

# THE WARBLER

Monthly Magazine of the Woking Referees' Society

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Season 2017/18 February Edition

# WOKING REFEREES ' SOCIETY

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# The next meeting of the Woking Referees' Society will be on Monday 5th February

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**
- ◆ **Guest Speaker**  
**Mark Ives**  
**Head of Judicial Services at the FA**
- ◆ **Society Business**
- ◆ **10pm Close**



**Next month's meeting will be on  
Monday 5th March 2018**

**The deadline for March Warbler is Friday  
23rd February 2018**

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

# From the Chair

Happy February Everyone,

A very quiet start to our meeting last month!! with Andy Bennett and Gareth Heighes taking some of us through our paces with an assistant refereeing session in the pre meeting. It's always good to get advice and feedback from your colleagues to keep your game fresh and up to date. They will be planning more of these sessions throughout the rest of this year, so if you can come along and join in please do,. Keep an eye open on the warbler for details.

Our guest speaker last month was Ray Herb, who provided us with a delightful evening full of videos and open debates on how you can affect the mood of the game and how if you 'take your eye off the ball' at crucial moments you can cause yourself problems by not reacting quick enough or correctly in law.

This Month we have Mark Ives the FA Disciplinary Officer, and I'm sure it's the perfect opportunity to come along and find out what you favorite (dirty) player gets fined for and how much it costs them !!

Now the poor weather is affecting pitches, take care to do a proper pitch inspection and if, in your opinion, it's not safe, do not play the game, as you will be at fault if something goes wrong. Get there in plenty of time to do the right thing and safeguard yourself, and don't forget to inform the league and referees secretary that you or the club have called the game off and the reason why.

Then find a nice warm place with a TV (and a bar if your old enough) to watch the footy.

Keep enjoying blowing the whistle and have fun and I hope to see you in the coming months at one of the meetings.

**Pat**



## Membership & Accounts

2017/18 Membership
119 Full Members
7 Friends
1 Affiliate Member
66 Referees trained in 2016/2017
68 Referees trained in 2017/2018

2018 Current Status	
General	£2,628.61
Supplies	£214.35
Belgium	£0.00
Training Fund	£614.89
Youth Fund	£113.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>£3,571.35</b>

## Just a Sec!

Notice is hereby given that the 90th Annual General Meeting of Woking Society, The Referees Association will take place on Monday 5th March 2018 at Meadow Sports FC, Loop Road, Woking, Surrey, commencing at 8pm.

Any rules changes and nominations for officers and committee need to be submitted in writing, and in accordance with the rules, to either the Chairman, Pat Bakhuizen, Secretary, Mac McBirnie or Treasurer, Bryan Jackson by the close of the February meeting (5th February).

You may notice from the above that this year Woking Referees' Society will be 90 years young. The committee have decided that to mark the occasion we will have a celebration in the form of a buffet, including a "birthday" cake and maybe raise a glass or two, at our May meeting.

The RA-FA Youth Council are once more offering us money from their Referee Development Fund. Last season we were awarded £250 which we put towards the purchase of a laptop/tablet for use by the Training Academy. The Committee are now looking for suggestions as to what we could use the money for. If anyone has any suggestions then please drop me or Pat a line.

## This Month's Speaker - Mark Ives

Mark is the Head of Judicial Services at The Football Association and has been with the Association for 16 years. He has held the current role for 12 years and was previously responsible for the professional development of County Associations. Prior to that he was the Chief Executive of Hertfordshire Football Association having joined after spending 12 years serving in the Army.



Having graduated with a Sports Law Masters through BASL, Mark is responsible for the Judicial function of the Association from the Premier League down to the very grassroots of the game including the management and training of Disciplinary Panels.

Mark is also a Referee of 35 years standing and has previously spent time as a Level 2 with 10 years' experience as an Assistant Referee on the National List and a Panel Referee. He had to leave that level due to it being a conflict with his current role at The FA. He still Referees today on various leagues including the UCL, Kershaw League and Sunday Leagues and is a qualified Instructor and Assessor.

Outside of work, Mark is also a keen Golfer playing of a handicap of 15. Mark has 4 grown up children and loves spending time with the family and travelling

## *Mac's Musings*

The Surrey Primary League have set up a Whatsapp group for the referees and I was interested to see a comment the other week from a ref asking whether anyone spoke to the players before a game. A number of replies came back ; some did, others didn't, as one would probably expect. I must admit that I rarely did except pass the odd remark when checking boots and jewellery, until that is the SPL started to trail the "sin bin" rule for dissent.

I then decided it might be an idea to clarify to the youngsters as to what I considered to be dissent.

So after the boot & bling inspection I now call them together, including the coach/manager and club linesman (providing they've found one at this point) and say something along the lines of. :-

"I'm quite happy for you to ask for clarification if I blow up for a foul, but I do not expect to be questioned over my decisions regarding throw ins, goal kicks and corners. Dissent also means not arguing or questioning the decisions of the linesman, including for offsides. At the end of the day I decide whether the linesman is correct or not and have the final say. Kicking the ball away after I have blown the whistle can be construed as dissent and could also earn you a ten minute rest. Managers, I expect you and your team and your spectators to lead by example. Its not much good me punishing your players if you are all having a go from the sidelines. Although I can of course report you to County for misconduct"

I then of course wish them a good game and hope they enjoy themselves etc . One team of U17s even thanked me gave me a round of applause after my "talk".—and no I didn't "sin bin" them for sarcastic clapping!

Does it work? Well I've not actually sent anyone off to the sin bin... yet !! But we are only half way through the season. However I have definitely seen a marked downturn in the amount of "backchat"

Our guest speaker this month is Mark Ives who is head of Judicial Services at the FA. Part of his remit this year is assimilating the feedback from the "Sin Bin" trials in the 30 or so Leagues across the country. It should be interesting to hear how the trial is progressing, as well as how he and I presume his team, decide on the penalties for miscreants from the Premier League down. Does this include Managers and Coaches I'd like to know?

Hopefully this and the answers to many other such questions will be revealed in his presentation. It should be a fascinating evening and I hope as many of you as possible can get yourselves down to Loop Rd on Monday.

With the monsoon weather we've been experiencing recently many games have been postponed and I've now received notification via the Whole Game System of a couple of the replays. One is in April the other in May! . I don't think I'm on holiday—but you never know.

**Mac**

## Message from The National RA

We hope you are enjoying your season and this mail contains **IMPORTANT INFORMATION** regarding **FA Charges**.

This Season has seen a significant number of disciplinary cases referred to The RA by members who have been charged with FA Rule E3 offences. It has been of considerable concern to The RA that most have got to the appeal stage before we know about them as that ties the hands of the Appeal Board because they cannot re-hear the case; merely judging the outcome on the appeal criteria.

This is guidance to you, LRAs and CRAs that, if charged, referees should **ALWAYS** ask for a personal hearing as they are better able to present their case that way.

Far too often do we see cases being dealt with by correspondence where the balance of probability has come down **AGAINST** the referee, no matter his/her standing or experience.

Tackling this issue at the **initial stage** will save hours of volunteer time going through the paperwork, unnecessary worry and disappointment and giving out guidance on '*what to do now after the horse has bolted*' rather than being able to offer far better advice from the outset.

**Support is a click away;**

[www.the-ra.org](http://www.the-ra.org)

<https://www.the-ra.org/welfare.php>

<https://www.the-ra.org/documents/Match%20Officials%20Guide%20to%20Personal%20Hearings.pdf>

[contact@the-ra.org](mailto:contact@the-ra.org)

### Case studies

- 1) Unsanctioned football
- 2) Racist remarks (implied)
- 3) Remarks of a sexual nature
- 4) Abusive language to minority groups
- 5) Urinating in a hedge (by a pitch)

If you are charged

**Please contact us immediately, [contact@the-ra.org](mailto:contact@the-ra.org)**

## Spare Kit ?

Do you have any spare or redundant kit you no longer need ? Why not donate it to the Society where Callum, our Supplies Officer, will happily take it off your hands.

Providing it is clean and in good condition we can sell it on to our newly qualified refs, who having forked out a goodly sum to take the course, are often looking for a bargain to get them on their way.

## **I trained to be a referee. Here's what it taught me about football**

Ooh goody, a referee's replica kit, just what I wanted," said no one, ever, surely, as they unwrapped their presents. But there it was, under the tree, along with a shiny new whistle and red and yellow cards.

At an age when I should know better I have taken up refereeing inspired, somewhat indirectly, by Prince Philip. To explain, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme (DofE), founded in 1956 and participated in by around 400,000 young people every year, includes a section on developing a new 'practical and social skill'. Learning to be a referee counts and my son opted for it.

As someone who watches football professionally, coaches at grassroots, and has occasionally had to take the whistle, it seemed a good idea to follow suit.

So one frosty morning I found myself in a clubhouse in rural Surrey. There were 24 of us in the room. Tim Lawrence, Surrey FA's Referee Development Officer. Barry Rowland, another veteran official who was assisting him, and 22 students. There were 20 teenage boys, one teenage girl, and myself.

This appears to be a common gender mix while the age ratio was in part because we were on the mini-soccer referee's course, for officiating in matches involving children under 10years old playing up to seven-a-side.

This is understandably more attractive to teenagers than reffing adults, especially those youngsters who don't have pictures of Mike Dean on their bedroom wall.

On this particular course motivation became clear as Tim asked people why they were there. When 'Duke of Edinburgh' was mentioned a forest of hands shot up.

Mini-soccer has several common-sense adaptations to the laws (e.g. opponents retreat to the halfway line to encourage teams to pass out from the back rather than just have the biggest kid welly it), and a different emphasis. You are there to educate the players – especially on such matters as how to take a throw-in – as well as control them. Any disciplinary problems are likely to come not from players, but parents and coaches.

The course itself is brief, two mornings, each split into theory and practice sessions, plus an online safeguarding course with an FA DBS (criminal records check) required for over-16s.

We learn positioning, signals, mini-soccer's unique aspects, and procedures at set plays such as the kick-off and a penalty. We all take turns in the middle during a match between ourselves.

At one point Tim plays the bad coach – a swear-free version of Ray Winstone in the Respect video – and then offers advice on how to deal with such miscreants. Refereeing proves more difficult than some expect. Parents may be surprised, but assertiveness does not come naturally to most teenagers and the need to concentrate all the time – and remember the various signals– is demanding.

Then we are sent out to referee three matches before returning in January for an evening's assessment and reflection. The emphasis is on learning-on-the-job with a variety of methods being used to improve retention rates.

Starting this young teenagers could, with dedication, talent and a thick skin, progress to the professional game. It is debatable how many of those doing it for DofE will stick at it, but even if they do not the experience of being in the middle should make them more tolerant of referees. Besides, the DofE element is unusually high on my course, other motivations include the desire to ref at a higher level than playing ability will achieve, and hard cash. Mini-soccer refs get around £10-17 a match, which is considerably higher than the £4.05p-an-hour minimum wage for under-18s.

Course costs vary, in Surrey it is £100, but soon pays for itself with time in the middle. Around 25 per cent go on to take the upgrade to 11-a-side, which is £50 extra, two more matches and more coursework, but refereeing adults is worth £30-40 a game even on the parks. The money is less of an attraction for adults, most are whistling because they enjoy it.

So, when pondering New Year's resolutions, how about adding 'be nice to referees', especially the kids who will make mistakes just like the players they are officiating.

Remember, refs may be flawed but without them – without us – there is no game

***Glenn Moore writing in iNews and forwarded by Tim Lawrence***

### ***On the Whistle***

I recently observed a Hertfordshire FA Level 5 who is going to do very well – I marked him 80 but I feel I could guarantee that other observers will not mark him lower than 76, which I believe is the pass mark.

I did mention one point after listening to his Instructions to his Level 6 assistants re substitutions. He required the Dug-out side assistant to handle substitutions at all times. I acknowledged that was a reasonable request, but suggested that if the referee was nearer to the Dug-out than his assistant - perhaps he was monitoring a goal kick placement and the referee was in the dropping zone area (same side, of course) – the referee should handle the substitution. The two assistants immediately agreed it was a good idea!! The referee acknowledged same.

Now I've always said, and recommended it to others, that at the toss-up the captains are advised that if they require a 10 yard free kick clearance of opponents then they should ask for same, otherwise a quickie can be taken. Bear in mind that LotG 2017/18 p189 clearly states that the whistle is not needed to restart play from most free kicks, goal/corner kicks, throw-ins or a dropped ball.

But wait; my Level 5 has got the disease of others I have observed and attempted to bring up to date!! Having paced a required 10yds the referee, moving towards his selected position, raises both arms with one hand pointing to the whistle in the other hand. "On the whistle 'keeper'" he calls. Why does the defaulting sides 'keeper merit such information? Where is it in the LotG?

***Mike Coventry writing in The Chiltern Referee***

## Hackett's Verdict | VAR will have its rocky moments

I have warned through several media channels that the introduction of the Video Assistant Referee (VAR) will not be a smooth process.

It is after all an IFAB experiment to determine how and when it will be operated in senior football competitions.

FA Cup replay Chelsea v Norwich City saw Graham Scott in charge supported by VAR Mike Jones.

In the limited number of games where VAR has been used it has proved a guarded success, used sparingly it has worked well, however in this FA Cup replay Chelsea's Willian in possession of the ball was brought down to the ground by a deliberate trip inside the penalty area.

The referee was well positioned but instead of pointing to the penalty mark reached for his pocket and produced a yellow card for simulation.

Willian was shocked and protested, here was the opportunity for the Video Assistant Referee to interrogate the video replays and inform the referee that he had made a serious error of judgment.

I was sat in my armchair expecting the referee to be invited to view the video screens at the side of the touchline. Had he done so he would have seen the clear trip committed by a Norwich City player on his opponent.

He would then have informed the occupants of the technical area and the players through the fourth official that he was rescinding the yellow card and awarding a penalty kick.

He did not and sadly Graham Scott who was having a good game was put to the test thanks to the incorrect non involvement by the VAR.

VAR had let the referee down.

Not the end of the world, the decision thankfully did not impact the game with Chelsea going through to the next round

The IFAB 12 principles of operation, which underpin the experiment, are as follows

1. Video technology will only be used to correct CLEAR ERRORS and for MISSED SERIOUS INCIDENTS in pre- defined match-changing decisions :goal, penalty/no penalty, direct red card and if the referee cautions or sends off the wrong player.
2. The final decision will always be taken by the referee.
3. Video Assistant Referees (VARs) are match officials and any information the VARs provide to the referee will be treated by the referee in the same way as information received from an assistant referee, additional assistant referee or the fourth official

4. The referee must always make a decision regardless of the existence of VARs i.e. the referee is not permitted to give 'no decision' and refer the situation to the VAR, If the referee decides not to stop play for an alleged offence, the decision (to allow play to continue) can be reviewed. On rare occasions, when it is unclear whether a penalised cautionable offence is a sending off, or who should receive the sanction, the referee might consult the VAR.
5. The original decision given by the referee will not be changed unless the video review clearly shows that the decision was clearly wrong.
6. Only the referee can initiate a review; the VAR (and the other match officials) can only recommend a review to the referee,
7. Whatever the review process, there is no time pressure to review the decision quickly as accuracy is more important than speed.
8. The players and team officials must not surround the referee or attempt to influence if a decision is reviewed, the review process or the final decision. A player who uses the 'review signal' will be cautioned.
9. The referee should, as far as possible, remain 'visible' during the review process to ensure transparency.
10. If play continues after an incident which is then reviewed, any disciplinary action taken/required during the post-incident period is not cancelled, even if the original decision is changed (except for caution/send-off for stopping a promising attack or DOGSO).
11. The maximum period before an incident that can be reviewed and the maximum period after an incident can take place is defined
12. As far as possible, the protocols conform to the principles and philosophy of the laws of the game.

However I have been made aware by one of my American contacts of a communication that he has recently received.

The VAR can ask the referee to upgrade a yellow card to a red card or ask the referee to view the challenge himself and make his own decision.

The FA do not upgrade yellow cards to red cards, it is done during the game.

So Graham Scott, I support fully your action to caution two other players in this game for simulation.

In this game you were let down by the VAR, but do not worry it is still an experiment and hopefully match officials will learn from these odd difficulties.

***Keith Hackett— You are the Ref***



Patrick Barclay's column:

## Zero tolerance the way forward

[you-are-the-ref.com](http://you-are-the-ref.com)

### ***Former Premier League official Mike Cairns in action***

During Jeremy Wilson's brilliant recent campaign in the Daily Telegraph about abuse of referees, there was a particularly poignant interview with Mike Cairns. Cairns was a Premier League match official for 15 years who, out of love for the game and a sense of duty towards younger referees, returned to the game at grass-roots level, only to find what Wilson called 'a very different landscape to the one he left in 1995.'

Many people reading this, including younger referees, will deem it all too familiar. "The level of indiscipline I see on a weekly basis is extreme," Cairns told Wilson. "It is beyond belief. I just don't recall this level of abuse before.

"If you dismiss a player, you get this torrent as you leave the pitch, calling you everything from a pig to a dog. That didn't happen. Many of the referees are turning a blind eye to foul, abusive and insulting language simply because they feel it is not worth the hassle."

In the circumstances, Cairns can be permitted the mixed metaphor because even the words to which they are cocking a deaf ear are more acceptable than the violence, real or threatened, that some have experienced.

Reports of the supply of referees decreasing are hardly a surprise. It all provides a dismal commentary on the performance of the FA's Respect campaign, which has been going for nearly eight years and appears to have made a bad situation worse.

The recent increase in abuse of rugby referees, which the Telegraph also reported, is hardly an excuse or a distraction. It appears to point towards a general deterioration in behaviour in society at large and this was held to be a problem in 2008, just as it is now.

The question remains: what can any sport, in our case football, do about it? When the Respect campaign was launched, it contained a fatal flaw which has never been properly addressed. It attempted to improve behaviour from the bottom up, as if grass-roots players provided an example to elite professionals rather than the other way round.

It was an astonishing error – everyone who has played or watched, let alone refereed, grass-roots football knows that the habits of the Premier League are aped on every humble pitch across the land – and yet it still appears to govern the campaign.

The professional game has even developed a different kind of refereeing in which officials are trained to explain decisions to dissident players as the match goes on. How do the FA expect grass-roots referees to learn those dubious skills as well as attending to their real-life jobs or studies?

No wonder they cannot control the tempers of the errant – why should they have to?

The best way to reinvent the Respect notion would be to impose strict rules on the elite. And enforce them. No backchat, no questioning except politely and briefly from the captain – and strict enforcement, backed by increased punishment by the FA.

If that means the elite referees can no longer practice their communications skills, too bad. The way things are going, their long-term successors may choose a different way of spending weekends. Only through zero tolerance of abuse at all levels can we do the game justice and – just as important – help to combat the shortcomings of an unruly age.

*Via Mal Davies*

## Last Month's Meeting

22 Members attended the January meeting of Woking RA on 8th January 2018. The evening started with an academy / training session outside on the Meadow 3G Pitch run by Pat Bakhuizen and Gareth Heighes.

This was followed by the main meeting where members had the opportunity to take part in an interactive session looking at videos on mass confrontations as well as free kick positioning just outside the penalty area. The session was run by RA Board Member and Chairman of West Middlesex RA, Ray Herb.

The discussions that followed were open but informative with members actively involved in deciding how they would have dealt with the situations.

Pat Bakhuizen thanked Ray presented him with the customary bottle of wine. Following the break and raffle, Ray fielded a number of questions about the RA, as well as the future of the RA-FA hubs.

The meeting closed at 10:05



## MURPHY'S MEANDERINGS

It was a Basingstoke Sunday league game. The attacking number nine received the ball on the penalty spot and was clearly yards offside. The club assistant flagged but the referee ignored him. The goalkeeper made a good save, there was a scrimmage, and the ball went for a corner. Throughout it all, the club assistant continued to wave his flag.

After awarding the corner, the referee went across to the club assistant and asked why he was flagging. "Because the number nine was offside," came the reply. "It was accidental offside," said the referee. The club assistant looked bemused so the referee decided to explain it to him. "The defender, on the edge of the penalty area, kicked the ball clear but it only went a couple of yards before rebounding off an attacker's knee to the number nine. The ball wasn't passed to him he received it accidentally and that's not offside." "Even though the ball went directly from one attacker to another," asked the club assistant disbelievingly?

Not wishing an argument, the referee decided to bring the discussion to an end and replied, "Yes, the number nine receive the ball accidentally, and though he was in an offside position under the Laws of the Game that is not offside," With that he ran off to supervise the corner kick.

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During a local game an attacker was quite rightly given offside ten yards into his opponent's half. The referee's whistle could be heard clearly but the player persisted in running to his opponent's penalty area and then driving the ball into the goal. On his return the referee cautioned him. However, as the player was being cautioned several of his colleagues started clapping sarcastically and a few shouted. This led to a broad grin on the player's face and he gave a "thumbs up" sign to his colleagues. The referee ignored everybody, completed the cautioning procedure, and then got on with the game. Was the referee right or should he have done more? Was there, in fact, any more he could do? What would you have done?

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A defender deliberately handles the ball in the penalty area. However, only you and the player know it was handball and there is no appeal from the other team who continue as if nothing had happened. What would you do? Would you give the penalty? What action would you take if you were the assistant referee?

***Tony Murphy***

## COLMANBALLS (via Tony Murphy)

"Our goalkeeper did not have a shot to save in ninety minutes. And yet we still ended up conceding four goals".

Joe Royle

"The man (Alex Ferguson) is United. Cut him and he will bleed red."

Alan Brazil

"We lost to both cup winners last year, and you can't do more than that."

Neil Warnock

"We had ten times as many shots on target as Bolton, and they had none at all."

Sir Bobby Robson

"Well, Clive, it's all about the two M's – movement and positioning."

Ron Atkinson

"Neil Baker is standing on the touchline with hands in tracksuit bottoms scratching his head."

Graham McGarry

"With eight or ten minutes to go, they were able to bring Nicky Butt back and give him fifteen to twenty minutes."

Niall Quinn

"What people have to remember about Hull City is that there are always eleven players playing against them."

Terry Dolan

"The final?" If United and Arsenal get through the quarter-finals and can avoid themselves in the semis..."

Mark Lawrenson

"Liverpool are currently halfway through an unbeaten twelve-match run."

Alan Parry

"Referees have an easy job because they are always right."

Arsene Wenger

There are only two jobs everybody thinks they can do, Prime Minister and Football Manager.

Anon

Someone threw a bottle of Omega 3 pills at a referee -  
luckily his injuries were only super fish oil ....

*(spotted in The Chiltern Referee)*

## **Frustration, Dissent, Abuse. - Is It Acceptable? “A view from the middle”**

Football is played by human beings – thank heaven. They have their skills, their failings and they all react to success, failure, good fortune and ill luck in different ways. That is one of the reasons why the game holds the attention and passion of so many people. It is exactly the same for referees – we are all different.

I have lived long enough in the real world to accept that players will not accept every decision with total calmness. The passion that makes the game so exciting makes it a certainty that, if you are on the wrong end of a poor (in your eyes) decision, there will be a reaction. Despite my residence in the real world, I and my fellow referees are obliged to enforce the Laws of the Game. You will know that referees are being instructed to do this more rigidly, and this includes dissent. The Law states that the referee shall caution a player who shows, by word or action, dissent towards the decision. To save you looking it up, dissent is defined as “*having or expressing a different opinion*”.

A player having a different opinion to the referee's is OK, because the crime is to show that different opinion. Dissent is shown by arguing, throwing the ball down in disgust etc, and it is possible that a caution may follow.

The hard part for the players is that their argument may be valid. *They could be right!* Referees, like everyone else do make mistakes, but unfortunately dissent is not acceptable even when the dissenter is correct, and it is *that message that is proving difficult to deliver.*

Dissent is seen as a threat to the referee's control. If players are seen to get away with it, perhaps even sway the odd decision or two, then you will have everyone trying it. Referees should be able to identify the difference between frustration and dissent. Frustration is just the annoyance manifesting itself, and it is usually on the spur of the moment and it quickly passes. It becomes dissent when it continues for longer than the split second, when the same players get eventually “frustrated” or it becomes orchestrated by a group.

There are other examples. I recently cautioned a player who felt that his team should have been awarded a penalty, not for his first little dig, or even his second, which I accepted as understandable frustration. But when he restarted the debate and offered his view for the third time, some 50 seconds later, my patience expired – wouldn't yours?

Please remember that any expression of dissent can attract a yellow card, but most referees only react to the blatant act. Just think what would happen if every dissenter were cautioned?

The worst manifestation of this is abuse, usually involving the use of foul language. Again the law is clear; a player who uses foul or abusive language shall be sent off. This must be in the opinion of the referee. You can see that a docker from Tilbury may have a different view of what is bad language from a lay preacher from Canterbury!

The Law also does not discriminate where the recipient of the abuse is concerned. It can be the referee, linesman, opponent, team-mate, manager or even spectator but it is up to the referee to decide. Most referees will tell you that an accusation of cheating can get a player first use of the showers. Players who racially abuse opponents usually do it to attract a violent response. Indeed, no words need actually be said, gestures form part of sign language which can, of course, be foul.

Again the officials are quite discerning when choosing whether to punish. The aim is to eliminate those who use words to threaten, provoke or abuse. If a bad word is uttered in frustration a good referee can manage the situation. I say usually because sometimes this can have disastrous results. A goalkeeper was encouraging his defenders by using some choice language at the top of his voice. The referee had a quiet word with his captain, suggesting that he should ask him to desist. The captain obliged – from a distance of 50 yds – with “Micky, cut out the f\*\*\*\*\* swearing, or the ref will send you off!” Nice try ref!

We do not go looking for problems, the paperwork takes most of the evening as it is, but referees cannot have their control threatened, and abuse of anyone is unacceptable. Remember, you may be right in having a different view but you do not have the right to express that view; except in the bar afterwards. But that is a different matter, and it does show we are all human beings, which is where I came in.

*This was written 20 yrs ago by Andy Legg for The Mitre, the magazine of Fulham RA. and spotted in The Chiltern Referee*

## Dates for your Diary 2016/17

<b>5th February</b>	<b>Society Meeting</b>	<b>Mark Ives FA Disciplinary Officer</b>
5th March	Society Meeting	Jim De Rennes , AGM
9th April	Society Meeting	Graham Ekins Chairman SYL
14th May	Society Meeting	Andy Bennett/ Tom Ellsmore
18th May 2018	Eve of Final Rally,	
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> May 2018	Non-League Finals day,	



## Sunday's Referee Diplomat or Dictator?



Early in 2016, the Telegraph online published an article about grass-roots referees. The majority of the press focus at that time was on a few referees who had suffered assaults but the Telegraph's article included interviews with several park's referees.

One of the older referees interviewed - a chap called Clive Steward - had summed up his comments by noting: *"You are a diplomat rather than a dictator. I would still recommend it....I'd do one every day if I could. I love it."*, a sentiment that resonates quite strongly with me.

Being a level 4 referee, I am fortunate enough to get to spend my Saturday afternoons refereeing, or running the line, as part of a team of three, in small stadiums where the crowd can vary from well under a hundred to over a thousand. On Sunday mornings, however, I'm on my own on some local common, with the traditional one man and his dog and a few long-suffering girlfriends typically the only audience.

Your average Sunday morning footballer works all week and looks forward to their weekend game as a stress reliever. That Division 4 game, on a pitch still cut up from Saturday afternoon's adventures (and often littered with the remnants of Saturday evening's dog walkers), is more important to them than any multi-million pound offering from the Premiership. It's not surprising then that their passions will sometimes overflow.

The Sunday morning referee needs to know that players are not going to call him 'sir' and are not going to quietly accept every decision made against their team. Equally, he/she must accept that their job is to judge what is acceptable and to take appropriate action when that is called for.

Sometimes that can involve simply letting a player have a short rant before explaining your decision: *"I know you got the ball - I don't have a problem with that - but you slid in with your studs up and I'm not going to wait until that sort of challenge damages someone before I take action. I'm here to try to keep you all safe as well as to see you get a good game"*

Once they've calmed down, such players will often become your greatest allies, stopping their team-mates from giving out further abuse: *"Shut it, John. You know it was a foul. Leave him alone. He knows what he's doing"*.

At other times, players will not respond to this approach and it's then that the referee needs to be strong enough to do their job and issue yellow or red cards as needed.

What the referee must not do is be the Captain Manwaring figure from the first minute, whistling, carding and refusing to communicate, with no thought for why the players are there in the first place.

It's this challenge - this 'being a diplomat' as Clive Steward put it - that can be the most enjoyable part of being a referee.

**Mike Coen** writing in Touchlines

## Doggy pitch invader sent off for vicious tackle in Argentine third-division match

During a match between Central Cordoba and Sportivo Las Parejas in the Argentine third division, a dog not only invaded the pitch, but heinously tackled the man with the ball from behind to gain possession. It was a reckless challenge worthy of the red card that forced the referee to halt the match as the victim of the tackle was forced to carry his assailant off the pitch.

Despite the sending off, the dog would re-enter the pitch later in the match, acting as if nothing had happened. This time, the goalkeeper was forced to carry the uncooperative pup away.

Obviously this display should carry a hefty fine of at least several treats and a stadium ban for the dog, but local supporters have defended it by saying the canine "isn't that kind of dog."



*Via Mal Davies and Touchlines*

## PENALTY REFI!

During the 1890-91 FA Cup quarter-final between Notts County and Stoke at Trent Bridge, a shot was punched off the line by County's left-back Hendry, with his goalkeeper, Toone, well beaten. As the laws made no mention of penalties at the time, Stoke had to take a free-kick on the goal-line which Toone smothered easily. County won the match 1-0 and went on to the Final.

The incident provoked so much comment that, partially as a result, penalties were introduced by the FA from September 1891. This led to another controversial incident in which Stoke were also the sufferers the next season.

During a league game at Aston Villa, Stoke were losing 1-0 when a penalty was awarded to them just two minutes from time. The Villa 'keeper picked up the ball and booted it out of the ground. By the time it had been found the referee had blown for full time!

The law was soon changed to allow referees to add on time for penalties. The penalty law was changed again as late as 1892 when players were banned from touching the ball twice - and hence dribbling into the net!

*Courtesy of The Illustrated Encyclopaedia of British Football and first appeared in the May Warbler 1991*

# Pages from Yesteryear

## From the Chair ( 1980 )

The big news this month is the withdrawal of the red and yellow cards from the football league. The forecasts are that this move will dramatically reduce the number of cautions and dismissals. Great stuff eh?

Wouldn't it be pleasant for the game all round if the players and journalists thought before they jump into print with ridiculous comments like this. I doubt if the numbers of bodies trooping through the misconduct commissions will drop.

I personally have only shown a yellow card in this country on one occasion, and that was before their use in Surrey junior football was publicised.

Since that time I have honestly forgotten to use them in senior matches. My cautions and send-offs have nevertheless increased out of all proportion and that unfortunately extends to the younger age groups of boys football.

To my mind the answer lies with the law makers and the tribunals, I would make dissent more easily punishable, perhaps even by an immediate send-off.

Certainly disciplinary comm-issions must give more support to referees. Whilst there must be justice. I believe that the referee is often placed in an intolerable position by appeals that are up-held, I have twice had cautions thrown out, and twice I have almost left the game as a result.

Looking on the bright side, I could be wrong, perhaps the loss of cards will be good for the game\* I somehow doubt it

**Norman Southam\***

*Ed I was unaware that cards were introduced and then withdrawn. Any one know how long it was before they came back in? Thanks goodness players cannot appeal cautions any more. Best decision the FA ever made.!*

## PlumTree

Surrey FA Saturday Junior County Cup  
Chobham Burymead Reserves-v-Holland  
Sports First  
Referee : Will Siegmund

Cyril West Invitation Cup  
Windlesham United First v Bookham  
Referee : Will Siegmund

F.A. Premier Academy,  
Chelsea u16 v Swansea City u16  
Referee : Paul Gorringer



## Wheel attachments on portable goals?

Just before Christmas, I was refereeing a game on the Surrey South Eastern Combination when, from my position and viewing angle, the ball appeared to bounce off the goalpost and an attacker scored a goal from the rebound.

The defenders claimed that the ball had hit the wheel - attached to the outside of the bottom side bar near the goalpost – before coming back into play, whereas the attackers insisted that the ball had hit the post.

Since I didn't have the luxury of a qualified assistant, I had to go with what I believed I had seen and so I awarded the goal, much to the displeasure of the defending team!

During the pre-match inspection, because of the proximity of the wheels to the goal post and thus their potential for impacting on my decisions, perhaps I should have asked for them to be removed. If this wasn't possible, then I would have had to make a pre-match decision as to whether the ball should be considered to be in or out of play if it made contact with the wheel.

This could be determined pre-match by putting the ball down in front of the wheel to see whether any part of the ball is on or over the goal line. A simpler alternative - that wouldn't be open to interpretation during play - might be to consider the wheels to be part of the goalpost, telling the players that if the ball rebounds from the wheel during the game, then the ball would be considered to be still in play.

I couldn't find anything to help me in the Laws of the Game regarding the legality of wheel attachments on goals, so I emailed **Tim Lawrence** with the above description to seek his expert opinion. I found Tim's advice very helpful, which was:

*"Thanks for your email and a good question. The wheels should be behind the goalpost – see attached. If they are protruding and are by the goal post then they need to be removed. If this is not possible you need to explain to both teams what your decision will be if the ball hits them."*



**Michael Malin writing in Touchlines**



I felt a lump in my mouth as the ball went in-Terry Venables  
That's Robson - a totally convicted player – Jimmy Armfield Celtic manager  
David Hay still has a fresh pair of legs up his sleeve. - John Greig  
Ian St.John : It's a real battle tomorrow with Brazil against Spain\* What do you reckon, Bruce?  
Bruce Grobbelaar : Well I have to go for the Italians on this one,, Sa int.  
Everything in our favour was against us - Danny Blanchflower  
We are quite lucky this year because Christmas falls on Christmas Day.  
Bobby Gould

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## Adie's Weather and Wood

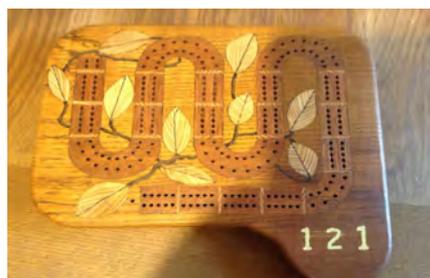
I write this article following a difficult weekend in which the weather played a significant role. On both the Saturday Leagues we had multiple postponements which led to quite a lot of re-jigging with fixtures for my Fixture Secretary and then for me re-allocating or, as in one case having to inform the Referee that he currently did not have a game for the following Saturday. It always pains me to do this as I am very aware that Match Officials tend to plan their weekends around the appointments and I would be the last person to want to upset their better halves.

My advice on this is to keep your eyes on your e-mails for fixture changes, I do try to let Referees know by telephone if I consider that the personal touch is required.

As of the 27<sup>th</sup> of January we shall see the first quarter –finals of the Cup competitions this will continue over the month of February when the semi-finals come into play. Please keep your availability updated so that you are not disappointed when you do not get a game. On that subject, if you are going for promotion let us Ref Secs know so that we can appoint you to appropriate games on which you may be assessed.

I have been trying to send reminders to all the Match Officials when we have various Cup Competitions regarding the various rules. Each of these seem to have their own designated set and mistakes have been made. On one occasion a year or so ago, I had to rush over to stop a Referee from going to Extra Time in a County Cup Match even though I had sent out a reminder! Told him to go straight to penalties – which pleased the clubs as they had just had an end to end 90 minutes. It may be advantageous to try and get all the Cup Competitions 'singing from the same Hymn Book' but this will take time as the Clubs will have to vote on it. I will try to get some proposals brought in for the AGM's and we can take it from there.

On the wood-working front, my last two projects, a cribbage board (see pic) and a wall plaque for a house number were both greeted with delight and the current job of making an aquarium stand for my youngest is going well. I am using spruce which is not my favourite material but needs must when the devil drives. It would have been far too



expensive to make it from a hard wood as it is a fair size and will need six legs to support the weight of the tank.

Building work is going well on the bathroom. The sparky comes tomorrow with the plumber next Saturday so it will soon be taking shape. Currently it is all stud-work and protruding pipes! Biggest problem is the dust. As the ceiling was removed and floor-boards taken up you can imagine the fall-out from that as the house is 160 years old. I polished the mantelpiece last Sunday and within a few hours the dust was back on it. I am also constantly blowing dust out of my track-ball mouse which is a pain. We did, however manage to get a good deal on the tiles so happy with that. Discretion being the better part of valour I neglected to let Diane see the really expensive ones!

Enjoy your games. **Adie**

## **The Adventures of Willy the 'Red card' Referee**

### **Part 66 – 'Impede the obstruction'**

Match: Righton & Mauve Albion -v- Western North End  
 League: Division Three - Sunday Park League (North)  
 Yellow cards: Can you really remember whilst the match is in progress?  
 Red cards to date: Let's just say there are not twenty two players on the pitch.  
 Conditions: It's always muddy, wet and cold at this time of the year

It all started back in September when the Laws of the Game were changed again. We were told it would be made even simpler and the restarts would be what the supporters would expect. This was great reading until I looked at the Laws of the Game handbook from season 2013-2014 that covered all the Laws in the first 59 pages compared to the 2017-2018 edition which now totals 126 pages! Have I missed something here?

The Premier referees wear lovely coloured tops but we still have to wear black and why can't I use the can of shaving foam to ensure the players have retreated the correct distance for a free kick? It would work a treat in the local parks! For the record I would love to wear an orange top or maybe a sky blue one. What would your favourite colour top be? Most referees are at level 7 but the diagrams shown in the handbook have all the match officials in yellow tops and yellow socks. Yellow socks for match officials are not even worn by the Premier League officials.

Have I again missed something here?

For many years there have been 10 Penal offences but this season there are now 11. If a player is impeded with contact this is now a direct free kick and if no contact is made then it is an indirect free kick.

*Meanwhile back to the action.....*

It was the 43<sup>rd</sup> minute of this match when the Albion defender runs across the North End player in the Albion penalty area. To avoid contact the North End player tried to change direction but stumbled to the ground in his attempt. Being aware of this incident I immediately blew my whistle and naturally all the North End players thought that I had awarded a penalty. You can imagine the pandemonium as I confirmed the free kick would only be indirect.

*Slightly amusing and some say confusing  
 This law is restricting and really conflicting  
 You can make your own deduction  
 When the laws of the game took out the word 'obstruction'  
 The word 'impede' is now used  
 This now has everyone confused  
 The dictionary says they mean the same  
 And this will drive us all insane  
 If they mean the same why make the change?  
 I find it all so very strange  
 If contact is made the free kick is direct*

*If no contact is made the restart is indirect  
 Imagine no contact from the defender in the penalty area  
 You award an indirect free kick and that could not be scarier  
 If the forward falls to the ground  
 You give no penalty and there would be uproar all around*

*To the powers that be please bring the word 'obstruction' back  
 This will put all referees back on track  
 I wait for the first premier referee for no contact impediment to award  
 I would be the first one to applaud  
 That first premier referee would be brave and very hard driven  
 But he would be correct if it were given  
 Players don't understand the word 'impede'  
 Change it now FIFA and take the lead*

I feel much better now that I have shared my thoughts with you.

Maybe you had a player impede an opponent with no contact in a recent match and if so I trust you restarted play with an indirect free kick.

*So again back to the action* .....A few minutes on and I awarded an indirect free kick to North End when an Albion player was offside as he received the ball. The North End goal keeper I thought was going to kick the ball down field but instead he played the ball a few yards forward to his team mate. I immediately blew my whistle as an infringement had occurred. Again this is one of the laws the players appear to have no knowledge of. We all know that a free kick whether direct or indirect must leave the penalty area before any other player touches the ball. There were a number of players saying 'I've never heard of that one before Ref'. But I am sure that you know and I know that we are right.

The two laws that I have highlighted may not be 'major' laws and they do not occur on a weekly basis but it is the duty of every match official to firstly know the law and then how to apply the law and the restarts correctly.



Happy reading,

**Willy the 'Red Card' Referee**



It's a unique occasion really - a repeat of Melbourne 1987, - Jim Laker  
 I promise results, not promises - John Bond  
 The European Cup, almost 17 pounds of silver that's worth its weight in gold.  
 - Brian Moore  
 Most of the people who can remember when we were a great club are dead,  
 - Notts County Chairman



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## What would You Do ? Answers to January Issue

**Q1** In the 90th min of a cup final, you award Blues a corner. The ball is hit long to the far post with a lot of spin. It dips, swerves and without making contact with any other player, drops into the net for what would be a late winner. You signal for the goal and as the Blues celebrate the Red goalkeeper runs to you with the ball. It is clearly flat and he claims the wild swerve must have been a result of its deflated status. What would you do?

**A1.** Disallow the goal, and retake the corner. The law states: If the ball becomes defective at a kick-off, goal kick, corner kick, free kick, penalty kick or throw-in, the restart is retaken. It's not going to be a popular decision!

**Q2.** A Red forward has noticed that the Blue goalkeeper always bounces the ball several times before he clears it. After a corner, where the keeper has jumped to claim the ball, as everyone else clears the area, he places himself immediately behind the unsuspecting keeper. Sure enough, the keeper bounces the ball, at which point the attacker sticks out a foot and diverts the ball to the edge of the area where his team mate runs in to score. The keeper claims this is unsporting behaviour. What would you do?

**A2.** Disallow the goal and award an indirect free kick from where the attacker made his challenge. A keeper may not be challenged when holding the ball, which includes bouncing or throwing it from hand to hand.

**Q3.** Before a match, a player - who has been named on the team-sheet - recognises one of your assistants as having been involved in his being dismissed a few weeks earlier. Still angry he subjects your assistant to verbal abuse; you immediately dismiss the player, allowing him to take no part in the match. The Red manager correctly replaces him with one of the named substitutes, leaving him with 4 subs still on the bench. At a stoppage late in the match, with 2 subs already having been made by the Red manager you become aware of a standing row taking place between the manager and your bench-side assistant. Your assistant advises you that the manager was trying to make a third substitution; but he was reminded that his initial use of the named sub plus the 2 game-time changes mean that all three allowed changes have already been made. The manager angrily informs you that you have a donkey running your line. What would you do?

**A3.** The manager may make his third change. Your assistant was wrong. Law 3 states: A player who is sent off after being named on the team list and before loc off may be replaced by a named substitute, who cannot be replaced; the number of substitutions the team can make is not reduced.

**Q4.** A defender is waiting for you to wave him back on the FoP after having received treatment. But when he spots an opponent break clean through on goal, he races back on without permission, tackles the striker cleanly and clears the ball to safety. What would you do?

**A4.** Stop play. Caution the defender. It's not a dismissal for DOGSO because the defenders can make clean tackles. His only offence is entering the FoP without your permission.

**Q5.** As two opponents square up to each other, the Blue defender, standing just outside the penalty area, spits at the Red striker who is standing just inside. What do you do?

**A5.** Dismiss the defender, and award a penalty. This is just a sliding challenge; the offence takes pace at the point of contact.



Courtesy of the Chiltern Referee

**Q6.** After extra time in a cup final the score is still level. The penalty shootout has gone all the way to the final player from each side. The Red player calmly slots his penalty home at which point the Blue player has an extreme attack of nerves and says he cannot continue. His captain has a word with him and then advises you that, despite his pleas, there is not way the player is going to take his kick. What would you do?

**A6.** Unless the player changes his mind, you must abandon the game!! But ..... Another approach might be: Let the player know you will place the ball and signal for the kick to be taken. If he still refuses then caution him and count the penalty as having been missed. Law 10 states : If the kicker is penalised for an offence committed after the referee has signalled for the kick to be taken, that kick is recorded as missed and the kicker is cautioned.

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

### **What Would You Do ?** Courtesy of The Chiltern Referee

**Question 1** You are in the middle of a senior ladies match. Your far-side assistant is fairly inexperienced but seems to be doing a good job. Then, in the 20th min, having kept his flag down on a close offside call which saw a shot fly narrowly wide, he is shouted to by the left back. He immediately flags furiously and beckons you over. Once you reach him, he tells you that the player had shouted. "For Christ's sake, lino, get your flag up". As a deeply religious person, your assistant finds such use of the Lord's name both offensive and blasphemous. He is clearly upset and requests that the player be sent off. What would you do?

**Question 2** You are in the middle of a local league cup match with the scores at 1-1 as you enter the final minute. The red keeper has had trouble gaining any distance with his goal kicks into an ever-stiffening breeze, so his left back has been taking the last few and now places the ball for yet another. The ball has only just cleared the area when the wind gusts even harder, blowing it back over his head and into the net despite a despairing dive from the goalkeeper which saw him only just fail to get his fingers to the ball. The Blue team celebrate knowing that there is hardly any time left. What would you do?

**Question 3.** In a keenly contested game, a Blue defender has injured himself as he made an excellent last-ditch tackle to prevent a goal-scoring opportunity. Even as his team sweep upfield, it is obvious he is in some pain but you decide to allow play to continue as it is not a head injury. Sure enough, the blue attack results in a goal but, as you turn to signal, you see that the Blue physio is already on the field and treating his player. You run back to him and he tells you that your assistant had given him permission. When asked, he confirms that he had sent the physio on because play had moved into the other half. What would you do?

**Question 4.** When the home side concede a third goal their under-fire manager loses the plot. He storms out of his dug-out and into the TV commentary box where he lays into a notorious pundit. He then trots down again. What would you do?

**Question 5.** A defender badly scuffs his back pass sending the ball bouncing towards his own net. The horrified keeper makes a desperate attempt to stop it. He ends up heading the ball on to the goal post then tipping the rebound over the bar with his hand. What would you do?

**Question 6.** Blue number ten comes on for number 23. But seconds after the restart there is a huge commotion. Staff on the bench are screaming that the fourth official got it wrong and should have held up number 13 instead. What would you do?

*(Ed. Questions were taken from "In the referee's opinion" in Touchlines - Sutton RS, and from "You Are The Ref" by Keith Hackett and Paul Trevillion in The Observer).*

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