

THE WARBLER

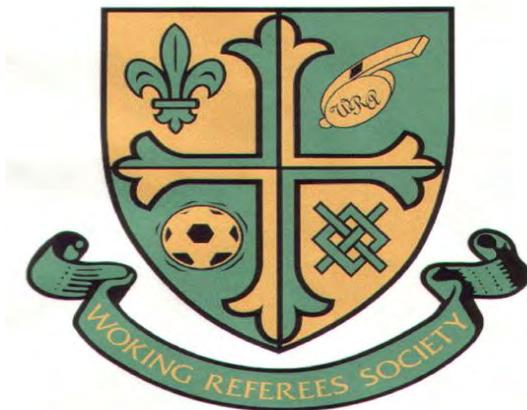
Monthly Magazine of the Woking Referees' Society

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Season 2015/16 February Edition

WOKING REFEREES ' SOCIETY

FOUNDED 1927

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|--|---|
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The next meeting of the Woking Referees' Society will be on Monday 1st February 2016

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

AGENDA

- ◆ **7.15 Academy Meeting**
- ◆ **8.00 Chairman's Welcome**
- ◆ **Guest Speaker - Jon Creswick**
- ◆ **Society Business**
- ◆ **Problem Corner**
- ◆ **10.00 Close**



**Next Month's Meeting
Monday 7th March**

**The deadline for the March Warbler is
Friday 27th February 2016**

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

From the President

Welcome to the February warbler, I hope this edition finds you well.

A big thank you to Pat for a very interactive presentation on illegal use of the arms at the January meeting, those that were fortunate enough to attend were not only entertained but educated also. We look forward to Pat delivering similar presentations in the future.

This month one of our very own referees Jon Creswick will be sharing some of his experiences having very quickly risen to Level 3 and now operating in semi-professional football. We look forward to welcoming Jon on the 1st Feb.

With all this weather we have been having I am guessing some of you have struggled for games. If any of you are ever at a loose end and don't want to go shopping please do consider going along and watching a colleague. We are always grateful for a colleagues unbiased opinion and you never know you might just learn something yourself. How not to do it if you come to one of my games. I hope you manage to get a game soon.

I look forward to seeing you all at the February meeting

Very best **Vince**

Dates for your Diary 2015/16

| | | |
|--------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| 1st February | Society Meeting | Jon Creswick |
| 7th March | Society AGM | - Andy Bennett Quiz Night |
| 4th April | Society Meeting | TBA |
| 9th May | Society Meeting | TBA |
| 8th August | Society Meeting | TBA |

Accounts February 2016

| | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| 2015/16 Membership | General | £2,666.82 |
| 58 Full Members | Supplies | £153.15 |
| 7 Friends | Belgium | £0.00 |
| 1 Affiliated Member | Training Fund | -£212.00 |
| | Youth Fund | £113.50 |
| | Total | £2,721.47 |

Mac's Musings

Congratulations are in order to Society and Committee member Brian Reader who has been awarded the British Empire Medal in the New Year's Honours list. As many of you may know, Brian is a keen Rambler and held the post of National Chairman of the Ramblers Association for a number of years. He is described in the honours as "Formerly Surrey Area Footpath Secretary, The Ramblers". The citation being "for services to promoting the Rights of Way Network in Surrey".

Brian says that whilst not personally agreeing with the Honours system, he saw this as an opportunity to get some favourable publicity for the Ramblers. In an interview with the Surrey Advertiser, he made it clear that he saw the award as one for the whole team of Local Footpath Secretaries in Surrey. He went on to say "I was surprised and not something I expected or do it for. I've no idea even who nominated me".

As well as "rambling" around the footpaths of Surrey he (and Gill his missus) is not averse to venturing further afield. Their next trip being those of Patagonia in South America, no less.

Brian also does a lot for the Woking Referees Society behind the scenes so to speak. He represents us at the County RA meetings and has now taken on the role of Representative of the County RA at the County FA Referees Committee.

A daunting task I would submit.

I also noticed in the Surrey Advertiser that Jacquie Oatley, who resides in Hinchley Wood, received an MBE in the New Years Honours for services to broadcasting and diversity in sport. Ms Oatley was the first woman to commentate on a football game for BBC Match of the Day. She currently presents international women's football for the BBC and men's international football for ITV. And is on the board of Women in Football, striving to improve women's representation in the game. Having read that although the number of men's teams are in decline those of women's is on the increase, helped no doubt by their success at the Women's World Cup in Canada earlier this year and no doubt the work of the aforementioned organisation.

I, along with many of you I'm sure, have noticed as has Tony Murphy in his "Meanderings" this month, the relatively new practice of players warming up on the touchline opposite the A/R rather than behind him in Premiership games? As Tony mentions, when I too was lining on the Suburban the subs were always instructed to warm up behind the A/R. When ever I was on the bench side, I often found it a distraction as they would tend to either get in my way or offer "advice" or both. Then there was the added responsibility of making sure that there was only the prescribed number at a time and that they were actually warming up and not wandering along for a chat with their mates over the barrier. Is this still the case at this level can any one tell me.?

Throw ins in Premiership games is another mystery whereby the normal laws seem to be ignored, along of course with wrestling in the penalty area. Behind the head? Never. ! Interesting how often when refereeing at grass roots level we are informed by players what they consider to be a foul throw. Well I am anyway., but even I would be inclined to blow up at some of the antics of the professionals.

Mac

Woking RA Society Meeting January 4th 2016

20 members gathered at Meadow Sports Club for the January Meeting. The guest speaker was our Secretary Pat Bakhuizen who gave a thought provoking and entertaining talk on the "illegal use of arms" Not as I mentioned in last month's Warbler of the "fire" variety but of hands, elbows etc.

We discussed such issues as holding, from wrapping arms around a player to the sly shirt tug. The latter often on the blind side of the referee and just enough to put a player off his/her stride. Very difficult to spot, but where an observant Assistant (neutral) may be able to "assist". Also mentioned was the "retaliation" aspect of holding/tugging, where a player in trying to free himself may lash out with an arm or elbow, particularly if the referee is ignoring the situation.

Interestingly the Law state that holding offences are punished only by a free kick, however if the action prevents say the progress of a strong attacking move then a caution should be administered.

The constant sight on TV of players in the box at corners etc holding, tugging, even wresting, and apparently being ignored by the top flight refs was another point for discussion and highlighted by a couple of videos. This, it was felt, doesn't help our cause at grass roots level. The use of the whistle and voice accompanied by a warning of future conduct prior to a kick being taken was the recommendation. - followed of course by action if warning not heeded.

The illegal use of arms when jumping for the high ball was next. The defenders arm/elbow in the back of the attackers neck when jumping is quite common, and can be very dangerous. We need to be mindful that an important part of our role is to protect players from unfair play and possible injury.

Correct positioning is of course vital in these situations. If too close we may be tempted to be looking at feet and miss what is happening with the arms and hands.

Pat talked about the oft discussed handball incidents. Probably the only law where "intent" is still required for an offence to have been committed.

In Summary, - Keep focused, be proactive, be aware of consequences and use firm action and a strong "match presence" when necessary.

After a break, Pat showed us a few videos of bad tackles and we were invited to say whether we would have shown a red or yellow card, indicated by moving to one side of the room or the other. Members were then asked why we had made our decisions, which proved very entertaining, and informative.

Andy also added a couple of mass brawl incidents and the case of a player being sent off, presumably for OFFINABUS language as soon as he walked onto the pitch. Could the officials have handled the situations better was the question?

Vince thanked Pat for a great presentation with the customary bottle of wine.

The meeting closed at 10.10



Mac

Pat Bakhuizen with well deserved drink

Letter From Len

Mac,

Thanks for sending me the Warbler again – always a good read.

There was mention of Woking's membership record.

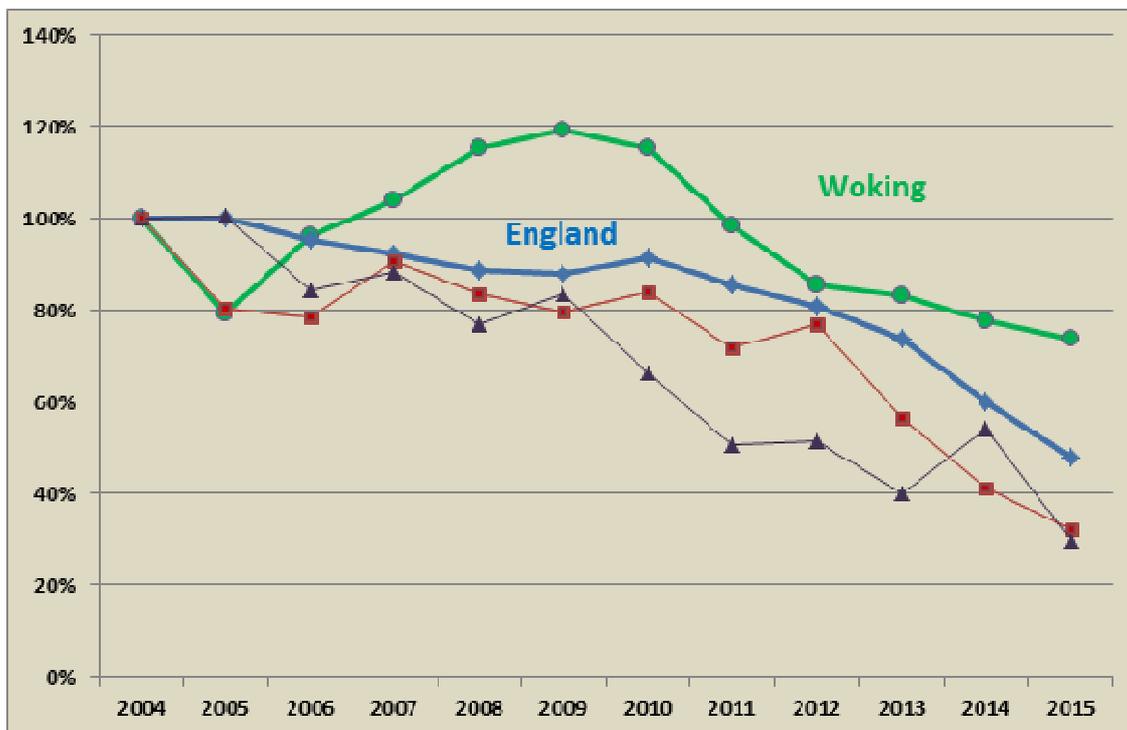
For reasons you could guess I've been doing some analyses lately looking at the decline of the RA and typical societies that mirror the national trend. I was looking for a society that seems to have bucked the trend and, lo and behold, look at the Woking graph!

The figures are for each end-November expressed as a percentage of the November 2004 figure.

You could publish this graph with pride, not having suffered anything like the national demise.

The black and red lines are typical of many societies; these are both in the south-east and the homes of current or past Board members.

Len Randall



Hi Mac

An interesting read as always (January Warbler) and especially this months SCRA report – licks from the penalty mark! A different way of deciding a match!!

Happy new year

Bruce

The Magnificent 7.....I have a dream!

The following should be implemented with immediate effect: It seems to be the same old story every week so I would love it if the FA implemented my ideas with the full co-operation of all referees.....

Dissent - When a player is cautioned for dissent they will automatically miss the next match. Should they be cautioned for the same offence in a later match the suspension will be doubled to two matches and keep on being doubled should they continue to show dissent. I was involved with the Hendon & District Sunday League who introduced this scheme and cautions for dissent lowered by over 80%. (I believe the FA told the league to scrap this pilot scheme but wow look at the results!)

Socks and Tape - What a simple law....the tape needs to be the same colour of the sock as it goes around the sock so if the sock is blue and white hoops then white tape on the white part of the sock and blue tape on the blue part of the sock. Not difficult at all! But week in week out the players do not apply this as it seem the referees ignore this law so when a referee is being assessed they do the right thing only to hear 'But all the other refs have let me do this all season.' To all Refs.....apply this properly!

Jewellery - Again the law states 'No jewellery' and no jewellery means NO jewellery.

Assistant Referees - All teams for all matches must supply an Assistant Referee. The referee can give instructions of a minimum requirement of 'ball in and out of play' and to explain pre match how to signal and to keep the signal until the referee has shown acknowledgement.

Referees Match Fee - The home team must 'meet and greet' the match referee. The ref should be shown their changing room and be paid the match fee. If this is not done the home team is fined.

First Aid - Every team must have a qualified First Aider present with a first aid kit. They must also know where the nearest A & E hospital is located.

Pitch Barrier - All matches to erect a pitch barrier with spectators with substitutes to all be placed behind the barrier. They cannot stand behind the goals or the other touch line. Only the team manager can stand in front of the barrier. If they encroach onto the pitch after one warning they will also have to stand behind the barrier.

Well, what do you think? Have I left anything off my list? What would you like to include? Certainly food for thought.

Keith Hiller

This Month's Referee

Andre Marriner



MATCHES
215

RED CARDS
45

YELLOW CARDS
716

JOINED
2005

Personal information

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Year of birth | 1971 |
| County FA | Birmingham FA |
| First Premier League Match | 13 November 2004: Charlton Athletic v Norwich City |

Profile

Having worked within the Football League for five years from 2000, Andre Marriner was appointed as a Select Group referee in 2005 and has officiated in the Barclays Premier League ever since.

Marriner was a Football League assistant referee for three years before being promoted to the position of referee in 2003. His first Barclays Premier League appointment was in November 2004, when Charlton Athletic defeated Norwich City, and he was added to the Select Group for the following season.

In 2008, Marriner was the fourth official for Manchester United's FA Community Shield success over Portsmouth and he was invited to join the FIFA list of referees for the following year, leading him to officiate in the elite qualification stage of the 2009 Euro Under-19s Championship.

He was also in charge of Blackpool's Championship Play-off Final victory over Cardiff City in 2011 and returned to Wembley two years later to referee Wigan Athletic's FA Cup final win against Manchester City.

Following up on Pat's talk on Arms (illegal use of) at last month's meeting, I spotted this article in the Chiltern Referee . Mac

Tips for officials: The use of hands and arm

I do think that our referees at the professional level are having difficulty recognising and acting correctly with regard to the illegal use of hands and arms when physical contact takes place. We are all aware that football is a physical sport in which contact is a natural part, and only unfair contact should be penalised. So for referees at all levels, in order to achieve greater consistency I list below a set of criteria, which I hope will assist you in improving your future performances:

- Did the offender unfairly hinder or impede the movement of the attacker by his hand/arm contact?
- Did this contact negatively influence the advance of the attacker or the progress of the team's attack?
- Was the contact designed to hinder (or was it accidental)?
- Did the attacker initiate the illegal hand/arm contact?
- Did the attacker use the defender's body contact to try to deceive the referee and gain a free kick or penalty kick?

If you, the referee, decide there is unfair physical contact (holding, pushing etc) then a free kick/penalty kick should be awarded.

Did the attacker attempt to deceive the referee? - then simulation must be punished with a yellow card for unsporting behaviour and play restarted with an indirect free kick to the opposing team.

I believe that in some instances referees are missing these offences through taking poor static positions in and around the penalty area. You must see, recognise, think and act when these types of incidents take place. Referees need to sustain good levels of concentration and awareness. I hope that my comments assist your future performances.

(Ed This was written by Keith Hackett for the "you are the Ref" column, October 2015. <http://you-are-the-ref.com/tips>)

Jimmy Hill Quotes



As with most Broadcasters, the late great Jimmy Hill also had his share of blunders. Here's some I found on the internet, allegedly attributed to Mr Hill . Mac

"We're not used to weather in June in this country."

"And there's Ray Clemence, looking as cool as ever out in the cold."

"They're still in the game and they're trying to get back into it."

"England now have three fresh men, with three fresh legs."

"If God had intended a round of golf to take more than three hours, He would not have invented Sunday lunch."

"Beckham has two feet, which a lot of players don't have nowadays."

"It's a cup final, and the one that wins it goes through."

'In the words of the old song, it's a long time from May to December but, you know, it's an equally long time from December to May."



MURPHY'S MEANDERINGS

I was watching a college football match the other day. It was being played at the local park and was one of those situations where girls from the same college were playing netball not far from the football pitch.

The first half of the match was played in good spirit, there were no problems and everything was friendly. However, during the half time interval the netball match finished and the girls came to support their football teams. Immediately the boys approach to the game and their attitude changed. Gone was the friendliness and everything became very serious as several of the boys tried to impress the girls who, to be fair, egged them on. The game became more physical and challenges stronger as players threw themselves into tackles. Male testosterone kicked in and to lose the ball to an opponent was a huge loss of pride and face, to be recovered at the earliest possible moment by fair means or foul. Frustration started to show and tempers flared as players lost control of themselves.

Fortunately, an experienced official, someone who refereed college football on a regular basis, was in charge, and he was ready and prepared for the problems. He took a firm hand with the players, refereed with common sense and the game ended without any major incidents. Talking to the coach driver standing next to me he said, "It happens every time the girls turn up. The boys become children in men's bodies, they never learn."

Watching football on the television recently I've noticed that on several occasions players have warmed up on the touchline opposite the Assistant Referee. In my day players had to warm up behind the Assistant Referee so that they did not get in the eye line of the other Assistant Referee who may have thought they were players or distracted him. Have things changed?

I've also noticed that it seems mandatory to take throw-ins ten yards further down the line from where the ball went out and to drop the ball into play not throw it. Another change in Law or are standards falling?

Tony Murphy

Crackers

A referee in Australia's A-League spread some festive spirit by replacing the pre-match coin toss with a cracker-pulling competition.

Benjamin Williams, who officiated Sydney FC's clash against Central Coast Mariners, decided to do away with sporting tradition and instead follow standard Boxing Day practice by making use of leftovers from the day before.

The two captains, Sydney's Alex Brosque and Central Coast's Nick Montgomery, formerly of Sheffield United, seemed somewhat bemused by the stunt but joined in nevertheless, with Brosque winning the pull for this team. ...



MORE MISUNDERSTANDINGS

In a previous article, I suggested that many wrong-headed attitudes about football stem from irresponsible TV punditry. It's getting worse. In recent times, we've heard pundits advocating that players should crowd round the referee and press him to change his decision. We've heard it repeatedly said that so-an-so has "taken a yellow card *for the team*"- as if he has done something noble and selfless rather than something akin to cheating. Robbie Savage actually used the term "a *good foul*". What?! There's no such thing. No wonder cheating and dissent have become the norm. As a spectator, I recently heard a Coach yelling to one of his players: "Freddie, you should have taken a dive there – you'd have got a penalty for it." The player was 11 years old.

Anyway, I now resume my consideration of widespread misunderstandings, on which many an ignoramus bases his berating of a referee.

(1) "Ref, the linesman's given that offside!" Oh, really? The linesman doesn't make any decisions, actually. The ref can look to him for advice if he needs it, but my experience of many club linesmen is that the ref should make his own mind up – if he has a good view of what occurred. Very few club linesmen are cheats, but many of them are incompetent. I recently overruled an offside flag. I immediately called "Play on! He's inside his own half". That caused a furore, with the linesman hurling his flag to the ground and several spectators yelling "what's the point of having a f...ing linesman if you're going to ignore him?" (This behaviour in an *Under 12s* match, for God's sake.)

I have seen club linesmen drinking coffee in one hand while waving the flag with the other. Or even conducting a mobile phone conversation while running the line! So please don't tell me that a qualified, neutral and dedicated referee has to defer to an untrained volunteer. The linesman often, of course, has a better view alongside the last outfield defender....if, that is, he is capable of keeping up with play. I recently had an ancient linesman who extinguished a fag at the last moment before kick-off, then lit up again as soon as I blew for half time. In his breathless state he was seldom up with play, but he had the nerve to complain when I overruled one of his "decisions".

(2) "Ref, stop blowing the whistle for throw-ins. It's against the *rules*." Rubbish! How else would I stop play if the ball had gone just an inch or two out of play but the players are still contesting it or chasing it? On the numerous occasions when both sides appeal for the throw-in to be awarded their way, a quick whistle brings attention to which way the ref is pointing. That saves the wrong player from trying to pull a fast one by taking the throw – which necessitates calling play back for the correct team to take it.

[On a pedantic note, they are not rules, they are *laws* – but don't you just hate it when some know-all points that out? It's NOT a good idea to nit-pick about terminology when confronted by an irate job!]

(3) "You have to listen to me ref. I'm the Captain". Wrong again. When I don't want angry players in my face, I tell them to go away – and that includes the captain. He has no special status in such situations. He will only make matters more difficult by trying to act as some kind of shop steward. Indeed, I expect a captain to set a good example to his players, which means no arguing with the ref. The captain's function, after the formalities of the coin-toss, is confined to such matters as deciding which player is to take a penalty kick. The captain's armband is not a licence to show dissent.

(4) I just *love* those motormouths (supporters and coaches) on the touchline who demand detailed personal explanations for every decision they disagree with. I generally just give them "the look" – or ignore them altogether. If we had to waste time and breath on explaining decisions to any and every ill-tempered spectator, we could be there beyond nightfall. When I used to rise to the bait and provide explanations, it only led to further futile disagreement. Never once has it ended with the spectator accepting the explanationor actually accepting (shock!) that they are mistaken.

Can you imagine a referee justifying his decisions to every loud-mouth in a crowd of 5,000 people? Of course not – so what's special about an isolated attention-seeker in a "crowd" of 20 at an Under 13s match? In just such a situation, I recently had a dad screaming at me: "Ref, at least explain to the boys – they don't know what's going on". I wonder why not? Immediately on blowing the whistle, I had told the defenders "foot up, dangerous play, indirect free kick". I had to stifle a big laugh when Mr. Ignoramus also yelled "how else is he expected to play the ball, if he can't lift his foot up there?" Honestly, you couldn't make it up.

(5) "You *can't* send me off – we've only got ten players!" Well I can, especially as you've just called me all the names under the sun. "You've ruined the game now, ref." Er, no – YOU have ruined the game with your foul-mouthed insults.

(6) "You can't do that ref, they're only boys!" This is a puzzling one. Of course we make allowances for inexperienced lads who know no better. The foul throw law, for instance, is very loosely enforced for young kids. However, they need to learn at some time.

I remember a player grabbing an opponent's shirt and roughly pulling him back. I whistled and instructed him "keep your hands to yourself, number 7." His manager yelled at me "you can't talk to him like that, he's only 14". More recently, in an Under 13s match, I awarded a penalty. I told the players VERY clearly to remain outside the area until the ball was *kicked*. I went round the 10-yard arc and made every player stand outside it. I then repeated that they must not encroach until *after* the kick was taken. Two attackers ignored the warning and they ran a long way into the area. In fact they were level with the penalty spot at the critical moment. I ordered a re-take, which of course was saved. There was hell to pay. My decision was called a "disgrace", "farcical", etc, etc.

As my old boss used to put it, you can't do right for doing wrong. Such fun!

Mick Flannigan.

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

Part 45– 'The Big P'

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

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

So let me explain what that means.

'B' is where the ball is placed and that the ball must be kicked forward.
'I' is for the taker to be identified.
'G' is for the goal keeper to be standing on the goal line and
'P' is for the position of the players.

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

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

Alas the Rovers goal keeper did not agree with my decision. He told me I was wrong but I was confident that I was right. I politely informed the goal keeper that he would be cautioned if he continued to argue with my decision and thankfully he walked away even though he was mumbling something under his breathe. I thought as long as I cannot hear his mumbings that would be better and that a yellow card would not be required.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Willy Woodwork

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



Dumb Britain



Stewart White: Who had a worldwide hit with the song 'What A Wonderful World'?

Contestant: I don't know.

White: Okay, I'll give you a couple of clues. What do you call the part of your body between your hand and your elbow?

Contestant: The arm.

White: Correct! And if you aren't weak, you are...?

Contestant: Strong.

White: Correct. And a final clue: what was Lord Mountbatten's first name?

Contestant: Louis.

White: Well there we are then. So who did have a worldwide hit with the song 'What A Wonderful World'?

Contestant: Frank Sinatra?

BBC Radio Norfolk

What does it take to turn a peaceful Sunday morning upside down and leave you feeling limp, drained and sick?

Anyone who has refereed Sunday morning football for any length of time is going to have their own stories of confrontations and poor behaviour. Fortunately, these are usually far outnumbered by memories of hard but generally sporting contests (sometimes even with a bit of skill in the mix) terminated by two teams who have battled hard but are now ready to shake each others' hands.

I am no different, having had to abandon two matches over the years and with a smattering of red cards despite my tolerance level being set at maximum for these parks games. Last weekend, however, set a new low mark for me in what might happen both on and off the pitch at this level.

It didn't start well. The away side were on the pitch and ready in good time while those few of the home team who had arrived were still standing, unchanged, by the gates, on their phones to chivvy missing team mates out of bed and down to the ground in Tooting, South London.

A pitch inspection had revealed a present left by a local fox, so when some of the home team eventually arrived on the touchline, I asked them to get it removed.

"That's the groundsman's job, mate", I was informed and an already late kick-off was further delayed while a player wandered back to the changing rooms to find someone prepared to do the necessary.

Eventually ten men took to the field and we got started a mere 15 minutes late. I knew I was in for a challenging morning when the first wild challenge flew in just seconds into the game. The ball was won more by luck than judgement and my resulting whistle was met with howls of astonishment and disagreement. Suddenly I had three contorted faces confronting me, arms waving wildly in the air.

"How was that a foul?...He won the ball...It can't be a foul if you win the ball....You don't know what you're doing, ref....You need to take a refresher course!"

Not totally unknown on a Sunday morning but they normally wait at least a few minutes before starting down that path! Things continued in a similar vein. To protect the opposition, I took an even tighter grip on the sort of challenge I was going to allow – and that was never going to be popular. Tempers were getting frayed. The away side were the better footballers and took an early lead. Temperatures rose. I started to kill the game. Every stoppage became a longer stoppage. Every foul required a little chat. It wasn't working though; the message wasn't getting through.

The home keeper was making his own efforts to kill the game with each goal kick becoming a mini drama. At first I welcomed the additional down time but soon it became obvious enough for the away side to catch on and object, so now I was having to chivvy him on as well. A lazy foul on 35 minutes brought the first home caution. He wasn't having it – but he got it anyway! More dissent to be managed. A second and final warning to another player. Yet another player wanting a word was firmly told to 'Go away'. He really didn't like that – apparently it wasn't the right way to talk to him (I didn't know it at the time but that one was going to come back and bite me later)!

Around all the mayhem, some football was being played. The ten men pulled themselves together enough to build an attack and suddenly it was 1-1 and they were back in the game. Half time arrived with 21 players still on the pitch and I drew a well-earned breath before girding my loins and striding out to face the second half.

Alas – the break had not resulted in any breakthroughs of common sense. Matters came to a head when the home keeper refused multiple shouted instructions to take a goal-kick. A caution for delaying the restart is almost unheard of on a Sunday morning and Boy! - Was it really the big stick in the ants' nest or what? It's difficult to caution with almost an entire team berating the decision – but not impossible it turns out. What tends to accompany it though, are further cautions for dissent and, sure enough, one of those who was loudest in his opinion was one who had already had a second warning. Yellow was switched quickly to red when his response to the request for his name was loud, short and extremely rude! So ten men became nine and the away side watched the chaos eventually subside while they waited to continue with what they had come there for in the first place, a simple game of football.

The next free kick was less than a minute away, which meant that the next caution for dissent was less than a minute away! An unusual 'yellow + totally separate red' was what I ended up with, though, when the dissenter, having been cautioned, loudly advised his team mates that he was going to 'break his jaw'. This was the same player who had earlier taken umbrage at being told to 'go away' but this time, having been told to go, he went. Eight men left. Their coach was probably starting to consider adopting '10 Green Bottles' as their new team signature tune. The eight considered the wisdom of walking off the pitch, because the referee obviously didn't know what he was doing and was just against them! The away team asked what was going to happen. I told them it was up to the remaining eight. If they wanted to continue, we'd continue but it would only take one more dismissal and we would not have enough players left to avoid abandoning.

Amazingly, sanity prevailed. The remaining eight decided to carry on. The dissent largely went away. Some decent football was played and they even managed to produce another goal – but let in another three – for a final 4-2 score. Handshakes from the away side. Even handshakes from several home players, including the goalkeeper who was now all smiles and had 'no hard feelings'. Happy days. All's well that ends well?

It seems not! Things were still raw enough that I figured showering on the premises would not be a good move. I'd already been paid, so I packed my flags, grabbed my bag and left to walk back to my car, which was parked about 100 yards up the road – a cul-de-sac.

A noise behind me made me turn. The second dismissed player – the one who didn't like being told to go away – had caught me up. Stupidly, my first thought was that he had rethought his behaviour and wanted to apologise. It only took one look at his glowering stare to change that opinion. And I got to look at it from close up as he jabbed his head so close to mine that the peak of his baseball cap jabbed into my left eye. His fists were clenched. He was right on the edge and very obviously looking for an excuse to strike that first blow. He was half my age but somehow I didn't think he was too worried about what damage he might do.

"I told you I was more than just some footballer", he hissed.



Mate, I don't know you. I don't want to know you. I'm going to my car and I'm going home", I replied.

He didn't like me telling him that either. "You're going nowhere. Don't you move. **I'm going to shank you!**".

With that, without taking his eyes from mine, he slipped one hand into the zipped pocket on the side of his bag. They say at moments like that your life flashes before your eyes. Maybe I haven't had such an exciting life because I didn't get so much as edited highlights! What I did get was a greatly accelerated heart rate and a profound wish that a baseball bat was part of a referee's basic kit! "Please!", I tried. "Don't do anything stupid". He was still rummaging in that pocket and it occurred to me that he was probably bluffing, or maybe he'd forgotten to slip his knife into the bag that morning. Easy to forget your checklist when you're in a hurry – You know the one... wallet, boots, keys, ...six-inch blade! I wasn't about to try and call his bluff though. "Now you say 'please!'", he said. "Only now".

A bit more eyeballing then, "Next time you see me on a pitch, you'll know how to referee me. Now you can go". And believe me! I went. Having seen him drive away, I drove back to the ground and sought out his team's coach. He was already looking more than despondent. Once he'd heard my story, he had had enough. "I've had enough of this", he said. "That's the last straw. I'll be folding the club". Once I'd got home, I phoned the police to ensure the incident was placed on record. Discipline reports and the additional misconduct-after-the-game report winged their way to the FA via the WholeGame System. Now – a week later - I may be able to recount this with a degree of savoir faire but this was, by a country mile, the very worst encounter I have experienced in my entire football life both as player and referee and cost me more than one sleepless night. I only hope that the FA judge it equally seriously, so the '*next time you see me on a pitch*' (or indeed any referee sees him on a pitch) it will be very very far in the future.

Mike Coen, writing in Touchlines (Sutton Referees Magazine)

Coventry's Corner

How high is your tolerance level?

I was recently asked by County to do a 5 to 4 assessment. I'll tell you now; the chap was, in my opinion, a shoo-in for promotion. I considered his application of law and match control was a pleasure to witness, and I told him so in debrief. I also suggested he had a very high tolerance level.

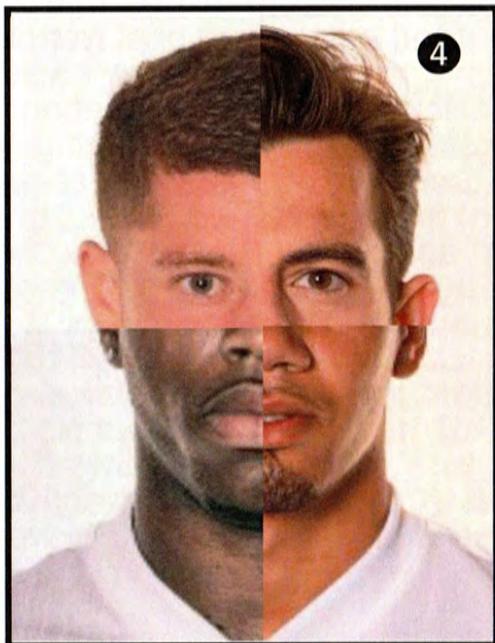
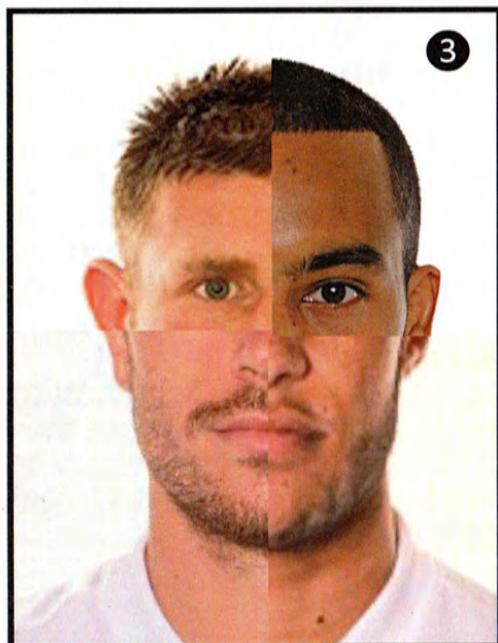
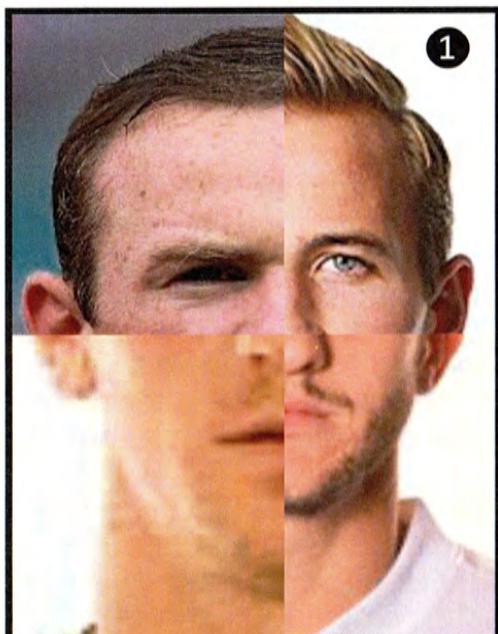
I have neither whistled nor assessed on the League the two teams were registered with (at least one senior member of our Society has) but have never before witnessed, via some 250 Level 4 assessments and too many to count below that level, such constant usage of the ubiquitous 'F' word.

Now I'm not the worlds best at affecting great modesty or propriety (I looked up prude in my dictionary!) but the ongoing gratuitous swearing had me thinking I was back on National Service! I touched on it in debrief (you never know who might be listening!) but we agreed that attempting to prevent such behaviour, a common occurrence on television for instance, was more or less beyond prevention at senior levels of soccer.



Who's Who?

Can you identify these 16 Footballers? Answers on page 25



But it wasn't just the 'F' word; there was the ongoing fatuous appealing, sometimes from considerable distance, for offside, foul throws, foul tackles, you name it. The referee rode it all, concentrating on what, one has to say, really matters. A quiet word here and admonishment there, and eventually yellow cards at 80 and 89 minutes - and no errors recorded in my notebook. But how high is your tolerance level?

Mike Coventry

Adie shelves his cribbage board for shelves

At the date of writing this article we are preparing for the second half of the season and already games are being called off due to the weather. I know waterlogged pitches are common place at this time of the year but the result of the postponed games could have an effect on the following weeks' matches so keep an eye on your e-mails. I will try to contact you with updates by phone or e-mail but still watch out for changes on the websites. Most importantly are the County Cups that have to be played the following week if they are called off.

Can I emphasise the importance of the League rules concerning League and Cup Matches. The SCILW substitution regulations are **3 from 3** not 3 from 4 or 3 from 5. The League hope to change the Team Sheets next season.

The G&WAFL is 5 from 5 so ensure you are be aware of which League you are Officiating on any particular day. Also **League Cups** have extra time and penalties on both Leagues unlike the County Cup which go straight to penalties after normal time. I am aware I have said it before but it does no harm to remind everybody.

The bedroom is complete (yippee). I finished all the final touches over the Christmas break and started to think on my next project which will be a hand crafted cribbage board. No such luck! Eldest son wants some custom built shelving which (on my behalf) Diane agreed to – Thanks Diane!!!



One has to sympathise with those poor souls in Cumbria, York and Aberdeenshire with the flood water. I cannot imagine the desperation of being flooded out of your own home at Christmas time and for some it was the third episode in a month. I really don't know what the answer is. We hear all sorts of theories such as dredging the rivers and the farmers clearing ditches but this seems to have others predicting that it would flood towns further downstream.

To a certain degree I have experienced flooding when my brother lived on Exmoor. He owned a house (although not residing in it) at Brayford. My sister-in-law and I had to go down there (as they lived at Parracombe) and the water went in the front door and out the back door! We managed to get the furniture upstairs and stem the flow with sandbags but it was not an experience I would like to repeat.

Enjoy your games and watch out for changes to fixtures.

Adie

Dumb Britain



Presenter: What was the name of Queen Victoria's husband?

Teenage girl: Dirty Den.

The Saturday Show, BBC1

Anne Robinson: Which month in the Gregorian calendar is named after Augustus Caesar? **Contestant:** June.

The Weakest Link

Nick Knowles: What was the name of Bill and Hillary Clinton's cat? **Contestant:** Was it Monica?

Judgemental, BBC1

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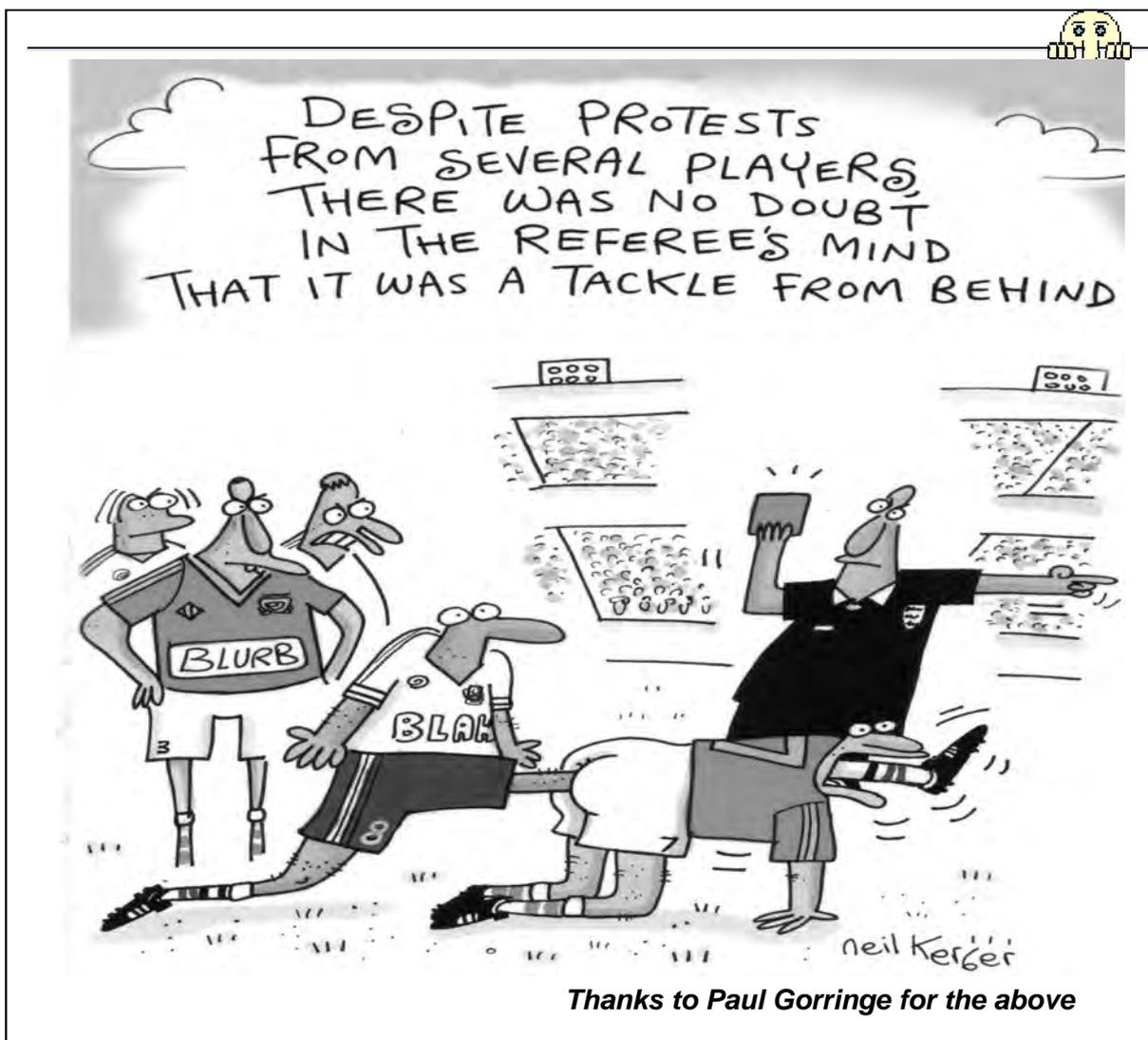
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Strange, but true!

Any player who scores four goals in the same match would normally be thrilled with his achievements. But not the Aston Villa defender Chris Nicholl, who scored four goals on March 20th, 1976 - the only problem being that he scored two own goals for Leicester City, with the match finishing in a 2-2 draw.

Nicholl gave Leicester the opening goal before equalizing for Villa just before half time. He would then go on to give Leicester the lead again with a great goal in the second half before drawing Villa level once more late in the match. The defender recalls the afternoon well and laughs about the moment - saying that his biggest frustration about it all was that he didn't even get to keep the match ball that day.

"My third goal, Leicester's second, was a cracker. Best goal I ever scored. A diving header. No goalkeeper would have saved it. Fortunately my fourth equalized for Villa, so that was a relief. After scoring those four goals in that 2-2 draw, I asked the referee at the end of the match if I could have the ball. "No!", the ref said, "This is my last match and I'm keeping the ball". Just my luck, I suppose. My first hat-trick in a Villa shirt and I don't even get the ball.!"

(Thanks to Glenn La Roche for this and the Who's Who quiz)

UPDATED NURSERY RHYMES FOR THE 21st CENTURY

Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall
Humpty Dumpty had a great fall
The structure of the wall was incorrect
So he won ten grand with Claims Direct.

It's Raining, It's Pouring
Of course...it's Global Warming.

Jack and Jill went into town
To fetch some chips and sweeties.
Now he can't keep his heart rate down
And she's got diabetes.

Mary had a little lamb
It ran into a pylon.
10,000 volts went up its @rse
And turned its wool to nylon.

Georgie Porgie Pudding and Pie
Kissed the girls and made them cry.
When the boys came out to play
He kissed them too cause he was gay.

Jack and Jill
Went up the hill
And planned to do some kissing.
Jack made a pass
And grabbed her ass
Now two of his teeth are missing.

Mary had a little lamb
Its fleece was white and wispy.
Then it caught Foot and Mouth Disease
And now it's black and crispy.



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Yet another level of Referees, probably rightly so !

How old do you actually have to be to remember when there were just (allegedly) three 'classes' of referees ? I insert the word in brackets deliberately simply because it was just untrue.

Joining Guildford Referees' Society in November 1969 I found the Presidency in the almost permanent hands of Wesley Puttock, and Football League referee Malcolm Sincclair safely installed as Chairman, and 'looked up to' by all present mostly because of where he spent most of his Saturday afternoons. Some time later Peter Adams revealed to me exactly how such luminaries were ranked so as to distinguish them from the 'run of the mill' Class One's, not only by the F.A., but within each County as well.

This system was followed by all of us being reclassified, my own Class One became a level 5, below that were 8 and 7 from the old 2 & 3, and then there had to be additions at both ends of the spectrum (a) to cover the various "stars" above the 5's and (b) to recognise those still training, plus youth and level 10, the 'non-actives', the latter previously being either 1X or 2X (I believe that if you became non-active after serving your whole career as a 3 they made you a 2X., rather than a 3X.) Which means that this particular ex-referee has been Class 3, Class 2, Class 1, level 5 and level 10, before going right off the radar.

But it is the highfliers I am really writing about, and so anything above level 5 will do. Most readers of this piece will know all about the level 4, 3, 2 and 1 referees, most of whom serve dual purposes doing middles on one League STEP whilst also doing lines on the League STEP above, until they reach the ultimate steps where they may specialise on flag-waving or stay as a referee only.

They may become a FIFA man at either or both skills (but in succession) and then be subject to age-limits (or not in some cases.)

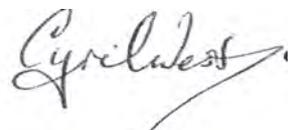
I noted recently that below our Premier League with its very select officials (I hope I have this right?) at this moment most of the Football League match officials are somewhat lumped all together, but apparently the Championship (or is it just its 24 teams) does not think that is right, so it is planned to take 18 selected referees (and presumably 36 assistant referees) from the Football League and call them match officials for the Championship.

As the maximum number of Championship matches on any one day is 12, that figure of 18 means that if all are available, and 12 have middles, then 6 could be 4th officials. Any deficit of 4th officials when there are 12 games on the same day would have to be met from elsewhere, presumably from lower down the Football League.

This extension to the number of (dare ! say it) professional referees may be a good idea and desirable if it helps to improve standards generally, but surely Leagues 1 & 2 will also, very soon, be asking where their Professional Match Officials are ?

It has been interesting to watch exactly what has happened to all the Premier League referees there have been thus far when their time has come to go, either on the wicked age limit business, or the clearly 'time served' category, the ones who may have embarrassed themselves, or the F.A., or football in general, and maybe a few who got out far too early.

Progress ? Yes !



This Month's Speaker

Jon Creswick

Jon passed his refereeing exam with Woking RA shortly after his 14th birthday and spent a number of years combining refereeing youth football and playing.

At the age of 18 Jon joined the Surrey FA Development Group and entered the Surrey FA promotion scheme. With the help and support of the Development Group Jon obtained Level 4 status at the age of 21.

After two years of refereeing as a Level 4 on the Combined Counties League Jon obtained Level 3 status in 2013, allowing him to referee on the Ryman League and Southern League and assistant referee on the Conference South.

Jon was the Reserve Referee on the Surrey Saturday Senior Cup Final in May.

When not refereeing, Jon is a solicitor with Owen White & Catlin Solicitors. He qualified in January 2015, specialising in Private Client work, which involves Wills, Lasting Powers of Attorney and Estate Administration.



PlumTree

Southern Combination Cup

Molesey v Sutton Common

Tom Ellsmore : Referee

SCFA Sat Lower Junior Cup Rd 4,

Normandy Res v Perrywood Sports

Paul Gorringe : Referee

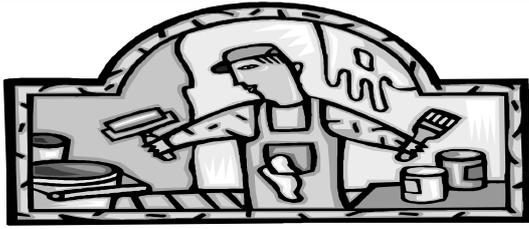
Swinley Forest V Raynes Park Vale 'B'

Vince Penfold : Referee



Guess who answers (from page 12)

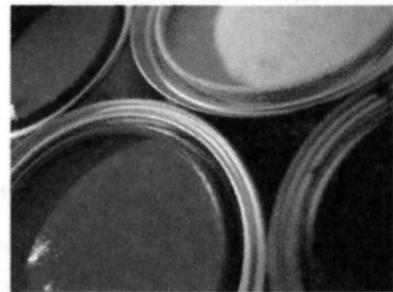
1. *top left: Wayne Rooney top right: Harry Kane bottom left: Joe Hart bottom right: Adam Lallana*
2. *top left: Raheem Sterling top right: Danny Wellbeck bottom left: Phil Jagielka bottom right: Jack Wilshere*
3. *top left: James Milner top right: Theo Walcott bottom left: Jordan Henderson bottom right: Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain*
4. *top left: Ross Barkley top right Leighton Banes bottom left: Daniel Sturridge bottom right: Chris Smalling*



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What Would You Do?

(answers to January issue)

Q 1 You award a penalty kick and signal for the kick to be taken. The kicker strikes the ball, and then you hear the ball burst and it goes well wide of the goal post over the goal line. What would you do?

A1. Retake the penalty kick. - the ball was defective.

Q2 It is a physical game. With the ball in play a Blue defender within his own penalty area strikes a colleague.. What would you do?

A2. Stop play. Award an indirect free kick where the incident occurred. Issue a red card to the defender.

Q3. The ball goes over the goal-line and you award a goal kick. A Blue defender takes the kick and with a tremendous kick scores directly into his opponents goal from the goal kick. What would you do?

A3. Award a goal. Restart with kick off - a goal may be scored directly from a goal kick, but only against the opposing team.

Q4. A Red striker and the Blue keeper sprint for a loose 50:50 ball bouncing in the goal area. At the last moment, the striker decides to duck out of the challenge and stops dead. But the keeper's momentum makes a collision inevitable. The keeper clears the ball then sends the striker flying. What would you do?

A4. Play on. Football is a contact sport, and provided the keeper's challenge was fair, and not careless, reckless or involving excessive force, let the game flow. If you decide the crash was reckless, then it is a penalty and a yellow card, or a red card if it was reckless with excessive force.

Q5. A Red player, after dribbling past three Blue defenders, is through on goal. But he is brought down by the three Blue defenders all tackling at the same moment. Clearly they have denied the Red player a goal-scoring opportunity. What do you do?

AS. Whether you issue red cards depends on the severity of the challenges.

Q6. A Blue defender leaps to clear an aerial cross into the goal area from a free kick, but the ball clearly strikes his outstretched arm. However, you have noticed that his eyes were closed during the incident. What do you do?

A6. His arm was not in a natural position. But his closed eyes suggest it can't have been a deliberate offence. Play on - you cannot award a penalty.

Q7. It's the last game of the season - a draw means both sides will stay up. Players from both sides were running down the clock to ensure a drawn game. The ball comes to you, and you instinctively kick it, but it spins away and ends up in the goal. What do you do?

A7. Stop play and signal clearly it's not a goal, and apologise to both captains. Because you deliberately played the ball, the game has to be stopped. Restart with a dropped ball. Report the incident to the appropriate authorities

((Ed. Questions 1-3 were taken from the National RA Quiz final 2015, thanks to Colin Morris. Questions 4-5 were taken from "You Are The Ref" by Keith Hackett and Paul Trevillion.) Questions 6-7 from the Eccles Informer.

Courtesy of the Chiltern Referee

What Would You Do?

Question 1.

In the 80th minute of a tight, physical cup-tie, a Blue substitute enters the field of play without your permission and prevents a goal by catching the ball with his hands. He is positioned between his own team's goal posts. What would you do?

Question 2.

During a hectic period of play, a Blue defender standing inside his own penalty area takes off his shin guard and throws it at a Red opponent who is standing outside the penalty area, but within the field of play. What would you do?

Question 3.

In the 8th minute, as the result of a fierce challenge by a Blue defender you award a penalty kick to Reds. You dismiss the Blue defender, and signal for the kick to be taken. The ball strikes the cross bar, rebounds into play and you hear the ball burst. What would you do?

Question 4.

With the ball in play, you see a Blue player, standing inside his own penalty area, discard his shin guard and throw it at a noisy spectator standing off the field of play behind the goal. What would you do? (cf question 2).

Question 5.

A winger bursts into the penalty area, dribbling along the goal line. He nutmegs a blue defender and then tries to run past him, but in doing so, runs off the field of play. The defender's challenge is rash and he fouls the winger. But the foul takes place while the winger is off the field of play, even though the ball is still in play. What would you do?

Question 6.

On a very sunny day both goalkeepers decide to wear caps, with your agreement. But then you notice that one of the home team's midfielders is also wearing a hard-peaked cap. In spite of your calm approach and telling him he cannot wear the cap, he has no intention of removing it. What would you do?

Question 7.

After a goalmouth scramble, a Red striker sportingly helps the goal keeper back to his feet. As he does so, he spots an opportunity, so he let's go. This causes the goal keeper to tumble back over the goal line, spilling the ball into the net. The Red striker wheels away to celebrate. What would you do?



(Ed. Questions 1-4 were taken from the National RA Quiz final 2015, thanks to Colin Morris. Questions 5-7 were taken from "You are the Ref" by Keith Hackett).

Courtesy of the Chiltern Referee

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