

THE WARBLER

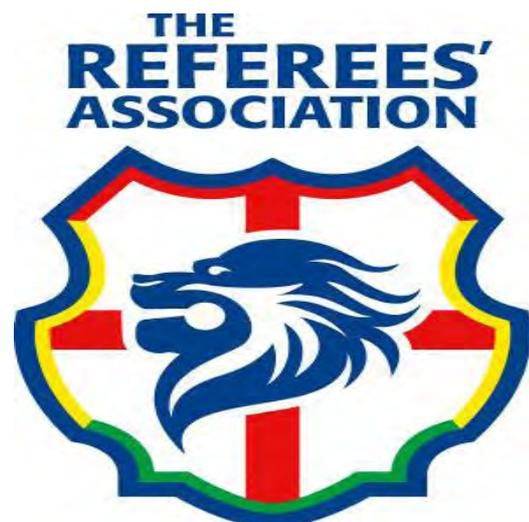
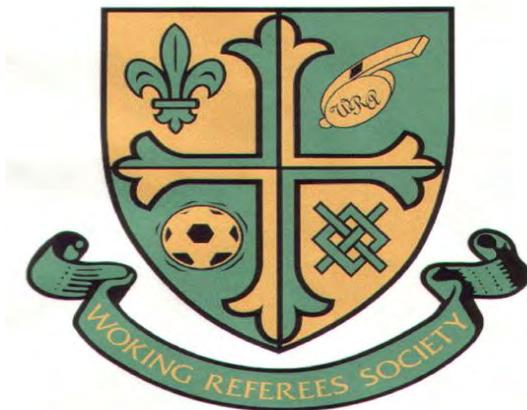
Monthly Magazine of the Woking Referees' Society

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Season 2015/16 August Edition

WOKING REFEREES ' SOCIETY

FOUNDED 1927

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**The next meeting of the
Woking Referees' Society
will be held on
Monday 10th August 2015**

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

AGENDA

- ♦ **8.00 Chairman's Welcome**
- ♦ **Guest Speaker**

Tim Lawrence
"The Whole Game"

- ♦ **Society Business**
- ♦ **Problem Corner**
- ♦ **10.00 Close**



Next Month's Meeting - Monday 7th September

**The deadline for the September Warbler is
Friday 28th August**

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

Chairman's Chat

Welcome everybody to the 2015/16 season I am looking forward to working with you all as your chairman, also the committee who do all the hard work to make our society what it is (The best in Surrey and beyond).

For those of you working towards promotion I wish you all the very best of luck. There are a lot of senior members who will be only too happy to help you get the best results, don't be shy, if you need help or support ask for assistance or advice.

There are very few changes in the Laws of the game that will affect us, however, there has been changes to Law 11 Offside but as I understand it the changes will not be across the board, and only applicable to certain levels of Football.

I have been informed that the change relates to interference of an opponent, I am concerned that if we are not made aware of the details and application we could have problems with players and coaches questioning some offside decisions.

I have heard that at a recent meeting of a Supply league a FA presentation on the changes was shown to match officials, but we all need to be informed in detail of the changes.

At our first meeting on Monday 10th August we are fortunate to have Tim Lawrence our Referee Development Officer, as our guest speaker, Tim will be talking about the disciplinary reporting system The Whole Game. Hopefully Tim will be able to clarify the Offside changes as well.

Once again let me remind you that the committee are here to help and support you. Have a good season.

Barry



2014/15 Membership

61 Full Members
5 Friends
2 Affiliate Members

2015/16 Membership

51 Full Members
6 Friends

Accounts August 2015

General	£3,094.29
Supplies	£204.00
Belgium	£0.00
Training Fund	£590.00
Youth Fund	£113.50
Total	£4,001.79

Mac's Musings

Well the new season is nearly here, and although for many of us the local leagues don't KO until September, no doubt the requests for friendlies will start to pour in. Having said that, such requests seem to have been appearing in my emails all summer, along with ones for the small sided tournaments.

On the subject of "friendlies" I can't think of a more inappropriate word for these pre-season games.

How often are we referees told at the beginning of such encounters we needn't be too "officious" as it was just a warm up game, only for the match to descend into a war of attrition worthy of a mention in dispatches.

One reason I reckon, is that the teams often have new players trying to get onto the team, or older players trying to prove they are still good enough to stay in, and they are out to prove they up to the job and determined to make themselves noticed.

Add to that the possibility of lack of fitness (too many beers and BBQs) and you have the recipe for the late and overzealous tackles. It's possible that players think that as it's a friendly we are less likely to produce the cards, and even if we did there's no way we are going to submit to County. More fool them.

I'm sure we've all been in the position where we've been lured into a false sense of security by the general bonhomie at the start of a game, a warm late summer's day and the chance to blow out the cobwebs from Foxy and give the new boots a work out. **WRONG!!!**

Those of you who like me have seen a few seasons (probably most of you reading this) now take "friendlies" rather more seriously and as we are often told, treat every game as if it is a cup final.

Sort of as a means of keeping my hand in over the closed season I've had a taste of a couple of what you might call alternative genres of the beautiful game. The first was Futsal where Pat B and I, along with 2 experienced Futsal refs officiated in a couple of youth tournaments run by Surrey County FA at the Surrey Sports Centre Guildford.

The games were quick (teams have only 4 seconds to get the ball back into play once they have control) and fast moving and I was amazed at the skill levels of both girls and boys, particularly U10s and 14s. They were all played with great sportsmanship and enthusiasm and even with 2 refs, one on either side of the pitch, we were kept very much on our toes. Ian Ransom, one of the qualified refs, is coming along to our meeting in October to explain more about the game, which is becoming increasingly more popular.

My other is a foray was into 6 a side at a local venue (One affiliated to the FA I might add) . Its another world. I turn up for the first one in my refs kit to be told—"Oh we don't normally bother with uniform! - the players tend to ref themselves and we just need to make sure they don't get out of hand" Well that was a load of rollocks. Sure they tended to play fair when it came to obvious throw ins (or kick ins in this case) or corners etc. but otherwise they were all up to their same old tricks, fouls, dissent etc as a full size game. I was soon implementing the 3 minute sin bin rule!! Happy Days

Enjoy the rest of the Summer

Mac



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

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP SEASON 2015 - 16

FULL MEMBER - OVER 18 (INCLUDES RA & COUNTY RA SUBSCRIPTION + PA INSURANCE) Expires 31/3/2015	£36.00	
FULL MEMBER – UNDER 18 (INCLUDES RA & COUNTY RA SUBSCRIPTION + PA INSURANCE) Expires 31/3/2015	£29.00	
AFFILIATE MEMBER (i.e. Full Member of another Referees Society) Expires 31/3/2014	£20.00	
FRIEND OF WOKING SOCIETY Expires 31/3/2015	£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

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

MURPHY'S MEANDERINGS

It's funny how some situations have a way of running away with themselves and there's nothing you can do about it. Take a senior non-league game I was watching the other week. It was midway through the second half and the home side were leading one nil although the away side had been camped around their penalty area for most of the half.

A visiting player had the ball just outside his opponent's penalty area and as he laid it inside to a colleague he was unceremoniously brought down by a late challenge. The referee, some twenty yards away, blew for the infringement and, quite obviously to me, was going to caution the offender. The player receiving the ball, thinking he had been denied a good advantage, started to shout at the referee but then noticed his centre forward unmarked on the six yard box. He quickly "killed" the ball and then knocked it to his centre forward who swivelled and hammered the ball into the back of the net. He immediately started jumping about thinking he'd scored the equalizing goal, as did all his colleagues, but they soon realised they were a bit premature.

There were two things wrong. Firstly, the referee was still going towards the defender to caution him and had not signalled for the free kick to be taken. Secondly, the centre forward was offside, although the referee's assistant hadn't bothered to signal as, from the referee's actions, he knew what the situation was and that the goal wouldn't count. A series of arguments and counter arguments suddenly broke out and there was a cacophony of noise. The player having committed the foul, realising he was about to be cautioned, started shouting his innocence to the on-coming referee. The player who had taken the free kick was moaning that if he couldn't have the advantage he should be allowed to take a quick free kick. The defenders were complaining that they weren't ready or that the centre forward was offside and the attackers were arguing that it was a good goal as the referee's assistant hadn't flagged. There was a tremendous amount of shouting as everybody wanted to have the last word including players who, during the incident, were on the half way line, and to be fair, really didn't have a clue as to what had happened, but not wanting to miss out, had come up to have their say.

The referee was looking quite bemused and seemed to be wondering how it had got to this stage. After all, all he'd done was blown his whistle and given a free kick for what he thought was a straight forward late challenge. He eventually calmed all the players down and regained control, although it must be said, not without difficulty, cautioned the offending defender and got the game restarted. However, things were never easy for the rest of the game. As I said, it's funny how some incidents have a mind of their own.

Tony Murphy

THE CHAMPIONS' LEAGUE FINAL: 2 KEY MATCH INCIDENTS

Barcelona v Juventus was, as the semi-finals had been, a wonderful advertisement for The Beautiful Game, but, had Barcelona not won, there might well have been much questioning, and perhaps angry criticism of Turkish referee Cukor's handling of two crucial Key Match Incidents.

The first involved the Juve midfielder Vidal, who in the first quarter of the match was the only player on either side to commit anything more than a minor foul. Already on an entirely appropriate caution for a rash tackle, he was again guilty of a clearly reckless challenge on an opponent in possession of the ball.

With Barcelona ahead and dominant at this point, the reduction of Juventus to 10 men might well have allowed the Catalans to ease themselves to a comfortable and perhaps uninspiring victory. Vidal, however, remained on the field and made important and entirely legal contributions to a thrilling comeback in the second half. The outcome of a compelling game remained in doubt until Barcelona finally asserted their superiority. There was therefore no post match media discussion of the referee's decision.

The second KMI concerned the vexed question of handball. We all know that the Laws state that handball has to be deliberate if it is to be penalised. We all also know that referees have a tendency, because players expect it, to penalise accidental handball if the player gains a benefit from the contact between ball and hand or arm.

This was the case with Neymar's disallowed goal which would have almost certainly have put the game beyond Juve's reach. The player misdirected a header against his arm and the ball went into the goal. The "handling" looked to be a complete accident, but the goal was disallowed. Both the assistant referee on that side and, even more surely, the extra goal line official would have had a clear view of the incident.

All was well that ended well because Barcelona won. Had they not, things might have been very different, particularly if Vidal had scored or created a winning goal for Juventus.

Of course, part of the fascination of football is that controversy is never far away, but perhaps a change in the wording of Law 12 to take account of sometimes penalising accidental handball might be helpful.

As far as the issue of the second yellow is concerned, the only "answer" would seem to be to allow TWO cautions before dismissing the player for the THIRD!! Hardly a solution, as Graham Poll discovered some years ago!

As a geriatric referee I have no problem with the second yellow: I'm so amnesiac that it's only AFTER I've held up the second yellow that I realise that it's NOT THE FIRST ONE!

Jim de Rennes

This Month's Referee

Mike Dean



- ◆ **MATCHES**
362
- **RED CARDS**
70
- **YELLOW CARDS**
1331
- **JOINED**
2000

Personal information

Year of birth	1968
County FA	Cheshire FA
First Premier League Match	9 September 2000: Leicester City v Southampton

Profile

Mike Dean has consistently officiated at the top level of English football since being appointed to the Select Group of referees in 2000. He has gone on to referee a number of crucial league and cup matches since.

Dean's first steps on to the Football League ladder came in 1995 as an assistant referee. He was promoted to the full referees' list two years later and went on to officiate in the top flight of English football at the turn of the millennium.

In 2003, Dean was promoted to the FIFA list and took control of the FA Community Shield between Arsenal and Manchester United a year later. A Championship Play-off Final followed in 2006 and he was in the middle for his first FA Cup Final in 2008, when Portsmouth defeated Cardiff City at Wembley Stadium. He also officiated Birmingham City's League Cup triumph over Arsenal in 2011.

Dean has enjoyed a successful international career too, which began when he officiated a friendly between Netherlands and Republic of Ireland in 2004. In addition, he's since taken charge of Europa League and European Championship matches.

Ramon Blanco: Peru referee's five red cards in five minutes

Four red cards, a manager sent off, riot shields on the pitch and a police escort from the ground - it was a quiet final five minutes on Sunday for Peruvian referee Ramon Blanco.

In the 86th minute of Alianza Lima's clash with Real Garcilaso, the 36-year-old may have thought he could start winding down for the afternoon until, suddenly, chaos broke out.

Like a rag to a bull, the sight of red left Alianza players - trailing 1-0 - wanting more and more punishment and in Blanco, they found a man willing to dish it out. Red cards for a Gabriel Costa hack in midfield and manager Guillermo Sanguinetti's protests, two more as an elbow and vicious kick saw Marcos Miers and Pablo Miquez hit the showers, before Christian Cueva saw red for trying to stop Blanco from reaching for a card.

Not even the sight of riot police attempting to address the chaos on the pitch could fluster Blanco during his five-minute red-card bonanza.

Peru's Association of Professional Referees said Blanco was "correct" and congratulated him on a "very good job" [on Facebook](#).

That was a view probably not shared by all as he was escorted through a scrum of media, with a vacant look on his face, and into a car driven away [flanked by police cars with lights flashing](#).

There's nothing like a quiet Sunday. For what it is worth, Garcilaso held on to win 1-0 and lead Peru's top flight.

Courtesy of BBC and spotted by Tim Lawrence

The Latest - Whatever next?

English referees are being encouraged to go even higher-tech. Many referees at Step 5 [the Supply Leagues] and above have already got themselves a set of buzzer flags; the next step will be to emulate their colleagues on the Football League and higher by using radio communication between the team of officials.

The 'official' sets used in pro football cost a 4-figure sum and are not widely available. Just announced is an American low-cost version for around £800, now being marketed by a company in northern England.

The sales blurb quotes an operating range of 300 metres for the encrypted conversations - adequate for association football. How many of us are rich [or vain] enough to buy a set? My experience of buzzer flags tells me that, in unpractised hands, they can be more of a hindrance than a help. What havoc might a fully miked-up, inexperienced set of officials cause in the lower leagues with radio communication?

I can't say I'm for or against -just be careful though! This new offer to referees will challenge the authorities; as far as I'm aware, the only ruling is that radio communication is banned between coaches and players. I know of no stipulation that such electronic aids are forbidden to match officials.

Courtesy of the Chiltern Referee

Len Randall

20 July 2015

Dear Colleague



Clarification of Offside for Season 2015/16

At its meeting on 16th June the Technical Sub-Committee of the International FA Board (IFAB) considered new guidance relating to the way in which players who are in an off-side position will be penalised. Following additional consultation with its two technical panels, The IFAB has today issued a formal Guidance Note regarding offside interpretation.

This guidance specifically relates to the practical interpretation of 'interfering with an opponent'. It is important to note that the current interpretation of offside for Interfering with Play, Interfering with an Opponent, and Gaining Advantage from being in that position remain unchanged and assistant referees will continue to apply the same principles in these cases as in previous seasons. However, within these principles, The IFAB has identified some situations which must now be penalised because of the offside player's impact on an opponent.

The IFAB guidance consists of two additional bullet points which attempt to provide greater clarity for the interpretation of 'interfering with an opponent', to ensure that there is greater uniformity in the application of Law 11.

In addition to the situations already outlined in the Laws of the Game, a player in an off-side position shall also be penalised if he:

- ◆ **clearly attempts to play a ball which is close to him when this action impacts on an opponent**
- or
- ◆ **makes an obvious action which clearly impacts on the ability of an opponent to play the ball**

This represents a clear change in the way in which assistant referees will judge 'interfering with an opponent' from last season. Previously a player would only be judged to be 'interfering with an opponent' if he clearly obstructed the opponent's line of vision, or challenged an opponent for the ball. The new guidance introduces the concepts of attempting to play the ball, impacting on an opponent or making an obvious action which impacts an opponent's ability to play the ball.

The FA have produced a guidance note which considers a number of examples to illustrate how the new guidance will be interpreted by officials this season. I would urge you to read it carefully.

If you have any specific questions regarding the new guidance please contact Neale Barry at the FA (neale.barry@thefa.com)

Neale Barry
Head of Senior Referee Development

A subsequent note from the FA now tells us that this new guidance will only apply on leagues that regularly use neutral officials on the line. This will be Supply Leagues' Senior and other appropriate divisions and Contributory Leagues and above.

So all "parks referees" and referees in Supply Leagues' lower divisions using club assistants will be using the old interpretation.

(Spotted in The Chiltern Referee)

RAFA YOUTH COUNCIL EVENT –“MISSION IMPOSSIBLE”

On 3RD July I was lucky enough to take part in the RAFA Youth Council workshop at QPR's training ground. After the last two which were at Hinckley football club and St Georges Park this was much closer to home but still had the same set up and help from PGMOL officials.

The event was named “Mission Impossible” making your refereeing dream possible.

The day started at 1pm where members from all around the country were put into groups for the three different workshops. I was joined by Shawn Barclay, Chris Williams and Declan Wyatt from Surrey FA

We started with the warm up and this was followed by a session run by David Blanchard, Simon Breivik and Ray Olivier where we officiated a short training match followed by an individual debrief. We then went to act as an assistant referee on the training match. We were also shown and took part in training exercises to help us with our warm ups and general training.

Session two was dedicated to mass confrontation and was taken by Lee Mason, Harry Lennard and Jon Moss this was in three sections; Player on player confrontation, Player on referee confrontation and finally mass confrontation. This event included role play and use of whistle, positioning, cards and defusing the situation.

Session three was offside decision making which was run by Adam Watts, Darren England where we had to judge offside decisions which were all recorded. We all then went for a debrief and to analyse the decisions in slow motion to see if we got the correct decision (luckily I got my decisions correct)

This was an enjoyable experience that will certainly assist me in my future games to help me become a better official.

The evening event was held at the Radisson Heathrow where we were joined by Howard Webb, Kevin Friend, Jon Moss and all the afternoon officials. This was started by a speech from 2 RAFA Youth Council committee members about the way they run and their view for the future on ways to help young referees with some interactive presentations. We then had a speech from a representative from Breast Cancer UK who were the choice of charity for the evening. We had a break for food followed by a quiz hosted by the RAFA Youth Council.

This was an insight into the good work the RAFA Youth are doing to help give young referees a voice and support on their journeys through refereeing

I have learnt a lot from the past 3 events and look forward to taking part more in the future.

Callum Peter

REPORT ON RA CONFERENCE LONDON 3-5 JULY 2015

The AGMs for the past few years were dominated with consideration of Notices of Motion and changes to the Constitution. This year there were no such proposals and, with a smaller attendance than usual, the AGM could (should) have been a short meeting. Alas, prolonged unstructured and, in many cases, unnecessary discussion on the Chairman's and Treasurer's reports (taken together) led to a considerable overrun. Indeed, there was almost no discussion of the very important "3 Year Development Strategy". These Officers' reports were delivered against a backdrop of changes - big changes! Mistakes were inevitable - and they occurred! As if to underline the poor conduct of the meeting, it ended in chaos with the Chairman striving to maintain order whilst a large section of the audience was leaving the room, indulging in loud conversation totally ignoring the Chairman.

The meeting started late as the Chairman allowed a 25 minute presentation from Participant (a new version of RAMMS) to explain the new online subscription process which should be in operation from 17 July. Although this prompted several questions, the Chairman stated that members should wait until an explanatory note is circulated to all LRAs and CRAs "administrators" (presumably treasurers) on 10 July. Why then was the presentation allowed in the first place? The minor items on the agenda were quickly despatched, allowing the meeting to turn to the real business. But before any discussion was invited the Chairman highlighted a number of errors in the two reports, both factual and typographical, that had been indicated by several members. Some were of a potentially serious nature and some were of a formatting/grammatical nature leading to criticisms of image. The Chairman accepted the comments, apologised and promised a marked improvement in the future. It was also pointed out by several members that the agenda did not comply with the requirements of the Constitution - for example, there was no Select Committee report, no Select Committee had been confirmed and dates of election/ attendance at Committees had not been included in the AGM documents. The situation clearly took the Board by surprise and a confused answer from the Chairman seemed to suggest that it was difficult to get members to serve on such committees. As a throw away line, Paul Field (Board) indicated that "in any case" the Constitution was "inappropriate for an Association striving to become a top organisation" and he hinted that it is the intention of the Board to rewrite the Constitution. He added that the amendments would be "quite substantial". We have just spent more than 5 years on major re-writes - is it out of date already? Are we really going to spend valuable time on this re-write when we should be addressing our major worry of declining membership?

A number of questions had been submitted prior to the meeting mainly by **Mike Potter** (Norwich RA) and **Mike Greenyer** and these were addressed in turn. Mike Potter asked whether the Board thought that 48 hours was reasonable notice for submitting questions to be considered at the AGM? Paul Field (Board) gave a confused answer; he implied that because of the short period between the year end on 31 March and the date of the AGM, there was only limited (inadequate?) time to compile the accounts, get them verified and distributed. **Malcolm Henderson** (Alton RA) queried the expenditure of £5,000 on "training". Paul Field explained it was for printing various booklets and producing a DVD, yet to be delivered to the LRAs and CRAs! **Mike Greenyer** (S Wilts RA), **Iain Tucker** (Mid-Cornwall RA) and **Brian Reader** (Woking RA) asked questions regarding the poor communication between the Board and the membership (e.g. limited Minutes and other documents; some of restricted circulation). The Chairman admitted that the Board was not overly blessed with the necessary 'document generation' skills, and that some documents contained sensitive material. He added that in future redacted copies will be circulated. **Mike Greenyer** also asked why there was a high level of stock (£38k) and the Treasurer agreed this was undesirable and there is an urgent effort to reduce this, but it currently stood at £32k. →

The Constitution approved in July 2014 provided the Board with the opportunity to exploit the free membership period for first time members. **Mike Potter** asked how many new members had been recruited as a result of these initiatives, which appeared to be a question which completely baffled the Board. From the ensuing dialogue it appeared that only **one new member** had been recruited, a sad fact in view of our declining membership.

In a prolonged response to two questions about the profit from the sale of Westwood Park and the three apparently different figures appearing in the accounts, Paul Field (RA Board) said the figures were derived by the auditors. One (£21,313 in the Treasurer's report) had to have legal fees deducted (no precise figure, but about £4450), a second (£16,259 in the accounts) included income from disposal of furniture, whilst the third (£15k in Section 5 Head Office) was not explained further.

Not surprisingly much of the ensuing discussions essentially addressed the perennial question "What do I get from the RA. Several members highlighted benefits. In particular, **Richard Sueke** (W Middx RA) outlined the successful activities of his Society (including the use of social media), and offered to provide details for other societies. However, there was no satisfactory response when it was reported that a Board member had been invited to attend one of their meetings and no reply had been received. But the most compelling reasons were summarised by **Bart O'Toole** (AFA). He emphasised that the most significant benefit was the representation of individual referees at County FA and National FA level, which is often unappreciated or indeed unknown.

It was evident throughout the meeting that the Board is on a path to get closer to the FA. For instance, there is already an RA-FA Working Group at the top level, the background, objectives and activities of which are not clear to the general membership. There is also a recommendation in the "3 Year Development Plan" to have non-RA members on the RA Board. Indeed, throughout the "3 Year Development Plan" there are proposed areas of closer co-operation with the CFAs and FA. Whether we are in agreement with this or not, there must be a clear statement of the Board's intentions so that members can formulate their own views.

By a show of hands the two reports were accepted with only five against, but no record of abstentions was recorded. The appointments of John Starkey and Arthur Smith as RA Benevolent Fund trustees had not been renewed because the RA Board feel that more Board members should be trustees. There was no mention of LMSAs and Life Memberships in the AGM papers, and sadly the presentation to the one LMSA recipient present was carried out almost as an afterthought lost in the general meeting

Time constraints meant that the "3 year Development Plan" circulated shortly before the AGM, received only superficial attention with only limited discussion. Its primary aim is claimed to be to make the RA relevant to refereeing development. Bart O'Toole (AFA) opined that the strategy is too broad, because it appears to seek many changes only just established at the 2014 AGM and clearly is going to demand much deliberation. Such a step will be hugely time-consuming, time which should be directed towards other critical questions such as declining membership. The suggestion that the RA Board should include non-RA members was met with much resistance. David Crick (Kingston RA) briefly summarised the work of the RA-FA Working Party.

The theme of the RA Conference on the Saturday was "Understanding football As usual, this "must attend" event attracted over 350 attendees and again this year many groups of referees were conspicuous by their matching shirts. The format for the day was essentially the winning format from former years. It began with a keynote address, "Understanding Football" delivered by Jon Moss in an entertaining and animated presentation. His main message was that there are six key qualities a referee should have for good decision making - sense of humour, empathy, common sense, knowing what football expects, using experience and over-thinking. He illustrated these with examples from his own "road to Wembley".

The core of the Saturday programme comprised seven one-hour interactive workshops; each attendee was able to attend three from : Managing the technical area: Promising attack or DOGSO?; When to play advantage; How to recognise simulation; Keeping the lid on things; How to plan your fitness training; Assisting or insisting?

These very interactive workshops, conducted by top tutors and referees, are extremely helpful to aspiring and active referees and by general comment maintained last year's high quality.

As in previous years, Neale Barry covered the "Law Changes" of which there were few and nothing to alter the way we referee. There were no changes regarding the "triple punishment from DOGSO", but consideration is on-going for a possible change in the near future.

In a final short session John Key (RA Board) outlined the background to the QUEST (Quality Excellence Standard) initiative, encouraging societies to seek qualification. Barkston Ash and Thurrock societies were presented with the silver QUEST awards.

The Conference was drawn to a close by David Elleray with some reflections on the day and on refereeing in general. His assertion that "Referees have a key responsibility to the game", which is widely recognised as a general truism, was illustrated with video clips.

In summary, I repeat what I said last year; the huge number now attending this function is testament to its success and the Saturday meeting is a MUST for all young aspiring referees. It provides a means of training, communicating and interacting with colleagues from around the country. It is a pity, therefore, that so few referees from Berks & Bucks attended this year when the venue was local.

These are testing times for the RA Board. As far as the AGM is concerned, points for improvement are many.

- ◆ There must be a deeper attention to pre-AGM matters; the Constitution must be fully complied with and the format and presentation of reports must be improved to make them more attractive, understandable and credible.
- ◆ We must place higher emphasis on the positives such as RA-FA Youth Council, RA-FA Working Group, "Participant'
- ◆ Falling membership MUST assume a top priority; if not, the future looks bleak for our Association. Simple re-branding of the RA is not enough and we must be wary that over-emphasis on the young does not alienate the experienced referees. Older members will play just as important a role in the future of the RA as will the younger generation.
- ◆ There should be urgent and open consideration of the draft "3 Year Development Programme".
- ◆ The intentions of the RA for closer integration with the FA must be explained - it could be a very one-sided partnership. There is a strong feeling that the RA is already heading down the slippery slope to incorporation into the FA.
- ◆ The intentions of the Board to re-write the Constitution must be explained urgently further changes will harm both the RA itself and the national perception of the RA. Indeed it must be asked whether the membership has the stomach for another round of discussion. Following the changes of the past 5-6 years, stability is what the RA desperately needs.

My thanks to Brian Richards (Chiltern Referees' Society) for this very comprehensive coverage of this years RA Conference. Mac

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

Part 41 – Back, back..... back of the net

Match: Cockfosters Casuals –v- Reds Rovers (Yes...*still the same match!*)

Venue: Hackney Marsh – Pitch 165

League: Division Three – Sunday Park League (North)

Welcome to you all,

Hope you all enjoyed your summer break and here we all are again ready to be shouted at, screamed at and be told '*You are the worst referee ever*' and that '*You don't know what we're doing*'. How we have all missed those lovely sentiments!

As soon as you blow the whistle for your first pre season friendly of the season, it will feel like you've never been away. What a joy it is to be a referee!

But enough about you, let's focus on my match which is still in progress.....

I had been observing the Cockfosters Casuals goal keeper and felt that he was not taking goal kicks from the correct position. As we all know the ball can be placed anywhere inside the goal area but my suspicions were that this goal keeper was placing the ball just outside of the goal area to hopefully gain a few additional yards. I felt it was time for me to investigate so I positioned myself just inside the penalty area to obtain a great vantage point.

Naturally this time the goal keeper placed the ball well inside the goal area. He took a few steps back and then propelled himself forward in the hope his goal kick would reach the half way line. He kicked the ball only for it to hit my back, go up in the air and land directly at the feet of the Reds Rovers forward who promptly kicked the ball into the unguarded goal.

The Casuals goal keeper was fuming at me as were his team mates as I pointed to the half way line to award the goal. '*How can you award the goal?*' the goalie shouted. This was followed by just about every other Casuals player shouting at me. The only comment I could hear clearly was the Rovers goal scorer saying '*Thanks Ref for the early Christmas present, I'll make sure they award you with the assist*'. They were words I could have done without hearing but at least they were said calmly unlike the other comments being directed in my direction.

I knew I had to calm the situation and requested the players move away from me. I consciously took some steps back and beckoned the players away. Unfortunately no one listened until I produced my note book and showed a yellow card to the goal keeper. One other Casuals player was also cautioned and that action finally made the other players walk away from me.

I explained the goal was awarded as no laws had been infringed. The ball after being kicked, hit me on my back as I was positioned inside the penalty area but then left the penalty area and was active and therefore in play. I went on to explain the referee is a 'goal post' meaning if the ball hits the goal post then play continues and like wise if the ball hits the referee then play just continues.

In hindsight I will place myself outside of the penalty area next time!

Does play continue if the ball hits the referee?

Was Willie correct to award the goal?

If not, what should be the restart?

Was our referee in a good position to observe the goal keeper?

What is the best method to move players away from you?

Decisions, decisions...that is what being a referee is all about!

My next decision is something that does not happen to often thankfully but was an unfortunate clash between two opposing players as they challenged for the ball from a Casuals corner kick. As the players fell to the ground injured I felt immediate concern but before I could even blow my whistle the Casuals player kicked the ball into the goal.

My first reaction was for the two injured players on the ground and I blew my whistle and frantically waved over for the players to receive immediate attention. We were all very fortunate as the Rovers captain was a doctor who worked in the A & E department at the local hospital. (I might try and see him after the match about a little problem I have)

As the doctor checked over the injured players my next decision was to award or *not* award the goal. I knew I had not blown my whistle to stop play and technically I suppose play was still live but and this was the big '*but*.....two players were on the ground injured and I knew players safety is paramount and that must be considered before anything else.

On that basis I decided not to award the goal and restart with a drop ball in the penalty area.

Thankfully Casuals decided not to contest the drop ball which was the sporting thing to do but as a referee we cannot tell players if they should or should not contest a drop ball. What a good referee can do is ask *if* the drop ball will be contested. Hopefully as was the case this time they take the hint and decline. What a good referee I am.

For the record both players were given a clean bill of health by the doctor.

Should the goal have been awarded?

Does the ref have to blow the whistle to stop play?



As play then continued two players prepared themselves to challenge for the ball which had been launched high in the sky from a goal kick. The next thing I knew was the Rovers player placing his hand on my shoulder for extra leverage which enabled him to lift himself at least another two foot over his opponent. I immediately blew my whistle and the offending player said 'Ref, only two minutes ago you told me and I quote 'the ref is a goal post' so on that basis I can place my hand on the goal post and jump'. What a fine statement that was but I told the player his actions had gained him an advantage and was unsporting behaviour. The player smiled and walked away. He knew I was right.

Was our ref correct?

For your own benefit please keep reading my articles as it can only make you a better referee and perhaps one day you might become as good as me.

See you all soon,

Regards,

Willy Woodwork
Willy 'Red card' Woodwork



Pages from Yesteryear ***The Warbler September 1978***

Best Ref

The Woking & District League last season made an award to the best all round Referee. This included things such as application of the Laws, personality, control, signals, fitness and general appearance. It is the first award of it's kind by the league and was won by Colin Barnett who is a Class III referee and a member of our Society. Many congratulations Colin, so come on all you members officiating on that league see if you can place your name along side Colin's.

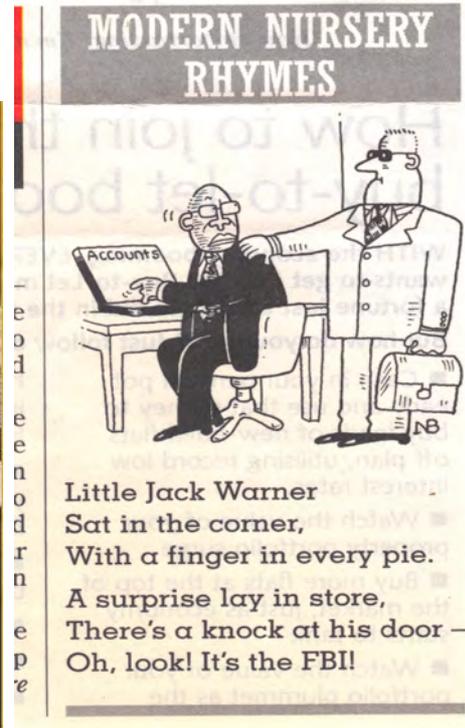
Heard in the Bar

A local known football enthusiast had this to say in conversation with a senior referee. "I watched a cup match the other day at which a young referee was officiating. It stood out a mile that he was new to the business because he adhered strictly to the letter of the Law, and forgot the spirit of the Law.

In training referees there needs to be more concentration on allowing the game to flow, thus applying the spirit The young referee was, perhaps doing what someone had taught him, but he ruined what could have been an excellent game of football".

Private Eye's take on FIFA

Spotted by Brian Reader



Women's game still has a long way to go

As the Women's World Cup got underway in Canada, FIFA admitted the women's game still has a long way to go before it matches the corruption of the men's game. "Massive strides have been taken in the women's game, as we've brought in more senior FIFA officials used to taking backhanders," FIFA President Sepp Blatter told reporters. "But the mere fact this tournament is taking place in Canada, of all places, and not somewhere incredibly hot and filled with oil, shows that the level of corruption and bribes in the women's game still lags decades behind that of the men's game."

Those alleged bribes

- One set of Moose antlers
- Three jars of maple syrup (shop damaged)
- 'GO CANUCKS!!!' sun visor
- A Celine Dion CD
- Er... That's it.



*'Who's the bastard? Who's the bastard?
Who's the bastard in the black? Oh - it's the
FBI.*

Sorry Officer, I'll come quietly'

*'He's going down, he's going I down, Blatter's
going down'*

*"You only sing when you think it'll get you a
shorter sentence"*

*'Who ate all the pies?
Who ate all the pies?... Chuck Blazer, obvi-
ously'*

*"You're not bunging, you're not bunging,
you're not bunging any more"*

WHEN THE BALL IS OUT OF PLAY - BY OBSERVER

If you take a stopwatch along with you next time you watch a game and stop it every time the ball goes 'dead', you will probably find that something in excess of twenty minutes elapses when there is nothing doing in the way of actual play.

As a referee on the field, you could easily be lulled into a false sense of security by drawing the conclusion that you could take a breather during this quarter or so of the game. A very false sense of security!

Is it not true to say that many of those off the ball, behind-the-referee's-back incidents, take place when the ball is actually dead? Those few seconds that it takes for the goalkeeper to retrieve and position the ball for his goal kick may well be selected by the defender as the best time to intimidate his opponent with a few well-chosen words. Or it could be that while everyone is taking up his position for the corner-kick (referee and linesmen included) the centre forward and the centre half are exchanging a few crafty nudges and pushes.

Quite clearly, it is when the ball is not actually in play that the wise referee will continue to be 'all eyes and ears' in his attempts to detect the potentially explosive moments in the game, for it is often the unsavoury side of modern football that finds its birth in moments like these. Before he realises it, the carefree referee might have a fight on his hands.

A timely, quiet comment about what he has heard or seen might be just enough for the referee to keep control of the situation, and he can be reasonably sure that no matter how unnoticed by the spectators his firm but friendly words might have been, enough of the players will have noticed his efficiency.

Too many referees are lax in their work while the ball is out of play. How often do you see a referee awaiting a goal kick actually have a glance at what is happening on the field of play? Too rarely, I would suggest. Very likely you will see the referee in the local league award a goal-kick, turn and run back toward the centre of the field ready for the kick, without ever being aware of what the players are doing.

The golden rule of refereeing must surely be to keep an eye on the centre of activity while the ball is in play, and to use those moments when the ball is dead to check all around him that everyone is behaving himself. This includes keeping an eye on the last two or three players involved in the activity immediately prior to the ball going out of play. The referee can help himself a great deal in this respect if he perfects the skill of running backwards when taking up his next position should the situation demand it. Most referees can run backwards, but many seldom actually do so.

When operating without assistant referees (Club or Neutral), the referee must undertake all those tasks that he would normally delegate to his neutral colleagues with the flag.



All too frequently do you see the ball go out of play and be retrieved many yards way down the touchline? In such cases the throw-in will be made from a position that is more advantageous to the thrower, and there are two basic reasons for this. One is the natural tendency for players to 'get away with what they can', while the other is because the referee lets them do so.

It could be that the thrower is allowed this unfair advantage because the referee relaxed his concentration at the moment the ball went out of play, perhaps in the belief that nothing will go wrong for him at this stage. He looked away too soon and therefore did not actually know the correct place for the throw-in to be taken.

Wise referees, when working alone, frequently position themselves exactly opposite the position for the throw. If this is not convenient, however, there is still often a simple and unflamboyant way for the referee to indicate the correct place to the thrower who has just retrieved the ball. The referee positions himself in such a way that he creates a straight line involving three important points, himself, the correct position for the throw-in and the thrower approaching the line. A little practice on this and the skill can soon be perfected so that you will then have a moment or two spare for that vital glance around the field to see who is trying to take advantage of the dead-ball situation, for it is odds-on that somebody will be doing so if he thinks the referee isn't looking.

There are several other things for the referee to look for while the ball is dead, so he should develop the art of 'making a few moments time for himself'.

Think about the following and try to make sure that you have time to look and listen for them from time to time during your next game, whether it is in a stadium or on the local park pitch.

When the play is temporarily stopped:

- a) Is the goalkeeper at the far end of the field quite safe from spectator interference?
- b) Are those men on the trainer's bench behaving, as they should be?

Courtesy of The Normidian (and also spotted in The Chiltern Referee)

Technophobes



Wife: "It says in the paper that experts predict COMPUTERS will eventually replace PAPER."

Man: "Well, obviously they've never tried to wipe their bums with an i-pad."

Whilst visiting my son the other day. I asked him if he had a newspaper.

"Newspaper?" He said. "Get with it Dad, I always use my i-pad" and handed it to me.

I can only say that fly didn't know what hit it.



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Adie's Dogged Carpentry Skills put to Test

With the new season almost upon us it is time to inform the Match Officials of any changes in the League formats.

Two main one's for you to note, firstly both the SCILW and the G&WAFL have put the Referee Fees up to £35 per game to keep in line with County. **YOU HAVE NO EXCUSE NOW NOT TO SEND IN THE RESULT SHEETS ON TIME!!!!**

The second one is that the **SCILW League and League Cup** games will be Roll on Roll off for the substitutions. Please, please, please be aware that the Intermediate County Cup Competition is still 3 from five **not Roll on Roll off**.

For your information my leg is almost healed so I will be back in action in September so you will not have as many visits from me at your games but I am told to take it steady so some weekends I will have a break and come and watch one or two of you. I have a telescopic fruit picker now so no more ladders and I will try to stay out of trouble.

Closed season has been fun to say the least. It all started with the Mother-in-Law being admitted to hospital in Ashford and then transferred to St Thomas's in London. Apparently one evening she went to the toilet and we were informed she passed out. I said it did not surprise me as when she uses the toilet here nearly pass out. Diane was not impressed with my humour and it turned out she passed out on the way back from the karzi – must have been delayed reaction I guess. She is going back in next week for a heart valve (yes, she does have one allegedly) replacement while Diane and I beetle off to Jersey – oh dear!

I managed to finish the cribbage table as my leg got slowly better and we now have it in the lounge, looks good and I am pleased with the marquetry. My next plan is a cribbage board to go with it.

I got my first contract for woodcraft from a neighbour and made a cat feeding box that the dog couldn't penetrate. It all looked good and I delivered it, went round two days later and that little b#gg#r had managed to find a technique to get to the food so I had it back, modified it, and now he is thwarted – for the time being, but we shall see.

All Referees who have not given me their availability, can they please do it ASAP as the games will commence from the 12th of September and the appointments will need to be in place by the end of August.

Trusting you are enjoying the Summer

Adie



Where do we draw the line on persistent fouling?

Everyone knows a team's best attacking player is both a godsend and a liability. Such a player can turn a match in a heartbeat, but if he is repeatedly targeted and injured, the team will struggle with other options. There is no defined frequency on what is persistent offending, it depends on the referee's judgement to determine when enough is enough.

Specifically targeting an opponent is all part of the game and the rules are there to help referees discipline offending players for persistent fouls. Persistent infringements are repeated offences by one player on several others and also be several players on one opponent. Since there is no definition on what is persistent, it depends on the referee's judgement to determine when enough is enough.

Is nine times enough, or five or two? Every player and coach has his own opinion. For instance, when a substitute enters the pitch, immediately fouls an opponent with a reckless foul challenge and receives a caution, the referee gets unwarranted criticism. Others may also be puzzled by the yellow card for an innocuous foul, but is it a case of "totting up" a number of careless foul challenges?

However, what players, coaches and spectators often fail to realize is that the referee has recognised that the team as a whole has repeatedly fouled an opponent and has therefore correctly penalised one player as a warning to his team mates.

In these modern times, even if the referee does not see a sending-off incident, the FA has a process to be able to take retrospective action.

On the pitch, referees have Laws to help tackle persistent infringements.

How do you deal with the persistent offenders?

(Ed. This was written by William Lai in the April 2015 issue of the Informer, the magazine of the Eccles RA and spotted in the Chiltern Referee)

Groans



Jonathan Ross has been accused of shoplifting a kitchen utensil from Tesco. Ross says it was a whisk he was prepared to take.

My mate just hired an Eastern European cleaner, took her 15 hours to Hoover the house.
Turns out she was a Slovak.

I've been charged with murder for killing a man with sandpaper. To be honest I only intended to rough him up a bit.

A mummy covered in chocolate and nuts has been discovered in Egypt ..
Archaeologists believe it may be Pharaoh Rocher.....

Two Indian junkies accidentally snorted curry powder instead of cocaine.
Both in hospital..... One's in a korma..... The other's got a dodgy tikka!

Sailing results are in: USA took gold, GB took silver and Somalia took a Middle aged couple from Weymouth .





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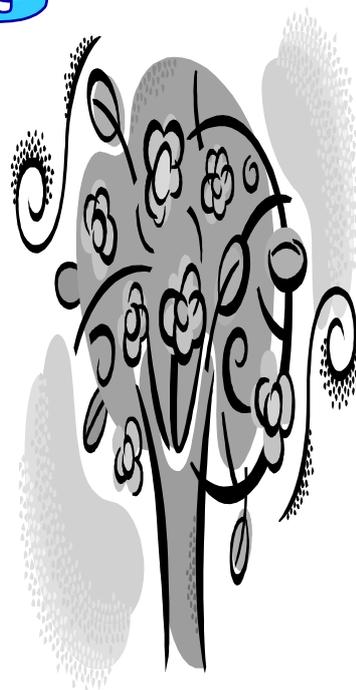
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PlumTree

Congratulations go to
Dave Lawton who was awarded
 Combined Counties
 Assistant Referee of the Year 2014/2015

Chelsea U21 v Cardiff City U21 - 5/8/15
 Tom Ellsmore - Referee

Fulham U18 V Southend United U18
 Nick Arbuckle - Assistant referee



Dates for your Diary 2015/16

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| 10th August | Society Meeting - Tim Lawrence Surrey FA - The Whole Game System |
| 7th September | Society Meeting - Karl Warn - Surrey Police's fitness advisor |
| 5th October | Society Meeting - Ian Ransom - Futsal |
| 2nd November - | Society Meeting - Woking Football Club - Community Projects |
| 10th December | Society Christmas Meal - Hoebridge Golf Club |

You Must be Joking



I spent a couple of hours defrosting the fridge last night, or "foreplay" as she likes to call it.

Nearly scored with a Ladyboy last night. Picked him up in a night club. He Looked like a woman. Smelled like a woman. Danced like a woman. Even kissed like a woman, but as we arrived back at his apartment he reversed his car into a tight parking slot in one fluid movement! That's when I thought -Hang on just a minute!

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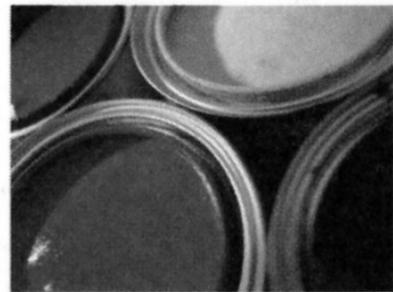
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What Would You Do?

(answers to ~~April~~ issue)

MAY

Q 1. The losing team makes three subs at half-time, and within 15 mins make a stunning comeback. But soon after their goal you realise to your horror that they have actually made four changes - one of them an identical twin. What would you do?

A1. Restart the second half with the three valid changes and reset the score to what it was at half time - accept the inevitable arguments!! The other option is to have the twin removed, and tell them to complete the game with 10 men. Write a report!

Q2 In the dying seconds of a vigorous game your assistant thinks he sees you blowing for full time, and steps onto the FoP to pick the ball up, which has bounced in front of him. Realising his error, he drops it again, allowing a nearby striker to collect it, shoot and score. What would you do?

A2. Stop the game, disallow the goal and restart with a dropped ball from where he picked it up; report the details.

Q3 In a fierce wind, the home team manager's notes blow onto the FoP and land next to an opposing player who was cautioned earlier. The opponent tears up the notes and laughingly throwing the pieces into the air. The wind distributes the pieces over a large area. What do you do?

A3. Childish - have a word with the player; advise him he's neither big nor clever; warn him about his future conduct. Watch out for any retaliation.

Q4 You award a penalty kick to Reds who are winning 3-0. Two red players try a clever penalty - one tapping the ball forward for the other to run on to from outside the penalty area. Before the team

mate can reach the ball, however, a blue defender brings him down - but the ball runs free and another team mate smacks it into the net. What would you do?

A4. If the scorer also ran on to the ball from outside the area, award the goal. This risky routine is legal. If the defender's challenge was reckless or used excessive force, though, caution or send him off.

Q5 A player's boot is damaged. It is unusable so with your permission he goes to get it replaced. When you wave him back on, he sprints into the penalty box and lashes a brilliant volley into the net. As you award the goal, you notice the replacement boot is completely different to the other one in colour, brand and stud type. What would you do?

A5. The goal stands. There is nothing wrong in wearing mismatching boots providing they are legal and not dangerous.

Q6 A defender handles the ball in the penalty area, and then rages against your decision to award a penalty kick. He responds to your blowing the whistle for the kick to be taken, by running in and blasting the ball into the net. What would you do?

A6. Retake the penalty in the usual way. A penalty has to be taken by an identified player. Hence caution the player for dissent and warn him of his future conduct

Q7 A red striker, onside in the penalty area, is pushed by a defender into an offside position just as the ball is played towards the goal area. The striker collects the ball and scores. Some players claim a goal, others offside or a penalty kick. What would you do?

A7. There are two offences - the push and the striker scoring from an offside position. Punish the push: the striker has been denied an obvious goal-scoring opportunity, so dismiss the defender and restart with a penalty.

(Ed. All the Questions were taken from "You Are The Ref" by Keith Hackett and Paul Trevillion.)

Courtesy of the Chiltern Referee

What Would You Do?

Question 1

A wall lines up to face a left-footed free kick. However, suddenly the wall repositions itself when a right-footed player runs up instead. They move sideways - away from your spray line. When the ball is deflected to safety, Red attackers surround you demanding a retake of the free kick. What would you do?



Question 2.

A Red striker races into the penalty area and takes a theatrical dive to evade a reckless tackle by a Blue defender. No contact was made and no-one is hurt. Both players are on a yellow card. What would you do?

Question 3.

You signal for a Blue player to come back on after injury - but as he puts one foot back in play, he sees an opponent ballooning a clearance straight towards him. He pulls his foot back off the FoP, catches the ball and takes a quick throw-in. What would you do?

Question 4.

Following a tackle involving several players, a Red midfielder collects the ball and deliberately plays a pass off an opponent who is lying injured. The ball is deflected into the path of a Red striker who would otherwise have been offside. What would you do?

Question 5.

A Blue defender cleverly traps a long hoofed clearance inside his empty penalty area. He then leaves the ball stationary, and trots upfield. His goalkeeper walks over and picks the ball up and clears the ball upfield. What would you do?

Question 6.

Before taking a direct free kick for a full tackle on the edge of the penalty area, a Red striker moves the ball back a yard to give himself a better angle. The wall reacts by moving forward a yard over your sprayed line. What would you do?

Question 7.

Very close to the end of the game, the ball is floated in towards the goal area. In a challenge with a Blue opponent, a Red striker rises to head a high ball - just as you start blowing the final whistle. But before you blow your third 'peep', the ball flies into the back of the net. What would you do?

(Ed. All the Questions were taken from "You Are The Ref" by Keith Hackett and Paul Trevillion.)

Courtesy of the Chiltern Referee

WARBLER REFERENCE GUIDE

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