final Match Officials: One Great George Street, London E mail contact@the-ra.org	
Saturday 16th & Sunday 17th July 2016	The RA Conference 2016. Hinckley Island Hotel, Hinckley, Leicestershire https://www.participant.co.uk/tra/keepcalmandmanage	
8th August	Society Meeting	TBA

Accounts March 2016

2015/16 Membership	General	£2,406.45
60 Full Members	Supplies	£153.15
7 Friends	Belgium	£0.00
1 Affiliated Member	Training Fund	£239.40
	Youth Fund	£113.50
	Total	£2,912.50

Mac's Musings

I was reading recently that the International Football Association Board (IFAB) are recommending trialling video replays next season to help referees with questionable goals, penalties, red cards and cases of mistaken identity etc. Exactly how and what and where is yet to be decided. The Dutch have been experimenting with a "man in a van" who noted incidents which could have been changed had he been allowed to communicate with the Referee. Keeping the game flowing is vital as unlike Rugby and Cricket there are not as many natural stops, so that's going to take some working out.

No doubt there will be those who oppose such a move but now that goal line technology is here, and working, the die has been cast and opened the way for more. With the amount of money floating around at the top of the game and the fact that a wrong decision could mean a team going up or down a league with the attending loss or gain in revenue means the pressure to eliminate as many mistakes as possible is immense.

The argument that it further widens the gap between grassroots and the professional game really is a non starter. When you look at the differences between both ends of the Footballing spectrum that exist already, video will be just one more of many. Currently we could include Assistant Referees for a starter. Most of us at the lower leagues are lucky to get a half competent club linesman. 4th Officials (5th and 6th in European games) Pitches you could play bowls or even snooker on. White lines that are straight (or even lines in some cases) , miked up officials, white spray, multiple balls (no hanging around whilst than ball is rescued from an adjoining field or someone's garden, GLT. The list goes on.

Now there's something you don't see very often. Watching M.O.D the other week I saw two referees actually blow up for foul throws !! I don't think I've ever seen that before in a Premiership game, never mind twice. I wonder if they've been told to clamp down on illegal throw ins?

All they've got to do now is clamp down on the illegal grappling that goes on in the penalty area at corners etc. Robert Huth, a player not averse to a bit of wrestling himself, actually had his shirt completely removed by Crystal Palace defender Scott Dann yet no action was taken by the referee. We now see this creeping into the grass roots game, but award a free kick or even worse a penalty and we get the old " but ref they do it in the Premiership"

On page 8 I have printed an abridged version of a letter the Chairman of the West Surrey Youth League sent to all the clubs in the League. Hopefully a copy also reached the parents. It certainly reached the national press. Time maybe for the FA to re-vitalise the Respect Campaign which seems to have gone quiet. The Telegraph certainly thinks so, having reported a survey which would appear dissent and even violence towards referees is on the increase.

Much thanks to Andy Bennett for organising a fun quiz after the AGM last month. Thankfully it wasn't on the Laws of the Game, which is probably why Jacko, Tom and I ended up winners. Actually it was Jacko who knew most of the answers, including the capitol of Paraguay and the fact that Swansea sits on the River Tawe (and not the Severn) Top man to have in the pub quiz team.

Keep whistling— nearly there now!

Mac



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

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP SEASON 2016 - 17

	COST	AMOUNT
FULL MEMBER - OVER 18 (INCLUDES RA & COUNTY RA SUBSCRIPTION + PA INSURANCE) Expires 31/3/2017	£36.00	
FULL MEMBER – UNDER 18 (INCLUDES RA & COUNTY RA SUBSCRIPTION + PA INSURANCE) Expires 31/3/2017	£29.00	
AFFILIATE MEMBER (i.e. Full Member of another Referees Society) Expires 31/3/2017	£20.00	
FRIEND OF WOKING SOCIETY Expires 31/3/2017	£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.....

I AGREE TO ABIDE BY THE RULES OF THE SOCIETY AND AGREE FOR MY DETAILS TO BE SHARED WITH 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



←
Andy Bennett receiving a well deserved bottle from Pat our newly elected chairman following his successful fun quiz at our March Meeting

Charity Match
Woking FC Veterans v
Celebrity Eleven.
Pics of the Dream Team(s)

Below
Andy . Bruce & Pat

Below
Dave, Andy, Vince, & Pat



On Thursday 10th March Woking FC held a charity football match at Kingfield to help a couple of their injured players. Bruce McLaren, Vince Penfold, Andy Bennett, Dave Lawton and myself were invited to officiate the game

The Match was between Woking FC Veterans and a celebrity team, which included James Beattie, Darren Anderton, Matt Le Tissier and a few others stars that used to be quite good. *(Quite good?? Ed)*

Bruce and Vince shared the honours of the middle, with Bruce kicking off the proceedings and walking in at half time with Woking trailing 3-4. After quite a few substitutions, Vince blew the whistle to get the 2nd half started and a much more sedate half got underway. At 81 minutes Woking were trailing 4-6 and a frenetic 9 minutes followed. In the 91st minute Woking equalised and Vince blew the final whistle with score at 6-6 sending the game into a penalty shoot-out which the Celebs won 5-3

It was a great evening watched by over 750 people, that ended for us with a fish and chip supper and some great memories

Pat Bakhuizen
Hon. Chairman

Letter From The Chairman

Everyone Associated with the Surrey Youth Football League

I find myself, after what has been a dreadful weekend for Children's football in a League for which I am Chairman.

I am going to pull no punches in the following few paragraphs. The level of outright Violence, Abuse and Disrespect has to stop. Shortly you the adults will have removed the ability for a Children's Football League to function in its current form of volunteers.

This weekend I have seen through my emails the following alleged events:

Head butting and abuse towards linesmen

Two Parents fighting on the touchline

Abuse by two teams of a Child Referee (U18)

A referee being threatened with a stabbing by a parent

At least 3 games abandoned, there maybe more.

Players, egged on by managers, threatening to smash up a Changing Room

In addition to the above in recent weeks one of most experienced referee has decided to quit.

The clubs and people involved in any of the above should be ashamed of themselves, don't blame others look at what you did or didn't do, and don't blame the ref!

This cannot continue, you as clubs and all people involved in trying to voluntarily run Children's football need to take back control from thugs and idiots that are doing a great job of spoiling Sunday mornings for children, and then occupying league officers time for the rest of the week whilst we clear the mess up.

The league has now at least 11,500 children playing, we have probably 15,000 parents watching each week, the league cannot be at every ground to referee parents and make them behave. This is your league its not mine or Frank's, its your league, you come into it because its pretty well organised to play matches for children, but some are now letting the league descend into something that is being questioned by officers of the league as to why they bother.

I hear and see time and time again "It's the Leagues Fault", "The League is dreadful in letting this and that happen" – Well for information "The League" is voluntary set of people who have come together to help organise Children's football – FREE OF CHARGE, none of their time is paid for, we are not there to deal with public law enforcement. When our business as usual is distracted because of this behaviour then all the good things we need to do gets delayed or just not done.

Frank and myself, along with the league committee volunteers want to organise the football, we don't want and need our email boxes filling up with people asking us to deal with ADULT idiots and thugs. Quite frankly if there is a level of violence and intimidation that you wouldn't tolerate on the streets, then why haven't you called the police at the time. It appears to us that people want to turn the other cheek and give the problem to some other poor volunteer to sort out, please take control yourselves.

The professional people who deal with misconduct is the County FA's, not the league, and to be honest all that they should be dealing with is on field and near field Cautions and Sendings off, and what might be called mild offensive abuse (Passion going the wrong side of what acceptable). They are not in a position to deal with what should be considered the rule of British Law.

Personally I am sick of seeing this happen week in and week out to some level, by what is I accept a few, but affecting so many. This weekend around 200 matches with 10 serious events – 5% of games had an incident 1 in 20 matches too many. 95% of you behaved I accept that, but!!!

Everyone needs to gain control, all clubs and all parents if you see this awful behaviour deal with it, and if serious enough call the police, anyone assaulted or threatened with violence needs to call the police. You as clubs, whose league this is, need to take control. Please take the following action.

1) Convene your committee and work out a plan of action to ensure there is a zero tolerance of this awful behaviour.

2) Ensure that every parent in the League sees this email – printed out and handed to them.

3) Make sure that every piece of behaviour observed that would not be allowed on the street is reported to the police immediately - violence and threatening behaviour.

4) If you have thugs and idiots in your club then remove them and unfortunately their children, not banned for a game or two – finished, no more, removed. Leopards and changing spots!

5) Please ensure that any reports come via club secretaries, we as a league cannot and will not deal with complaints from parents directly, please ensure all of your parents and managers know this. These need to go to Frank Thompson the league general secretary via club secretaries, not any of the age group fixture secretaries,

6) We will compile and forward complaints of misconduct to the professional County FA authorities. If there are complaints then these need witness statements, which contain clear statements of fact, with actual words or actions used, not opinion.

7) Fixture Secretaries are responsible for fixtures, they are not there to deal with thugs and idiots, please do not report misconduct to them.

8) Do not abuse or question referees, too many people think its fair game – its not.

I am personally thinking that one week we should withdraw all referees and just let everyone get on with it, if you don't play then the match is null and void, lets see how brave people will be to volunteer to referee then.

Shortly the volunteers will walk away, I am questioning my own future with the league. Whilst everyone says its only the mindless few, that maybe true, but why do I or anyone else have to look at this utter contempt for Law and disrespect for Humanity. Why should I have my name associated with something like this, would you?

Would you want your name associated with a children's competition that resulted in the death of someone as a consequence of violence, don't believe it wouldn't happen, it did to a linesman at a children's match in the Netherlands 3 or 4 years ago. If this continues I fear that this maybe the result here.

It's football for children – get some perspective!

The football is in your hands.

Graham Ekins SYL Chairman

Daily Telegraph 22nd March

Football demands end to the growing menace of abuse against Referees.

Jeremy Wilson Deputy Football Correspondent



Referees, coaches, players and parents have called for an end to the endemic culture of referee abuse in grass-roots football and proposed initiatives for a new action plan to tackle the problem.

The Telegraph has been inundated with shocking stories following its investigation into the experiences of match officials and, drawing on recent research and the suggestions of participants at every level of football, six key ideas were repeatedly raised.

They were:

- A signed code of conduct for parents. This would make it mandatory for all parents to agree to certain standards of behaviour before their children can play.
- Renew the Respect campaign and make it compulsory. Remove Respect's optional status and explore how it can improved and widened.
- Tougher penalties at the top level. Introduce a greater deterrent for disrespecting referees in the professional game, whether by players or managers.
- Greater weight for referee's account of an incident. Referees are frequently frustrated by the difficulty in proving threats or their experience of abuse.
- Overhaul grass-roots discipline with zero tolerance of abuse. Speed up the disciplinary process and explore more immediate sanctions and powers for leagues.
- Automatic support and mentoring for referees. A more concerted and joined-up approach is needed to guarantee support and advice for referees who experience a traumatic incident.

Although there were differing priorities, these six themes were most regularly highlighted both in numerous Telegraph interviews and a new academic study showing systematic verbal abuse and that 19 per cent of referees have even experienced physical abuse.

Keith Hackett, the former referees' chief who helped launch the Respect campaign in 2008, described the proposals as an "excellent menu of ideas" that would stimulate progress.

This Month's Referee

Lee Mason



- MATCHES
196
- RED CARDS
32
- YELLOW CARDS
611
- JOINED
2006

Personal information

Year of birth	1971
County FA	Lancashire FA
First Premier League Match	4 February 2006: Middlesbrough v Aston Villa

Profile

Having been appointed as an assistant referee in the Barclays Premier League from 2000 to 2002, Lee Mason was given the opportunity to referee in the top flight four years later, and he has maintained his position as a Select Group referee ever since.

Mason officiated in the North West Counties League for eight years before getting on to the Football League ladder for the first time. Two years as an assistant were followed by two years in the same role in the Barclays Premier League.

Mason was appointed as a Football League referee in 2002 and took charge of the 2006 League One Play-off Final between Barnsley and Swansea City before making the step up to the Premier League in the same year.

As well as consistently taking control of Premier League matches from 2006 onwards, Mason refereed the 2009 FA Youth Cup Final between Arsenal and Liverpool. Additionally, the Lancashire-born official is chairman of the Bolton Referees' Society.

Also in 2009, Mason was appointed fourth official for the FA Community Shield between Chelsea and Manchester United, before taking up the same role in the 2010 League Cup final.

Mason was the fourth official for the Championship Play-off Final in 2011 and he was the additional assistant referee in a Champions League quarter final tie and Europa League semi final fixture in the same year.

The Championship Play-off Final beckoned for Mason again in 2014, but this time he was the referee for the match between Queens Park Rangers and Derby County.

THE MATCH FROM HELL

When we first “qualify” by passing our written tests, we then have to complete six matches before becoming fully fledged referees. I wonder how many fledgling referees find those first six matches so shocking and demoralizing that they actually give up refereeing altogether? I very nearly did. After those first six games, it was almost a year before I had the confidence to get back on the field of play. One match in particular will stay in my mind forever. I call it “The Match from Hell” and it was only the fourth game I ever refereed. When I returned home that day, my wife said “what on earth has happened to you? You look as white as a sheet”.

It began badly, even before the match got under way. There was just a horrible atmosphere. On arrival at the ground I made my way – as I always do – straight to the pitch (already changed, with a track suit on top). The club secretary found me and complained that I should first have reported to the clubhouse to sort out the paperwork. *What* paperwork? In my previous matches – and in all the matches I have refereed subsequently – there were no forms to complete.

Then, when I blew the whistle to call the captains together for the coin toss, the response was “f--- off ref, we’ve sorted all that out already”. This was a vets match (for over-35s) and clearly the players knew it all. So, not a very welcoming or respectful beginning – and the match was not yet under way.

The standard of play was exceptionally high, but the standard of behavior was abysmal. From start to finish, the language from every player was diabolical. It became intolerable when one of the goalkeepers made a near-costly mistake and was berated by his team mates. I blew the whistle loudly and called out to all players to keep their language under control. One player called back to me: “f--- off ref, the bloke’s a c---”. I let it pass, as words will never (or seldom) hurt people and I did not wish to stir things up even more by getting shirty.

20 minutes into the match, I awarded a penalty for a trip in the box. The offender ran aggressively at me with his fists clenched, yelling all manner of offensive and abusive words. I naturally produced a red card – only to be surrounded immediately by lots of players from both sides. They knocked the card out of my hand and told me to “put that f---ing card away. We don’t have cards in vets matches”. Under that sort of intimidation I did as I was told. The atmosphere on the pitch and on the touchline was vile, so I did not wish to create controversy and put myself at risk.

The assistant referees were of no assistance whatsoever. They were (a) one of the team managers and (b) a succession of substitutes. One of those linesmen was yelling at me “that was never a f---ing penalty, ref.”

At this stage, I should point out that amid all these goings on, I still felt that my refereeing was OK. The two teams clearly thought the same, as my eventual marks were very respectable. It’s just that they did not value the services of a referee. I think that they all wanted an organized brawl instead.

Anyway, to continue the story. One of the visiting team had taken a personal dislike to me. When I awarded a free kick just outside the box, I instructed him to wait until I had paced out 10 yards for the defensive wall. I had taken only four paces when the ball was slammed into my back, presumably by the said player.

I spoke appropriately to him, but chose to take no further action, as I could not be certain that he was the culprit.

Soon after that, the same player was badly fouled. Before I could even get the whistle to my lips, he had retaliated by punching his opponent. This developed into a full-scale wrestling match, in which a shirt was ripped in half.

Again, I waded in with the intention of issuing red cards. Again, I was surrounded by menacing players insisting that I keep my cards to myself.

The visiting team was clearly superior and ought to have won. However, a controversial decision on my part allowed the home team a late equalizer. You can imagine the reaction. The striker had latched on to a through ball, but the visitors' linesman flagged for offside. He was, as you would expect, in a better position to judge than I was – but I was sure he was mistaken (or biased?). I therefore waved play on and the goal was scored. All hell was let loose, but at least I had the satisfaction of knowing that I still had a shred of control and courage.

The worst bit happened just 40 seconds before full-time. A home player was cut down by a terrible "tackle" after the ball had gone. This was clearly a revenge attack for a bad foul earlier. There was no question of trying to move the injured player, so I simply blew the final whistle a little early. He remained in great pain on the pitch for ages until the ambulance arrived. Then the paramedics decided it was too serious for them to deal with, so they summoned a surgeon from hospital.

Two weeks later, I received a phone call from the victim. He was intending to start a court case for damages, as his injury was probably permanent and it would prevent him from pursuing his occupation. He wanted me to be the key witness in the case. I readily agreed, as he was certainly deserving of substantial damages. I was subsequently interviewed by solicitors acting for the claimant and for the defendant. I had already typed up a long and detailed statement, which was easy for me as I had dealt with hundreds of claims and court cases in my professional life.

When I met the defendant's solicitor, I told her to get her cheque book ready, as there was no escaping legal liability for the injury. However, I later saw the formal defence entered in the court proceedings. To my amazement, the defendant was saying that the impact was a pure accident and it was part and parcel of the game. So I had to prepare myself for a contested trial in which I would be grilled by a clever barrister. Fortunately, many months later the defendant's advisors finally saw sense and settled the claim in full.

In court, I would have been asked the tricky question: "Why, if the attack was so vicious, did you not issue a red card or even take the culprit's name?" Part of my answer is already indicated above. I think I might have been lynched! The other part of the answer was that the victim was in agony and my immediate concern was to protect him and call for medical attention. The culprit slunk away to the clubhouse while I was thus distracted and the match was brought to a premature halt.

I did not report anything to the F A or the League, for the very good reason that I never took a single note during the entire match. Any hint of disciplinary action would have put me at personal risk of attack.

That particular venue has not been a happy place for me. Earlier this season, as a now-experienced ref, I again felt distinctly threatened by a visiting team and its supporters. After the final whistle, I actually had to ask the home manager to find four "heavies" to escort me back to my car.

Such fun!!!

Mick Flannigan



The Adventures of Willy 'Red card' Woodwork **The Whistling Referee**

Part 46- 'The Big P'

Match: Cockfosters Casuals –v- Reds Rovers
League: Division Three – Sunday Park League (North)
'Man of the match': That has to be me.....the referee!

I remember that excellent Football Association Licensed Tutor Keith Hiller who spoke about Law 14 the Penalty kick. Keith told me all I needed to know about the penalty kick by the 'Big P'. Yes, that's exactly what he spoke about...The Big P!

So let me explain what that means.

'B' is where the ball is placed and that the ball must be kicked forward.

'I' is for the taker to be identified.

'G' is for the goal keeper to be standing on the goal line and

'P' is for the position of the players.

The 'Big P' is a great method for all referees to remember everything that they are required to know in preparation for a penalty kick. If only Keith had been with me as I awarded two penalties within two minutes.

In my mind there was no doubt that I had seen a careless challenge in the Rovers penalty area and immediately awarded a penalty in favour of Cockfosters Casuals.

Alas the Rovers goal keeper did not agree with my decision. He told me I was wrong but I was confident that I was right. I politely informed the goal keeper that he would be cautioned if he continued to argue with my decision and thankfully he walked away even though he was mumbling something under his breathe.

I thought as long as I cannot hear his mumbblings that would be better and that a yellow card would not be required.

The Casuals goal keeper by now had run from his goal area and told everyone in a loud voice that he was going to take the penalty. I had no problem with this as the taker had now been 'identified'. We all know in law that even a goal keeper is permitted to take a penalty kick.

To my amazement the Rovers goal keeper had walked over to his goal and was standing on his goal line but facing away from the penalty mark. In other words he had his back to the penalty taker.

I calmly approached the Rovers goal keeper and informed him the law requires the goalie to face the penalty taker and that he cannot have his back to the field of play.

'Okay ref' he said. He then told the penalty taker he would dive to his left and that the taker should kick the ball to the right hand side of the goal.

I ignored the goal keeper's comments as I ensured that all the other players were outside of the penalty area and that they were all behind the ball. Everything was now in place and I blew my whistle.

It appeared that the penalty taker took the goalie's advice only for the ball to hit the post and go behind for a goal kick.

The Casuals captain approached me and claimed that was unsporting behaviour from the Rovers goal keeper. He had a point but I decided to keep my cards in my pocket which is something I have not done too often during this particular match.

Then I thought for a brief moment.....was I correct in law for the following?
.....

- Can a goal keeper take a penalty?
- Can the goalie tell the penalty taker where to place the ball?
- Can a goalie stand with his back to the penalty taker?
- Should I have cautioned the goalie for unsporting behaviour?
- Should the penalty kick be retaken?

Fortunately when I awarded the next penalty sixty seconds later my decision was accepted by everyone. Players all knew that Willie 'Red Card' Woodwork had that nick name for a reason!

Remember the 'Big P' when you award your next penalty.

Keep reading the laws of the game and inspire confidence as I do!

Willy Woodwork

Willy 'Red card' Woodwork.....the whistling referee.



Coach attempts to flirt the issue

IF REPORTS are to be believed, Chile coach Jorge Sampaoli came up with an unusual riposte when asked how his side still managed to lose 3-0 to Uruguay despite having 73 per cent of

possession. Sampaoli said: 'One night, I went to a bar, I was with a woman. We talked all night. We laughed, we flirted, I paid for several drinks of hers.
'At around 5am, a

guy came in, grabbed her and took her to the bathroom.
'He made love to her and she left with him. That doesn't matter, because I had most of the possession.' Beats blaming the ref.

The Warbler

Have you ever wondered where the title for our magazine came from? Lets face it "Warbling" isn't a term one usually associates with refereeing of even football. Whistling, flagging, calling, gesturing, etc maybe, but warbling?

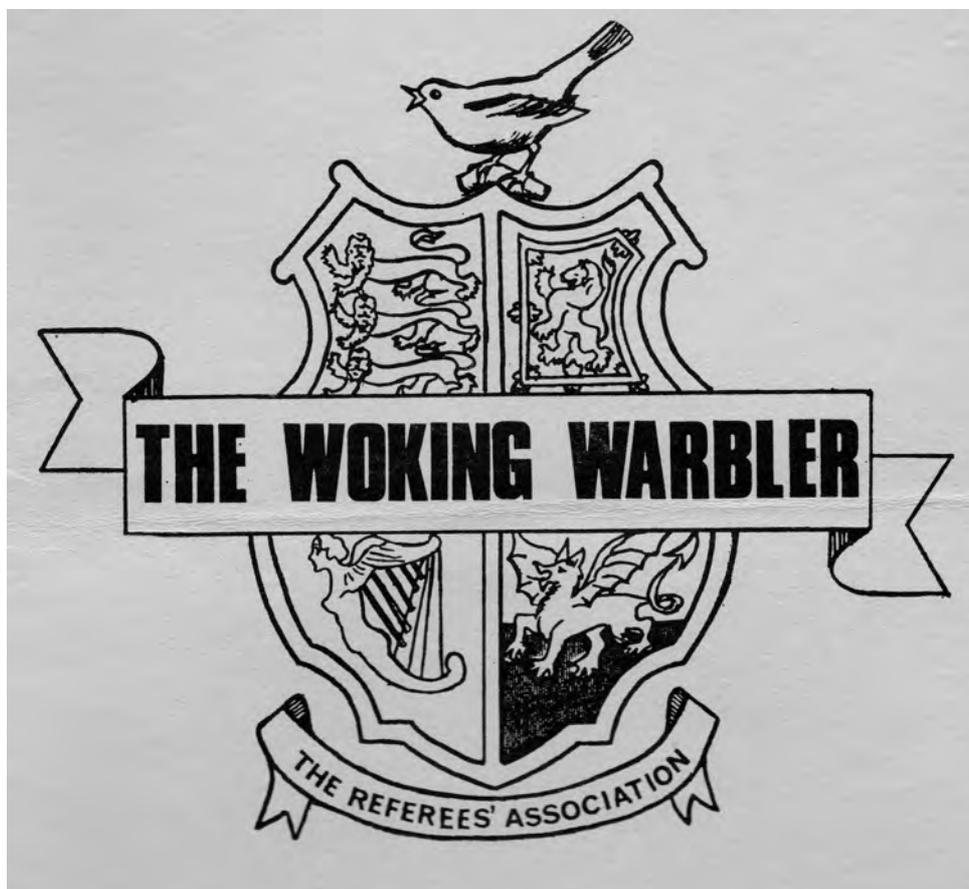
It was while I was thumbing through old copies of the Warbler, looking for suitable articles for your edification and delight, when I came across a couple of "letters to the editor" (see opposite) which may throw some light on the matter.

It would appear that in times gone by a picture of a bird adorned the Society badge which led me to investigate further. More rummaging amongst the box of old Warblers, which weren't in any order, resulted in finding a half dozen or so copies from the 1974/75 season, the covers of which revealed the badge with the bird in question perched on the top. I don't suppose there are any members still around who can remember why said feathered friend was introduced in the first place and the reasons for it's demise? (or given "the bird" so to speak) If so I'd be interested to find out.

Meanwhile here's a picture of the original Woking RA badge along with the aforementioned bird . Any twitchers amongst us who can identify the type ?

I have looked in a RSPB Book of Birds and there appears to be over 40 types of Warbler, from Aquatic to Yellow Rumped and including Booted, Moustached , Spectacled, and even an Olivaceous and an Upchers—so take your pick.

Mac



Letters to the Editor

Dear Ed,

I write in answer to your article "In Conclusion". Whilst I am pleased that the Warbler has taken a new lease of life, and no one is more pleased to see improvement and advancement than myself, I am most displeased with the omission of the "feathered bird" as you so bluntly put it from the cover of our magazine. Perhaps there is no significance between the "feathered bird" and refereeing, but many years ago the members of this Society chose the bird as our symbol, and it has appeared on our magazine ever since. Mr. Editor, have you not heard of the word "tradition"? if not may I refresh your memory. Tradition is knowledge or belief handed down from generation to generation either by word of mouth, tale, belief or custom. Well sir, it has been the custom of this Society to have a feathered bird on the cover of it's magazine for many years. I would like to see this tradition carried on. Perhaps as an old soldier and one of the older members of our Society, I tend to look upon tradition and the past with more feeling than some of our younger members. So I tend to feel a bit stronger about the omission of our feathered friend than most. As you will remember I also was editor of the Warbler, but would have never considered changing our symbol without consultation with the members. So please let us see the "feathered bird" back in it's place on our magazine.

Yours Sincerely,
S.E. Jacobs.

Dear Editor

With all the recent squabbling over the Warbler bird, I would like to put in my two pennies worth as a member. With all the best traditions and best of intentions old ideas have to give way to new. This Society has grown and become more respected in the last few years and I would submit that the new image of this Society should be reflected in all ways.

Why the Editor had to change the cover of the Warbler I do not know, but perhaps due to high costs of running our Magazine in previous years, we were unable to feed the bird properly and the bloody thing died.

Name and address supplied.



Pages from Yesteryear ***The Warbler November 1977***

THE FIRST GAME

*By David Nevin writing in the Kingston Referees Society Magazine**

It was Friday 20th May and the Postman had just delivered the letters, bills mostly! I was sorting through them not paying much attention, when I spotted a white envelope with the Southern League crest on it. Shaking, I tore it open and read those magic words " am pleased to inform you of your promotion to the Southern League Referees List"

I was over the moon, then bump! Down to earth I came. Next was the panic, my first game, would I do it or would I fall flat on my face ? I didn't sleep that night. The fateful day-crept nearer, the fixtures were out for August/September, and I had been Appointed on August 20th. The Southern League Cup, Dunstable v, Banbury, a bit of a local derby.

Friday Aug. 19th. kit cleaned, packed by 8.30pm unpacked, checked and repacked by 9pm. In all I checked it four times, couldn't stand the strain any longer and rang Mick Jermev of Woking to get final directions to the ground. His calming words certainly helped, "Referee it as it comes, and if you S*** yourself make sure you take plenty of toilet paper onto the pitch" Magic!

11.15am Saturday, set off in pouring rain and was convin-ced it would be called off. On arrival at Dunstable the was shining and the ground looked great. The groundsman scrounged me a cup of tea and things didn't look to bad after all. My two Linesman from Hemel Hempstead arrived around 2pm and we started to get to know each other.

Tension was starting to build up, Christ I wish these bloody elephants would get out of my stomach. I was changed and ready to go at 2.30pm, a bit early. No matter how hard the Linesmen tried to help, I could feel myself tightening up, four trips to the bog in 15 minutes didn't have a calming effect.

Then more panic, the 5 minute bell came and went and as if in a trance I pushed the all out bell. No turning back now David boy I said to myself with the confidence of a Jew caught praying in Cairo.

We started out down the tunnel and on to the centre circle. I couldn't believe it, the change, my confidence grew I wasn't dreaming. I blew the whistle for the off, I was a Referee again.

True I found the game difficult and much faster, but I must have done alright because as we came off one of the players cane over to me and said. "You did very well out there today Ref , seeing as it was your first one in the middle" That comment brought it all home to me. I was dealing with Professionals. Someone had taken the trouble to find out I was newly appointed as a Referee.

You can't fool these buggers!

MURPHY'S MEANDERINGS

It was a Sunday league match played at Peckham Rye in the sixties.

.....There were no problems apart from two players who, for reasons of their own, niggled at each other continuously and kept complaining to the referee about the other. The referee wasn't interested and ignored them. Early in the second half the problem escalated when one player, being hustled by the other, turned and attempted to push him in the chest. He misjudged it and instead palmed him under the chin knocking him to the ground. The player quickly got up and they stood toe to toe, face to face, eyeballing each other.

The referee, looking fed up, came over to the two players. "Why did you push him," he said to the first player. "Because he kicked me," came the reply. "Why did you kick him," he asked the second player. "Because he was in my way and anyway it was only a little tap on the ankle," replied the player. The referee looked at both players with resignation. Shaking his head he said, "You're playing in a men's league and you're supposed to be adults. Why don't you act like it instead of behaving like children? Go away and grow up." He waved them away and got on with the game. There was no further trouble from either of the players.

.....The pitch was called a private pitch by some players as it was situated on its own in the park, not on the common, some way from the changing rooms. Referees didn't check pitches very often especially if they were a distance away. If the Council said they were fit, they were fit, if they said they were unfit then they were unfit, that was that.

It had brought about the old joke of a player asking the referee if he'd checked the pitch and getting the reply "It's still there isn't it?" However, in this match the referee was in for a surprise.

There was a new groundsman at the Council who wasn't sure of the markings of a football pitch. There was no "D" on the edge of the penalty areas and where they should have been, the penalty spot had been placed. Not a great problem but being a little way from the changing rooms and players anxious to start, the referee had no way of putting the matter right. He therefore had to play the game with incorrect markings and use his initiative.

Fortunately everything went well and there were no problems.

Tony Murphy

CommentatorBalls *thanks to Peter Guest*



"I've seen players get sent off for worse than that"
John Hartson, BBC1

"Every man in the Liverpool team is playing to keep his place - with the possible exception of four or five players"
Danny Murphy, TalkSport

"Steve Evans, the Leeds manager, missed the goal as he'd gone to the toilet. He had to ask his number two what had happened"
Michael Gray, Channel 5



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Colin on 01252 328 953
Or Linda on 01276 512 735



PlumTree

Congratulations to the 16 Members of the Woking Society represented in this year's Surrey FA Cup Finals. Please see the table on the next page

Surrey Intermediate League Western, Premier Cup Final
Vince Penfold : Referee

Surrey Intermediate League Western Reserve Cup Final
Callum Peter : Assistant Referee
Shawn Barclay : Assistant Referee

Surrey F.A. Saturday Intermediate Cup Semi Final
 Horsley v Chobham Buryhead
Paul Gorringe : Assistant Referee

Surrey Youth League U18 Cup Final
 Abbey Rangers v NPL
Robert Hughes : Referee

Surrey Intermediate League Western Premier Cup Semi Final
 Chertsey Curfews v Laleham
Paul Gorringe : Referee

F.A Premier Academy
 Fulham u18 v Chelsea u18 &
 Fulham u18 v Everton u18
Paul Gorringe : Assistant Referee

Under 21 Academy Match
 Chelsea v QPR
Tom Ellsmore ;Referee

Promotions

Andy Bennett – nominated by County to the FA for L4. (Still waiting to hear back – best of luck Andy)

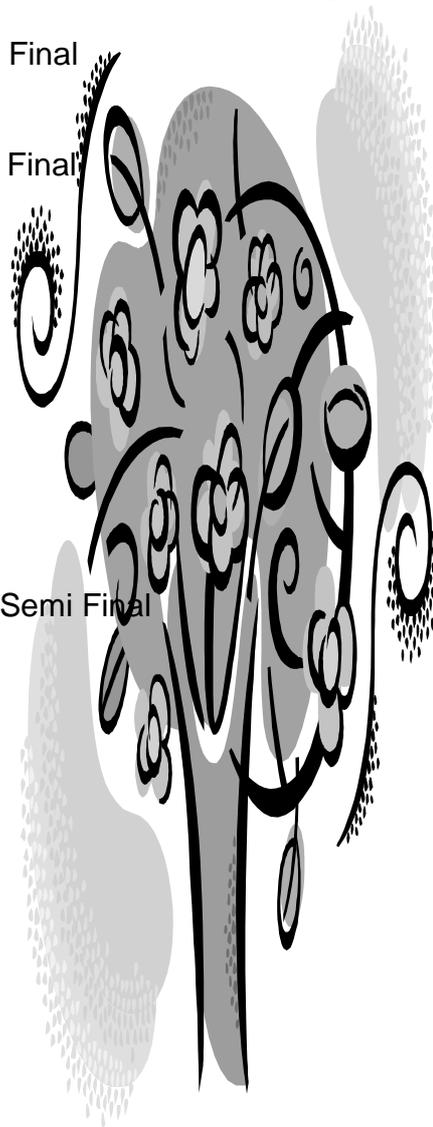
Callum Peter 7 to 6

Shawn Barclay 7 to 5 (all before his 18th Birthday !!)

Gareth Heighes 6 to 5

45 Year Award

Many congratulations to **Colin Barnett** who will be presented with his outstanding award at the County Supper in April.



County Cup Finals Appointments 2015/16

Woking RA in Bold

	REFEREE	Assistant 1	Assistant 2	Reserve Referee	Assessor	Referee Coordinator		
Saturday								
Senior	Woking FC 7.45pm	Wed 4th May	Craig Hicks	William Davis	Tim Dowdeswell	Matt Eva	David Crick	Brian Fish
Premier	Imber Court 7.45pm	Wed 6th April	Rick Letheren	Shaun Barclay	Stephen Matthews	Nigel Owen	Gordon Harrison	Brian Fish
Intermediate	Leatherhead FC	Thurs 5th May	Tom Elsmore	Alastair Higgs	Paul Maskell	Anand Desai	Lee Hermitage	Brian Fish
Junior	Westfield FC	Thurs 31st March	Scott Orchard	Paul Saunders	David Lawton	Luke Chapman	Phil Sherlock	Peter Ashdown
Lower Junior	Chipstead FC	Tues 10th May	Matt Simms	David Payne	Neil Patterson	James Neil Kiers	Peter Watson	
Sundays								
Premier	Sutton Utd FC	Fri 29th April	Andrew Bennett	Chris Little	Rod Van Niekerk	Anthony Del Maschio	Vic Skilton	Peter Ashdown
Intermediate	Westfield FC	Wed 13th April	Bill Cooper	Connor Fanelli	Lee Wright	Tony Smith	Dave Lawton	Brian Fish
Junior	Carshalton Athletic	Thurs 28th April	Joshua Mugridge	John O'Malley	Emrys Downey	Martin O'Halloran	Andy Mansbridge	Peter Ashdown
Lower Junior	Ash Utd FC	Wed 20th April	Paul Dowell	Oscar Leal	Callum Peter	Steve Howlett	Peter Barbrook	Michael Lawrence
Veterans	Molesey FC	Wed 27th April	Phil Jones	John Catley	Rob Smith	Paul Faizon	Stephen Maguire	Michael Lawrence
Women	Leatherhead FC	Thurs 21st April	David Simms	Adam Absolon	Bernard Shelley	Vince Penfold	Richard Ireson	Peter Ashdown
Youth								
Under 18 Midweek	Molesey FC	Wed 23rd March	Chris Williams	Ryan Chitson	Jack Oxenham	Derrick Laing	Mike Reilly	Peter Ashdown
Under 18	Godalming FC	Tues 12th April	Shaun Farrer	Rachel Marlow	Dane Johnston	Shelby Elson	Rod Wood	Bruce McLaren
Under 16	South Park FC 10:30am	Sun 24th April	James Humphries	Dotun Abiodun	Calum Edgcombe	Tony Price		Phil Whaling
Under 15	South Park FC 12:30am	Sun 24th April	Chris Noble	Jack Tough	Jake Graham	Daniel Lee		Phil Whaling
Under 14	South Park FC 3pm	Sun 24th April	Declan Wyatt	Toby Hunt	Gary Lewis	John Jupp		Phil Whaling
Under 13	Horley Town FC 10:30am	Sun 17th April	Alex Homatas	Matt Stuart	George Hastings	Dean Jenkins		Gordon Harrison
Under 12	South Park FC 10:30am	Sun 1st May	Bradley Whiteman	Jack Matthews	Morgan Hamilton	Nigel Smith		Phil Whaling

Given the recent coverage in the press and also in this edition of the Warbler I thought the article below, which appeared in the November 2015 edition of the Chiltern Referee regarding poor behaviour, rather apt. Mac

Unruly Spectators

For some spectators, if things are not going perfectly for their team, they find the easy way out is to blame the referee. Players can make any number of mistakes, but referees must be perfect! If players misbehave it is always the referee's fault! Last week's referee was always better than this week's! You are the worst referee they have ever seen!

Well, in truth, trouble with spectators is not an every week situation, nor is it always a terrible plight that you must tolerate. If we put things into perspective, troublesome spectators, especially in the local parks, are still the exception rather than the rule. It is just that they always make their presence felt in a way that has some adverse effect on the referee.

Much of the time, you will find that you can just grin and bear it. Just as the claims about your refereeing, and perhaps even your parentage, are outrageous, so too are most of the threats about what they will do!

All this said however, you must always be alert to developments among the spectators, considering whether it will be to your own advantage or disadvantage to turn a deaf ear to it all. To intervene or not to intervene is the big question. And if you decide to intervene, just how are you going to do it?

The main thing is that you stay as calm as you can under provocation. Do not react hastily and without due thought, or you will almost certainly lose! Maintain your dignity at all costs. Very often, when they realise that the referee is not going to respond in the way that they want him to, spectators will calm themselves down. So, give them every opportunity to do just that!

Listen, by all means, but learn to choose what simply to ignore.

Players will respect you, whether they admit it or not, if you calmly ride the storm and stay in control of what happens on the field as well as off it. For you can rest assured that if you intervene and lose control off the field, you are quite likely to quickly do the same on the field.

Some of the trouble that comes your way will come from the "team bench-group". Know what the Law permits you to do about it, and if you have to intervene do it properly. If you have to discipline a member of the management team and you are operating with neutral assistants, make sure you have one of the two with you to act as a witness to what happens. There is nothing better than mutual self-protection, for the nearest colleague will afterwards have to patrol the line near the offending group. By the way, always remain courteous and patient at such times.

If there is trouble from the spectators in the local park make every effort if possible to approach the club secretary or other official if you reach the point when you have to take some kind of action. Calmly and firmly let the official concerned know that it is the club's responsibility to control their spectators. Asking a sensible secretary to help calm someone who is supporting his team in an irresponsible manner is far better than "diving in" yourself. If you do have to take very firm action, make it known after the game that a report will be sent to the appropriate authority. It is often wiser to wait until after the game to tell a club official that a report will be submitted than to tell him when things are really hot during the game.

Think for a few moments about the potential danger of making threats. Never threaten what the various laws and rules, including the law of the land, forbid you to do. If you make a threat of some permissible action, only make that threat if you are prepared to carry it out if things do not improve. *Empty threats invariably lead to loss of match control.* It seems, then, that if you adopt a calm and sensible approach you can often defuse a potentially ugly situation involving the unruly spectators. What is important is that you do not let minor problems escalate too far before you try action against them. Trouble does not just go away but has to be worked on!

If there is encroachment onto an unfenced, unroped field of play by spectators who are otherwise causing you no trouble, a friendly, calm, firm request for co-operation often works. If the spectators are already inclined to misbehave, consider making use of the club officials to control matters. It is not unknown for a referee to control a situation like this by making a calm and quiet appeal for help to the team captain, if he has already shown that he is a responsible type with a forceful personality. Do not try to do it all on your own. Keep it all in proportion, for trouble is often not as bad as it first seems

Rest assured that if, in the face of provocation and trouble, you do your job properly, The Football Association always expects its match officials to behave in a proper and orderly manner which is the way it expects all club to behave also! Never ignore trouble or it will get worse. Tackle it firmly and sensibly at an early stage. That way you will be able to do what you are paid to do Referee a game of football!

(This was written by Ted Ring - the author of many helpful articles in Oct 2006

CommentatorBalls *thanks to Peter Guest*



"How can I describe him (Jimmy Hill) without being too much over the top - he was like a messiah"

Mark Lawrenson, BBC 1

"The score did not reflect the shoreline"

Sam Smith, BT Sport

"He went for players that wouldn't take them to the next level, but would take them out of the one they were in"

Steve Claridge, Radio 5 Live

"Billy Vunipola completely fooled them when produced a soft cock to set up the move"

Maggie Alphonsi, ITV

"We see a future here in driverless cars, something that might hit all of us"

Juergen Maier (Siemans), BBC 1

"[South African weather] is like being in the south of France one minute and on the Riviera the next"

Simon Hughes, Radio 5 Live

"He's looking in great shape here, the Welshman. He lost the first two frames"

Dennis Taylor, BBC2

This Month's Speakers

Michael Webb & Chris Powell

This month we extend a warm welcome to our guest speakers Michael and Chris. Michael is a long standing member of Woking Society and has given a number of excellent presentations in the past. Chris is a Level 2A Dorset Referee and he and Michael have performed this presentation a couple of times already this season to different County Development Groups. It promises to be an interesting and informative evening.

Michael

Refereeing since I was 13 on mini soccer leagues, I fully qualified in 2002 aged 16, achieving promotion through County refereeing levels in successive seasons to obtain Contributory League status in 2007. I enjoyed 3 seasons on the Conference National Assistant Referee list before achieving promotion to the Football League National List of Assistant Referees. I'm currently enjoying my 6th season as a Contributory League Referee, having been involved in the FA Referee Development Group for the past 4 seasons and my 5th season as a National List Assistant.

Some highlights of my time to date have been appointments as Assistant Referee to the 2008 FA County Youth Cup Final and 2011 Conference National Play Off Final, as well as being awarded the FA National Badge.

Chris is enjoying his 7th season as a FL National List Assistant and his 2nd season as a National List Conference Referee. One of his many career highlights was officiating at Wembley Stadium as Assistant Referee on the JPT Cup Final on 22nd March 2015. When not actively officiating, Chris is a well-recognised referee coach, operating in many groups including Dorset County Development Group, Hampshire Development Group and the National South East Regional Development Group. His coaching has taken him to the NatWest Island games in Jersey 2015 and he's just returning from coaching on behalf of the FA at the Dallas Cup.

Our talk is called "Recognising Challenges" and will have some LOTG questions as well as clips to be discussed. It will be themed around cup finals and play-off games, to help the officials prepare for the big challenges ahead.

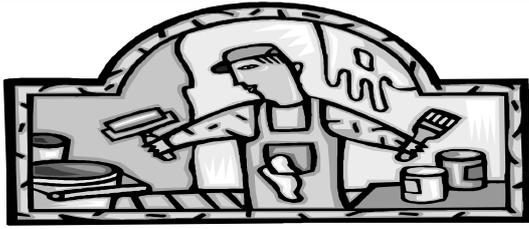
More CommentatorBalls *thanks to Peter Guest*



"James Collins anticipates what's going to happen before it happens"
Alain Martin, BT Sport

"Yes, she [Konta] made more unforced errors than in previous matches, but only because she was forced into them"
Sue Barker, Radio 4

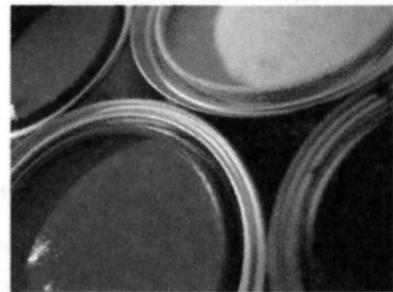
"Winning Wimbledon was the climax of my career. Having three children was a climax of a different kind"
Ann Jones, BBC Midlands



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What Would You Do?

(answers to March issue)

Q1 You play advantage planning to caution a Blue player at the next stoppage. But the same player then commits a second cautionable offence. The Red opponents howl for a red card, but the Blue player protests saying he would never have made such a risky second tackle had he known you were going to caution him for the first tackle. What would you do?

A1. Show two yellow cards then a red card. But it is poor game management - it is always a risk to play advantage after a cautionable offence.

Q2. The home team runs out in skin-tight lycra tops and shorts, the colours of which conform with those shown in the league handbook. The manager explains that the kit is designed to stop the opposition grabbing his players. What would you do?

A2. There is no reason to intervene - lycra is not a dangerous material. Snug-fitting shorts are common.

Q3. You award an indirect free kick to Reds. The kick is aimed at the Red's star striker. He misses the header - but the tip of his pony-tail brushes the ball as it flies into the net. What would you do?

A3. Award a goal, since the pony-tail is considered as part of his person and not an outside agent; there is nothing in the laws regarding the length of hair.

Q4 A Blue player standing outside the FoP throws a shin guard at the Red Number 10, standing inside the Blue penalty area. The shin guard strikes the Red No. 10 on the knee. What do you do?

A4. Award a penalty kick i.e. a direct free kick where the infringement occurred (or would have). Dismiss the Blue player.

Q 5 With 2 mins remaining and the Blues losing by one goal, the Blue keeper takes a throw-in close to his penalty area. He throws it legitimately into his penalty area, runs after it, picks it up and fly kicks it deep into his opponents' half where a team mate (not in an offside position) heads it directly into the opponents' goal. What do you do?

A5. Award an indirect free kick to Reds -the keeper handled the ball before it had touched another player.

Q6 With the ball in play you see a Blue player, off the field of play without your permission, spit at your assistant referee? You have no idea why. What do you do?

A6. Stop play; dismiss the Blue player. Restart with a dropped ball from the position of the ball when play was stopped.

Q7 A Blue player takes a throw-in conforming with the law in all aspects. He throws the ball deliberately at the back of a Red opponent neither in a careless nor a reckless manner, and not using excessive force. From the rebound he kicks the ball towards his own keeper. However, he over-does the kick, and the ball goes directly over the cross bar into the spectators behind the goal. What would you do?

A7. The referee must allow play to continue. Award a simple corner kick -there is no infringement.

((Ed. Questions 1-3 were taken from "You Are The Ref" by Keith Hackett and Paul Trevillion. Questions 4-7 were taken from the National RA Quiz final 2015, thanks to Colin Morris)

Courtesy of the Chiltern Referee

What Would You Do?

Question 1.

During the half time interval a group of substitutes who have been warming up have started fighting. When you step on the field of play one of them is on the ground with an arm injury. A "TV producer approaches you and says he filmed the entire incident. What would you do?

Question 2

During play within the penalty area, a Blue defender inadvertently slips, gifting a Red striker with an easy scoring opportunity. As the striker shoots, the defender puts his hand between the boot and the ball. The striker kicks the hand on to the ball, and the shot goes wide. As the defender screams in agony, both sides protest. What would you do?

Question 3

The Blues keeper parries a direct free kick to a Red striker who was standing in the defensive wall. But when the striker scores, your Assistant flags for offside. The striker tells you he was only offside because the wall edged forwards over your foam line as the ball was hit. He is correct!. What would you do?

Question 4

With the ball in play, a Blue defender on the field of play, throws an object (mainly a clod of earth) with excessive force at a barracking spectator standing three metres behind the touchline. What would you do?

Question 5

You award a free kick to Blues in the 8th minute of the game for a foul just outside the Reds penalty area. You signal for the kick to be taken. The kicker strikes the ball; it hits a post and rebounds onto play and strikes a dog that just ran onto the field of play after the kick was taken. What would you do?

Question 6.

A Blue Number 3 defender, while correctly taking a throw-in, intentionally throws the ball on to a Red opponent's back, not in a careless nor a reckless manner nor using excessive force. As the ball rebounds to the Blue taker he kicks the ball low and hard into the opponent's goal. The red player, annoyed at having the ball throw at his back, spits at the Blue player, but misses. What would you do?

Question 7

To evade an Red opponents tackle, a Blue attacker kicks the ball past the opponent, the ball remaining in the field of play. He, the attacker runs over the touchline into the opponents technical area and without provocation, brutally strikes the physio. What would you do?

(Ed. Questions 1-3 were taken from the Eccles RA magazine. Questions 4-7 were taken from the National RA Quiz Final 2015 thanks to Colin Morris.)

Courtesy of the Chiltern Referee

WARBLER REFERENCE GUIDE

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Surrey Primary League Referees Secretary	Scott Kelly referees@surreyprimaryleague.com
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Hampshire County FA Www.hampshireFA.com	Winklebury Football Complex, Winklebury Way Basingstoke, RG23 8BF 01256 853000
Berks and Bucks County FA Www.berksandbucksFA.com	First Floor, Stratton Court, Kimber Road, Abingdon, Oxford- shire, OX14 1BZ Tel: 01235 544890
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