

THE WARBLER

Monthly Magazine of the Woking Referees' Society

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Season 2016/17 February Edition

WOKING REFEREES ' SOCIETY

FOUNDED 1927

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INSIDE THIS MONTH'S WARBLER

Page 3: Agenda

Page 4 : Chairman's Chat, /Accounts /Membership

Page 5: Mac's Musings

Page 6 : Secretary Wanted/ Rot Sets in at the Top

Page 7 : Academy News

Page 8 : January Meeting

Page 9 : Letter from the RA

Page 10 /11: Respect Relaunch / Plum Tree

Page 12/13 : Why Our Attitude to Referees Needs to Change : Jamie Beck

Page 14 : Stand and Deliver : Mick Flannigan / Plum Tree 2

Page 15 : Murphy's Meanderings

Page 16/17 : Pages From Yesteryear / Dates for your Diaries

Page 19 : Adie's Nearly Sugar Free ; Adie Freeman

Page 20/21 : Make Wenger Referee a Sunday League Match : Matt Dickinson

Page 22 : It's Just Not Cricket : Les Randall

Page 23: Raging Ref Has Enough After 12 Minutes :

Page 24/25: Willie The Whistler - Keeping The Flag Flying

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



The next meeting of the Woking Referees' Society will be on Monday 6th February 2017

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

AGENDA

- ◆ **7.30 Academy Meeting**
- ◆ **8.00 Chairman's Welcome**
- ◆ **Open Forum**
- ◆ **Society Business**
- ◆ **10.00 Close**



The March Meeting and AGM will be on 6th March 2017

Members are reminded that any nominations for officers or committee or any rule changes, a copy of which were sent to members by Bryan Jackson via email on 20th January, need to be submitted in writing, and in accordance with the rules, to either the Chairman, Pat Bakhuizen, Asst Secretary Andy Bennett or Treasurer Bryan Jackson by the close of the February meeting (6th February)

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

From the Chair

Hi Everyone

Well what a start to 2017, we were very privileged to Farai Hallam of the FA come along and deliver an excellent presentation on Crime and Punishment, the topic was lively debated and some good points came out on does the crime (foul) fit the Punishment (decision taken by the official), It was well attended for a January meeting 30 members in attendance, double from last year, so thank you to those who came along and making it such a good evening

For the February meeting we will be having an open floor format, so anyone can stand up and take to the floor to discuss anything on their mind, for example match incidents or TV match clips to discuss or indeed anything to do with the society or how the committee are running things, there will be no refereeing topics that cannot be discussed, so I look forward to seeing you on Monday February 6th

In light of the recent weather conditions I hope some of you have managed to get some game time and stayed warm as much as possible, just a small reminder when the weather is poor make sure you to get to the ground in plenty of time to do a thorough pitch inspection so you can make the correct decision for player, assistant referee and your safety

So here's to looking forward to warmer days ahead

Pat



		Accounts February 2017	
		Current Status	
2016/17 Membership		General	£2,459.93
108	Full Members	Supplies	£174.00
10	Friends	Belgium	£300.00
1	Affiliate Member	Training Fund	£784.26
44	Referees trained in	Youth Fund	£113.50
2016/2017		Total	£3,831.69

Mac's Musings

With the FA revealing that they have banned a manager for 5 games following a barrage of verbal abuse at a referee and 4th official and Arsene Wenger up before the bench for a verbal and physical attack on 4th Official Anthony Taylor, (Touchline ban for 4 matches), the whole question of Respect has once more been brought into the spotlight.

I have included a couple of articles from the Telegraph which includes the campaign by a young Manchester Referee who is calling for a Referees' strike in March. Whether such a strike will actually materialise will be interesting to see. I know such action has been planned before, once even in the Reading area. But more often than not there are always some refs who would rather be out there earning a few quid and trying to enjoy themselves.

The problem of abuse, it would appear, is spreading from football to both Cricket and Rugby. There has been a few articles in the press regarding this and an article penned by Len Randall appears further on in this issue.

Rugby Referees have always had the option of moving the game forward 10 yards at any sign of dissent, although this doesn't, for some reason, seem to be happening as much recently. Cricket meanwhile has no on field sanctions for dissent or abuse to the umpire ; something the Cricketing authorities are looking into.

I like the idea mooted by Matt Dickenson, Chief Sports writer for the Times, that Managers in the top Leagues who abuse officials should be sentenced to "Community Service" to be served refereeing Sunday League Football. An abridged version of his article appears on page 20 of this issue.

Another spot in the Telegraph, was the call by the Professional Footballers Association for the games authorities to consider a ban on children under the age of 10 heading the ball. This follows guidelines in the United States that now prevent young children from doing so in a game. A study by the University of Stirling indicates that memory impairment can be caused by heading the ball and there is "frightening" anecdotal evidence of former players suffering with serious brain conditions. Dr Stewart, one of the doctors who has been looking into this, reported that in a test where a player headed the ball 20 times, delivered with the pace of a corner kick, the player suffered up to 67% reduction in memory performance in the following 24 hours . The article goes on to name a number of ex players who have suffered neurological illness, such as Alzheimer's and dementia, in later life, such as Danny Blanchflower, Jeff Astle, Bob Paisley, Jimmy Hill and Nat Lofthouse to name but a few. As Dr Stewart said " If I went into a school wearing boxing gloves and offered to bang the kids around the head with the same force as a football, I'd be locked up. If I did the same with a football, I would be appointed coach"

I'm sure there will be further research into these claims, although the footballs of today are a far cry from the old leather and laces (with pink innertube?) of yester-year, which when wet would be heavy enough to knock a player out.

So if 10 year olds are banned from heading the ball, what will be the consequences if transgressed in a game? Its hard enough trying to determine if a hand ball is deliberate or not, never mind a head ball. !! Mind you it could also explain the number of neurologically afflicted players we come across in the Parks at the weekends.

Be careful out there (Hill St Blues ?)

Mac

Secretary Wanted

Our current Secretary , Dave Lawton, is standing down at the end of the year so the Society is looking for a willing member to step into his shoes.

This important role is vital to the continued success of our Society, the role and responsibilities of which are listed below. If you feel you have the time and commitment to fulfil this position then please contact ?

Andy Bennett has agreed to continue as Assistant Secretary.

Secretary

- ◆ Principal administration officer – the main link between members, committees and outside agencies
- ◆ Good all round communication skills
- ◆ Computer literate with access to emails
- ◆ First point of contact for all outside agencies
- ◆ Sets agendas in association with the chairperson
- ◆ At the forefront of the society
- ◆ Writes agendas for meetings and ensures minutes are distributed
- ◆ Contacts guests on behalf of the society / organise society meetings
- ◆ Plans the years events with input from all officers of the committee
- ◆ Retains correspondence and minutes for review

Rot sets in at the top

The FA reveal that John Sheridan, Manager of Oldham Athletic has been banned for 5 games for a vile verbal attack on referee Eddie Ilderton and his assistants . Graham Poll had the following to say

AFTER reading the sheer level and amount of abuse which John Sheridan inflicted upon both the referee and fourth official, I am left saddened by the state to which we have allowed the game to descend. Week In, week out we see Premier League players abusing officials – which is clear in TV pictures – and yet they are not sent off, The laws of the game are very clear in stating that if a player uses offensive, insulting or abusive language or actions, he must be sent from the field of play – and yet In the Premier League just one player (Alan Smith, for Newcastle against Manchester United in 2008) has been dismissed for these offences in the last 10 years! It is little wonder that Sheridan feels he is able behave like this. Players on local parks feel they can do too.

non-League manager said he hoped I had a car crash and was killed on my way home. During a Premier League match in 2005, Wayne Rooney told me to 'f*** off' 27 times in the first half. I did not dismiss Rooney because then, referees were told we should manage those situations rather than dismiss Premier League players for swearing.

This incident reflects badly on the whole game and it saddens me deeply. Why has it reached this level? Because there is a lack of action at the top.

I

Graham Poll—*The Official Line . Daily Mail Jan 21st*

Academy News

Dear Members

First of all can I thank the members of the academy who made the January meeting. It was a great way to kick off 2017.

For those who were unable to attend the session the topic of night was "What makes a good referee" and "who would be your dream set of officials" based on the attributes discussed with anybody available for selection from current pro's , ex pro's or even the Woking RA members.

Following the success of the session the academy revealed their choices in front of the whole society and it was proved that we didn't need to look far to find our "Dream set of officials" many were in the room.

Moving onto the **February Meeting**

Due to the birth of my son only days prior, I may be unable to attend but don't worry the show will in fact go on with Merrill Readett taking the lead.

The topic of the evening will be " Communication and what could go wrong if communication breaks down " followed by on field problems for those who wish to share with a smaller group.

7.30pm start .

All members welcome

Gareth Heighes
Woking RA Training Officer



Heard on Radio 4



"A good dictionary is essential for the correct use of similar terms, for example, many people don't understand the subtle difference between the words "dream" and "reverie". Well, a dream is a series of images and feelings occurring in a person's mind during sleep, whereas a reverie is that bloke in black with a whistle."

"The English language has many different words which appear to be similar and this can lead to confusion, for example, between the terms resurrection and exhumation. Well, the difference is that exhumation was originally digging up a body but it can also mean to re-introduce something that was long forgotten or neglected, whereas if your resurrection lasts more than four hours you should call a doctor."

Brian R

January Meeting 2017

30 members attended the first meeting of the year which saw us host the second of the RA FA training events. The subject this time was "Crime & Punishment" - "Does the sentence fit the crime?" and was presented by Farai Hallam, FA Referees Project Manager and Neal Barry's right hand man no less.

Farai actually stepped in literally at the last minute as Louis Marks was unable to attend, and what an excellent job he did.

Apparently it has been identified that too many of us Southerners officiating on the contributory and panel leagues are not recognising or punishing players correctly for serious foul play.

Farai showed us a number of video clips which highlighted such instances and we discussed what we would have done. We also discussed how to spot potential flash points ie a player losing the ball and making an over enthusiastic effort to retrieve it, and what to do to prevent or defuse such situations. The video clips also highlighted the right and wrong ways of dealing with the aftermath of serious foul play and violent conduct. It was an excellent and informative presentation and I would be surprised if even the most experienced referees in the room didn't come away with some additional nuggets of how to improve their craft.

Chairman Pat thanked Farai for his excellent presentation and for stepping in at the last minute, and presented him with the customary bottles of wine.

AOB

Dave Cooper told us that he had 12 members signed up for the trip to Belgium in June.

Roy Lomax informed us that with the current furore and disclosure around child abuse in sport there is a proposal that all youth referees, i.e. under 18, when appointed to games must also have their parents/guardians notified.

Gareth Heighes, Training officer, called up those who had attended the Academy session that evening to the front of the room where they disclosed their "dream team" of referees and assistants, which they had previously discussed.

Andy Bennett now has more to live up too!

The evening closed at 10pm

Farai & Chairman Pat



Message from the RA Board

The RA Board advise with much regret that Vince Penfold (Woking RA) has resigned with immediate effect. Vince is having a year out from all of his many and varied refereeing and football commitments in order to spend time with his family. The Board and the wider RA membership owe Vince an immense debt of gratitude for all his hard work during his time on the Board, where in particular he has been instrumental in developing the highly successful pilot scheme for the RA/FA Training Hubs.

We all wish Vince a totally relaxing 2017, and we hope to be able to welcome him back in 2018

The Board has acted swiftly to fill the resultant gap, and is delighted to confirm that Trevor Massey (Stockport RA) has agreed to support the Association in the ongoing development of our training materials. This role means Trevor being appointed initially as an Honorary Officer of our Association, where he will be working with the RA Board and The FA to build on the continuing series of highly successful pilot Training Hubs which have been held in recent weeks.

We welcome Trevor to our ranks, and wish both him and Vince all the best going forward.

Lynn Harris
Office Manager
The Referees' Association



COLMANBALLS (thanks to Tony Murphy)

“Coming next - the music you’d like to hear at your funeral.”
Andy Archer

“What are the pitfalls of getting close to a serial killer?”
Jenny Murray

“Once he’d died, his life was over.”
Lulu

“Nobody in their right minds would want to be in a psychiatric hospital.”
Dr Mike Harris

This is the first time since her death that the Queen Mother has not been here.”
Look East

“As yet there has been no reaction from the man who was murdered.”
BBC News 24

Respect Relaunch ?

The Football Association is preparing to relaunch its Respect campaign with a series of new initiatives to confront the verbal and physical abuse of match officials amid a planned strike of grassroots referees.

The Telegraph revealed last year the depth of a problem that is also now of increasing concern in amateur cricket and rugby following research that showed 94 per cent of football referees experience verbal abuse and one in five have been the victims of a physical attack.

Dr Tom Webb, of the University of Portsmouth, was part of a re-search project that interviewed more than 2,000 referees about the Respect campaign and one of the key findings was the importance of 'buy-in' from the top to bottom of English football.

"Referees see a direct link between the behaviour of managers and players in the Premier League and the treatment of grass-roots officials," he said. "It means that this type of incident impacts on referees at lower levels of the game.

"Any reboot of the Respect campaign requires Premier League buy-in. They didn't have the Premier League last time. I think that meant you were fighting a losing battle from the start. The referees and players at Sunday league and lower league see that."

Ryan Hampson, the teenage Manchester official, who has organised a strike of more than 800 grassroots referees in March, is also adamant that cases like the Wenger incident do have an indirect impact on his experiences.

Hampson, who only turned 18 earlier this month, has been punched, head-butted and spat at several times since becoming a referee three years ago and has now been contacted by 675 other officials who are ready to join him on a nationwide strike on the weekend of March 4– 5th

Hampson has also received messages from a further 300 referees in response to a protest that started shortly after Christmas as a [Facebook group](#) called 'referee strike campaign' but which has rapidly gathered momentum among other similarly aggrieved officials.

"I've been totally overwhelmed by the reaction; not just in this country but from Europe and as far afield as Australia and New Zealand," Hampson told *The Telegraph*. "So many other people have had similar experiences. I am hoping to change things but, if there is no change, referees will walk away and I'll be one of them. We are not a punch bag. We are not a swear box and people need to start understanding that. To us, this is a crisis."

Hampson, like many other referees, believes that the FA's Respect campaign – first launched in 2008 – was allowed to run out of steam.

"There is little evidence of it now," he says. "You see a banner sometimes but you don't see it everywhere. I don't think there is any Respect campaign any more. I think it is dead in the water."

" I think Arsene Wenger deserves a touchline ban of at least eight games. He put his hands on the official and that was when there were cameras everywhere. Where do people think that sort of situation can end up at grass-roots level, where there are no cameras and any account of an incident is the referee's word against the manager and his players"

"We have decided it is important to stand together until we get the changes in Manchester across the whole country," he said. "Of course what happens in the Premier League makes a difference to referees at our level. People see these incidents and think it is acceptable. It will be interesting to see if the FA do take a big stance.

The FA's dedicated Respect manager was Dermot Collins but his role was moved under another staff member's remit amid a restructure in 2015, before Greg Clarke replaced Greg Dyke as the chairman. The situation was then reviewed last year following a commitment by FA director Kelly Simmons and, after grassroots representatives made it clear that they wanted the FA's leadership on the issue, a new post has been created.

The new Respect manager was appointed before Hampson's strike was mooted and will begin work next month. Their remit will be to revitalise the Respect campaign at all levels of English football. It is a development that will be roundly welcomed by officials, who do generally believe that it had a positive initial impact.

The above was an amalgamation of 2 articles that appeared in the Daily Telegraph. Mac

PlumTree

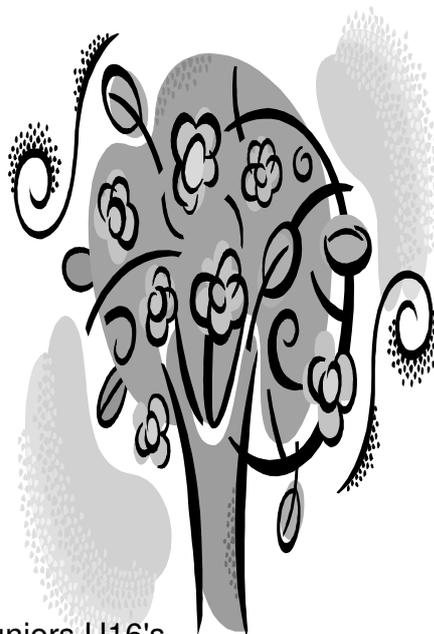
Surrey F.A. Sat Intermediate Cup Rd 4
K.P.R. v Knaphill Athletic
Paul Gorringe ; Referee

F.A. Premier Academy,
Fulham u16 v Arsenal u16
Paul Gorringe ; Assistant Referee

Surrey U18 Floodlit County Cup 1/4 Final
Chessington & Hook U18 v Westfield U18
David Payne - Assistant Referee

Surrey U18 Floodlit County Cup 1/4 Final as
Abbey Rangers U18 v Molesey U18
David Payne : Assistant Referee

U16's County Cup
Met Police Youth U16's Blues v South Park Juniors U16's
Tony Price : Referee



Why Our Attitude To Referees Needs To Change

About three weeks ago, the name of English football referee Mike Dean was splashed across the back pages of the papers. He had made two contentious decisions in two televised games resulting in the scorn of the pundits being poured upon him. He is, apparently, arrogant and attention seeking. He also apparently wants to be a celebrity.

It is therefore somewhat surprising that his name has not been heard since, even though he has refereed some high profile games. To my knowledge, he has not appeared on television to explain his decision, mainly because he is not actually allowed to but he could have defied his bosses. He has not posted on his twitter account, nor does he apparently have a twitter account. This did not stop people abusing another Mike Dean online. He also has not appeared on any chat shows, he has not done any after dinner speaking and has not become the latest entrant into Celebrity big brother. A cursory check online demonstrates that his other claim to fame is caddy to female golfers, hardly the pastime of an egotist. I also do not believe he has a book out.

It is therefore my contention that Mike Dean is a referee and not an attention seeking megalomaniac. He is guilty of making two errors in high profile games. Errors he made in a split second which were then pulled apart by pundits on the basis of multiple, slow motion replays. His behaviour since cannot exactly be called that of an attention seeker.

One issue Mike Dean has is that he has seemingly been a referee for ever. The longer career you have as a referee the longer you have to irritate supporters and online trolls. Supporters have long memories. The notion of a good referee being not talked about is fatally flawed. As Pierreluigi Collina points out in his book, if a referee has to send off four players and each of those decisions is correct then folk will talk about the referee, despite the fact that he has done his job. We do not tend to like our referees to be high profile, to become celebrities in their own right and appear regularly on television.....unless your name happens to be Nigel Owens.

Nigel Owens is a paradox. He does have his own twitter account, he does appear regularly on television (particularly in his native Wales), he has published a book and you can book him via his agent to appear at your event. He even has his own MBE after refereeing the last World Cup Final, Richard Silverwood's invite to the Palace must have got lost in the post. He seems to epitomize what is not wanted in a referee but seems to maintain a higher degree of popularity.

Part of the difference between the Owens and Dean is that Owens has a story to tell. To his immense credit, he has talked openly about the issues that have affected him and been inspirational to many with the way he has made it to the top of his field. Another difference is likely to be the sport, the endemic attitude of football towards its officials seems somewhat different to that shown within rugby union.

The bottom line is that it is neither Mike Dean or Nigel Owens who are the most important but the men, women and children who will blow a whistle on a Saturday or Sunday morning. It is they who need the protection from the abuse they receive, sometimes verbal but also physical. An often heard cry is where are the good referees? Many of the good referees are likely to have given up.

Sports officials of whatever game are going to make mistakes, sometimes big ones. Some will not be very good, some will be too officious, some not officious enough but they do not deserve the vitriol that is heaped on them. The respect agenda was brought in to protect officials but was questioned on the grounds that mistakes were still being made. "I would lose my job if I performed like that ref did at my job" is another comment that gets aired on phone ins, except you wouldn't though. Your errors, if that was indeed what they were, would be looked at and analysed with a view to learning and stopping the error happening again. Sacking someone these days is actually very difficult!

English referee Mark Clattenberg referred the Euro 2016 Final this year but is apparently still rubbish. Howard Webb referred the World Cup Final in 2010. He was castigated for allowing too much physicality. Of course, if he been stricter and sent off four players (which he could have done) the same pundits would have accused him of ruining the showpiece event and trying to be the star of the show. I wonder what Mike Dean would have made of that?

Jamie Beck writing in Huffpost Sport via Mal Davies V&A

More from Mal Davies V & A

NAPA Rovers player Ashton Surber scores a remarkable bicycle kick against Guam Shipyard in the Guam Premier Division last week before celebrating the goal by proposing to his girlfriend. After the strike, Surber races to the sideline, removes his shirt and reveals a message reading 'Marry Me?'. He gets down on one knee just as the referee walks over and books the player. According to reports, Surber's girlfriend said yes to the proposal

Morecambe fans have paid £1,000 for the fine and costs imposed on boss Jim Bentley by the Football Association.

The 40-year-old was given the fine and a two-match touchline ban after being sent to the stands during their game against Cheltenham on 17 December.

Bentley was not allowed in the dugout for Saturday's win over Notts County, at which the collection was taken.

He was [visibly moved](#) and almost lost for words when the money from fans was handed to him following the game.

The club is currently under serious financial pressure and operating under a transfer embargo because the Professional Footballers' Association have helped pay wages.

Brazilian businessman Diego Lemos bought the club in September, but has not been in the country since November.

Two directors resigned last month but following a board meeting, the club released a statement saying they were "united in their resolve to find solutions to the many problems facing Morecambe Football Club as a direct result of Mr Lemos' continuing absence and his failure to deliver promised funding".

STAND AND DELIVER

It was a match I could have done without - a schools U16 tie in the National Cup. The teams had better remain nameless. They were desperate for a ref, as the kick-off was late afternoon on a Friday. Returning home meant battling with very heavy traffic. My first instinct was to decline, as the venue was well outside my normal area - but they were offering "over the odds" as a fee and they were stuck for any alternative ref. So I relented.

It was a hard-fought match in driving rain. I was absolutely saturated, and looking forward to blowing the final whistle. Then some idiot scored an equaliser just 60 seconds before full time. After extra time there was still no result, so we had a penalty decider which went beyond the first five kicks per team. I was not thrilled. I had certainly earned that generous fee. Then my delayed departure saw me stuck in rush-hour traffic for an eternity.

On appointing me, the host school made it clear that they could not pay me by cash, or even by cheque. It had to be by BACS transfer. That was their policy and there was no arguing about it. The day after the match, I sent them my bank details by email. Two days later, I was told that I had to complete an online form about my employment status, i.e. was I self-employed, etc. I did that and returned it promptly. During the ensuing weeks, I sent emails and made phone calls to chase up payment. The buck was being passed around people at the school. Eventually I received my fee TEN WEEKS after the match.

Suffice to say, I shall not be refereeing for that school again. Neither will I agree to accept payment by BACS. I advise all other referees to take a firm line if this method of payment is proposed. (By the way, when the long-overdue payment was eventually received, it was a cheque!!!)

Mick Flannigan

(Disgruntled, Walton on Thames)

PlumTree 2

Surrey Senior Cup 3rd Round
Badshot Lea vs Raynes Park Vale
Andy Bennett : Referee

FA Vase 4th Round
Bradford Town vs Southall
Andy Bennett & Tom Ellsmore : Assistant Referees

FA Premier League U19
Southampton vs Reading
Andy Bennett & Tom Ellsmore Assistant Referees

FA Vase 5th round
Newport Pagnell v Sunderland RCA
Tom Ellsmore : Assistant Referee



MURPHY'S MEANDERINGS

It was a very cold Sunday morning and the referee and the goalkeeper were having an argument before the match. As he'd entered the pitch, the referee had noticed that the goalkeeper was wearing a hoodie. It was undone and had toggles at the end of strings to tighten up the hood. The referee said it was dangerous and wouldn't let the goalkeeper play in it. The goalkeeper disagreed and got very upset. The argument became heated, some players joined in using the usual arguments of "You're the only referee to stop him, etc", but the referee was adamant, either the hoodie goes or the goalkeeper doesn't play. Eventually the goalkeeper relented and took it off. Midway through the first half the referee noticed the goalkeeper was wearing his hoodie. When the referee approached the goalkeeper he treated the matter as a joke and laughingly said he was cold. The referee didn't think it was funny and, making him take it, off promptly cautioned him.

Was the referee correct? How would you have dealt with the situation?

I saw the words "personal safety" in a referees' magazine recently and it reminded me of a story a well-known football league referee told me many years ago. He was driving home from a match. He'd had a poor game and most of the contentious decisions had gone against the away team. Consequently, the travelling fans were not happy with him and had given him lots of abuse, On the way home he got a puncture and had to pull off the road. As he looked at the flat tyre, a car pulled in behind him with several away team fans who had recognised him. "Problems," he thought. However, he was wrong and the fans took off their coats and helped to change the tyre. As they prepared to drive away, his opinion of them changed, a car window was wound down and one of them said, "See you ref, and you were still bloody crap!"

I saw the following on the Internet:

A Scottish businessman has paid a Spanish third tier club £150,000 to let him manage them. The money will be reimbursed if he gets CD Tudelano promoted.

(AS)

Everton's injured winger Yannick Bolasie has lent his support to non-league Hillingdon Borough, who used to pay him in burgers.

Mr J, the Highways Committee Chairman said, "We intend to take the road through the cemetery, provided we can get permission from the various bodies concerned"

West London Observer

Tony Murphy

Pages from Yesteryear

SUBSTITUTE

CHAP WHO STANDS NEXT TO THE COACH SWEARING THAT HE SAW SOMEONE LIMP.

TACTICAL SUBSTITUTION

SWAPPING ONE ROPEY PLAYER FOR ANOTHER.

TEAM BIKE

RIDDEN THROUGHOUT THE SEASON BY THE WHOLE SQUAD.

TEMPERAMENTAL PLAYER

ONE WHO WILL PLAY THIS WEEK ONLY IF HE CAN PLAY NEXT.

TEAM TRIAL

CAPTAINS WITH A GAME LOOMING AND A PLAYER SHORT, OFTEN HAVE TO RESORT TO RECRUITING PEOPLE OVER THE PHONE. TO ASSESS THE QUALITY OF THE PLAYERS SOCCER ABILITY, THE MANAGER WILL ASK IN DEPTH, PROBING QUESTIONS ALONG THE LINE OF, 'WOULD YOU LIKE A GAME TOMORROW?' IF THE ANSWER IS YES HE PASSES, IF THE ANSWER IS "A GAME OF WHAT?" HE FAILS MISERABLY AND IF THE REPLY IS "OH DEAR CERTAINLY VICAR, WHAT TIME IS THE SERVICE ?" IT MEANS HIS WIFE DOESN'T LIKE HIM PLAYING FOOTBALL AND SHE'S STANDING RIGHT NEXT TO HIM.

TEN PACES

THIS IS THE DISTANCE BETWEEN THE TEAMS AT A FREE KICK.

TEN YARDS

THIS IS THE DISTANCE BETWEEN EACH GOOLIE SHOULD THE FREEKICK HIT THE WALL.

TOUR

ANNUAL END OF SEASON EVENT. INVOLVES LONG COACH TRIPS, FERRY CROSSINGS TROUBLE WITH CUSTOMS OFFICIALS, LOTS OF DRINKING AND SINGING AND SOMETIMES A GAME OF FOOTBALL.

TIGHT ROPE

WHAT THE CAPTAIN WALKS WHEN PICKING THE TEAM. PLAYERS WHO ARE GOOD AT FOOTBALL, PLAYS WHO WHINGE IF THEY'RE NOT PICKED AND PLAYERS WHO HAVE GOT CARS.

TOSS

TRADITIONALLY A COIN IS TOSSED, TO SEE WHICH TEAM KICKS UPHILL FIRST.

TOSSER

TRADITIONALLY THE REFEREE.

TRAINING

TEAMS WISHING TO PREPARE THEMSELVES FOR MATCHES OFTEN TAKE PART IN MIDWEEK TRAINING. THIS INVOLVES A LOT OF CAVORTING AROUND A FIELD. PASSING IMAGINARY BALLS, DOING PRESS UPS AND SPRINTS THEN DOWN TO THE PUB. TRADITIONALLY THE TIME SPENT IN THE PUB MUST BE DOUBLE THE TIME SPENT TRAINING.

TREASURER

PERSON IN CHARGE OF THE BISCUIT TIN. HE NEVER HAS TO WORRY ABOUT BALANCING THE BOOKS, AS HE NEVER KEEPS ANY.

TROJAN WALLY

DEVIANT TACTIC, WHEREBY IF YOUR OPPONENTS ARE ONE SHORT, YOU LEND THEM WALLY, IN THE HOPE THAT HE WILL PLAY AS BADLY FOR THEM AS HE ALWAYS DOES FOR YOU.

UNDER INFLATED BALL

ONE THAT STICKS TO THE BOOT.

UNGENTLEMANLY CONDUCT

RELIEVING A CALL OF NATURE IN THE OPPONENTS BUCKET.

VAN GET EM IN

ARTIST ON THE PITCH AND IN THE CLUBHOUSE.

VISION

TERM ATTRIBUTED TO A PLAYER WHO CAN INTUITIVELY ANTICIPATE HIS OPPONENTS INTENTIONS. SHOULD ANDY MOVE STEALTHILY TO CUT OUT A PASS BEFORE THE OP-
PONENT MAKES IT,THE CAPTAIN WILL APPLAUD HIM FOR HIS VISION.SHOULD HE MOVE
TO CUT OUT A PASS THAT NEVER ARRIVES,THE CAPTAIN WILL SHOUT' "WHERE ARE
YOU GOING YOU STUPID BASTARD?"

WARM UP

TIME ALLOTTED BEFORE THE KICK OFF FOR PLAYERS TO STAND AROUND
SHIVERING.

WINGER

PLAYER STRATEGICALLY PLACED ON THE OUTFIELD SO THAT THE LINESMAN
CAN HAVE SOMEONE TO TALK TO.

YET I

OR THE ABOMINABLE SNOWMAN. ELUSIVE PLAYER WHO PROMISES FAITHFULLY TO
TURN UP FOR A MATCH, BUT ALWAYS FAILS TO PUT IN AN APPEARANCE. HE DID ACTU-
ALLY TURN UP FOR A MATCH ONCE BUT IT WAS CANCELLED—SNOWED OFF.

ZERO

SCORELINE THAT REVEALS THAT THE BACKS HAVE MANAGED TO KEEP A CLEAN
SHEET- AND THE FORWARDS KEPT COCKING IT UP.

ZULOO

CHANGING ROOMS IN REGENTS PARK.

*The above, and previous editions were originally penned by Dave Brice and first
appeared in The Warblers in 1991/92*

Dates for your Diary 2016/17

6th February	Society Meeting	Open Forum
6th March	Society Meeting	TBA
3rd April	Society Meeting	TBA
8th May	Society Meeting	TBA
2nd June—5th June	Belgium Trip	
Friday 26th May 2017	Eve of Final Rally One Great George Street, London	
Saturday 24th June 2017	AGM and RA Quiz Final Sports Connexion, Coventry	
Saturday 8th - Sunday 9th July 2017	RA Development Weekend Hinckley Island Hotel, Hinckley	

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Adie's Nearly Sugar Free

Saturday the 21st of January was not the most auspicious of days as we had only 4 games that survived the frost in the G&WAFL and 5 (including a County Cup) in the SCILW. Disappointing for most as they probably had their games called off on the Sunday as well. Hopefully the 28th will be better – fingers crossed.

If you are going for promotion in the 2017/18 season let me know as I will try to get as many games in for you after March. I can visualise a reduction in games but will be doing my best to share them out.

I think it would be fair to let you all know of my situation and current health. A few of my close friends are aware of what occurred but I would like to now share it with you. As you know I was diagnosed with diabetes early last year and I have made some adjustments to my diet – nothing drastic but certainly they have made a significant difference.

I admit I am a coffee addict (legacy of some earlier years spent in Canada) and I drink around a dozen mugs of it a day. I reduced the sugar to half a spoon, changed to granary bread and only have, on rare occasions, diet Coke. The result of which is, so far, a loss of 1 stone in weight, my cholesterol down to 4.3 and my blood glucose averaging 5.9.

I am assured by the nurse that if I keep to this, maybe cut out the sugar altogether in a year I should be OK and will not have to use insulin. However, my stress and fatigue is far too high and I was going to have to do something about it.

I guess that driving to Basingstoke every day and picking up work colleagues for 26 years has taken its' toll and the past year has been very frustrating at the factory. I took the decision to have an interview with my line manager (with a witness) and laid it out to him. The result is that I am now working a four day week (no Fridays) and my supervision roles have been reduced. Obviously it will take a while to have an effect but it does mean that I can carry on, near enough as normal and chill on a Friday. The doctor does not wish me to give up officiating as this has assisted with my recovery from Hashimoto's Syndrome.

I will still carry on as Ref Sec for you – all the while I am wanted (you can't get rid of me that easily) as I enjoy the contact I have with you all.

On another note. We sadly bid farewell to Diane's uncle who passed away at the end of December. He gave Diane away at our wedding some 33 years ago and Diane was very close to him. This entailed us travelling to Folkestone last Monday in the fog and frost. That M20 must be the filthiest motorway in the Country! My car was plastered in black crud and looks like it was driven across somewhere that had a volcanic eruption! Yuk!! Thankfully it has a boot spoiler that, I do not think enhances the performance, but keeps the rear windscreen clear. Unlike the company Audi that attracts road muck like a magnet.

Keep up the availability for me.

Adie



Make Wenger Referee a Sunday League Match

My teenage son is preparing to embark on referee training. His brother and I have been assisting him by snarling in his face and regularly chanting, "You don't know what you're doing".

I am not joking. When he said that Sunday morning officiating was a rewarding, outdoors way to earn extra spending money, parental encouragement was bound to be mixed with genuine concern.

To have that trepidation is the sad but inevitable consequence of a culture of abuse that has been indulged for so long, become so entrenched, that I seriously wonder whether it is worth fighting any more.

Does anyone have the stomach for that battle? I know I am tired of badgering successive FA chief executives, ever since Brian Barwick launched the Respect campaign almost a decade ago, to redouble their efforts. There are plans for an imminent relaunch but does anyone think it will stop our officials being called "c***s" and "w****s" as a routine part of their work.

This is a fight that requires true cojones but we all know that Arsène Wenger will receive a meaningless sanction today for abusing two officials. Maybe this should be my last column on referees given that any efforts to help them, perhaps even to improve them, are drowned out by so much bile and nonsense.

We tolerate managers using referees to deflect attention and the media lazily picking up their self-serving outbursts, and the phone-ins recycling all this "useless . . . always favours them . . . cost us three points" blah blah blah.

It would be really nice, for once, to hear someone, anyone, explain how they are going to raise standards (an easy task, surely, if they have sunk so low). Invent x-ray specs? Import cheaper ones from Poland? Sack the lot of them and replace them with robots? Make them more human or less chummy, I am never quite sure.

Keith Hackett, a bitter former referee who endlessly informs us that it was all much better in his day when he was as infallible as the Pope, believes that Professional Game Match Officials Limited, which oversees our leading officials, should drop the process of rigorous self-analysis in which every decision is recorded and checked. Because, despite what you may have heard, a referee is accountable in a way that few of us would withstand in our working lives.

So what is to be done? Unlike most of the world, and most of western Europe, we have a team of paid, largely full-time officials. So if many of them are sub-standard, how are we going to train better ones? Go on, Jürgen Klopp, who had plenty to moan about in midweek, what is your big solution?

But, of course, we never hear anything constructive. Just complaints or calls to oust Mike Riley as head of referees as if that will make everything better.

But a new boss or improved PR is not going to prevent the many mistakes that **HAVE ALWAYS HAPPENED AND ALWAYS WILL**; yes even in the blessed Hackett's day before 24 cameras in a stadium and Monday Night Football could pick apart all his blunders.

Anyone who does not understand the damage caused by this depressing culture of casual abuse is an idiot.

One young Manchester referee, who has been spat at, punched and headbutted, pulled together a Facebook page last year calling for a national strike given the perils of officiating. Hundreds of referees signed up.

At my local parks, in the Surrey Youth League, they have instigated their own campaign, deploying mandatory pitch-side marshals in high-viz jackets, after a horrific series of assaults in kids' football that were highlighted in this newspaper.

They are leading a fightback on a local level but their campaign really does not get any easier when there are such weak messages from on-high. Punishments for top managers do not work, as José Mourinho proves every time he chalks up another paltry fine or the minor inconvenience of a touchline ban.

When is the FA going to give an exemplary sanction? Wenger is before the governing body today for abusing Jon Moss and then pushing Anthony Taylor. Laying hands in anger on officials should result in a stadium ban.

But it won't. Nothing changes which is why I suggested on Twitter this week that perhaps managers like Wenger should be made to officiate Sunday morning games as punishment. Call it a form of footballing community service. They might better understand the difficulties.

Believe me, I have had many worse ideas but the howls of outrage from Arsenal fans were staggering. Even though Moss was right in his penalty decisions, Twitter (which has turned into the world's angriest pub) berated his incompetence while claiming Wenger was simply showing passion.

That same "passion" is what I am worried about if my lad stands in the middle and some pillock of a parent decides to follow Wenger's example. Don't pretend it doesn't happen.

But if today's referees are bad and getting worse, that is news to Tom Webb, a senior lecturer at Portsmouth University, who has spent years studying officiating across major European leagues. He says the training, professional support, analysis and fitness is higher in England than anywhere.

Fifa and Uefa regularly turn to our best officials, yet they are caught in a constant fight for credibility, and losing the argument against critics who jump on every error, imagine quite a few more, and create smokescreens, conspiracies, rage and downright slander.

But never solutions. Never useful ideas for improvement. If you have any — that includes you, Messrs Mourinho, Wenger etc — I will happily pass them on to the next generation starting at the very bottom of the refereeing ladder. They deserve better than this, surely.

Matt Dickinson, Chief Sports Writer, The Times

This is a condensed version of Matt Dickenson's article—pointed out to me by Lee Cable . Mac

It's just not cricket

I read a very interesting, exclusive piece in the *Sunday Telegraph* reporting on a University of Portsmouth study into the abuse of umpires in club cricket i.e. at grass-roots level.

A very large sample of umpires – over 700 – had been questioned on their recent experiences. Over 56% of the sample said they had experienced verbal abuse and nearly 3% had been physically abused by players. A majority of those questioned said that such abuse was on the increase.

As we know, at the top levels of the game, offensive players can be sanctioned by the authorities with fines and suspensions but no such deterrent on-field sanctions exist in the lower echelons. This is something that the MCC – the guardians of the laws of cricket – will be looking at but it will take a few years to ever be introduced, such is the lengthy process it takes to amend cricket's rule book.

The Portsmouth research is interesting as it compares the experiences in cricket with those in football and rugby union. In both cases the result was also a marked increase in levels of verbal abuse. Interestingly, in cricket abuse was said now to be rising faster than on the rugby field.

An earlier report by the authors measured 67% of rugby referees received verbal abuse and a worrying 10% had been physically abused.

Football's problems were said to be "acute"; well, that's an understatement. Cricket's 56% compares with what must be 100% of referees being abused in park football. Do you know any referee that has never been verbally abused? I don't! Mercifully though, the reported physical assault rate in football is probably of the same order as that reported in cricket and hopefully below rugby's reported 10%.

The bottom line is that, just as in football, cricket umpires are giving it up because they can't stand the amount of abuse now prevalent. Worse, it was found that five matches had to be abandoned last season because of violence – presumably among the players. Flannelled fools! How many football matches were stopped?

The cricket authorities, even at grass-roots level, can and do act in extreme cases. This summer, for instance, one player was given a 12-year ban from the game after he assaulted an opponent but the umpires on the field are, currently, powerless to act. The MCC is considering trialling umpire-imposed sanctions sometime in the future.

The authors of the report, Dr Tom Webb and Dr Mike Rayner at the University of Portsmouth, have also previously published detailed research on referee abuse in club-level rugby.

Writing in *The Chiltern Referee*

Len Randall

Raging Ref has enough after 12 minutes

Non-League Holmer Green are waiting to hear from the FA after their league match was abandoned after just 12 mins - because of an unruly supporter. The referee was fed up with the stick he was getting from one supporter. The Spartan South Midland Premier League side were 1-0 up against Edgware Town, when the referee Simon Higgins, suddenly abandoned the match because he was not prepared to take the verbal abuse from the Edgware fan any longer. The fan is said to have not used foul and abusive language towards the referee, but his "constant moaning" made up the whistle-blower's mind to call it a day. "It's something I've never encountered before," admitted chairman, Rob Shed. "There are people who have watched more non-league games than me who said they have heard worse. I don't think the Edgware fan was swearing, but he was challenging some of the referee's decisions which seemed to be going our way."

Holmer Green had hammered Edgware 6-1 in the Premier Division Cup in mid-week, and looked well on their way to securing a double victory. But the match referee called a halt to the game because of the abuse. Holmer offered one of their staff to act as a linesman if the senior assistant took over in the middle but this was declined. The chairman Greg Deer said the club were never asked to remove the spectator from the ground. He said, The spectator told me that had he been asked to leave he would have done so."

Both the Berks & Bucks and Middlesex FAs are investigating the incident.

(Ed. This incident was reported in several local newspapers (e.g. NLP 6.11.16), from which the above report was generated. I'm sure that many of us will have been in this situation - so what did you do? What was the outcome? Did the league or the CFA take any actions?)

Courtesy of The Chiltern Referee



COLMANBALLS

"Viagra manufacturer Pfizer is facing stiff competition from rival pharmaceutical firms"

London Newstalk Radio

"...and Michael Schumacher just stood on his seat and pulled out something special."

Martin Brundell

"The twins, who are joined at the head, both come from Egypt."

BBC Radio 1

"Initial reports suggest that between one and two people have been killed."

BBC

The Adventures of Willy 'Red card' Woodwork

The Whistling Referee

Part 53 – Keep the flag flying

Match: Cockfosters Casuals -v- Reds Rovers
 League: Division Three – Sunday Park League (North)
 Weather: Changeable.....either long or short sleeves

I looked around and noticed the Rovers goal keeper changing his shirt. No problem I thought at first as the ball was out of play. He removed his green top only to reveal another green top but this one was short sleeved. *'Oh no'* I said out loud.

'We cannot allow that'. I muttered out loud to myself as I strolled over to the goal keeper and explained he cannot wear short sleeves.

He questioned my request and asked why all the other out field players can wear short sleeves but not the goal keeper. He asked why it is not allowed.

I asked him *'And when was the last time you saw a goal keeper wearing short sleeves?'*

He replied *'Actually only last week when I watched a Champions League match from Italy'*.

A good answer but I told him *'When you play in the Champions League match you can wear short sleeves but here at Hackney Marshes in the Sunday Park League, Division Three you will have to stick with long sleeves so can you put the long sleeved top back on again please.'* He reluctantly did this and play eventually continued. I tried to explain that if he went up field into the opposing penalty area how could I distinguish if a player handled the ball when two players are both wearing short sleeves. The goalie told me that he had no intentions of going to the other half for corners.

When was the last time you saw a goalie in short sleeves?

Was Willie correct to insist the goal keeper could only play if he wore a long sleeved top?

As Rovers attacked the opponents' goal the forward was fouled by a Casuals player. He stumbled but managed to regain his balance. Two steps later he stopped abruptly, bent down and picked the ball up. He then said to me *'That must be about the fifth time he's done that Ref. You should book him and I'm going to take the free kick now and Ref, make sure the players are ten yards back from the ball'*.

I replied *'Thank you for that. I shall answer your questions one at a time. Firstly that is not the fifth time the player has fouled you and if you were paying attention I did in fact shout 'Play on, Advantage'. Yes, you were fouled but I gave the advantage to you as you were attacking your opponent's goal and just outside their penalty area. The challenge was careless and I was going to have a quiet word with the player but it was not a yellow card offence.'*

The player replied *'Okay Ref, if you say so but can I take the free kick now?'*

I knew this player was not going to be best pleased with my next decision as I took my book and pencil from my top pocket.

'Good to see you have changed your mind and that you are going to yellow card him. He deserves it!'

'Actually it's your name I want as I am cautioning you for deliberate hand ball and the free kick is in fact against you as you have in fact committed the offence. And with regard to your last question, can you make sure that you are ten yards from the ball please.' It goes without saying that this player was none too happy with my decision

A number of Rovers players also had comments of their own to tell me namely *'That is without doubt the worst decision that I have ever witnessed from a referee!'*

I thanked the player for his comments and showed him a yellow card for dissent. *'Does anybody else have any other comments they want to tell me?'* Suddenly there was silence and I was able to put my cards away.

Was I correct? (Clue: I normally am!)
 Would you have done anything different?

Play commenced and on awarding a corner kick to Rovers I noticed the corner flag post was on the ground. I run over to the corner quadrant and asked if the player was able to place the flag back on the post. He asked *'Does it really matter'* and I told him as per law the corner flag must have a flag attached. It is compulsory. The delay to secure the flag back onto the post seemed to annoy both sets of players but I knew I was correct.

For the record I always take a long sleeve and a short sleeve top because the weather can change so quickly at times.

Keep the flag flying,

Willy Woodwork

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



The Referee was over-nighting in an hotel. Before going to bed he phoned down to reception: "Hi. This is Room 317, can I have a wake-up call please?"
 The receptionist replied: "Yes. You're fat, in your 40s and given you're staying in a cheap hotel suggests you probably haven't achieved much in life."

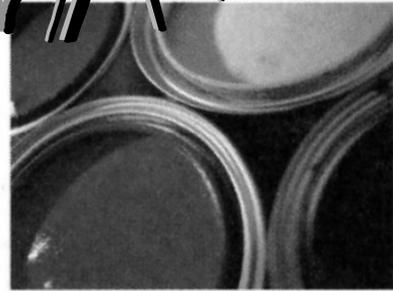
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What Would You Do ? Answers to January issue

Q1. The ball is punted out of the FoP in stoppage time. But just as it goes over the line the home manager, who is standing on the pitch, leaps to catch it. He does so and then tosses it to one of his players for a quick throw. What would you do?

A1. Stop the throw being taken. The offence is the manager on the FoP. Have a strong word with him and restart with a dropped ball where he entered the FoP.

Q2. At the coin toss before a local derby the two captains refuse to shake hands, and aim insults at each other instead. Before you can react they start throwing punches. What would you do?

A2. Dismiss both captains. Because the game had not begun when you showed the red cards both managers can convert a named a substitute from their original team-sheet into a starting player.

Q3. A Red striker volleys a loose clearance towards the empty net. But before the ball crosses the line a desperate ball-boy races on, dives across the goal and manages to tip the ball onto the post. Then the alert striker slams home the rebound. What would you do?

A3. You cannot award a goal because play was dead when the boy touched the ball. Restart with a dropped ball where the boy touched the ball (or at the appropriate point on the goal-line). Calm everyone and explain the situation; include details in your report.

Q4. You award a corner to Blues. Before the kick is taken you notice the Blue 9 and Red 5 are holding each other. You carry out your duty as specified in the LotG. Then you signal for the corner to be taken, this time before the kick is taken the Red 5 holds the Blue 9. Again you carry out your duty as specified in the LotG. You signal for the kick to be taken, with the ball in play in the air the Ref 5 and Blue 9 are holding each other, the Red 5 heads the ball into his own goal. What do you do?

A4. Disallow the goal. Caution then dismiss both players. Since the players are from two teams, restart with a dropped ball from the position of the ball at the stoppage.

Q5. It is midway through the first half. Blues are attacking and shoot at goal. The Red keeper makes a flying save punching the ball out of play. You realise that the keeper was the centre half who you cautioned earlier in the game and has changed places with a colleague without your permission. What would you do?

A5. Stop play (if in play). Caution then dismiss the centre half (second yellow). Restart as appropriate.

Q6. A Blue player already cautioned, commits a second cautionable offence as he tackles an opponent. You play a good advantage to the Red opposition but their shot is cleared and goes to the player who committed the foul, who then goes on to score. What would you do?

A6. No goal. You should have stopped play the moment the ball reached the player you planned to dismiss. He shouldn't be on the pitch, and he should not benefit from the advantage you awarded to the opposition. Show him a second yellow card, then a red. Restart with an indirect free kick where the ball was when it reached him.

Q7. You are officiating a local cup semi-final. When the home team go 6-0 up near the end the second half, the scorer takes off his shirt and stands right in front of you, celebrating. You realise what he is up to ... he wants to be cautioned now as it will trigger a suspension for his next league game, removing any risk of his being suspended for the final? What would you do?

A7. This is a provocative act, not just a goal celebration. The caution for shirt removal should be followed by a further caution for unsporting behaviour, and hence a red card is shown.

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

Thanks to The Chiltern Referee

What Would You Do?

Question 1.

A Red striker breaks his wrist during a game but, as his team are a goal down and have used all their subs, the physio straps it up and he goes back on. While waiting for a corner to be taken, a Blue defender gives his wrist a gentle tap and the Red player collapses in agony. His team mates demand a penalty. The defender claims he is play-acting. What would you do?. What would you do?

Question 2.

The home keeper is wearing no gloves and a short-sleeved jersey and his team mates are also in short-sleeves. At half time you are informed that TV replays have identified a home defender, and not the goalkeeper, has twice punched the ball away. What would you do?

Question 3.

You award a last minute free kick, right on the touchline, near the dugouts which are extremely close to the touchline. The Red taker prepares to launch the ball into the Blue penalty area so wants to start his run-up from off the FoP, in the technical area. However, the opposition manager stands in the way of his run-up and refuses to budge. He insists he can stand wherever he wants inside the technical area. What would you do?



Question 4.

As players sprint into the box a Red attacker appears to tear a muscle and collapses. The chasing Blue defender stops, but another attacker leaps over his team mate and kicks the ball into the empty net. What would you do?

Question 5.

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

Question 6.

In an epic shoot-out a team's eleventh player walks up to take his kick. But he starts swearing at you clearly hoping you'll send him off so that the team's star striker can take the kick instead. What would you do?

Question 7

A player takes an accidental knock to the head and ends up in a heap just off the FoP. As the physio races over, the opposition have a scoring chance, so you play on. But as the attack continues the player rolls back onto the FoP, followed by the physio. What would you do?

(Ed. Questions 1-3 were taken from "In the referee's opinion" in Touchlines - Sutton RS); and 4-7 from "You Are The Ref" by Keith Hackett and Paul Trevillion).

WARBLER REFERENCE GUIDE

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