

# THE WARBLER

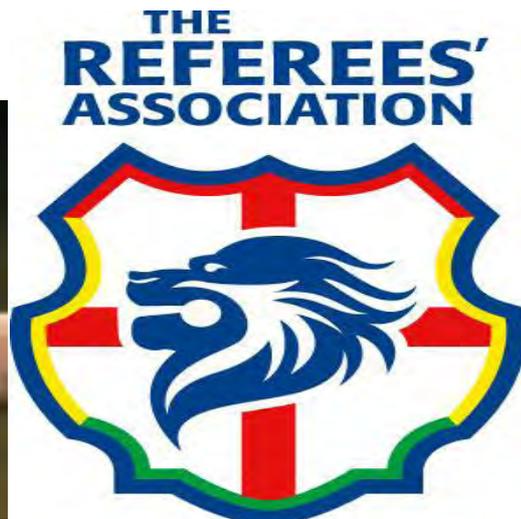
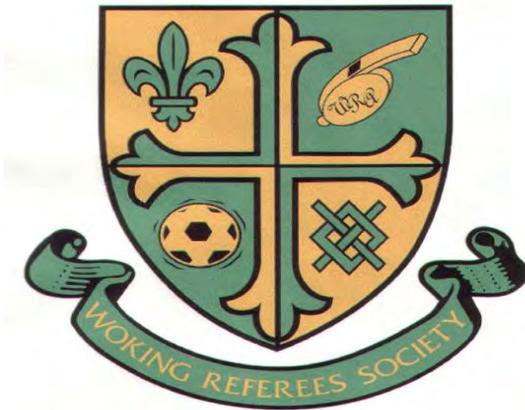
Monthly Magazine of the Woking Referees' Society

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Season 2015/16 December Edition

# WOKING REFEREES ' SOCIETY

## FOUNDED 1927

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**The next meeting of the  
Woking Referees' Society  
will be the Christmas Dinner and Raffle on  
Monday 7th December**

**Hoe Bridge Golf Centre  
Old Woking Road  
Old Woking  
Surrey GU22 8JH**

**AGENDA**

- ◆ **7.30 Meet at Bar.**
- ◆ **8.00 Chairman's Welcome**
- ◆ **Christmas Dinner**
- ◆ **Christmas Raffle**
- ◆ **Back to the Bar 'till home time (or closing time?)**

**THE  
REFEREES'  
ASSOCIATION**



**Next Month's Meeting  
Monday 4th January**

**The deadline for the January Warbler is  
Friday 18th December 2015**

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

# Letter from the President

## Barry Rowland

It is with regret that I have to inform you that Barry Rowland has stepped down as Chairman of Woking Society of Referees.

Barry has lead the ship for the past 2.5 years, in which time the society has continued to be a strong, vibrant and in truth the envy of many other societies locally. Some of you may know but many won't, that Barry has continued to support Woking Society through what has been a very difficult time for him personally. Which makes his contribution over the past 30 months even more incredible.

It should never be underestimated the level of time and commitment that goes with this job, Barry travels a great distance to come to Woking, never missing a committee meeting or Society meeting.

Barry has never left us wanting and has proved to be a great leader. I know you will join me in thanking Barry for all he has done for Woking Society and we all look forward to seeing Barry at many more meetings.

I am delighted to say Barry has agreed to stay on the committee where his input will be invaluable.

Please note Colin Barnet will be the Chairman until the AGM in March when a new Chairman will be voted in.

Thank you again to Barry for everything and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the Christmas meal

Merry Christmas to all,

**Vince**



### Christmas Dinner and Raffle

As usual we will be holding our Christmas Raffle next Monday. If anyone would like to donate a prize it would be most welcome

## Accounts December 2015

<b>2015/16 Membership</b>	<b>General</b>	<b>£2,814.62</b>
57 Full Members	<b>Supplies</b>	<b>£204.00</b>
7 Friends	<b>Belgium</b>	<b>£0.00</b>
1 Affiliated Member	<b>Training Fund</b>	<b>£333.00</b>
	<b>Youth Fund</b>	<b>£113.50</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£3,465.12</b>

## Mac's Musings

As well as being a member of the Football Refereeing fraternity, I'm also a member of Woking U3A (University of the 3rd Age). For those of you of more tender years who may not be aware, this is a self funded and self managed organisation for ostensibly the over 55s who are no longer in full time employment, who may want to learn a new skill or even improve an existing one. The classes and activities are led and taught by the members of which there are over 1500 in Woking and include over 100 different groups ranging from Art to Yoga. I belong to the Genealogy Society, Ukulele Group and Theatre. My wife goes off to People Politics and Society, Computer Forum and Travel Experience. It really does cover the most amazing and far ranging subjects. The point I'm getting to is that the whole of the 23 U3As in Surrey and there are over 900 in the UK are all run by volunteers.

This is the same of course for grassroots and youth football, which without volunteers willing to give up their time, would not exist. From League Officials to the Mums and Dads of the under 8s, it's only their support and enthusiasm that makes it happen. I made the mistake of trying to walk our dog at Goldsworth Park the other Saturday morning and struggled to find a parking space. The whole of the Park, and there are at least 5 full size football pitches plus the 2 hockey pitches, was heaving with hoards of kids and accompanying parents playing football and hockey. And this was just coaching and practice as most play their games on a Sunday. Of course we see each week the clubs where only one parent seems to be doing all the work from managing a team, coaching, putting up the goals and nets, to running the line and providing a taxi service. I've had the fortune to referee at a club (U17s team) this season where they have a manager who does the admin, two coaches and at least three Dads who offer their services to run the line. Two have even attended a "Running the Line" course. Plus another who hands me my fee each week.

Now the reason I've officiated at this particular club on quite few occasions this season is possibly the flip side of willing volunteers. What do you do when said volunteer doesn't actually do a very good job? We've all seen (and heard ) the U12s manager who thinks he's a Jose Mourinho and it's perfectly ok to yell at the kids and referee and opposing linesman. Yet is anyone else prepared to take over? And if so how would you "sack" him? He is after all a "volunteer" The same could be said for League Officials. The Fixtures and Referees secretaries possibly have one of the most onerous jobs, particularly in Youth Leagues where there could be over 200 games a week. The Surrey Primary League seems to be struggling with regards to the Refs Sec job, for although someone has apparently taken on the mantle, there has been little or no communication from him, despite e-mails from myself and other referees I've spoken to.

The "Volunteer" also applies of course to the Referees Associations. With the number of members diminishing across the country at an alarming rate, Societies are folding often because there is no one willing to take on the responsibilities of chairman, secretary, etc. Fortunately at Woking we have an enthusiastic and "committed" Committee which has resulted in the largest membership in Surrey, even though we only have 57 members. (6 or 7 years ago we nearer 100.) (See table overleaf) .

Christmas Dinner next week. (Yum) - another example of members of your committee working for you—thanks Martin. Merry Christmas to you all **Mac**

## Society Meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2015

The November meeting started at 7.30 with the academy pre meeting where the discussion was how to deal with dissent.

The main meeting started at 8pm with 19 members and our guest speaker who was introduced by Colin Barnett. This month we had Jane Spong from Woking FC in the Community who opened our eyes to the work that they do. Jane told us that Cardinals in the Community are a self-funding program that help with the development from u9 to u16 with their football coaching. Further on from that 16 to 18 year olds are able to combine their football with studying either A levels or B Tec qualifications.

They have 65 boys playing in the Ryman youth league and they also offer 3<sup>rd</sup> year apprenticeships and are also looking to offer a new coaching apprenticeships.

They currently have 6 full time and 2 part time employees who deliver 100 hours of coaching per week.

Jane then went on to explain that they are also responsible for bringing walking football to Woking for the older players as a way of keeping fit.

Mental Health Football is also a part that they are involved in where they help people to cook healthily, getting back to work and giving them a purpose and a group with whom they can all socialise. They have also organised tournaments, with teams such as Everton participating, who said they were the best and most enjoyable tournaments they had taken part in.

All of their projects are affiliated to Surrey FA and they have been able to participate with a training day at Merrist Wood with the England duo of Roy Hodgson and Ray Lewington.

We have 6 members who regularly officiate in the matches and Pat was asked to give his insight into the games. He told us how much he enjoys them and that it helps with his normal games in the way he deals with the players because of the way he interacts within the mental health matches.

Colin thanked Jane for a fascinating talk and presented her with our customary bottles of wine

Pat then went on to remind members that the next society meeting was the Christmas meal.

Vince told us that they had another referee course in November with 24 people on it, and that Gareth was now a level 1 tutor and they were waiting for Pat to be signed off as a level 1 tutor as well.

Problem corner brought up the wearing of religious bands with which most members had the same views in that they were not permitted and should be removed.

The subject of pitch inspections were discussed, which with winter upon us, will soon become necessary. One of the points raised was that if asked to make an inspection on behalf of another referee

( maybe because you may live closer to the ground in question) you can only advise if the game is playable or not and that the final decision is down to the match referee

The meeting closed at 9.55pm

**Lee Peter**





# This Month's Referee

## Simon Hooper



### Personal information

Year of birth	15/07/1982
County FA	Wiltshire FA
First Premier League Match	8 August 2015: Norwich City v Crystal Palace

### Profile

Simon Hooper refereed his first Barclays Premier League match on the opening weekend of the 2015/16 season after a successful season officiating in the Football League.

Hooper was the man in the middle at Carrow Road as Norwich City lost 3-1 to Crystal Palace on their return to the Barclays Premier League.

The Wiltshire FA official began his Football League career as an assistant referee in 2006/07. At the same time he was a referee in non-league football, including being the man in the middle for the 2007/08 Conference League Cup final between Aldershot Town and Rushden & Diamonds.

Hooper was promoted to a Football League referee the following season, taking charge of the League Two match between Exeter City and Shrewsbury Town at St James Park.

In 2012/13, Hooper officiated the Capital One Cup match between Barclays Premier League side Swansea City and Barnsley, while he has also been in charge of matches involving Aston Villa, Leicester City and Hull City in the same competition over the next couple of seasons.

The FA Cup tie between Stoke City and Wrexham at Britannia Stadium in the 2014/15 campaign was Hooper's next taste of officiating a Barclays Premier League team, before the referee took charge of the League Two Play-Off final at Wembley Stadium towards the end of the season.

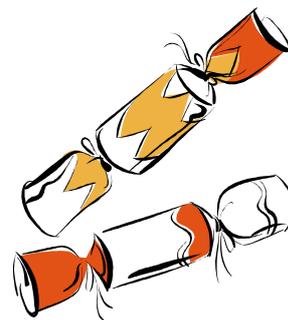
**Woking RA - Christmas Function**



**7<sup>th</sup> December 2015**

**Hoebridge Golf Centre**

**7.30 for 8pm - Dress smart casual**



**Starters**

**Chicken Liver and Brandy Pate with toasted brioche and red onion & balsamic marmalade**

*or*

**Prawn & Crab Cocktail with Bloody Mary sauce**

*or*

**Roasted Butternut Squash and Sweet Potato Soup.**

**Main**

**Roast Norfolk Turkey Breast with chestnut cranberry & sage farcie, chipolata + bacon, pan gravy, warm cranberry sauce**

*or*

**Fillet of Salmon with Baby Caper and fresh green herb butter sauce with crushed new potatoes galette**

*or*

**Vegetarian option of Mushroom, Cranberry, Brie and Hazelnut Wellington.**

**All served with seasonal vegetables.**

**Desserts**

**Christmas Medley that includes - Xmas Pudding Ice Cream, Cranberry & Orange Eton Mess and Mini Chocolate Brownie**

*or*

**English cheese board served with grapes and biscuits**

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**Coffee & mini mince pies**

Please send your menu choices to Martin at [martin.read5@btinternet.com](mailto:martin.read5@btinternet.com).

Payment can either paid at the next couple of meetings, sent to either Pat or Bryan Jackson or on the night.

Wives, Partners and Guests are most welcome.

**£25.00 per head**

### MURPHY'S MEANDERINGS 17

It was a Football Combination match. The ball was crossed from the corner of the penalty area to the far post. The goalkeeper, diving to his left, caught the ball cleanly a foot or so off the ground. A young attacker, sprinting in from the edge of the penalty area, slid in, safely without any maliciousness, feet first. Sliding behind the goalkeeper he ended up in the side netting.

Nobody, apart from the goalkeeper, had a clear view of the attacker but it seemed innocuous and everybody moved up field for the goalkeeper's clearance. The player just laid there and the goalkeeper was sure he was badly injured. Concerned, he dropped the ball to his side and went immediately to the player. He was correct and shouted to the referee to stop the game and get the trainer on. The referee stopped play and called on the trainer, who was already on his way to the player. The player received treatment for some time, and was then taken off. However, when the goalkeeper had dropped the ball he had not realised that he was very close to the goal and had inadvertently thrown the ball into the goal. There had been an obvious, clear time gap between the goalkeeper dropping the ball and the referee stopping the game.

What would you have done? Would you have awarded a goal as the game was still in play and hadn't been stopped when the goalkeeper dropped the ball into the goal? How would you have restarted the game as no infringement had occurred? Would it have made any difference to your decision if the attacking team's manager quite verbally claimed a goal? Remember, being a Football Combination match it was part of the Panel Leagues Pyramid and there would have been an assessor present.

October 14<sup>th</sup>. Fifty years ago I had parked my moped at Blackfriars and taken my referee's examination something that would affect my life forever. Where has time gone (along with my hair, eyesight, hearing and teeth)? It seems like only yesterday I was sitting at that table answering questions about football incidents on a new footy board. I can't believe how time has flown. I enjoyed my refereeing and can only watch enviously at those refereeing today. Still all is not lost. At the age of 14 my granddaughter has become a netball umpire and is out officiating of a night most weeks. All I can say to referees is enjoy it all, the good, and yes, the bad, because one day you will be like me and wonder where time has gone.

**Tony Murphy**



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*The Grim Reaper came for me last night, and I beat him off with a vacuum cleaner. Talk about Dyson with death.*

*I went to the cemetery yesterday to lay some flowers on a grave. As I was standing there I noticed 4 grave diggers walking about with a coffin, 3 hours later and they're still walking about with it. I thought to myself, they've lost the plot!!*

*My neighbour knocked on my door at 2:30am this morning, can you believe that, 2:30am! Luckily for him I was still up playing my Bagpipes.*

## PAGES FROM YESTERYEAR THE WARBLER NOVEMBER ??



### Ask Ruth

POSTBAG A bit thin on the ground but a couple of Old Pro's have been asking for a little comfort on a cold November evening.

Dear Roof,

I fink its all rong wat them rotten baa stewards rite bout me, they fink im fick an dont have no feelings or nuffink. Well struth i do, if i get kicked it hurts jus the same an jus cos i tell them wat i fink they keep bookin me an sending me orf. Most of em dont no the rules or nuffink, i fink i will be a ref wen i finish playing, wat do you fink?

Vinny

Well Vin, I do sympathise with you. You do seem to suffer at the hands of the press. For a player of your grace, charm and elegance it is unfair, especially if what you say about it not being your fault, that a big boy pushed you and ran away is true. As for you taking up the whistle, I understand the British Bear Baiting Society are running a course that might just be up your street.

Dear Ruuth,

hello matey peeps, my team Tootingham haave got ov to a very baad staart. De forwards cant keeep up with thee goalls. Evveery time wee scoore one our defeence lets in two. De Chairman he not smile sweetly any moore, what shaall I do?

My dear Os, don't let your principles of playing open and attractive football be swayed. Your fans will remain loyal as always, even if next year they have to travel to Barnsley or Grimsby on a wet January evening.



## Thames Valley Refs go on Strike

FOOTBALL officials from the Thames Valley League have explained the reasons behind their decision to cancel fixtures this weekend following a referee 'strike',

Only four match officials were prepared to referee the 32 fixtures across six divisions scheduled for tomorrow amid a growing number of incidents of threats and violence in the league.

Two matches - the Premier Division clash between Highmoor Ibis Reserves and Taplow United, plus the Berks & Bucks Intermediate Cup clash between Winnersh Rangers against Westwood United - were abandoned within the last few weeks.

The referee in the Winnersh Rangers versus Westwood United match was assaulted by a player who has now been excluded from the club.

Now, the majority of match officials have withdrawn their services this weekend in order to send out a clear message that enough is enough.

A statement from the Thames Valley League has been sent to all TVL clubs, giving them a deadline of 2pm today (Friday) to source their own referees.

However, the vast majority of clubs are unlikely to do so in a show of support to local officials.

The statement says: "Given the unprecedented situation we find ourselves in, the League Officers have reluctantly decided to postpone all TVPL league fixtures for November 7 where no County FA affiliated referee has been appointed, either by this league or through the efforts of clubs.

"Premier Division clubs are reminded that for Premier Division league games, the match official shall be at least a level 5 referee.

"A clear message the league is receiving from clubs and match officials is that something needs to be done to improve matchday behaviour.

"The league management committee is in agreement with this; but to do this needs the cooperation of all those involved in the game."

One leading figure at a Premier Division club, who the Chronicle agreed not to name, said: "We've seen two referees assaulted in the last few weeks.

"We all sympathise with the referees and I'm sure they have the full support of all clubs.

"Things have become so bad that somebody will get knifed or killed at some stage, I can see it happening. I don't want it to be us or one of our players."

He added: "In my opinion the Thames Valley League and the Berks & Bucks FA haven't done enough. Some players have been kicked out of their clubs after what happened recently, but it's too late now. Referees get about thirty quid a game and they are probably thinking it's not worth the hassle."

Thames Valley League chiefs say they are working hard to improve on-field discipline, though they also stress all players and clubs have a duty to clean up their own acts.

The statement continued: "From a league perspective the FA's Standard Code of Rules states how the league will be administered and we have very limited powers regarding the discipline of players. But, following recent events, three players have had their registrations with the league deactivated due to their disciplinary behaviour. The dealing with on-field offences are retrospective actions and the challenge is one of how to be proactive in preventing the offences occurring in the first place. This is where clubs play a key role, by taking responsibility for the actions of their players and management teams who they know best. Actions can include having players adhere to the Respect Player Code of Conduct, educate players in what is acceptable and unacceptable behaviour, substitute players who are becoming troublesome during a game and having a policy of not selecting players with poor disciplinary records. The League's Management Committee is happy to facilitate meetings with clubs and their players to aid understanding of the Laws of Association Football.

In the meantime dialogue has started with match officials to understand their position."

**Anthony Smith writing in the Reading Chronicle and spotted by Brian Reader**

## How I'd Use Video to Save Our Game

### **Key Incidents**

There are two major decisions referees can take knowing they can directly affect the outcome of a match - penalties and red cards. These tend to be the "gut feel" situations when you know instinctively that you must either point to the penalty spot or dismiss a player, sometimes both.

These are the first decisions that you want confirmed or clarified in cases where you are unsighted or concerned about being deceived by simulation or exaggeration.. There will always be 50:50 or even 60:40 situations where many think a penalty is correct but just as many think it would be a wrong call. Reviews would not help in such situations and we should just stick with the referees' opinion. Saturday's clash between Southampton's Jose Fonte and Burnley's George Boyd falls into this category.

In red card situations, a referee should still make the initial call but then seek confirmation, if needed, from the video referee. Take Stephen Gerrard's red card on Sunday. Martin Atkinson saw the incident clearly and the assistant confirmed his view. There was no need for a review and I would not want to see one brought in

for this. However, he clearly missed the dreadful tackle by Liverpool's Martin Skrtel on David de Gea. If the technology had been in place Atkinson could have asked for a review after seeing the reaction of the players and sent Skrtel off. Atkinson might also have asked for a review of the Phil Jones tackle, which I hope would have fallen into the 'referee's call' category and supported his in-play decision.

### **Goal Reviews**

When a goal is scored and there is a possibility of offside or foul play, then - as in rugby - the referee would state that he intends to award a goal but asks the video referee to check the build-up. The video referee would already have access to replays and would be able to review the incident within 10 seconds and not cause a delay in play. Where an offside is missed, which is not often given the excellent judgement of Premier League assistants, and a goal is not scored then no review would be possible or necessary.

Even if that leads to a corner I would prefer that play continues as too much interference would spoil the game for the fans.

### **Unseen Incidents**

This is a contentious one. If the active officials completely miss something, should the video ref step in? I'd say yes, but only in the case of violent conduct as this will help prevent further incidents. If such an incident happens in the build-up to a goal then it will be picked up in the standard 'goal review'<sup>1</sup> - so Thierry Henry's handball for France against Ireland would have been highlighted and punished.

### **Video Referees**

Former top referees should be trained to use the technology and be part of the team of officials. The same principle should apply that a small tight-knit group would work best, as it does with assistants. The referee would then have one or two video officials he knows and trusts. So, for instance, Martin Atkinson could have Howard Webb and David Elleray as his video refs - one working with him every week

Continued 

**The End Game**

The aim would be to get the major decisions right, avoiding the glaring errors that seem to be happening more than ever. Red cards being given to the wrong player, as when Neil Swarbrick dismissed West Brom's Gareth McAuley instead of Craig Dawson on Saturday, clear penalties denied and offside goal allowed to stand would all be corrected. In cricket a run-out is rarely given by the standing umpire. Instead, a video review is called for but that works only because cricket stops after every ball.

Referees must always have the confidence to make big decisions while occasionally seeking confirmation or clarification. Only by experimenting in a competitive league will we see how beneficial it could be. Without it, referees' credibility will continue to decline.

*This was written by Graham Poll, for the Daily Mail 24.3.2015 I spotted it in the Chiltern Referee*

**Referees must act as 'chameleons'**

Football is a universal language that we speak with different accents – and the referee is the interpreter.

Some years ago, as Leonardo Gaciba collected a prize for being chosen as Brazil's best referee, he gave me an insight into his professional philosophy.

The referee, he said, had to be something of a chameleon, adjusting his interpretation of the rules to suit the environment, giving the kind of decisions expected by players, fans and media.

In Brazil, for example, everyone was forever looking for fouls. Elsewhere in South America, even after some physical contact, the dispute for the ball would continue. So for a domestic Brazilian game he would use his whistle more, while in a Copa Libertadores match he would be more inclined to let the game flow.

Clearly in the first case, that of a Brazilian game, there are more decisions to be taken – and more decisions to be argued about afterwards. It is, perhaps, no surprise then, that major Brazilian TV transmissions invariably have an ex-referee as part of the panel, analysing the key actions of the man in the middle.

It is a timid newcomer in British television, but in Brazil the on-screen presence of former referees is almost as traditional as Carnival. It has become common for high profile referees to go into media work once they have hung up their whistles – indeed, Leonardo Gaciba has done exactly that. And one thing that the ex-referee pundits are usually quick to condemn is former colleagues who are weak on discipline.

Last month there was a high profile clash between two Brazilian players on the other side of the Atlantic. Arsenal's Gabriel Paulista was sent off by Mike Dean after a spat with Chelsea's Diego Costa. On the BBC, Garth Crooks was not impressed.

"You need a referee that is sensible about it," said Crooks, "and treats the players like men. If no one had been sent off in that situation, no one would have screamed. We all want to see 11 against 11. Don't look for excuses to send players off, that's not your job, and try your very best to keep players on the pitch."

It is a fair summary of a mainstream British view, whereby the referee is expected to use the red card as a last resort. His first obligation is to show common sense.

But – and it is here that Gaciba's observation about the need to be a chameleon is so pertinent – what happens when common sense is no longer common? When all concerned do not share the same concepts of what is fair and just?

One obvious example is the 2010 World Cup, when in his quest to keep everyone on the field, Howard Webb surely let the Dutch get away with too much rough stuff against the Spaniards. And there were further examples in last year's World Cup, especially in the knock out rounds.

Referees seemed reluctant to reach for their cards. If the idea was to preserve the spectacle by trying to sure that players did not miss games through suspension, then it backfired in the most spectacular manner.

Some games can run smoothly with this 'softly, softly' approach. In others, especially all-South American encounters, it is asking for trouble. The risk exists of the match turning into a free-for-all.

The warning signs were apparent in the second round tie between Brazil and Chile, which contained 51 fouls in 120 minutes. Brazil's next game, against Colombia had 54 in 90 – and no one was booked within the first hour.

The hosts took advantage of refereeing laxity to kick Colombia's James Rodriguez off his stride with a succession of fouls – but it rebounded badly on them when Neymar picked up a back injury that ruled him out of the fateful semi final with Germany.

On this occasion it seemed clear that the referee – Spain's Carlos Velasco Carballo – was unable to establish a disciplinary framework that suited the teams involved and the needs of the spectacle. He was not enough of a chameleon. His 'common sense' approach made no sense at all.

**Tim Vickery**

*Writing in "You are the Ref" and posted by Mal Davies*

## **The Youngest and the Oldest?**

Josh Smith has become the youngest name on Football League appointment lists. The 22-year-old from Bourne in Lincolnshire has been promoted to the National List of Assistant Referees which means he will run the line in Football League games this season.

*(www.football-league.co.uk)*

Britain's most senior referee, Harry Hardy, is set to hang up his whistle and call it a day. Sadly, 88-year-old Harry fell and injured his hip recently, admitting that it "feels rotten" but he may have to knock refereeing on the head after overseeing well over 3,000 matches since 1959. The FA awarded Harry a medal for his services to football in 2013 and Prince William bestowed him with a British Empire Medal in 2014 in the Queen's Birthday Honours. *(www.whoateallthepies.tv)*

*Courtesy of The Chiltern Referee*

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

**Willie's Christmas Adventure**

Willie woke up early for his match on Christmas Day  
He was more than happy as it was double pay  
His wife was in the kitchen in her hand a carving knife  
But there was a little secret he hadn't told his wife

He should have told her weeks ago and to his wife's dismay  
He tried to tell her gently about his match on Christmas Day  
She said 'The family are coming and there's so much to do  
I am telling you now I want you home at two'

He kissed his wife on the cheek as it was time to go  
He walked to local park and all he saw was snow  
But luckily for Willie the match did start on time  
Everyone seemed happy and that was really fine

Reds Rovers versus Blues United what a match to referee  
It may be a local park but to Willie.... Wembley  
The players from Reds Rovers all wearing Santa hats  
Willie told them nicely 'You know you can't do that'

In the very first minute and Willie showed a yellow card  
A player threw a snow ball but he didn't throw it hard  
Willie said 'I'm sorry but I must apply the law'  
The player smiled at Willie and said 'You're such a bore'

'This is your final warning or the next card will be red'  
The player replied to Willie 'I should have stayed in bed'  
Willie took up his position for the indirect free kick  
He stood just by the ball in case they kicked it quick

The Rovers player kicked the ball with almighty force  
He was naturally convinced that he would score of course  
The ball flew through the air and gathered with much pace  
No one saw it coming as it smashed in Willie's face

Motionless, unconscious our ref he did not move  
Some players showed concern and hoped he would improve  
Then suddenly a movement and Willie blinked his eyes  
He looked at all around him and what a nice surprise



Willie was in a stadium and the loud speaker blared out loud  
'Welcome and season's greetings to everyone in the crowd'

The stadium erupted as the teams appeared  
'North Pole Wanderers versus Queens Park Reindeers'

'Please give a special welcome to our referee  
Many years' experience as you are about to see  
Who today will not receive his usual match fee  
Instead he will be given a wonderful Christmas tree'

Half the crowd in red and the other half in white  
It had to be said what a glorious sight  
Reindeers, fairies, goblins and elves  
Everyone singing and all in good health

Now Santa was playing at centre half  
His shirt was too tight which caused a laugh  
He took a shot at goal which I know may sound silly  
But once again the ball hit our referee Willie

Now Willie's wife was so relieved when the ambulance appeared  
She just stood staring at the driver with his big white beard  
The driver was friendly and so full of banter  
When Willie saw his face he knew that he was Santa

The driver told Willie's wife of his accident  
He explained that he was okay and that it wasn't meant  
She grabbed Willie's hand and said 'This you have to see  
Someone's planted in our garden a giant Christmas tree'

Now there must be a thousand reasons  
For you to say this story is not true  
But when you go to your next match  
This could all happen to you

**Enjoy your festivities**

**Willie**



## **RESPECT, the abstract concept !**

How long has it been going now ? 5, 6, 7 seasons ? Yes, it is the RESPECT item I am referring to, whether you call it a campaign, initiative, plan, aim or simply an idea.

I have never been able to fathom out how anyone latches on to a word or even a few words and turns them into something we should (or must) all be aiming to do something about. 'Mission statements' likewise leave me wondering who thought them up and why?

The F.A. does some rather strange things (but you already know that) including a once every 12 months excursion (maybe 'intrusion' would be the better word) into what is grandly called 'The F.A. Standard Code of Rules for Leagues<sup>1</sup>, of which there must be several simply because of the varying standards needed by different 'steps' of Leagues. For 2013-14 season Rule No.1, section (F), said this :-

*This Competition, and it's Clubs shall support the FA's respect programme. As such it recognises that everyone in football has a collective responsibility to create a fair, safe, enjoyable environment in which the game can take place. A Respect League values the contribution of match officials, players and spectators, and ensures that they are treated with courtesy and fairness by opposing players, club officials and spectators. The League and it's Clubs will seek to play fixtures in a fair, competitive but not antagonistic environment.*

I think we could agree that all sounds pretty satisfactory ?

Move on one whole year and Rule 1(F) has become Rule 2(E) and reads as follows :-

*Clubs must comply with the provisions of any of the initiatives of The F.A. which are adopted by the Competition including but not limited to, Charter Standard and RESPECT programme.*

I reckon that is a retrograde step, 'a watering down' if you like of a whole paragraph that really said something and meant something. Who made that decision, and why ?

As Chairman I could quote Rule 1(F) to ant Clubs or personnel seen to be stepping out of line, stressing thatb they had already agreed to conform thereto. If I try now to use Rule 2(E) it will not have 10% of the previous Respect paragraph.

## **EQUALITY ?**

Following on from the above 'RESPECT, the abstract concept' this somewhat similar item I am again referring to what the F.A. has done and continues to do with the Rules that each local League has to comply with, and I am comparing wordings for two years or seasons, 2014-15 and 2015-16.

For the former season League Rule 1 (D) Inclusivity and Non-Discrimination had text worded as follows :-

*(i) This Competition and each Member Club must be committed to promoting inclusivity and to eliminating all forms of discrimination.*

*(ii) This Competition and each Member Club does not and must not (by its rules or regulations or) in any manner whatsoever unlawfully discriminate against any person within the meaning and scope of the Equality Act 2010, or any law, enactment, order or regulation relating to discrimination (whether by age, gender, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, marital status, race, nationality, ethnic origin, colour, religion or belief, ability or disability or otherwise.*

*(iii) This Competition and each Member Club must make every effort to promote equality by treating people fairly and with respect, by recognising that inequalities may exist, by taking steps to address them and by providing access and opportunities for all members of the community, irrespective of age, gender, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, marital status, race, nationality, ethnic origin, colour, religion or belief, ability or disability or otherwise.*

*(iv) Any alleged breach of the Equality Act 2010 legislation must be referred to the appropriate sanctioning Association for investigation.*

You might think that is not only clear, possibly doubly-clear, but maybe a bit too what I would call 'heavy-handed'<sup>1</sup> for the guidance of local Football League Officers.

But now move swiftly to the 2015-16 version of the Standard Code of Rules for Leagues, and to Rule 2 Section (D)

*(i) The Competition and each Club must be committed to promoting inclusivity and to eliminating all forms of discrimination.*

*(ii) Any alleged breach of the Equality Act 2010 legislation must be referred to the appropriate Sanctioning Authority for investigation.*

There is undoubtedly a lot of simplicity in this year's version, maybe a bit too much, as not everyone realises in just how many different ways we can offend against that 2010 legislation. But from a situation where every possible 'method of inequality'<sup>1</sup> is listed, we then have a new version thrust at us, telling us we must guard against and eliminate ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION. As with the 'RESPECT, the abstract concept'<sup>1</sup> I wonder just how much time and effort any local League and its hierarchy can possibly be asked or expected to expend on monitoring such matters, serious though they may be ? **CW**

*On the subject of Respect, have you responded to Tim Lawrence's reminder?*

This is a reminder email to complete the survey related to the Respect Campaign if you have not already so.

Academics at the University of Portsmouth, alongside colleagues at Loughborough University and Edge Hill University are looking for a response by referees on their experiences of refereeing since the implementation of the Respect Campaign by the National Football Association in 2008. The survey is anonymous and can be found here:

<https://lboro.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/referee-respect-campaign>

It will not take long to complete and will provide essential data that will be analysed and reported independently. If you have previously completed this survey through an email from your County FA or the FA, please do not submit a further response.

Many thanks for taking the time to complete the survey, your response is greatly appreciated.

## EQUALITY

The Rugby World Cup is in full swing as I sit to make an observation or two on the vast subject of equality. I am unsure as to which code William Webb-Ellis intended the new game to 'embrace', Union or League, when he first grabbed the ball and ran with it. Today's Mail tells the oft repeated tale that the referee that day was one of the masters of Rugby School and he chased after the fleet footed player until the lad fell over the goal-line with the ball. Young William then asked "Is it a goal, sir ?" to then hear the reply ; "I don't know about a goal, but it was a jolly good try !"

I prefer League simply because Union seems to have too many Laws and spectators cannot see what is happening in the scrums. But leave such niceties aside and consider if you will that apparently Fiji and England had to toss a coin to see which team was in the home dressing room at Twickenham, and Fiji won. And yes it does matter, simply because the home changing room has everything and could be described as palatial, whilst the away version, without being "grotty" is nevertheless nowhere near so well equipped, and in fact is bereft of some of the "equipment" considered obligatory right next door !

I have read of such inequality previously, notably at The Emirates, home of Arsenal. How on earth can or could anyone actually plan to make two changing rooms very differently, where was the Equality Act of 2010 in their thinking and planning ?

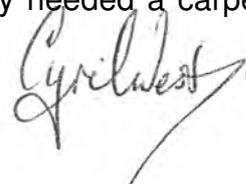
I have read somewhere that the whole idea of the pre-match respect handshake is a way for the home team to welcome the visitors to their home ground, an absolutely brilliant idea, so long as all the 'Gunners' accompany the usual perfunctory touching of fingers with a muttered : "Sorry about your changing room, we must have run out of money !" Please don't spring to the defence of Wenger & Co. and tell me that 'they all do it'. They may all discriminate as between their own facilities and those provided for their visitors but that does not make it right.

Similarly with some of the facilities that used to be "the norm" for match officials, even when the whole structure was recently built, with a separate bit for the referee always looking like an afterthought. Fairlands Wanderers (some time ago now) put you in the broom cupboard, with the line marker, & other assorted equipment. Early days with the whistle were always a learning curve as to which venues had thought about the referee and which venues were best dealt with by "going already changed".

Until The Football Foundation, Sport England and such like got involved with helping to provide better facilities for clubs, and people that played the game had a say in what was built, it was often left to local Councils to erect what they thought was required,. Stoke Rec. and its two football pitches, serviced by two long and narrow changing rooms being a classic example.

Built for cricket, of course, hence the tea room in the other half of the building. The original benches stuck out another eight inches, causing Brian Adams (on being shown round at the 'Grand Opening' to suggest they needed a carpenter with a decent saw.)

LET'S MAKE IT ALL EQUAL !



## **PAGES FROM YESTERYEAR THE WARBLER JANUARY 1997**

### **ICY RECEPTION FROM PLAYERS**

"Now is the winter of our discontent" wrote Shakespeare in Richard III, and now is the season of discontent in football, when, by tradition, scorn and disbelief are aimed at the referee without a single ball being kicked or whistle blown.

The weather in the last month has heralded that part of the football season when referees have to make a single very important decision. And often this one decision - whether or not to play - often puts the referee under intense pressure.

On local leagues players invariably make up their minds one way or the other and then try to impose that view on the referee, "Come on ref, we've all got to go to work next Monday\*", or, alternatively, "We're all here, so we might as well play" are typical comments. At more senior levels groundsmen, managers and club officials are all keen to voice their opinions.

If the referee calls the game off, some players are understandably frustrated - they may have travelled some distance, or a postponement might lead to fixture pile-up. Others may be happier - key players may be injured or suspended, or they may be genuinely unhappy at playing in the conditions.

So how does the referee make the decision? What are the criteria on which he bases his decision?

First and foremost in his mind will be the safety of the players. He must ensure that no player is in any danger from allowing the game to start OR to continue. A frozen pitch might be playable if it were completely covered with a good grass surface, but it will be dangerous if it is rutted and uneven, inviting broken ankles or toes. The referee must also bear in mind that ice can be as lethal as broken glass.

The second consideration is whether the conditions will allow the game to be a fair contest without becoming a farce. Whilst boggy or water-covered surfaces (or large puddles) do not constitute a danger, they might be difficult for the players. The amusement value of the ball becoming held up in a puddle while being overtaken by the player quickly wears thin. There might also be a danger element when the very soft areas are limited in size providing potential for broken legs.

When the referee makes his decision is crucial. On Saturday leagues the pitch inspection is often carried out several hours before kick-off, before visiting teams have started to travel. But for Sunday morning fixtures such a luxury is not possible and a "late" decision is often inevitable. Moreover, playing conditions can change. An hour of winter morning sunshine can make a marginal pitch playable with a slight thaw, and the players might appreciate the opportunity of a game with a delayed start. Conversely, late in the day, conditions might deteriorate and force an abandonment.

The decision for the referee is difficult - and whatever he chooses, it is a Jose-lose situation for him. But the players' safety is of paramount importance and of far greater significance than any irritation or frustration of not playing a game.

***Originally written by Len Randall but amended by Brian Richards for the Chiltern Referee***

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## Adie's Brass Monkeys and Pheasants Swanning about

We are gradually heading towards the festive season and, just to let you all know, there will be **no League games** on either the SCILW and the G&WAFL for December the 26<sup>th</sup> 2015 and January the 2<sup>nd</sup> 2016. You can spend that time with your loved ones and not worry about issuing any cards during that period of goodwill towards all men. However, in saying that Bob Dick informs me that there could be some County Cup fixtures on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of January so don't ignore your e-mails!

I think it is all going well in the Leagues, I have a good selection of Match Officials on both so currently I am able to appoint to every game. This is no mean feat with some Referees are getting experience in both Leagues which I think is enhancing the officiating for all the clubs. Thank you all for your continuing support particularly when I appeal for help when Referees suffer injury or the FA pinch them without a bye or leave (mutter, mutter).

That was one bl#dy cold afternoon on the 21<sup>st</sup> wasn't it? I was at the SSP with 3 other Match Officials and by Jove did we appreciate the hot shower after the game. I did witness a couple of yellow Rhesus Monkeys outside looking rather miserable making enquiries if anybody could do a bit of brazing for them (think about it)!

All going well with the bedroom. I have both the attic doors built, stained, varnished and fitted. Bit difficult as one had to be cut in half and then matched but my oversize circular saw sorted it out! The new furniture has arrived so all I have to do now is varnish all the woodwork in sight, fit new sockets and switch boxes. When I have fitted the conduit for the aerial and phone cables we can move back in (or so Diane thinks).

It seemed an odd day last Saturday in the village. As I was in my workshop marking out the hinge positions prior to chiselling, something caught my eye out of the window. I thought it was one of next-door's cats so paid it little attention until this poxy pheasant wandered in through the open door! It got short shift from me and was chased out. I did think of getting the gun and shooting it so Diane could try pheasant for once but then considered that I really CBA'd to pluck and gut it.

An hour later eldest son Graham called in and informed me there was chaos in the village with a swan wandering around in the middle of the road.

Must have been something in the air!!!

As this is the last article of 2015 may I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

**Adie**



I would like to have Brooklyn christened but I'm not sure which religion yet.

*David Beckham*

If I have sex on the night before a game, I lose all feeling in my feet

*Freddie Ljungberg*

I'd love to play abroad for one of the big Italian clubs like Barcelona.

*Mark Draper*



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## Dates for your Diary 2015/16

5th October	Society Meeting - Ian Ransom - Futsal
2nd November -	Society Meeting - Woking Football Club - Community Projects
7th December	Society Christmas Dinner - Hoebridge Golf Club
4th January	Society Meeting TBA
1st February	Society Meeting TBA
7th March	Society AGM - Andy Bennett Quiz Night

## PlumTree

### FA Sunday National Cup 2nd round

FC Morden v AFC Links

Assistant Referee : Robert Hughes

### SCFA Saturday Premier County Cup 2<sup>nd</sup> Round

Epsom Athletic v Shene

Referee: Tom Ellsmore

Assistant Referee : Dave Lawton

Sheerwater vs NUFC

Assistant Referees : Paul Saunders and Gareth Heighs

Knaphill Reserves v Farleigh Rovers First

Assistant Referees: Brian Reader & Nick Arbuckle

Camberley Town Reserves v Dorkinians

Assistant Referee : Callum Peter

### FA Vase 1st round proper

Hartley Witney v Wokingham and Elmbrook

Assistant Referee : Richard Hailstone

### FA Youth Cup

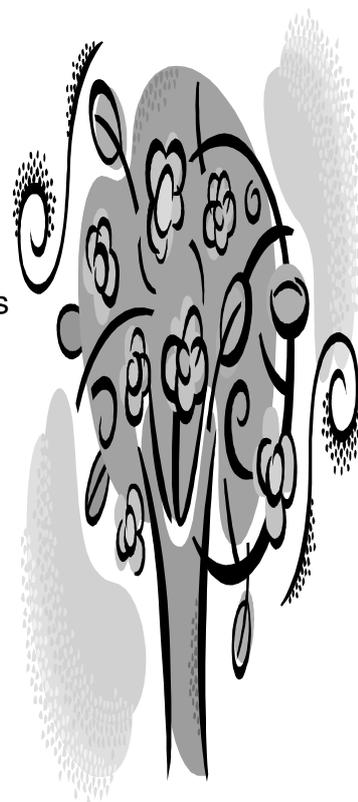
Petersfield Town v Gosport Borough

Assistant referee : Richard Hailstone

### Surrey Senior Cup 1st Round

Camberley Town v Knaphill

Assistant referee : Richard Hailstone



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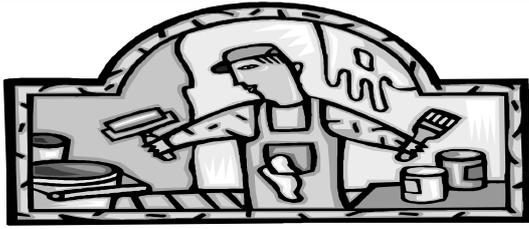
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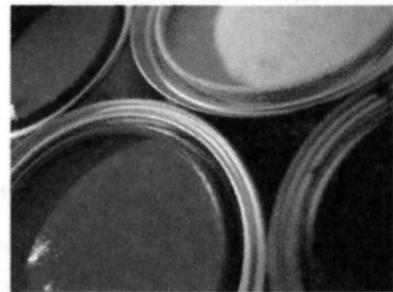
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### **Letter(s) to the Editor**

Dear Brian (Ed Chiltern Referee)

Regarding the answer to Q3 (see opposite), I have to say I completely disagree with Mr Hackett's answer.

Padded shorts are not disqualified and some goalkeepers regularly wear them, so why not outfield players?

**Extract from Law 4. Safety.** A player must not use equipment or wear anything that is dangerous to himself or another player (including any kind of jewellery).

**Basic Equipment.** The basic compulsory equipment of a player comprises the following separate items

a jersey or shirt with sleeves - if undergarments are worn, the colour of the sleeve must be the same main colour as the sleeve of the jersey or shirt

\* shorts - if under-shorts or tights are worn, they must be of the same main colour as the shorts

**Extract from Law 4 Interpretation and Guidelines**

A player may use equipment other than the basic equipment provided that its sole purpose is to protect him physically and it poses no danger to him or any other player.

All items of clothing or equipment other than the basic equipment must be inspected by the referee and determined not to be dangerous.

Modern protective equipment such as headgear, facemasks and knee and arm protectors made of soft, lightweight padded material are not considered dangerous and are therefore permitted.

*Len Randall*

Hi Mac

Just glanced at the Warbler (November issue) and the referee at Burton, Mr Tankard is a throwback. Some years ago I was a late replacement for Les **Bishop** on a game at Yeovil; my colleagues were Messrs **Pope** and **Monk**.

Keep up the good work

**Bruce** (McLaren)

### **Coach attempts to flirt the issue**

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

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

'At around 5am, a

guy came in, grabbed her and took her to the bathroom.

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

*Metro 20.11.15 Spotted by Brian Reader*

### What Would You Do?

(answers to November issue)

**Q1.** In the dying seconds of a 7-0 cup thrashing two opponents decide to call it a day; they change shirts early and shake hands, laughing. But then the ball breaks towards them, and the home striker, wearing an away top, smacks the ball into the net. What would you do?

**A1.** Both players are guilty of unsporting behaviour. Disallow the goal, caution both and restart with a dropped ball where they were when they removed their shirts.

**Q2.** A game goes to penalties from the penalty mark. The away team manager, worried that he has a teenage rookie keeper in goal, sends his goalkeeping coach to loiter behind the goal and offer advice. What would you do?

**A2.** Unacceptable. The coach must remain in the technical area during the Shootout. Tell him to go back there before allowing the kicks to be taken.

**Q3.** Early in the first half you notice that a usually stick-thin winger has suspiciously bulky thighs. He admits he's wearing padded shorts to help him ride tough challenges. What would you do?

**A3.** Equipment is tightly defined in the laws; items such as "undershorts" are permitted; other equipment such as snoods or padded shorts are not. Ask the player to leave the FoP and get changed - he can return when the ball is next out of play and you have checked he is wearing proper kit. \*\*\*\* **SEE COMMENT ON PAGE 28\*\*\*\***

**Q4.** A penalty shoot-out goes all the way to 10-10, meaning the two goalkeepers are next to take kicks. After the first keeper scuffs his kick over the bar, the second keeper decides to be clever. Instead of taking the kick, he lashes out at an opponent. He clearly wants to be sent off as his side's star striker can take the crucial kick instead. What would you do?

**A4.** You have no option but to dismiss the keeper. The keeper's side can now use their star striker to take the next kick. It's an anomaly in the law!

**Q5.** Before launching the ball into the box, a long throw specialist dusts his hands with chalk, provided by a specially assigned ball-boy. Opponents complain loudly that this is cheating. What would you do?

**AS.** It is an artificial aid to improve his performance. Inform him it is not allowed. Request that any ball-boys equipped with the chalk dispense with it immediately.

**Q6.** You award a direct free kick to the Blues in their own penalty area. A Blue player (not the keeper) takes the kick towards a colleague standing outside the penalty area. After he kicks the ball he realises an attacker will get there before his colleague, so he runs after the ball, dives and stops it with his hands just before it passes over the penalty area line. What would you do?

**A6.** Re-take the direct free kick - the ball was not in play (never left the penalty area)

**Q7.** You award a penalty kick in the 8th minute to Blues. You signal for the kick to be taken. The kicker strikes the ball directly against the cross bar; it rebounds and hits you the referee standing within the penalty area, then falls to the kicker who shoots and scores. What would you do?

**A7.** Award an indirect free kick where the incident occurred. The kicker touched the ball again before another player.

*Courtesy of the Chiltern Referee*

## What Would You Do?

### Question 1.

In an attack in the Blues goal area involving several players, you see the ball strike the arm of a player, but are not sure who handled and from which side. The ball then drops to a Red player who immediately scores. What would you do?

### Question 2.

You award a direct free kick to Reds and a striker plays the ball into the penalty area. The Blue defenders rush out to catch a Red player offside. But he then steps behind the goal line and off the field of play. You award a goal which is hotly disputed by Blue defenders. What would you do?

### Question 3.

In sweltering heat the sprinklers are turned on at half time - but cover only a half of the pitch. It means the home side will have a double advantage: their attackers playing on a fast surface, and their defenders operating on a slow one. The away team are furious and demand action. What would you do?

### Question 4.

In the 90th minute a pacey young winger nutmegs a veteran defender, who groans and collapses apparently unconscious. Fearing for his health the winger stops running towards goal and kicks the ball towards the touchline, only for a defender to make a miraculous recovery. You suspect foul play. What would you do?

### Question 5.

The home team's captain is tired and wants to come off. So when he sees his manager replacing someone else with his final change he's furious. He tells his colleague to stay on the pitch, and walks off himself, shaking hands with the substitute as he goes. There's uproar. What would you do?

### Question 6.

Following a challenge for the ball a Blue defender is upset with your decision not to penalise or award a free kick to the Blues. The ball remains in play with Reds attacking down the wing. The Blue player, within the field of play, spits at you, the referee. What would you do?

### Question 7.

A goal is scored by Reds. Before you restart play you realise that there was an extra person on the field of play who happens to be a named substitute of the team who conceded the goal. What would you do?

*((Ed. Questions 4-5 were taken from "You Are The Ref" by Keith Hackett and Paul Trevillion. Questions 6-7 were taken from the National RA Quiz final*

Courtesy of the Chiltern Referee

# WARBLER REFERENCE GUIDE

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