

# THE WARBLER

Monthly Magazine of the Woking Referees' Society

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Season 2017/18 August Edition

# WOKING REFEREES ' SOCIETY

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### INSIDE THIS MONTH'S WARBLER

***Page 3: Agenda***

***Page 4 : From the Chair /Accounts /Membership***

***Page 5: Just a Sec***

***Page 6 : Woking RA Meeting May 2017***

***Page 7 : Cup Final : Mike Coen***

***Page 8 : Belgium 2017 : Paul Gorringe***

***Page 9/10/11 : Potential Pitfalls***

***Page 12: Woking Refs Go to Wembley : Jonathon Huntley***

***Page 13. Membership Renewal***

***Page 14/15 /16/17 : Getting it Right on the Big Day : Keith Hiller***

***Page 18 : Murphy's Meanderings***

***Page 19 : Mac's Musings / Dates for your Diary***

***Page 20 : Sin Bins Coming to a League Near You***

***Page 21 : Dropped Ball? Should We Say Anything?***

***Page 23 : Adie With a Cherry on Top : Adie Freeman***

***Page 24/25: Willie The Whistler - Count to Eleven***

***Page 29 / 30 : You are the Ref : You are the Ref Answers***



# **The next meeting of the Woking Referees' Society will be on Monday August 14th 2017**

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

## **AGENDA**

- ◆ **8.00 Chairman's Welcome**

***Law Amendments***

- ◆ **Society Business**

- ◆ **10.00 Close**



**The September meeting will be on  
September 4th 2017**

**The deadline for September Warbler is 25th August 2017**

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

# From the Chair

Welcome to the new season. With only 44 law changes this year, getting things right should be a doddle !!! Seriously, I hope you're all ready to hit the green stuff in whatever capacity you represent.

On Monday 14th August we will be, as usual, presenting the 'laws of the game'. So for those of you about to officiate on the Surrey Youth League, it will be its important you are aware of the 'sin bin' law.

We are looking to introduce a Woking RA mentoring system, so if you hold the FA mentoring qualification and would like to be involved, please let me know.

So welcome back to all of you and welcome to those joining us for the first time.

Hope to see you on the 14th,

**Pat.**



## Membership & Accounts

<b>2017/18 Membership</b>	<b>2017 Current Status</b>	
<b>77 Full Members</b>	<b>General</b>	<b>£3,050.35</b>
<b>7 Friends</b>	<b>Supplies</b>	<b>£154.00</b>
<b>1 Affiliate Member</b>	<b>Belgium</b>	<b>£0.00</b>
<b>66 Referees trained in 2016/2017</b>	<b>Training Fund</b>	<b>£293.28</b>
	<b>Youth Fund</b>	<b>£113.50</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£3,611.13</b>

### Have you renewed your membership yet?

As you may recall, in order to align with the RA's Direct Membership cost of £25, Woking Society have also introduced the same subscription, but in order to make this a viable proposition members joining at the reduced rate will only be eligible for an electronic copy of the Warbler. Approximately half of the members who have registered so far have chosen this option.

All those newly qualified Referees who on completion of their course in July and October last year, benefitted from free membership and who have not yet renewed, will no longer receive the e-Warbler.

Last seasons "paying" members who have not yet renewed will receive copies of the August and September Warblers but then be deemed as having left the Society. If you haven't already done so please could you renew your membership **asap**. I will be issuing a final chaser email at the beginning of September.

**Bryan Jackson**

# Just a Sec!



## Society Meeting 14th August

I realise many of you will be on holiday but please try and get along to the meeting on 14th as we will be going through the law amendments, which include the rules around the new "sin bins". Please note that there is no Academy meeting this month

## New "Sin Bin" Law

The Surrey Primary League is one of the 32 Leagues throughout England who will be trialling Temporary Dismissals, more commonly known as Sin Bins. The FA have decided that this method of discipline will be used only for dissent, which makes up some 25% of all cautions. Although the idea sound simple, the actual implementation and rule governing this are quite complex. So make sure you're up to speed if officiating on Surrey Primary League.

## Referees Development Fund

We've been awarded £200 form the RA-FA Youth Referee Development Fund which we plan to put towards a new tablet or 2 in one laptop which will be used to enhance the Academy's training and mentoring programme.

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

Please take a minute to browse our website. Bryan has added a number of links including the 2017/18 Law Amendments, The RA Insurance Benefits, Referee Fitness Programme, plus the Laws of Futsal and Beach Football.

## RA-FA Hub Events

Having successfully hosted 3 Hub events last season, we have just been informed that there are no plans to run any this season. However according to Richard Glyn Jones, National Referee Manager, the FA, in conjunction with the RA will instead be organising a few development days around the country. More details to follow in due course.

**Mac**

Dear All

### Ray Mallory , 50 Year Award

Croydon Referees Society are holding a special evening on 5th October 2017, at Croydon Bowling Club, Nottingham Road, South Croydon, to recognise the great achievement of 50 Years Membership of the RA for our very own Ray Mallory. Meeting starts around 19:30 and a buffet will be provided.

We would therefore like to extend an invitation to join us and help Ray celebrate this magnificent milestone.

Please can you let me know if you will be there so we can ensure the Club has sufficient bar staff on the evening to cope with demand. Look forward to hearing from you and hopefully seeing you on the evening.

Yours

**Les Johnstone**

Hon Chairman

## Woking Society Meeting May 8th 2017

25 Members met at Loop Rd on 8th May for the last meeting of the season. Apologies had been received from Brian Reader, Bill Collis, Tom and Mike Ellsmore.

Chairman Pat opened the meeting and spoke of another successful year for the Society. The 3 RA FA Hub events we held during the year were very successful and it is hoped to repeat this next season. The training team had been particularly busy and had been instrumental in boosting our membership to 133 by the end of the season.

Pat awarded the Young Referee of the Year Shield to Callum Peter. Not only had Callum gained his level 5 he was appointed A/R in the Saturday Premier County Cup Final and also the Referee in the Final of the Surrey Intermediate Reserves League Cup.

He then presented the Chairman's Cup to Barry Rowland for his sterling work both as Chairman and his support on the Committee despite a difficult year at home and the fact he travels from South London to our meetings each month.

Pat then congratulated those members who have gained promotion and awarded them each with a bottle of Bubbly.

We then watched a recording of the Sky programme which showed pundits and ex-players Jamie Carragher and Gary Neville attending a PGMOL training session. This included joining in with the physical training, refereeing a game and taking part in an "offside" exercise. This was followed up with a Q&A session with a number of the Premier League referees and assistant referees. It was interesting to hear our top officials speak of the challenges they face at the highest level and how every game they officiate is subsequently watched and their performance dissected to the nth degree in their drive to be as good as they can be. Not only was it an opportunity for the pundits to get a greater understanding of how the Officials train and the degrees they go to to try and make sure they get the decisions right, it was also as Gary said an opportunity for themselves as pundits to improve their own knowledge and consequently performance on TV.

AOB resulted in a discussion regarding a few questions in the "What would you do" column in the May Warbler. Vince Penfold queried the answer to Q7 where a player had swapped positions with the goalie, who was already on a caution, with informing the referee. He felt the answer was ambiguous because, as it stated, by law the answer was that both players should be cautioned, but it then went on to say in reality they would only be spoken to. ? Although this might be the case in a grassroots Sunday morning game, in a Supply or Contributory league and upwards it certainly wouldn't be acceptable.

Pat wished all the members a restful summer and reminded all if officiating in any summer tournaments or pre-season friendlies to make they are sanctioned by the County FA.

**I figured as good a way as any was to write a limerick for everyone on the team!!!**

Surrey Premier Cup Final – Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April, 2017:

Referee: Mike Coen  
 Assistant Referees: Jordan Crichlow  
 Callum Peter  
 Reserve Referee: Derrick Laing  
 Observer: Vic Skilton



A cup-final ref – name of Mike  
 Was told to 'go take a short hike'.  
 (That was not quite the word  
 that Mike's burning ears heard -  
 And the language he didn't much like!)

So he pulled out a card – colour red  
 But the player then quite lost his head.  
 He jumped up and down  
 like a demented clown  
 'til his manager sent him to bed!

Assistant Ref: Jordan C  
 guessed added-on time would be three.  
 So when Mike signaled eight  
 he knew it would create  
 problems nobody wanted to see!



T'other man with the flag: Callum Peter.  
 His procedures just couldn't be neater.  
 He can keep up with play  
 'cos he's so fast they say  
 he could give a head-start to a cheetah!

Reserve Referee: Derrick Laing  
 is another of our happy gang.  
 He was straight in to quench  
 angry shouts from the bench  
 that were clearly much more than just 'slang'.



The FA Observer – that's Vic -  
 heard the crowd give the ref some right stick.  
 So he cried, "Leave it out!"  
 "You've got no cause to shout."  
 "He might not be much good...but he's quick!"

10

*Thanks to Mike Coen writing in Touchlines .*



## BELGIUM JUNE 2017



Our society has built up a very strong relationship with S.O.L.E.O. (Belgium Referees Society) going back over 30 years. We visit them every two years. I am normally in Asia this time of the year and have not returned since 2005 but as a week later this time around was able to attend.

With Dave, Roy, Colin and Ladies we set off from Woking at 7.30 a.m. Friday and was on Le Shuttle at Folkestone by 10.40 a.m. Dave and Roy shared the driving the whole trip apart from nights out when I took over (only because I do not drink alcohol) By 4.30p.m. we were at our high standard hotel in Edegem just outside Antwerp. Me and Jim (wife) had a good look round the town while Dave, Roy and Colin were joined by members of S.O.L.E.O. for refreshments. They make you very welcome.

On Saturday we all travelled to Antwerp by tram. Once there we all went our separate ways, most of my time was spent in the Diamond shop area with Jim. On my next visit I will go to Antwerp Zoo it will be a lot cheaper! Roy spent half his time looking for a British newspaper as if we had been out of the country for 24 days not 24 hours. That night we all returned to Antwerp with S.O.L.E.O. for a meal at Amadeus restaurant (all the ribs you can eat for a fixed price) After the meal it was back to Edegem where we were each presented with a gift from the Belgium's, before spending the rest of the night in the bar near our hotel.

On the Sunday the Belgians held a 7 aside tournament at F.C. Broechem but as we did not have enough numbers to enter a team (a great shame) we stopped off at Lier for a coffee and look around instead. We did get there early afternoon to watch part of the tournament followed by a barbecue and a lot of alcohol (for some) Dave made a short speech and presented a memento to S.O.L.E.O. from Woking R.A. (You could hear a pin drop as everyone listened to Dave's speech) Colin then presented Woking R.A. ties to our main hosts Mark and Kevin. A lot of S.O.L.E.O. members said they would see us in the morning but as this was about 12.30 a.m. I think the term beer talk could be used.

Much to my surprise quite a few members of S.O.L.E.O. did turn up Monday morning to share breakfast with us and see us off. Even the journey home was a pleasant drive as we stopped at a Tabac village and café at Adinkerke just inside Belgium. I got some good cigars at less than half price. We caught Le Shuttle back from Calais at 3.50 p.m. and this was the only time I saw Roy worried as he had a 6 a side game to referee at 8p.m.

Over all this is the best short trip I have done in years and yes I will be going again in 2019.

**Paul F. Gorringe** Woking R.A.

### Belgium 2017

The "magnificent" seven who went were Dave Cooper, Colin Barnett, Roy Butler and his partner Linda, Paul Gorringe and his wife Jim and Sandra Evans



## The potential pitfalls of each of football's proposed changes to the Laws of the Game

Adam Hurrey , writing in The Daily Telegraph June 2017

The International Football Association Board (IFAB), the independent body that determines the laws of football, has published a strategy document that proposes a number of tweaks to the existing rulebook.

Prepared by the IFAB technical director David Elleray, a former Premier League referee, the *Play Fair!* document has three main aims:

- To improve player behaviour and increase respect
- To increase effective playing time
- To increase the game's fairness and attractiveness

None all of the proposals are certain to become part of the Laws of the Game - each change requires a two-thirds majority between the board's members of England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the block vote of FIFA - but Elleray has put forward ideas for discussion, testing or immediate implementation within the current laws.

What are IFAB's ideas for shaking up the laws of football, and what potential pitfalls are there?

### **60-minute games, with the referee stopping their watch every time the ball is out of play**

On the face of it, a rather drastic change - but there is some solid logic behind it. Studies have shown that an average top-level football match only has around an hour of "effective playing time" - that is, when the ball is in play - with the rest lost



to throw-ins, substitutions, injuries, 22-man brawls, streakers, frank exchanges of views with the referee, and so on.

Elleray suggests that games could be reduced to two halves of 30 minutes, but with the referee stopping his watch - which could be linked to the stadium clock - whenever the ball goes dead. In addition, the half-time and full-time whistle would only be blown when the ball is out of play, to avoid the occasional irritation of interrupting a promising-looking attack.

As with many tweaks to football's laws, however, this suggests that even more responsibility would fall on the already embattled referees' shoulders. Every split-second of delay between the ball going out of play and the time being paused would almost certainly be held against them by injustice-fuelled managers and fans - something officialdom could probably do without.

As the trial of Video Assistant Referees (VAR) has shown during the Confederations Cup, any attempt at tightening up the laws of the game simply comes with extra scrutiny at its decision-making.

### **'Self-passing' at free kicks and corners**

"Historically, in the ancient game of Harrow Football," former schoolmaster Elleray reminds us, "the fouled player could carry on dribbling and this was allowed in the original 1863 Laws of the Game". Another IFAB proposal to speed the game up is that players could be permitted to dribble free kicks, corner kicks and even goal kicks away - effectively passing the ball to themselves - in a similar way to that which has been successfully adopted in hockey.

Elleray's rationale is that it would encourage attacking play - and minimise the damage of so-called 'tactical fouls' that bring counter-attacks to an abrupt end - but there are some small cans of worms that could be opened. For example, when the whistle blows for a foul, should the defending team still retreat 10 yards? If not (and that would require a delay in itself), free-kicks would become a slightly farcical - but entertaining - scrap for possession, much like a contested drop-ball. This one would need some thorough discussion at the next IFAB get-together.

### **Goal kicks can be passed to defenders within the penalty area**

It's a familiar scenario now: a goalkeeper takes a short goal kick to the edge of the area, where a ball-playing centre-back has stationed themselves to receive the ball and start an attack from deep. When attacking teams grew wise to this tactic, they started pressing high at the restarts, which occasionally led to a brief moment of panic as the defender edged inside the box before touching the ball. The result? A retaken goal kick, and several more seconds shaved off our human existence.

Elleray's proposal here is simple: allow defenders to receive a goal kick within their own penalty area, while the opposition would remain outside the box until the ball is touched by the recipient.

Once again, while its logic is clear and its objective of speeding up the game is a justifiable one, the scenario would still require the goalkeeper to wait until the penalty area is clear of opposition players. If a quick goal kick is taken, what would opponents in the box be allowed to do (and when?)

### **Goalbound shots handled on the line to be penalised with a 'penalty goal'**

Again, quite a clear-cut situation: the referee adjudges a goal-bound shot has been prevented from going in by a handball. Elleray suggests that, rather than awarding a penalty, the official could simply award a penalty goal.

But this again places huge pressure on a referee's ability to judge a situation in a split-second. What if the ball was heading just wide of the post? And should football really be moving into the realm of chalking up goals when the ball simply didn't go in? The current law states that a red card and a penalty should be the punishment: that probably doesn't need fixing, even if occasional cruel anomalies like Luis Suarez denying Ghana in the 2010 World Cup quarter-final (where Asamaoh Gyan missed the resultant spot-kick) would still potentially occur.

### **No rebounds allowed from saved penalties**

Elleray has noted the frequent irritation during penalty kicks, when encroaching (by either side) goes unpunished. His solution is to make penalties a self-contained affair: if the kick is saved or missed, the play would stop and restart with a goal kick. That would mean no impatient jostling for position between a dozen players on the edge of the box.

What it would also mean is the death of that mini-rollercoaster of emotion when a missed penalty is rammed home on the rebound.

This seems like too severe a solution for a problem that isn't keeping fans, players, managers or referees awake at night.

### **Pre-match handshakes between officials and managers**

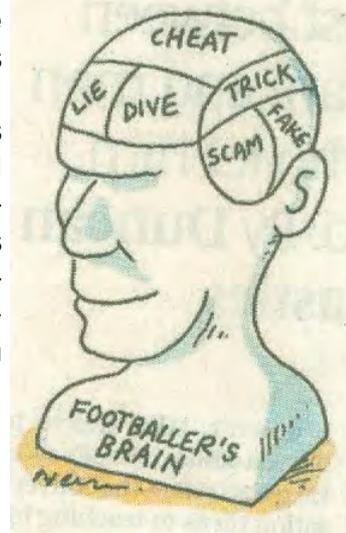
Elleray proposes that "the referee goes to the technical areas just before kick-off and the two coaches and referee shake hands together as a sign of respect."

A fine-sounding gesture in theory, but it would be unlikely to transform the perennially fractious relationship between coaching staff and officials. On the other hand, this sounds like Mike Dean's moment to really shine.

### **Points deductions for teams guilty of surrounding a referee**

Finally, Elleray proposes that teams could be hit with a fine or even a points deduction for surrounding a referee after a controversial decision, and that team captains should be the only ones allowed to approach an official. While the futile, unpleasant hounding of referees is something that needs to be addressed, IFAB would still face the problem of having to define exactly what constitutes "surrounding" a referee. Previous FA guidelines have suggested that three players are enough to constitute a "surrounding", but - as Michael Ballack once demonstrated for Chelsea - it can sometimes be a one-man job.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vq-LGJLYOaE>



## Non League Cup Finals—Wembley 2017

On the 21/5/17 myself and 15 members of the Woking RA travelled to Wembley to watch both the FA vase final and the FA trophy final. These matches were played one after the other in action-packed day. The officials for the day were Darren England (referee), Matthew Jones (assistant referee), Marc Wilson (assistant referee), Robert Jones (4<sup>th</sup> official), Paul Tierney (referee), Ian Hussain (assistant referee), Edward Smart (assistant referee) and Ben Toner (4<sup>th</sup> official).

The first match was Cleethorpes town vs South Shields for the FA Buildbase vase. In this match we were treated to both a 4-0 thriller as well as an impressive refereeing performance. The referee had to make a difficult decision in the 25<sup>th</sup> minute when a penalty was awarded to South Shields. Before this incident there had already been three penalty appeals but all were turned down by England but finally the penalty was given. This led to the match turning in South Shields favour. Just before half time South Shields doubled their lead and the game was all but won. England, Jones, Wilson and Jones all made brilliant decisions and showed an impressive range of refereeing skills. There were some arguments on the pitch between a South Shields winger and a Cleethorpes defender which led to a yellow card being given to both of the individuals. I thought that England dealt with the situation in a professional manner and that really summed up his and his assistant's job for the match.

The second match was Macclesfield town v York city officiated by Paul Tierney. This match was a much more even game between the two teams. The match ended 3-2 to York city even though it could have easily gone to extra time and penalties. The referees had to deal with a low amount of arguments but they were forced to look after a couple of injured players. York city had two extremely strong strikers which made the job for the referee quite hard as these players were fouled many times by the opposition but the referee didn't give any of these as fouls. This made the referee seem as if he was doing a poor job, but due to the large size of the players it also looked quite unrealistic how a large, stocky man could be pushed over by quite a small defender. Overall the match was quite even and I thought that the officials did a good job at controlling and officiating the game.

The experience was one I won't forget for a long time and I would just like to thank Mac for organising the trip and also driving us to and from the stadium, I think that I can say for all the people who went that it was a brilliant experience.

### ***Jonathan Huntley.***



*Woking RA members at Wembley*

## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP SEASON 2017 - 18

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

	COST	AMOUNT
FULL MEMBER - OVER 18 – <b>Printed Warbler</b> (INCLUDES Paper copy of Society Magazine, RA & COUNTY RA SUBSCRIPTION + PA INSURANCE) Expires 31/3/2018 – National RA membership until 30/9/2018	£36.00	
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FULL MEMBER – UNDER 18 – <b>Electronic Warbler</b> (INCLUDES pdf copy of Society Magazine sent by email, RA & COUNTY RA SUBSCRIPTION + PA INSURANCE) Expires 31/3/2018 – National RA membership until 30/9/2018	£14.00	
AFFILIATE MEMBER (i.e. Full Member of another Referees Society) Expires 31/3/2018	£20.00	
FRIEND OF WOKING SOCIETY Expires 31/3/2018	£20.00	
OPTIONAL RA PHYSIOTHERAPY INSURANCE If required please contact Bryan Jackson		
DONATION £1,£2,£3,£4,£5,£10 or Whatever		
	<b>TOTAL</b>	

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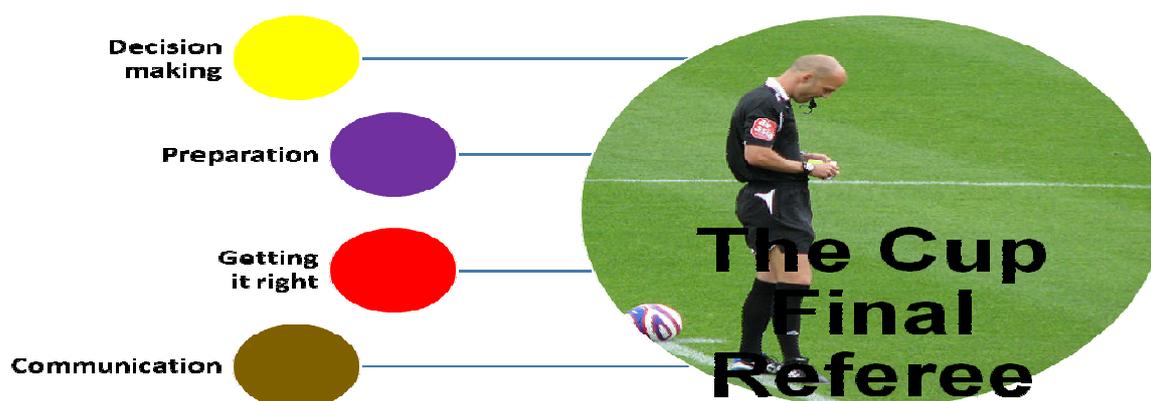
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**I AGREE TO ABIDE BY THE RULES OF THE SOCIETY AND AGREE FOR MY DETAILS TO BE SHARED WITH THE REFEREES ASSOCIATION**

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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**



### Getting it right on the big day

The Referees Association offered to their membership free tickets at Wembley Stadium for the Non-League Cup Finals Day on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2017. The matches were the FA Vase and the FA Trophy Final. This really was a wonderful gift from the RA and the opportunity to witness and hopefully enjoy not one but two cup finals at Wembley Stadium all for free! We arrived around 11:30 for the 12:15 kick off match between South Shields and Cleethorpes Town and we pleasantly surprised by a friendly and lively crowd wearing the respective team colours.

On entering the section where our seats were it was great to see so many familiar faces all around. Surrounded by referees and lots of them. Quite a number had taken up the marvellous offer from the R.A. A free ticket with good weather as a bonus. There could be only one topic and that was obviously football with the emphasis on the cup final officials. What more could we ask for?

Then I suddenly had a thought.....what would happen whilst the match officials were warming up if one of them suddenly pulled a muscle and got injured. There would be an announcement on the P.A system with a loud voice announcing ***“Is there a referee in the stadium who can be a replacement 4<sup>th</sup> official?”*** Can you imagine the reaction as everyone of us started running towards the pitch all shouting ***“I can do it.....Pick me!”***

Alas the officials did their warm up exercises with no injuries. And to think I did not even have my kit with me anyhow.

I went prepared with pen and notebook, having decided to record every decision that the referee was to make for the entirety of the match.

I asked myself –

- ◆ **How many decisions does a referee award during a match**
- ◆ **Does the match official referee a cup final any differently to any other fixture**
- ◆ **Does an early yellow card help with the match control**
- ◆ **Is it better not to show any early yellow cards to avoid a possible red card later**

The players in the professional game are monitored for their every moment and every touch of the ball. Players are analysed and recorded for -

- Tackles – Amount and success rate
- Dribbles and Runs
- Goals scored & Shots on/off target
- Crosses – Successful/Unsuccessful
- Offside
- Possession
- Pass rate
- Ariel challenges
- Interceptions
- Distance covered
- Touches
- Area of the pitch covered
- Passes completed
- Assists

There are other categories not covered and these do not even include the goal keepers. The top referees are recorded for the number of free kicks and the red and yellow cards that they award during the season. But this is only in the professional game and at the top levels. No one keeps a record for the referee who is all alone in a local park on a Sunday morning match.

If I kept a record of my decisions awarded during a match would it be any different from the referee today? Would I referee a league match any differently from a cup final? Would I give different instructions to my assistants for the match?

During the season I have recorded the decisions awarded by referees at the following fixtures -

- ◆ Promotion candidate going from level 6 to level 5 whom I was observing
- ◆ Premier match – Tottenham versus Chelsea
- ◆ League Two – Barnet versus Plymouth Argyle

Would there be fewer fouls committed in the Premier fixture than the other two due to the skill factor? Would the park game produce more cards due to dissent? Would I witness more fouls being committed? Amazingly the final figures were almost the same for all three matches.

Statistics from Premier league matches show more yellow cards are produced in the second half than the first. This is not surprising as the tempo normally increases in the second half with the score being a major factor. Are referees more lenient in the first half than the second half?

At grass roots levels do referees talk to players rather than issue a yellow card in the first half worried that the next card shown to the same player will be red. Maybe this is the same in the professional game?

These were the decisions from today's match -



<b>Cup Final Analysis</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> half</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> half</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Goals</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Corners</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Goal kicks</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Advantage</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Cautions</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Drop ball</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Fouls</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Substitutions</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Offside</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Retaken free kick</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Throw In</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>Start/End both halves</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>105</b>

So there you have it! Every decision recorded. The referee would have seen contact between two opposing players and decided the challenge was fair. So no free kick was awarded but a decision was still having to be made by the referee. So maybe there were another say 15 to 20 fair challenges that were not shown in the figures above?

With the score only 1-0 at half time I expected the tempo of the match to increase as Cleethorpes went in search of the equaliser.

I expected more free kicks but there were considerably fewer. I have never seen so many players suffering with cramp towards the end of the match. The occasion of a cup final and the players' fitness played a big part in the tempo and the warm, humid weather was also a factor.

Late in the second half as a player received treatment on the pitch the referee allowed a water break. Not something we normally see at this level but totally acceptable due to the heat.

There was an occasion when there were two balls on the pitch but both in other halves. The ball boy decided to retrieve the ball and was thanked by the assistant.

The referee overall had a good match giving the right decisions from credible positions. Good whistle clear and loud whistle and precise signals. A good empathy for the match demonstrated by communicating with players. Arms held wide to show the two advantages played. To my knowledge only on the first occasion was the offender spoken to. The referee did miss players having their shirts pulled during aerial challenges on three occasions near the half way line. Had the referee adjusted his position by another three metres he would have had a better view and would have observed the offences.

My only criticism would be in the second half when:

Two players were both jostling and holding one another and ended up both on the floor. The referee not only spoke to both the players but also called both the captains over. The players had been warned and the captains were aware. In fact the whole stadium was aware. Should the two players have been cautioned.....in my opinion, yes. But the referee decided not to.

A few minutes later and the same two players repeated their actions. The referee ran over to the players concerned. But surprisingly no cards were produced.

There were two cautions during the match and both for reckless challenges. The referee was correct on both occasions but it was interesting to observe on the first caution when the referee had already taken the yellow card from his pocket before the player had walked over to the referee.

The referee did have a good performance as did the assistants and I too had a very enjoyable time too. Thank you R.A.

Treat every match as a cup final and remember when you referee your next match you will be making over one hundred decisions.  
Enjoy!

***Keith Hiller***

**Match official, FA Licensed Tutor and Observer**

## One Liners



- ◆ Energizer Rabbit arrested— charged with Battery.
- ◆ Atheism is a non-Prophet organization.
- ◆ When everything is coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.
- ◆ I wondered why the cricket ball was getting bigger. Then it hit me.
- ◆ If you jumped off the bridge in Paris you'd be in Seine.

### **FAKE NEWS ?**

It has been rumoured, possibly inaccurately, that Southern Railway may be intending to sponsor a football league somewhere within the area covered by their railway operations. However, the referees' trade union has expressed concern that this could lead to SR seeking to impose one-man operation at the league's matches, i.e. with neither neutral nor club assistants. Further concern has been expressed by club officials, supporters and spectators wondering how many matches would kick off on schedule or at all.

Anon. (*via Brian Reader*)

## MURPHY'S MEANDERINGS

It was the end of my first season as a referee. The two top teams in the league were level on points but one had a far superior goal average with one game to play against a team in the lower half of the table. To lose the league they would have to be beaten by more than eight goals. As it was already late April neither team wanted to play the game and they hoped it would be cancelled by the league. However, the league had not only insisted it be played but, due to its importance, neutral linesmen be appointed as well, which is where I came in, I was one of the linesmen. The game was scheduled to be played on the first Saturday in May at Peckham Rye, which was close to me, but there were problems getting a council pitch in May and eventually it was played on Mitcham Common, some considerable distance away from me, on the third Saturday in May. I was the only linesman as the other linesman called off sick the night before the game and they couldn't get a replacement.

It was a very warm day and the pitch was hard, badly worn and dusty, with the lines faded where the pitch had not been remarked by the Council. From the beginning it was clear that neither side wanted to be there. However, the league leaders accepted the situation and got on with it. Their opponents had a different view. They knew they were likely to be well beaten, as they had been in the first match, and they weren't interested in playing. They never put in much effort and never really competed. Once they began to concede goals the behaviour of some of their player's deteriorated and they started to act silly and play the fool. As the game went on others joined in and to several players everything was a big joke. The referee did his best to manage the situation and keep the game moving but it was very difficult as the players just weren't interested.

I was running the league leader's forwards which was good for me as they were hardly ever out of their opponent's half and I was continually involved. However, their goalkeeper was the most bored player on the pitch having had virtually nothing to do all game. Midway through the second half he was standing in his goal by the post talking to two friends smoking a cigarette which one of his friends had given him. He was so engrossed in his discussion he wasn't paying attention to the game and was surprised to see the ball bouncing towards his penalty area. He started to run to meet it and then realised he had a cigarette in his hand which he quickly threw to the side of the penalty area before continuing on towards the ball. Whether he saw it or not I don't know but the referee just allowed the game to continue. Five minutes later he blew for time. Nobody questioned the short half, nobody cared. Everybody was just pleased the game had been played and was over.

Officials were paid a flat fee and the referee was paid the standard fee of twelve shillings and sixpence. (67.5p). However, in the league rules no provision had been made for official linesman in this situation and I was paid a fee of five shillings (25p) on the referee's Secretary's instructions.

***Tony Murphy***

# Mac's Musings

So the powers that be think it's a good idea to have "sin bins" but only at grass-roots level! One really has to ask why it's a good idea to put more pressure onto a single referee, who will have no Assistant's or 4th Official who can "time" the incumbents of the sin bin. A colleague reckoned he'd have to have 5 watches just in case, although some wag suggested if 5 players were in the sin bin perhaps the game could be abandoned as there would then be less than 7 players left—but apparently not.?? No doubt all will be revealed at our meeting on 14th. Although I can see the benefit of hopefully reducing the amount of dissent, which apparently accounts for some 25% of all cautions, it's the managing that could become a problem. I was watching a young referee a few months back and he was using his smart phone as a watch, probably doing a bit on facebook or twitter while he was at it.

The answer maybe to write down the time when sending a player to the sin bin. There is a requirement I believe to still take the players name and report the offender to County FA, but no fine will be imposed. So whilst the pencil and record pad are out the time can be noted against the name.

I often ref 6 a side soccer which has a 2 minute sin bin for all cautionable offences. I use one watch for time and the other set as a stopwatch for sin bins. Which is fine until I send a second player off and then I just make a mental note on the countdown watch. Not ideal, but then I never stop the clock, even for injuries as there is only a finite time to complete all the games—after which the lights all go off, being as they are usually played in the evenings.

Now—what about those mouthy managers? Can we send them somewhere? I believe Norfolk is quite nice.

**Mac**

## Dates for your Diary 2017/18

14th August	Society Meeting	Law Amendments
4th September	Society Meeting	Callum Peter & Shawn Barclay
2nd October	Society Meeting	Tim Lawrence, Surrey RDO
6th November	Society Meeting	Paul Field, Chairman RA
11th December	Society Christmas Dinner	
8th January	Society Meeting	TBA
5th February	Society Meeting	TBA
5th March	Society Meeting	AGM
9th April	Society Meeting	TBA
14th May	Society Meeting	TBA

## Sin Bins - Coming to a League Near You ?

Dear Colleagues,

Following the decision of IFAB to permit National Associations the ability to implement Temporary Dismissals (more commonly known as "Sin Bins") at Grassroots level of the game, The Football Association has agreed to trial the system in selected leagues for the duration of the 2017/18 season.

This will be implemented for selected leagues at Step 7 of the National League System and below including a mixture of Saturday; Sunday male and female adult Leagues and Youth Leagues.

**The use of Temporary Dismissals will be restricted for cautions of dissent only.** As the intention of the temporary dismissal is to have an immediate impact on the behaviour of players at the time of the game it is anticipated that this step will reduce the level of dissent experienced by referees.

Dissent accounts for 24% of all cautions at the Grassroots level of the game. As mentioned, the intention is to change the behaviour and impose an immediate sanction on the player; so whilst referees will still be required to report the incident in order for the RESPECT sanctioning to continue and to record cautions for continual misconduct purposes; the caution administered will not attract the normal £10 administration fee as cautions for dissent currently do. This puts the focus on changing behaviour.

The system imposes an immediate sanction on the player for a caution for dissent who will then undertake a period of a 10 minute temporary dismissals (period amended for youth games accordingly).

The full operation of the system will be explained in a full training session to the nominated Leagues, Clubs and Referees. The training will be in the form of online WebEx sessions and potentially attendance at League meetings.

We are now inviting nominations from Leagues at Step 7 and below. In order to be accepted the following criteria must be met:

- ◆ Leagues will be using the Whole Game System for their administration
- ◆ Clubs will be using WGS for the management of their Discipline process by the start of the new season. (This is necessary in order to monitor the process).

If you wish your League to be nominated, please email both myself and Rob Smith at [rob.smith@thefa.com](mailto:rob.smith@thefa.com). Please email by close of play Friday 20th May.

Yours sincerely

**Mark Ives** Head of Judicial Services  
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*I spotted this in the Touchlines*

## What should we say at a dropped ball - If anything?

I don't know how many people have seen the video from a Major Soccer League game in America, featuring a restart by a dropped ball, so I will give a rough outline of what happened. The dropped ball was following a stoppage near the centre line. The referee as he prepared to drop the ball, seemed to tell a player by his actions, to kick the ball down field to the opposing goalkeeper. Instead the player kicked the ball sideways over the nearby touch line. The referee persevered and having retrieved the ball, gave the same instructions to another player. However, he followed his team mate's example and kicked the ball over the touch line. The referee then produced a yellow card and cautioned the second player.

But on what grounds? was the question I posed in my mini quiz to members at my local RA. The Law is quite clear and says 'The referee cannot decide who may contest a dropped ball or its outcome'. So was this a case of custom and practice over ruling the Law? How often do you see a contested dropped ball these days? The referee is much more likely to drop the ball at the feet of a single player with a finger pointed towards the opponents end.

Personally, I always say to players when a dropped ball is required, 'do you want to contest it? I remember asking this when refereeing a women's match and they looked at me as if I was speaking a foreign language. 'What do you mean contest it?' After I explained, both teams readily took up the option, as I might say have many other players in other games. I don't tell them, I just point out the option.

When the law was changed in 2012 to decree that a goal could not be scored direct from a dropped ball, I asked Neale Barry, the FA's representative on the on the technical committee of the International FA Board, if this was a hint that in future the Board would like to see all dropped balls be left to one player to kick it into the opponents half. His answer was to the contrary, they would prefer to see them contested. I also asked incidentally, what was meant by 'direct' in the context of a dropped ball. You will notice that the wording has since changed.

A fellow FA Tutor at the meeting, who had earlier been conducting a session on communication, said that in his opinion I was wrong to advise players of this option even though they may not be aware that it was open to them, Referees, he felt, should say nothing to players at a dropped ball situation.

What do you think? What do you say at a dropped ball – if anything?

***Dick Sawdon Smith***

*Spotted in The Chiltern Referee*

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## Adie with a Cherry on Top

So we had beautiful warm weather throughout June and early July, as soon as the school holidays commence the climate decides to go wet – typical!!

Many of you have been taking advantage of the early pre-season games, I haven't heard any bad reports so I guess all is going well. *Please* send me your availability if you have not already done so as we would like to appoint the first 3 weeks of the season in one hit on both the SCILW and the G&WAFL.



A new system is in place on the SCILW this season. The referee keeps the Match Sheet for one month and sends in, either by e-mail or post, a Match Report similar to the G&WAFL. This is intended to keep our printing and postage costs down and to enable us to channel the finances into local football. If you cannot download the Match Report, let me know and I will post you 3 copies it is then up to you to supply your own by photocopy/scan and print or get your kids to do it!!

So what has been happening in the Freeman household over the summer break. Well, Diane and I went down to Boscombe for a few days and had a great time walking over Hengistbury Head and exploring that neck of the woods. Diane's Mother has not been well so we drove down to deepest Kent and on the way back the flywheel decided to go stupid on me. Over a grand to have it fixed (including a new clutch) but needs be when the Devil drives I guess! I would recommend the garage that helped us out so quickly. They are based in Guildford and called BEST Service Centre – great guys!

Another outlay was my chimney pots on the front roof of the property. These have had a worrying list for a while and I had to get something done. One so called builder came around and wanted over 3 grand for the job! I was put onto another by a friend who came around and said he would not use scaffolding but would use a cherry-picker. The result was he removed one pot, sealed that orifice and re-aligned the other. He also took off 4 courses of bricks and re-cemented them in and the final bill for the lot was under £800. I thought it was good price so he has now quoted to install a new bathroom for me.

Off on my hols in a couple of days so enjoy the next few weeks before we start the 2017/18 season.

**Adie**



## **The Adventures of Willy 'The Whistler' Woodwork**

### **'Count to Eleven'**

*Match: Avenue Rovers v Orange Oracles*  
*Venue: Local park – Pitch 165*  
*League: Division Three – Sunday Park League (South)*

It must take all of three seconds to count to ten or for us referees to count to eleven. Not a difficult thing to do and something I should have done prior to this match before we kicked off. There was no excuse not to do it but because I had spotted the observer standing by the trees it made me a little apprehensive and to be honest I just simply forgot! Always make sure that you count all of the players from both sides just before the kick off and the second half or the following could happen to you!

Two such incidents occurred with the first being very early in the match. Rovers scored a goal and as I walked back to the centre spot the Rovers captain said "Hey ref, what a good team we must be. We've just taken the lead and Oracles are playing with twelve players". 'Oh dear' I thought to myself. I counted all the players on the pitch and unfortunately the Rovers captain was correct. I approached the Oracles captain and told him of his error. He was very apologetic and then added "It is clearly against the rules to play with twelve players and since this is only the second minute of the match I appreciate you now have no other option other than to abandon this match and start again". Was he right?

This made me think. The captain seemed to sure and confident that I felt I had to agree with him. This seemed to put me in a bit of a dilemma. The laws clearly state a side can consist of up to eleven players but it was the team with eleven players who had scored the goal and I felt it would have been wrong to punish them as they had done nothing wrong in law. I also knew that I had to caution the 'twelfth' player for entering the field of play without my permission. The laws of the game were in the glove compartment of my car but it would take too long to go back to the car and check. I knew I had to make a decision and quickly. I informed the captain that of course he was correct and that the match would be restarted. I turned around and noticed the observer busy scribbling notes on his notepad and hoping that my decision was the correct one. Well, what would you do?

The match restarted with Rovers far from happy and the tempo of the 'new' match became very frantic with the play moving from end to end. It certainly kept me on my toes literally. I knew how important it was to always be in the best position to give the right decision.

Shortly afterwards Oracles signalled to make a substitution. I was in the goal area at the time and thought the club assistant would deal with it. The club assistant had helped me before at a previous match and was very honest and I even saw him make a note of the substitutes name as he checked the players' boots.

Unfortunately what my assistant and I both failed to notice was Oracles taking one player off but two players entering the field of play. Possibly another 'innocent' mistake by the Oracles captain or was he 'trying my patience' again. This of course meant that the Oracles once again playing with twelve players.

Maybe what happened next was ironic but Oracles scored a goal. The Rovers captain duly pointed out once again how many players they had on the pitch. Naturally the Oracles captain was extremely apologetic and immediately offered to take one of his players off after I had of course cautioned the 'twelve player'. I disallowed the goal and restarted with an indirect free kick to the Rovers instead. The Oracles captain queried my decision "Last time you restated the match. Surely the same will happen this time? I decided the captain was not showing dissent but I decided to caution the captain for unsporting behaviour. After all, the captain should be responsible for his own teams' substitutions and this captain had not done a good job thus far. Again I took the opportunity to count all the players on the pitch before we restarted.

At this stage it may appear that it was only Orange Oracles that were attempting to cause me problems. Unfortunately Avenue Rovers were just as guilty. Barely a moment passed and Rovers scored a goal but I did not remember seeing the player who had just scored before. Apparently despite their claims of innocence, Rovers had made a substitution and not informed me. They insisted the club linesman had been notified and when I asked him he confirmed that he had in fact been notified of the substitution. Of course he would say that.....he was the club linesman from their side and one of the named substitutes! Now was the time to stay calm, cool and collective but what should I do?

Firstly without being paranoid I counted all the players on the pitch yet again! Both sides had eleven players each on the pitch and the goal had been a perfectly good goal. I decided to award the goal but I did caution the 'sub' for entering the field of play without my permission. The law clearly states the referee must be informed of substitutions so I felt it was irrelevant that only the club linesman had been informed. Again the observer was busy making notes. Obviously noting how well that I had dealt with all these situations. What a good game I was having.

Later on in the game when the remaining substitutions were made I ensured the procedure was carried out thoroughly. I checked that all players coming on entered on the half way line and that I checked their boots, made sure they were wearing shin guards, checked that the bicycle shorts were the same colour as their shorts and also made double sure they were not wearing any jewellery. In addition I checked that all the players coming off also left on the half way line. That would surely impress the observer. Anyhow what was he still writing? Surely the observer knew how to spell the word 'excellent'?

So now you know the importance of counting to eleven. Always count the number of players before the kick off and prior to the second half commencing. Also ensure the substitution procedure is carried out correctly. There are not many referees who know the laws as well as me! Surely you agree with all my decisions to date?

Keep on whistling.

**Willy Woodwork**

Willy 'The Whistler' Woodwork

So how would you have coped if you realized that one of the teams had twelve players? What action would you have taken?

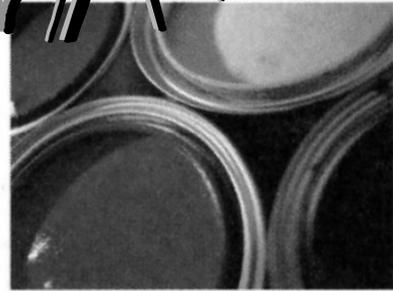




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### What Would You Do? - Answers to May Issue

**Q1** On a bitterly cold day, a striker wears two official shirts at once - his original shirt and an identical replacement. But in the second half he overheats, and so throws one to a young fan during a stoppage. He is already on a yellow. What would you do?

**A1.** Nothing. There is no offence and hence no reason to penalise this player.

**Q2.** In the closing moments of a tense end-of-season league game, the home team is clinging onto the 1-0 lead which will see them safe from relegation. Their goal seems to have a charmed life and the keeper is having the game of his career. In the very last minute their luck seems to have run out as a long-range chip finally beats everyone and floats towards the goal. Just as it is about to cross the line, a defender appears from nowhere and just gets his toe to it, but despite his best effort he can only deflect the ball onto the crossbar and into the net. Before you can signal for the goal, you realise that the 'defender' is, in fact, a supporter in full kit who has run from behind the goal. What would you do?

**A2.** Law 3 states: if a team official, substitute etc enters the FoP the referee must only stop play if there is interference with play. It is also stated: if a ball is going into the goal and the interference does not prevent a defending player playing the ball, the goal is awarded if the ball enters the goal (even if contact was made with the ball) unless the ball enters the opponents' goal. So in this case, despite the outside agent clearly interfering with play the ball was already going into the goal and there were no other defending players prevented from playing, so award the goal.

**Q3.** A team is playing in red/white stripes. The short sleeves of the shirts are also equally divided into red and white. Several players are wearing red undershirts with long red sleeves. A substitute is about to come on wearing an undershirt with long white sleeves. When you tell him to remove it, he points out that undershirts can be the same colour as the main sleeve colour, so his team can therefore wear either red or white. What would you do?

**A3.** The player is correct. Law 4 states that his team's undershirts must be the same colour as the main colour of the shirt sleeve (note sleeve) so either red or white would be acceptable. However, it also states that players of the same team must wear the same colour, so all undershirts would need to be either red or white.

**Q4.** You are refereeing a local league match when a goalkeeper, seeing that all his up-field players are tightly marked, elects to pass the ball sideways to a defender standing just outside the penalty area, close to the goal line. However, he scuffs the ball, which rolls over the goal line and into touch before it actually leaves the penalty area. What would you do?

**A4.** Retake the goal kick. Play has not restarted and the ball has not come into play

**Q5.** A keeper handles the ball outside the penalty area - but you play advantage allowing a nearby striker to knock the ball into the empty net. But as his shot rolls goalwards, another attacking player, in an offside position nips in and applies the finishing touch. What would you do?

**A5.** You can't award a goal - he has knocked it in from an offside position, so his side has failed to take advantage you correctly played So take the game back to the keeper's offence and caution him for his act of unsporting behaviour. Restart with a direct free kick to the attacking team.

**Q6.** The last player to take his turn in an epic penalty shoot-out loses his nerve. He says he is afraid he'll blow his chance to equalise, and refuses to take his kick. What would you do?

**A6.** Speak to the captain and explain that if the player refuses to participate you will abandon the game, and let him know that if the game is called off in those circumstances the authorities would kick them out of the tie.

*(Ed. These questions were taken from several sources, including "You Are The Ref" by Keith Hackett and Paul Trevillion, and from the 2015 RA Quiz final by Colin Morris, and Mike Coen in Touchline*

## What Would You Do?

### Question 1.

A blue defender tries to block a goal-bound shot and appears to have a seizure, flinging an arm out deflecting the ball wide before collapsing. You call the physio, but what else would you do - send the player off and award a penalty?

### Question 2.

With the home team winning 4-0 and dominating play in the second half, the home captain is seriously injured in a challenge for the ball. An ambulance is called to remove the player. The home team say they are too traumatised to carry on, What would you do?

### Question 3.

On a slippery and muddy surface a defender launches into a sliding tackle, fouling the attacker by the corner of the penalty area. Initial contact is made outside the area, but then the foul continues inside the area. Both players end up outside the penalty area. What would you do?

### Question 4.

During the half time interval you are made aware that a group of substitutes who have been warming up on the pitch are fighting each other. When you make it outside the changing rooms you find one of them on the ground with a head wound. A TV producer says it has all been caught on camera. What would you do?

### Question 5.

A blue defender slips, gifting a red striker an easy scoring chance. But as the red striker shoots the blue defender puts his hand between the boot and the ball. The striker kicks the hand onto the ball and the shot flies wide. As the defender screams in agony, both sides protest. What would you do?

### Question 6.

You have stopped play to assess a head injury which has turned out not to require the attention of the physio. With the restart being a dropped ball, the 'injured' player tells you that he'll kick it back to the opponents' keeper. He duly does so but the ball catches the wind and sails over the keeper and into the net. There are angry shouts but the player's own reaction makes it clear that there had been no intent and he immediately offers to score an own-goal to even things up. What would you do?

### Question 7.

On a windy Sunday morning, you are refereeing a local league lower division game. A Blue defender is stretching to reach a long punt by a Red player with other red attackers running toward him. His team mates, standing some 10 yards behind him, just inside his own penalty area and with no other players near him, shouts, "Leave it". The first defender duly ducks under the ball. Several Red players shout that he can't say "Leave it" but has to give a name. What would you do?

*(Ed. These questions were based on others taken from "In the referee's opinion" in Touchlines - Sutton RS; from The Informer" - Eccles RS, and from "You Are The Ref" by Keith Hackett and Paul Trevillion).*

**Courtesy of The Chiltern Referee**

# WARBLER REFERENCE GUIDE

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Southern Youth League Assistant Referees' Secretary	Nick Clark
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Surrey Primary League Referees Secretary	Melissa Brundish referees@surreyprimaryleague.com
Middlesex County FA Www.middlesexFA.com	39/41 Roxborough Rd Harrow, Middlesex, HA1 1NS 0208 424 8524
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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