

THE WARBLER

Monthly Magazine of the Woking Referees' Society

www.wokingreferees.co.uk



Season 2012/13 February Edition

WOKING REFEREES ' SOCIETY

FOUNDED 1927

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**The next meeting of the
Woking Referees' Society
will be held on
Monday 4th February 2013**

Meadow Sports Football Club
Loop Rd Playing Fields, Loop Rd, Kingfield, Woking
Surrey GU22 9BQ
7.45pm for a prompt 8pm start

AGENDA

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

**Stuart Butler MSc MCSP BSc (Hons) GSR
Physiotherapist**

- ♦ **Break**
- ♦ **Society Business**



Next month's meeting Monday 4th March 2013

**The deadline for the March edition is
Friday 22nd February**

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

FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to the February Warbler

Thank you to those that attended the January meeting and for getting involved in our team work workshop. We looked at effective communication, expectations of each team member, roles and responsibilities and support. Concluding that if we could get these areas right, then we would indeed achieve good teamwork. I hope those that attended enjoyed the evening.

As the snow falls outside and having lost my game to the weather I am left to watch the football on the TV and endure the righteous pundits giving us the benefit of their opinion. I can't help but comment on the latest issue that consumes their all knowing programmes. The FA have overturned Vincent Kompany's red card. The fact that it has been over turned does not in its self concern me, how ever it does lead me to think of the wider issues. The panel of pundits in question have decided that its about time referees show common sense. Yes these are the same people that cry for consistency at every other turn. So lets consider what we believe we are required to act on. Both feet leave the ground and the tackle is made with the underside of the foot, ie; Studs showing. So our tackle in question ticks the boxes and a red card should be the correct out come. Or at least that's what i believed, in this case how ever if we look from another two angles, angles that were not available to Mike Dean there is doubt as to weather the tackle is made with excessive force. So lets remember what law says, "in the opinion of the referee" in this case the referee had one angle and one opportunity to see the tackle. In his opinion there was excessive force and therefore a red card was issued. Now lets consider that in Mike Deans thought process there was some doubt, the fact that the boxes were ticked i.e. both feet off the ground and studs were showing, left him with no choice, again a red card is the correct action. Now lets go back to our pundits who desire common sense to be shown. So lets now remove the directive that tells us we must consider a two footed tackle to be excessive force and lets now start applying common sense. So now the tackle becomes what we euphemistically call an orange card. My interpretation of an orange card tackle means I would be correct to send off but could possibly get away with a caution ! Mmmm now I have funny feeling I am in danger of being inconsistant with my colleagues. Its no wonder we are sometimes confused as how to act. My advice to any referee that asks me would be, go with your gut instinct and be true to your self. We will from time to time get things wrong but if you apply the above you know you have always made an honest decision.

I look forward to seeing you all at the February meeting

I hope the ball runs kindly for you, **Vince**

From the Treasurer / Membership Secretary

2013 Current Status	
General	£1,211.30
Supplies	£470.45
Belgium	£0.00
Youth Fund	£113.50
Total	£1,795.25

012/13 Membership As at 20th
January 2013

67 Full Members
6 Friends
2 Affiliate Members

Last Month's Meeting

Vince and Barry led a very informative session on teamwork at the January meeting. They covered many topics including pre-match instructions such as agreeing positioning, personal signals between the referee and his assistants and the eye to eye contact necessary to make sure the right decisions are made. The members present formed small groups and selected one item to focus on. This gave them the opportunity to ask detailed questions and have discussions about best practice and then to share this with everyone else.

Vince and Barry also explained how to deal with confrontation as a team and the importance of agreeing in advance how these situations will be handled if they arise. This is always a difficult issue when you are on the pitch and their knowledge and experience will be invaluable.

Communication is the key element in any good team and allows everyone to understand the decisions made and be able to sell them to others.

We began the meeting with the question 'What makes good teamwork?' By the end of the session we all had the answers so we can **GET THE BIG DECISIONS RIGHT.**

Gareth

This Month's Speaker - Stuart Butler

Stuart was a member of the England Athletics support Team at the Commonwealth Games in New Delhi, India, and has also travelled internationally with GB Athletics. Other career highlights include working with GB Boxing and with Great Britain international track and field athletics teams, as well as several professional football clubs.

Stuart completed his MSc in Physiotherapy at the University of Southampton after gaining his BSc (Hons) in Sports Rehabilitation and Injury Prevention at Middlesex University.

He has a background in Strength and Conditioning and has a keen interest in biomechanics and their application in the treatment and prevention of Injuries. During his career he has worked in a variety of NHS disciplines as well as professional sport. His interests include Manual Therapy, the use of real time ultrasound imaging, Biomechanics, Injury Prevention and Performance Enhancement.

Mac's Musings

Have you noticed that Premiership Referees, whilst always going deep, including into the penalty area when necessary, they rarely go particularly wide, preferring to remain about 5 to 10 metres from the touchline. This means they keep play between themselves and the touchline, even on their side of the FOP, ie attackers left wing. I remember being told that I should always try and make sure play was between the referee and the assistant. There does come a time though, where, as Observer mentions in his report opposite, that as we are not all blessed with Usain Bolt speed, the requirement to be close to play out weighs being as wide as possible. At the standard of football that I officiate, the big boot upfield is the preferred method of play, hence the need for head start!

I've now completed 2 games for Adie on the Surrey Intermediate and although very enjoyable, I must admit to slight disappointment as to the quality of the football. I appreciate that I've only done the reserve teams, but apart from a couple of youngsters they are mostly of the "lump it and hope" brigade (see above).

In contrast I recently, against my better judgement, agreed to referee 2 youth games on the same Sunday, (well, Martin did ask very nicely). As it happened both games were an absolute joy. The boys really tried, and mostly succeeded, to pass the ball from one end to the other, which apart from appreciating the skill levels, meant I could keep up with play (well sort of) .All went well until the last 10 minutes of the 2nd game, when after a sudden burst of speed (it's all relative you know) in order to get into the box, I got violent cramp in both by thighs. I managed to jog it off, but ached for a few days afterwards. More gym me thinks.

There has been a lot of press recently about the FA rescinding Vincent Kompany's red card for "that tackle" All of it has actually been in favour of Mike Dean the referee and how the FA's decision has undermined his and all of our authority. We all hear it every week "but I got the ball ref" after a player gets a toe on the ball whilst hacking the legs away of his hapless opponent. The stiff leg tackle as I call it, be it one leg or two, is always very subjective, as is nearly every tackle when you think about it. I think it all depends on the angle of tackle. At right angles, the player being tackled (tackleee?) has a chance of jumping over the extended leg of the tackler. However as the angle of approach moves round to the front, then the tackleee has more of the body of the tackler to negotiate and often has no where to go, resulting in the inevitable collision and often consequent injury, -sometimes to both players. As for the tackle from behind? I tend to blow up nearly every time. We have to make an instant decision, was it fair?, reckless? or dangerous? The dividing lines are very blurred. Often we have to go with gut feel or even "wince factor" without the benefit of slow motion replays. For the FA to overturn such decisions they must, I feel, also retrospectively punish the missed decisions such as the blatant dive.

And as for the professional referees body "punishing" Assistant referee John Brooks for having the so called temerity to suggest to a player that he might like to thank his supporters, that really takes the biscuit. It goes back to something I wrote the other month. Forget rapport, keep it shut and you can't get into trouble

Keep your whistle warm **Mac**

WIDER AND DEEPER

BY OBSERVER

HOW MANY TIMES HAS A PROMOTION CANDIDATE HEARD THIS?

The encouragement to move wider and deeper is usually given by Assessors to those referees who tend to adopt a restricted diagonal path of patrol and thereby create problems for themselves by not being in a position to see all THAT they might.

This refers particularly to those times when an attack is developing and there is a need for the referee to be able to adjudicate on whether an offside situation has arisen or not, and eventually of course whether the ball crosses the goal line or not. If there is a neutral linesman, there will invariably be much help regarding offsides, but the referee needs to be able to see him AND the action quite easily. By ensuring he is 'OUT WIDE' the referee will find he has play between himself and his operative linesman, a situation which he should endeavour to create as often as possible.

Particularly if he is operating without linesmen, will the referee find it useful, by means of good acceleration and sprinting, to position himself out wide so as to be able to look across the line of play to judge offsides.

By going deep towards the goal line, the referee operating alone will be favourably positioned to judge if the ball crosses the goal line, for a goal or a corner-kick. Hence, if the referee works hard at going wider and deeper he will penetrate areas like the penalty area and that area alongside it near to the corner-flag and all this during open, or dynamic, play. You will need to be fit if you are to come into the category of referees who are invariably in the ideal position.

Note: - ASSESSORS. When advising a promotion candidate to go wide and deep, which is UTOPIA. PLEASE take into account as to whether the referee is fit enough to do what you are suggesting. Remember that if he is not fit enough to go 'wider & deeper', can you suggest any alternative method to meet his requirements? *Courtesy of The Normidian*

Warming-up sub runs on to pitch, makes brilliant save

By Eurosport | [World of Sport](#) – Fri, Nov 16, 2012 12:00 GMT

Football fans in Argentina have been left dumbfounded by one of the saves of the season - by a substitute who was warming up behind the goal.

Mauricio Gomez Arias has earned cult status for the save, darting on to the pitch to parry the ball and stop a certain goal.

Under the laws of the game, the referee had no choice but to award the attacking team an indirect free-kick, which they could not convert.

The incident took place in a league semi-final between San Martin de Marco Juarez and Bell de Bell Ville in northern Argentina.

Bell striker Ciocca Bernardo bore down on goal and beat goalkeeper Damien De Genno. But as the forward wheeled away in celebration, Gomez Arias produced his moment intervened. *Continued next page*

He explained: "I had seen ball-boys in Brazil do it.

"We were playing at home, and had lost the away leg. It was 0-0, we were attacking and couldn't score.

"Then came a counter-attack, the Bell striker came forward and our defender fell over - when our keeper came out and didn't get the ball I don't know what happened - I went out (on to the pitch), it was instinct."

Talk about an impact sub - Gomez Arias was shown a red side but his team stayed at 11 players.

The player then sprinted off the pitch as the home fans cheered.

"I knew it was a sending-off. I wanted to avoid wasting time with any arguments - there were still 15 minutes left."

Despite the save, Bell went on to win the match 1-0 and progress to the final.

Gomez Arias said: "I regret what I did, but that's life. These things happen."

MURPHY'S MEANDERINGS

I have read recently that chairmen of Football League clubs would like referees to take more robust action against players stealing ground at throw-ins. Watching competitions such as the European championships and the Olympics it seems almost obligatory for players to take up a position several yards from where the ball went out of play and then run five or six yards down the line to deliver the ball into play.

However, the throw-in now seems to have become a "minor" law, one that can be broken with impunity and without punishment by the referee. Why do referees not penalise, are they worried about being considered fussy of finicky? Many throws are taken with the thrower's foot off the ground, not by an inch or two, but with their leg waving in the air behind them. Often the ball is not thrown into play but dropped and, particularly in the Premier League, throw-ins are taken with one hand, the other hand being used to guide the ball. Referees at top level need to apply the law correctly in its entirety or maybe FIFA will take the easy way out and re-write the Law in order to make it comply with modern practices.

Whilst "on the touchline" have you noticed that on European and International matches how many assistant referees run up and down inside the touchline on the pitch? When I was a linesman on the Football League this was a definite no-no and I would be taken to task by the assessor if I was ever seen to do it. Are lining standards dropping or are some FIFA assistant referees just sloppy?

Tony Murphy

Caution-ary Tales

So many of the decisions we make as referees are a matter of opinion. Is it or isn't it a foul? How bad a tackle is it? Was the handball deliberate etc., etc?

And so it is with most of the reasons for taking disciplinary action. The only undeniable facts we have to deal with are with players entering or leaving the field without our permission. They either did or did not cross the line and we either did or did not tell them they could. Everything else that might result in a caution is a matter for the referee's judgement and all of the possible offences for which disciplinary action is taken have a wide spectrum of seriousness. We have to judge where in that spectrum we place such an offence. What do I mean?

- ◆ Where did the tackle fall on the scale between a genuine but clumsy attempt to win the ball and a lunge at the opponent that seemed more likely to be designed for serious injury?
- ◆ Was the player's criticism of a decision a bit of banter, a serious attempt to undermine authority or personally abusive towards the referee? And so on.

Referees' tolerance and sensitivity vary. There are some that are 'card-happy'. I knew one in an adjoining County who, single-handedly season after season, kept the FA solvent through the fines that his diligence brought in.

Before deciding on taking disciplinary action we have too little time to weigh up the circumstances. It has to be an almost instant reaction if we are to appear decisive and authoritative. One of the minefields is the caution for 'unsporting behaviour'. The law-makers and interpreters helpfully provide 13 pointers to what could constitute such an offence but the degree to which any action is unsporting is still down to the referee to decide. And there's the foundation for inconsistency.

I am reminded of the story of two magistrates who were booked on the same day for illegal parking in the same place. The day the incidents came to court both magistrates were on the bench so they agreed they would each try the other's case. The first case was heard and a £30 fine was levied. The two magistrates changed places and the second case was heard. A fine of £60 was levied this time that, understandably, enraged the second magistrate up. "I only fined you £30!" he said. "I know but this is the second such case before this court today and we need to make an example as a warning to others."

So it is in football. I saw a game recently when an attacking move down the left wing was brought to a halt by a defender 'climbing all over' the attacking player, hauling him to the ground and breaking up a very promising attack. The offender got away with a mild talking-to and a free kick against him. Minutes later, in the centre circle, one player pursuing another 'clipped' the opponent's heels and was instantly cautioned. In terms of tactical advantage, the second offence had nowhere near the same negative impact yet was dealt with more severely.

In practice, most cases of potential unsporting conduct revolve around 'tactical' fouls. The two described are typical and the criteria for deciding on the need for a caution are:

- ◆ Location on the field: was the offence on a player in an attacking position, for instance?
A bit of holding by a forward on a defender can be far less serious than the other way round.
- ◆ Judgement of the player's motivation in committing the offence: something that looks seriously tactical may need stronger action than a challenge that was incidental.
- ◆ The potential effect on the passage of play: causing the breakdown of a promising attack is always a serious contender for a caution.

The message here is to deal with each incident on its merits throughout the whole 90 minutes. Don't let things go then over-react later in trying to bring the game back under control. Set out to dispense justice evenly from the start.

Do be objective. Don't pre-judge things based on club or player reputations. There have been tales in the past of referees being invited to 'watch' certain players. It was said that Peter Crouch came in for such treatment by officials. The legendary Vinnie Jones often upset officials - David Elleray once cautioned him 3 seconds into a game for a reckless challenge and rightly so. I was once on the line to Wimbledon and VJ did not put a foot wrong - he played physically but completely fairly. Deal with what actually happens, not what might. Go into each game with a 'clean sheet of paper'. Caution what deserves disciplinary action.

Dealing with persistent infringement of the laws has been simplified by the introduction of the 'stepped approach'. But it is not clear cut. Three heavy challenges will earn a caution: a quiet word for the first, a public word for the second - perhaps in the captain's presence - and the yellow card for the third for not taking any notice. But what about the offender who continually commits niggly and trivial offences? Is he to not be discouraged? This type of player can often be less noticeable to the referee during the course of the game. As an assessor, I sit there recording all these events and have sometimes asked the referee how many times he penalised a particular player getting the answer "2 or 3" when the actual number was 8.

Trivial offences are not as memorable but they may have a damaging psychological effect on opponents. The player who may have committed 7 or 8 minor fouls ought to have been apprehended. The good referee should be on the look-out for this pattern of offending and deal with it. A strong word after 3 or 4 and final warning given after another one and a card for his fifth perhaps. Judge for yourself.

Len Randall

Courtesy of The Chiltern Referee

Adie's Soaring Like an Eagle

Further to my article last month concerning the state of the roads in Surrey I read with interest that there is money from a Government pot that can be used for the refurbishment of the highways and byways. The belief that 'repairs' are the answer cuts no ice with me I'm afraid, the only way is a complete resurface of the road. That said I guess it only takes a couple of months for the maintenance crews to come out and dig it up for water, gas etc. Pessimistic you say?

Onto football matters. As I write this article it seems the entire weekend is a 'whiteout' so I suppose I will have to spend my time in my old rocking chair by the wood burner.....ces't la vie!! Last weekend (12/13 Jan) was, I have to say rather cool. Some advice I would pass over, always take an extra tee-shirt with you. I usually find that my Nike 'skin' under my ref's shirt is enough but there are occasions when you get a game that is a mid-field battle. You do not get the amount of movement you would prefer and it can have the effect of you getting a cold mid drift. You find that out when you go in for your shower and it can lead to getting a chill in your stomach. If the game is like that and you can nip into the dressing room at half-time for the shirt it's a bit of comfort on a cold day.

The assessing should almost be complete for this session and the new one commences in March. I have some advice for those going for promotion for the first time. You may get at some point a lower mark than you would wish for. This may not be entirely down to your ability as a Match Official. We have all been there when the two teams are just a total pain, winging and complaining at every decision, you bung a couple of cards for dissent, doesn't work, they carry on..... The assessor should take that into consideration but not always. A quote I recall from my younger days in Canada 'it's difficult to soar like an Eagle when you work with Turkeys'. Remember that and think of your beer after the game and it's not so bad.

Adie

Scottish Football - Fan steps in as match official after ref stretchered off

Eurosport – Mon, Oct 29, 2012 14:31 GMT

Dunfermline were playing Cowdenbeath in a league clash at East End Park when referee Kevin Clancy ended up in an accidental collision with Cowdenbeath player-manager Colin Cameron early in the second half.

The home side were 1-0 up and on course for a victory that would take them to the top of the table, but with Clancy in a bad way it seemed that the match might have to be abandoned.

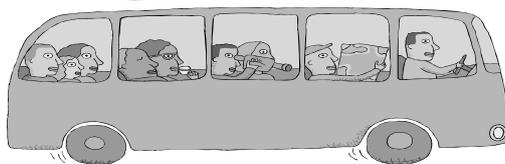
Half an hour went by without a replacement being found, but then a hero stepped forward to save the day: 61-year-old security supervisor Jock Campbell, who agreed to step in.

Jock, a qualified referee who regularly takes charge of Sunday League matches, agreed to run the line while one of the original linesmen took over as ref.

Cowdenbeath fans will wish that he had stayed in his seat, however. The visitors went on to lose 3-0 and Dunfermline went to the top of the table.



Belgium 2013



It is most disappointing to announce that due to the apathy and non committal from members in relation to this trip, David and Roy have regrettably had to cancel the coach planned for the 17th May to the 20th May 2013. This despite the fact we were arranging a payment plan to help pay for this trip to assist the members with not such a heavy burden of having to fork out all the monies in one hit.

We further announce that we intend to run a 15 seater minibus on a first come, first served basis to enjoy a social weekend with our friends from Soleo, but regrettably that we will not be fielding a football side to participate in their tournament for the first time in our history which is rather sad.

For those interested in coming to Belgium for a purely sociable weekend without the football, David and Roy will require your names by either the February or March meeting at the latest with preferably a £50 deposit to ensure your seat on the minibus.

PLEASE NOTE THAT WE WILL GOING TO BELGIUM ON THE ABOVE DATES WHETHER WE HAVE 15, 6 or 3 MEMBERS BECAUSE WE BOTH BELIEVE THAT IT IS IMPORTANT TO KEEP THE FRIENDSHIP GOING BETWEEN SOLEO AND WOKING WHICH HAS BEEN ACTIVE SINCE 1983.

Please kindly Roy let or David know A.S.A.P.on 07747800687 or 07766758029 and we sincerely hope we get a few people interested in this trip.

Sincerely hoping to hear from you shortly.

David and Roy

The Adventures of Willy 'The Whistler' Woodwork

Roll on roll off roll on!

Match: Cockfosters Casuals –v- Reds Rovers
Venue: Hackney Marsh – Pitch 165
League: Division Three – Sunday Park League (&orth)
Time: 78th minute

As a referee it is our duty to administer the laws and apply the appropriate actions. We may not all agree on the differences between careless, reckless and excessive challenges and when we are all alone in a park on a Sunday morning game with no assistants we all know that to award an off side decision is generally a judgement call as we do not have the position of the neutral assistant with a side on view running along the touch lines to assist us.

The three officials 'get it wrong' when their mistakes are highlighted on Match of the Day or a live televised match. It actually makes me feel better knowing that even the Premier officials, the FA elite, can also make mistakes the same as you and me on the local park. To be honest they make very few errors but when they do it is there for all to see in slow motion re-runs.

Thankfully we are spared that at Hackney Marshes. If I do make any mistakes they are honest mistakes and without cameras at my matches no one can prove otherwise. Not that for one moment am I hinting that I do make mistakes.....perish that thought immediately.

So back to the reality of my match....Cockfosters Casuals versus Reds Rovers.

The sort of match that should be shown on 'Match of the Day' and then everyone would witness what a good referee I really am. Hackney Marshes may not be White Hart Lane or Stamford Bridge but there are at least ten people watching my match and that must be possibly my highest attendance of the season so far.

Now this leads nicely to one of the new changes for this season in certain leagues regarding the players being able to start as a substitute then enter the field of play and become a player and then be replaced by another substitute and then be able to take part in the match again. This is generally known as 'rolling subs' but the substitution procedure must still be performed in the usual manner as per the laws of the game.

This of course means that each time one of the teams wants to make a substitution I have to run over to the half way line and firstly wait for a player to leave the field of play and then check the player coming on regarding boots, kit and jewellery.

The players kept saying to me that they have already taken part in the match but I insisted the checks were mandatory and I had to do so as stated in the laws of the game. After all it is my duty to ensure this was done correctly on every occasion. But here we are in the last twelve minutes of the match and to date there has been seventeen substitutions.

These had been carried out throughout the match and done for tactical reasons rather than any attempt to 'waste time'. Apparently the referee should add on thirty seconds for each substitution so on that basis was I supposed to add eight and a half minutes to the original ninety and that does not even include any other allowances for time lost.?

At this rate it could be at least twelve minutes minimum. What would you do? Is it correct to add on thirty seconds for each substitution? Am I really supposed to check the players' boots even if they have already taken part in the game?

The other new law this season has been concerning socks. Would you believe it.....a law on socks! Can you picture the scene at the governing body of all football, FIFA and someone says 'And next on the agenda is socks'. Possibly the easiest law of all to implement but for us at grass roots level the problem always seems to be whoever was the referee before me, the week previous who says 'I'll let you play with different tape on your socks this week but make sure it doesn't happen this week.' So of course I ask the players to remove their white socks on top of their blue socks and also ask them to remove the white tape as well. 'But the ref last week let us play'. That is the inconsistency between referees. If they were like me from the first match of the season this would still not be occurring. All refs should be helping one another and not hindering one another. Would you allow players to use white tape over their blue socks? Is it a problem if they wear short white socks over their blue socks? Can an out field player wear track suit bottoms under shorts and socks? If so does the colour matter? Can an out field player wear gloves? Again if so does the colour matter?

See you all soon,

Willie Whistler

courtesy of The Normidian

Welsh ref one of youngest



WELSH football referee Bryn Markham-Jones has become one of Europe's youngest international referees.

The referee, who originates from Wrexham but now lives in Swansea, is behind just three referees – one from Azerbaijan, one from Kazakhstan and one from Belarus – as Europe's youngest, at just 26.

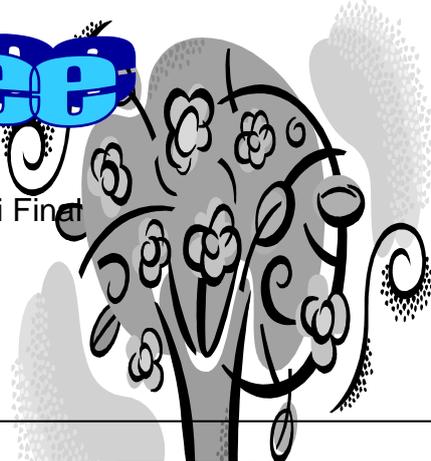
Markham-Jones becomes Wales's 40th international referee and joins Lee Evans (Llanllechid) and Mark Whitby (Swansea) on the international list for next year.

FAW referees manager Rodger Gifford said: "This is fantastic news not only for Bryn, but for Welsh refereeing and Welsh football as well.

"Over the years Bryn has had to combine his refereeing with school, university and his working life, so this recognition is testament to the work and dedication that he has put into refereeing over the years."

"The six area development officers have carried out excellent work since its inception and this is exemplified by the fact that 11 graduates of the programme are now assistants on the Welsh Premier League."

PlumTree



16th February
 Surrey Elite League Reserves Challenge Cup Semi Final
 Reigate Priory v Ripley Village
 Referee Dave Lawton

Hands off or you pay the Penalty

ATTENDING games over the holiday period, one moment stood out the penalty given by Mark Clattenburg in the second minute of the match between West Ham United and Norwich City. Ryan Bennett held Winston Reid in a manner now inexplicably regarded as standard, Clattenburg (right) pointed to the spot, Mark Noble put West Ham ahead. And then, something remarkable: It did not happen again. Not once did a defender play the shirt, not the ball. There was no grappling, no wrestling. When a West Ham player stood on Norwich goalkeeper Mark Bunn and deliberately obstructed him at a set-piece, Clattenburg blew for that, too. Those who decry the unsightly physical skirmishes at every corner and free-kick think one weekend enforcing the rules would sort it out. There may be 10 penalties per game, they shrug, but, after that, it will be over. Actually, it will be even easier. As Clattenburg proved, there would be one penalty per game, given early,



Martin Samual writing in the Daily Mail Wed Jan 9th

Mike Dean will be very disappointed with the decision of the FA disciplinary panel.

I have had the same happen to me over a similar incident at Arsenal in August 2000. I went into my next match at Ipswich confused as to what to do with the next tackle I saw.

PGMO chiefs will share Dean's disappointment and be angered at the decision not to back the official.

There was a real split in the football world and in such instances surely the standing referee should be backed. Referees are told that only when their decision is seen as a clear and obvious error will the panel overturn it.

This decision was certainly not clearly wrong and I just hope that in the light of this referees stop clamping down on two-footed tackles and leave players exposed to serious injury.

Graham Poll writing in the Daily Mail



Is This an Alternative Diet And Nutrition For Referees?

With the high emphasis on diets following the Christmas excesses, here is a timely warning to those who have succumbed or are thinking about going on a diet.

Q: Doctor, I've heard that cardiovascular exercise can prolong life. Is this true?

A: Heart only good for so many beats, and that it... Don't waste on exercise. Everything wears out eventually. Speeding up heart not make you live longer; it like saying you extend life of car by driving faster. Want to live longer? Take a nap.

Q: Should I reduce my alcohol intake?

A: Oh no. Wine made from fruit. Fruit very good. Brandy distilled wine that means they take water out of fruity bit so you get even more of goodness that way. Beer also made of grain. Grain good too. Bottom up!

Q: How can I calculate my body/fat ratio?

A: Well, if you have body and you have fat, your ratio one to one. If you have two body, your ratio two to one.

Q: What are some of the advantages of participating in a regular exercise program?

A: Can't think of one, sorry. My philosophy: No pain...good!

Q: Aren't fried foods bad for you?

A: YOU NOT LISTENING! Food fried in vegetable oil. How getting more vegetable be bad?

Q : Will sit-ups help prevent me from getting a little soft around the middle?

A: Oh no! When you exercise muscle, it get bigger. You should only be doing sit-up if you want bigger stomach.

Q: Is chocolate bad for me?

A: You crazy?!? HEL-LO-O!! Cocoa bean! Another vegetable! It best feel-good food around!

Q: Is swimming good for your figure?

A: If swimming good for figure, explain whale to me.

Q: Is getting in shape important for my lifestyle?

A: Hey! 'Round' is shape!

Well... I hope this has cleared up any misconceptions you may have had about food and diets.

And remember:

Life should NOT be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in an attractive and well-preserved body, but rather to skid in sideways - Chardonnay in one hand - chocolate in the other - body thoroughly used up, totally worn out and screaming "WOO-HOO, what a ride!!"

With thanks to the Normidian for this timely advice

FA has made dealing with dangerous lunges harder for refs to tackle

Vincent Kompany's red card may not have been right but honest attempts to discourage reckless play should be supported



A typical Kompany tackle. This one went unpunished

In the laws of association football one phrase occurs over and over again: "If in the opinion of the referee ...". In other words decisions on the field are down to the way one man sees it, supported by his assistants.

So far, as is known, there has not been an amendment to the effect that the referee's opinion should be subject to ratification by players, managers, commentators or TV pundits. Or, if it comes to that, the blazers at the Football Association.

Yet this week the decision of a leading referee was overturned by the FA's independent regulatory commission on the grounds that the official, Mike Dean, had made a mistake in sending off the Manchester City captain, Vincent Kompany, at the Emirates last weekend. Dean saw Kompany's lunge at Arsenal's Jack Wilshere as a two-footed tackle and showed him a red card which was rescinded on appeal two days later.

According to FA rules a dismissal can only be nullified if it can be proved that a referee has made "a clear and honest mistake in law". Dean's decision looked right or wrong depending on the angles of respective TV replays. There was nothing clear or obvious about it.

Seen one way, Kompany won the ball fairly and caught Wilshere with some part of his anatomy, though not his other foot, on the follow-through. From another viewpoint the City defender appeared to have both feet off the ground as he made the challenge. A third camera did not prove anything either way.

Yet surely the only view that mattered should have been Dean's. True, Kompany made his case with admirable cogency. He was not annoyed with Dean and understood the difficulties of the referee's job and said "if the ball is overrun by an opponent and a 50/50 challenge occurs a collision is inevitable."

In the opinion of the City manager, Roberto Mancini, Kompany "went into the tackle anticipating the opponent and took the ball ... It was no foul, no red card." Mancini reckoned that the defender's right foot was a minimum of 50cm (20in) from his opponent. Maybe it was, but surely a tackle does not have to land to be deemed dangerous?

All right, Kompany may have been unlucky to see a red card and perhaps Dean was striving to be consistent having sent off Arsenal's Laurent Koscielny early in the game. But these things happen amid the rough and tumble of a match and declaring that the referee went over the top in dismissing Kompany has sent out the wrong message to officials who have been given to understand that the football authorities, national and international, want to eliminate dangerous tackling.

Kompany's tackle may not have come into this category but if referees are to be pilloried for honest decisions then they may start to think twice about punishing really dangerous tackles fearing that television replays will make them look incompetent in the eyes of the appeals people.

Clearly the referees' body, the Professional Game Match Officials, is worried about the way Dean has been treated by a three-man committee which tends to include ex-players but no ex-referees. When there were grumbles after several players, including Kompany, were shown red cards for similar tackles a year ago the head of the PGMO, Mike Riley, declared: "The message is that if you commit to a tackle that is at speed and with intensity, typically with both feet off the ground, then you put yourself at risk of being sent off."

Kompany did not land both feet on Wilshere but, as TV showed, the way the challenge began put the possibility in the referee's mind. At worst Dean's decision was debatable. It was not a "clear and obvious mistake in law".

Whenever these issues arise somebody in the game, usually a defender or a manager who has been a defender, will fear that officialdom is out to ban tackling altogether. But this is not the case. The sort of tackle which continues to be questioned is the bulldozing type which often occurs when a defender goes to ground as he makes the challenge. While there is seldom malicious intent these sliding tackles can lead to serious injuries if they are only slightly mistimed.

In deciding not to support Dean the FA's appeals body has planted two feet into a referee's honest attempt to discourage this type of challenge. Kompany may have been right in fact but the referee was not wrong in spirit.

Courtesy of The Guardian , spotted by Brian Reader

Subs? “Ro-Ro” No-No

Unless you have been with the 'probe1 with the name 'CURIOSITY' on the planet MARS for the past few weeks you should be aware that the F.A. wanted some Leagues to try a pilot scheme of 'Roll-on, Roll-off substitutions at 'open-age* (i.e. adult) levels, to imitate the way the lower age groups of Youth and Girls, plus Women and Veterans have all been using substitutions for quite some time.

Our two local Leagues, Alliance and Border, duly informed each of their Clubs about the idea, asked each of them to discuss it internally (at their Club AGM was the suggestion, assuming such things were held I) and then each League would have it as a League AGM Agenda item, before taking a vote on two counts, (1) Accept or Decline, and (2) If accepted, then how many subs to be allowed with the 'offer' being any number from 3 to 7 for both 'named' and 'able to play”

SCFA set the example by deciding early (before the Handbook went to print, was it ?) to allow RoRo subs in the Saturday Junior and Lower Junior Cups and in all Cups played on Sundays, and to allow 'Any 5 from 5 named' to be the standard adopted.

Your two local Leagues (and the Western) all voted AGAINST the idea after some lively discussion. So you are stuck with any 3 from 5 named for your local League and League Cup games but when you get a County Cup, in any of the sections mentioned above, you will need to adapt to, and adopt, that any 5 from named subs can be used and that each replaced player becomes a potential substitute. As some LEAGUES adopted 'Ro-Ro' and also went for an increase in the number of subs allowed and allowed to play you are pretty well bound to get a game where one team is used to RoRo and t'other will not have a clue.

As for our local teams finding themselves confronted with a team plus 5 subs, all ready to play their County Cup tie, whilst our team has just brought along one extra bloke, and he has the flag in his hand at the moment, I really do hope our Clubs and their Officers have talked to their players and have ably forecast what to expect. I was surprised how strong the feeling in this area was AGAINST the idea, there will be another opportunity to try it for the 2013-2014 season, before the F.A. (or was it FIFA) declares it to be a good idea (and mandatory ?) or a pretty poor idea at adult level and we then regress to our current adequate (allegedly) method of 'play any 3 from maximum of 5 named'.

It is slightly difficult to see how the increase in the number of subs named and/or played can possibly increase the total number of 11 v 11 teams that being one of the main objects of the idea, we are told. As for integrating Under 16 youth players into the adult game and adult Leagues (?) Has that ever really been a problem ?

Cyril W

Leagues must NOT ask to see copies of Referees' reports.

'Open sessions' at Society meetings are a 'good idea', held not too often of course, but a surefire way of involving everyone, or very nearly, and (slightly alarmingly perhaps)- a very good way of 'educating' some referees. Yes chaps, all you need to tell any League is that you cautioned and/or sent off a player (or two) of xxxx F.C. in a particular game. No details other than those bare facts are allowable, and if you are asked for any more information you should simply say "No".

I cannot be sure if this restriction lasts for ever, by that I am asking if the League is entitled to know the actual offence, possibly more about the circumstances, let's say after the player has served his suspension, or do the facts remain sort of sub judice for ever.

If the latter applies it raises the question as to how any League can accurately monitor its own teams and players. Or does the F.A. think we should not get involved in that either? If, on the other hand, a League can try to get the facts about an incident of misconduct (so that it is au fait with its own Clubs and teams standards of behaviour) how is it allowed to do so? Should it be able to ask the referee later on, should it ask the team of the guilty player, should it ask the opposing team, and should it seek any of those versions or opinions in writing

What was that old expression told to every referee showing an interest in 'what the player got?': "You have done your job, the decision is nothing to do with you!" That always struck me as presumptuous at the very least, sort of a dismissal, ignoring the fact that even policemen like to see the crooks locked up.

If I had been subjected to a mouthful of abuse, or been insulted, or the language used had been offensive to myself or anyone in the vicinity I confess to retaining an interest in knowing that the culprit got his just desserts.

That is not vindictive, it is human nature. At one time the referee stayed 'in court' and heard the 'sentence' announced, I can understand why that habit was dropped so that the ref was 'let go' before the final part of the hearing.

But I must return to the problems that can be caused to Leagues by the 'shut up shop' dictate of our Lords and masters.

Let me first of all express a few 'contrary opinions' to some of the things I have been asked to believe in ever since November 1969. Each club/team affiliates to a County F.A., so it 'belongs' to that F.A. Yes, of course it does, but it will play anything up to 96% of its games in its League (with just one guaranteed County Cup tie, if it enters!) Even if it reaches a County Final its ties therein will not exceed 7 or 8 so it will still spend more than 75% of its playing time in its League. Referees all belong to their County F.A. - Of course they do, but even the 'I love doing County Cup ties' aficionado will spend (shall I guess at) 50% of his whistling activity in a League game.

The few who resist 'The call of The Woods', or who may never be one of the chosen, will be condemned to almost 100% service to one League or another.

But let me take all our teams and all our Referees en masse and ask myself what they are looking for from each League on which they officiate? Let me assume at first that we are all agreed that refereeing can be enjoyable, and that most of us require it to be so, or would prefer it to be so. When SCFA has dealt with all your bits of paper or your e-mails or whatever, and the player has been duly sanctioned, will that guarantee you, or the next referee at that Club a trouble

free game next time round?. In other words : Will any decision emanating from Connaught House affect the attitude of any team in Surrey in their next game ?

Surely every League, and its Officers, is closer to any 'problems' than a County authority can ever be ? Surely the more a League knows about its Clubs' inherent habits and problems and attitudes the more it can seek to control any 'excesses' ?

A simple statement, verbal or written, by any referee, that he dismissed player 'A' for violent conduct is, on its own, not much use. I have tried many times to work out why Leagues have "no right to know". How could we misuse any such information ? Are we really supposed to ignore trends of poor behaviour in our Leagues, do nothing about the teams whose language produces veritable showers of letters from uncommitted spectators, should we forsake our own established standards of behaviour with the words : 'The players' behaviour is no concern of ours.' I think not.

I firmly believe it to be incumbent on every League Officer to be aware of anything and everything untoward in his League. No-one can be at every game, even in the full flush of the Border League, with 5 games at Shalford Park, all one could ever get was a 'flavour' of each, with an observable improvement in both behaviour and language once either the bike or the hair, or both, had been drawn to the attention of a contestant.

But every referee can help the cause : They are, or should be, the eyes and ears of every league they officiate on. NO, we do not want a written report on every nuance of each match, but we would like to know which bits were not satisfactory, starting in the week before with that one word "contact".

The League RefSec should give the ref his game, or at least tell him who the two teams are ! To make sure he gets there we have to rely on each home team to use any acceptable method of communication to tell the referee where they play, confirm kick-off time, check BOTH sets of kit colours and advise their referee of anything else he needs to know. All by a specific time.

One secretary of one team used to have a habit of not confirming, when taken to task he told me that I knew where they played, knew their colours and he would only have rung me if the game was off.

I hope he treated new/young referees better than that, and I bet he will not be getting away with such a sloppy attitude with Adrian's lot !

But there is so much more each referee can keep an eye on for their League, and so much more the League can make use of if they are told about it.

The RefSec is probably the right person to talk to, or write to, if necessary, simply because they need to know, as they will be supplying the next 'victim in black'. Remember this please : If you tell us we can and will take steps to change things. If you do not tell us, we will not know and will not be able to do anything to effect an improvement.

We are on your side !

CYRIL. W

Woking Referees Society Merchandise



Tony has been hard at work securing a deal to supply the Society with Polo shirts and Sweat shirts and Hoodies embroidered with the Society Badge. Prices are £15, £18, and £18 respectively and are available in any colour as long as it's Black (as per Henry Ford).

We need to have a total order of 24 units so please contact Tony if you would like to own one of this year's most sort after fashion statements.



Traces of horse meat DNA found in Tesco's Burgers



My mate ate some burgers the other day from Tesco and got rushed to hospital with the trots. I've just phoned to see how he was doing and they said he was stable.

Tesco's meat is no longer described as "medium or rare" when cooked. It's now "good to firm"

Tesco burgers "low in fat high in Shergar"

Had a Tesco's burger last night and I've still got a bit between my teeth.

Despite the controversy Tesco's burger sale's remain stable.

I've just been to my fridge to check on my burger's "AND THEY'RE OFF"

I told my horse that if she didn't behave herself, she'd be off to Tesco. She looked at me and said, Neighhhhh.

I'm not surprised by the 29% horse, it's the 71% beef that came as a shock.

I never understood why horse-meat isn't more mane-stream to be honest.

Got a burger from the Tesco Cafe the other day. The serving lady asked if I wanted anything on it so I asked her for £5 each way.

Dates for your Diary

4th February	Society Meeting - Guest Speaker Stuart Butler
4th March	Society Meeting - AGM
8th April	Society Meeting
5th May	Society End of Season Dinner
13th May	Society Meeting
17th—20th May	Trip to Belgium (Soleo Referees' Society 75th Anniversary)
5–7 July	Conference @ Hinckley Island Hotel



My Thanks

I would like to thank those of you who contribute to the Warbler on a regular basis. Once again I am indebted to Cyril West who has once more sent me a prolific amount of material. It's rather a shame that most Warbler contributions, seem to come from members of other Societies. (Adie Freeman, Tony Murphy, The Chiltern Referee, The Normidian, to name but a few)

Do we not have one of our 67 members who have the ability or inclination to put finger to keyboard and drop me line on their thoughts, match experiences, incidents, jokes ? (Martin and Brian R's excepted) ? Come on Woking, lets get some of your names in print !! **Mac**



A supporter arrived at the ground one Saturday to find the place completely empty. He went to the office and asked an official, 'What time does the match start?'

'There's no match today,' replied the official.

'But there must be!' argued the fan. 'It's Saturday.'

'I'm telling you there's no match today,' repeated the official.

'But there's always a match on Saturday afternoon,' said the fan, 'even if it's only a reserves game.'

'Watch my lips,' shouted the irate official. 'There is no M-A-T-F-C-H today!'

'Well, for your information,' the would-be spectator shouted back, 'there's no F in match.'

'That's what I've been trying to tell you!' yelled the official.



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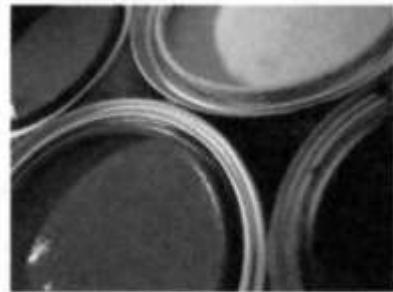
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What Would You Do?

(answers to ~~December~~ issue)

January

Q1. Before a play-off final you notice the home team have included a suspended player in their starting line-up. You approach his manager, who tells you the player's red card the previous week was a joke, so he is ignoring the suspension and playing him anyway - whether you like it or not. What would you do?

A1. You cannot stop a suspended player taking part. Make it clear you are aware the player is suspended, that it will be reported, and the club is likely to face significant sanctions.

Q2. In a tense penalty shoot-out the away team score with their decisive fifth kick. But as the players race away to celebrate, you notice the final kick-taker was not wearing his shin-pads when he scored. What would you do?

A2. Disallow the goal, call the player back, order the kicker to put his shin pads on, then allow a retake. (you will be very unpopular!

Q3. During a goalmouth scramble your assistant signals that the ball went over the line in the goal. You award a goal - but then spot the fourth official waving you over. He says he saw a TV replay in the dugout which clearly shows the ball did not go in. What would you do?

A3. Accept your AR's signal that the ball had crossed the line; award the goal, then suspend the game until the TV equipment is removed.

Q4. The Red goalkeeper, taking a goal kick, plays the ball towards a defender on the edge of the penalty area. The latter seeing an oncoming attacker, deliberately steps inside the penalty area to intercept the ball and hurry a clearance. What would you do?

A4. Stop play. Retake the kick. There is no disciplinary action required.

Q5. A Blue defender decides, for the purposes of offside (to "catch" attackers offside), to step over this goal-line. A Red attacker, collects the ball, and with only the goalkeeper to beat, nets the ball, and scores a goal. What would you do?

A5. Award a goal. Caution the defender for unsporting behaviour.

Q6. A Red attacker, in the goal area near a goal post following some goalmouth action, side-foots the ball towards the goal but it hits the side-netting. A little boy spectator taps it back into play and the Red attacker discreetly kicks it into the net. He then vigorously claims a goal. What would you do?

A6. Disallow the goal. Caution the Red attacker for U/S behaviour. Restart with a goal kick.

(Ed. Q's 1-3 were from "You Are The Ref" by Keith Hackett and Paul Trevillion. Q's 4-5 were set by Sid Harrison for the Nat RA Quiz, 2012)

Courtesy of the Chiltern Referee

What Would You Do?

Question 1.

A Red striker races clear into the box but is clipped from behind, resulting in his boot coming off. But he keeps his balance and manages to get his shot away - smacking the ball into the net with his socked foot. What would you do?



Question 2.

You award a corner to Reds. The taker places the ball outside the corner quadrant, with most of it off the field of play. Blue opponents shout, and their fans behind the goal-line are screaming abuse at you. What would you do?

Question 3.

A player has treatment for a cut to his head which has left his white shirt soaked in blood. He is fit to return - but there are no spare shirts. His manager

wants him to play in his white vest instead. What would you do?

Question 4.

A very disgruntled Red mid-fielder (upset with team tactics, and about to be substituted) collects the ball, turns and races towards his own goal intending to score. A defending colleague, sensing the mid-fielder's intent, brutally brings him down in their own penalty area with a sliding tackle. What would you do?

Question 5.

In a tense derby cup game, with play in midfield, you notice two Blues players punching each other. You haven't seen any previous actions which might have caused the fight. What would you do?

Question 6.

The ball crosses the goal-line as it is played by a Red attacker and a Blue defender. You award a corner kick. A discussion between the attacker and defender in the goal-mouth becomes heated and results in the defender punching the attacker as the corner-kick is taken with the ball coming into the penalty area. As the striker collapses, the ball hits his head and flies into the goal. What would you do?

(Ed. Questions 1-3 were from "You Are The Ref" by Keith Hackett and Paul Trevillion. Questions 4-5 were set by Sid Harrison for the National RA Quiz, 2012)

MICK MCCARTHY & RON ATKINSON

The ref gave Arsenal a goal and as I turned around I saw this big furry microphone so I laid into it. I kicked it and it spun away like a boomerang before landing 20 yards away. Then the Sky touchline reporter came up to me and said: 'So, Mick, you must be disappointed.' *MCCARTHY, Millwall manager, 1995*

You were a crap player, you're a crap manager. The only reason I have any dealings with you is that somehow you are manager of my country and you're not even Irish, you English !!!!!. You can stick it up your bollocks. *ROYKEANE, Republic of Ireland captain, to McCarthy during a team meeting which led to Keane being sent home from Japan on the eve of the World Cup finals, 2002*

My reaction when I was offered this job? Yee-hah!
MCCARTHY on becoming Sunderland manager, 2003

The other lads will be asking Jason McAteer: 'What's he like? Is he all right? Has he got a sense of humour? What's his training and coaching like? Is he a big-nosed miserable sod?' *MCCARTHY at Sunderland, 2003*

It wasn't just a monkey on my back, it was *Planet of the Apes*.
MCCARTHY after Sunderland gained their first Premiership victory in nearly three years, 2005

Mick is very South Yorkshire. He's slow to get his round in, but I'm enjoying working with him.
BOB MURRAY, Sunderland chairman, 2005

He s a little twat, that Totti. I can't see what all the fuss is about. Are there any sandwiches? I'm starving.

Big Ron offers piercing insight during the 2002 World Cup, unaware that the cameras are still rolling.

At least we were consistent - useless in defence, useless in midfield and crap up front. Ron raves after Villa lose 3-0 at Coventry.

I just bumped into Cyrille Regis and I said ' What s all this about you finding God? You worked with him at West Brom for four years'.

Ron on Cyrille Regis's horn-again Christianity.

Courtesy of the book of football quotations

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