

THE WARBLER

Monthly Magazine of the Woking Referees' Society

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Season 2018/19 February Edition

WOKING REFEREES ' SOCIETY

FOUNDED 1927

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The next meeting of the Woking Referees' Society will be on Monday 4th February 2019

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

AGENDA

- ♦ ***8 pm Chairman's Welcome***
- ♦ ***Guest Speakers***

Paul Howard and David Coote

- ♦ ***Raffle***
- ♦ ***Society Business***



**The next meeting and AGM will on 11th March 2019
The deadline for March Warbler is
Friday 1st March**

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

From the Chair

Hi Everyone

Watching the Premier League this weekend reminds me that we are not too far away from these guys that officiate at the top level. The familiarity they have with certain players and the amount of rubbish they have to deal with, not just during the game but the comments after the game as well ; being brave enough to change a decision if you think you've got it wrong before you restart the game; getting involved with little scuffles of petulance.

We, like them need to stand tall, be brave and make the right decisions and apologies! When we make a mistake, we are after all only human.

As I enter my final month as Chairman of this wonderful society, this weekend reminded me of something someone once said to me, "never be afraid to put your head above the parapet to make a difference and be brave when you get it wrong" The path to the top is hard as is the same path on the way down, all you can ever do is do your best and enjoy it for as long as you can

Have fun, and if you're thinking of going for a promotion step this year then go for it and remember your friends at the society and in refereeing are right behind you and are there to help you

See you soon

Pat



Membership and Accounts

2018/19 Membership
71 Full Members
7 Friends
1 Affiliate Member
92 Referees trained in 2017/2018
20 Referees trained in 2018/2019

2019 Current Status	
General	£2,676.52
Supplies	£124.75
Belgium	£500.00
Training Fund	£448.68
Youth Fund	£113.50
Total	£3,863.45

Woking Referees' Society Annual General Meeting 11th March 2019

Due to availability issues, the committee have changed the date of the AGM, it will now be 1 week later. Please refer to the official notification below.

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Woking Society, The Referees Association will take place on Monday 11th March 2019 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 (Monday 4th February).

A copy of the Society Rules has been e-mailed to all members and a copy is available on the Society's website www.wokingreferees.co.uk

Just a Sec!

- ◆ Please note the change of date for the March AGM meeting. The agenda and committee nominations will be published in the March Warbler.
- ◆ This month we have the privilege of not one but two guest speakers, not only that but two high profile referees namely Paul Howard a level 2A National League Premier Referee and David Coote a Level One Premier League Referee. It is not often that we have the honour of welcoming a member of the prestigious PGMOL so please make every effort to attend.
- ◆ You should have all received an e-mail from the National RA with the details of this year's Development Weekend and AGM. The RA have suggested that Local RA hire a mini bus, which if there is enough interest, then I'm sure your committee would approve.

Academy News

Due to the lack of interest and numbers, the Academy will be suspended until such time that we can guarantee members are prepared to attend. Gareth had once again spent a couple of hours preparing for the January meeting, unfortunately to no avail.

Hopefully the forthcoming new referees course scheduled for February will produce more referees who wish to continue their training.

Mac

Last Month's Meeting

Chairman Pat welcomed 17 members and our guest speaker Aaron Farmer to the first meeting of the year on 7th January.

Aaron is a level 3 referee and an assistant on the National League—all at the tender age of 21

The subject of Aarons presentation was “Keeping Calm Under Pressure” The objective being to find out what causes us as referees to “lose our cool” and what strategies can we employ to remain calm, often under extreme provocation. We watched a couple of videos where then referee had “lost it” and reacted to a player with violence. Not a pretty sight.

Initially in groups and then individually we discussed what causes us to get annoyed or puts us under stress when refereeing. The answers were many and varied but all had a similar theme such as

- ◆ Players / coaches constantly querying your decisions.
- ◆ Players not knowing the laws of the game and misquoting the “rules” as they invariably call them.
- ◆ Players who tell you that they are referees
- ◆ Players over reaction to minor offences.
- ◆ Mass confrontations.
- ◆ The weather.
- ◆ Late to games due to traffic or situations out of control.
- ◆ Assistant Referees who do not follow your instructions.
- ◆ Teams not organised i.e team sheets, no ball (or soft and no pump) Kit colour clash etc.
- ◆ Making a wrong decision. This can often play on your mind for a while afterwards and affect future decisions.

The aim was to make us think of the 3 main things that wind us up and to then have a strategy in place to make us stay calm. These could include the following.

Aarons 7 points for keeping calm

1. Eat healthily. Prepare for the game. Deal with the controllables
2. Ensure you get a good nights sleep.
3. Think positively when in a stressful situation.
4. Breathe fully (take deep breaths)
5. Don't play the victim ie don't blame others (such as observers)
6. Keep it all in perspective. It is only a game and not life or death.
7. Be grateful that we are able to do what we do. There are many who are less fortunate than ourselves.

Aaron then showed a couple of videos of referees keeping calm under pressure including Michael Oliver showing Juventus' Gianluigi Buffon a red card when he and his team mates remonstrated with him after he awarded a penalty to Real Madrid.

Aaron finished with the following.

“ The greatest weapon against stress is our ability to chose one thought over another”

Pat thanked Aaron for an excellent presentation, and for travelling all the way from Ipswich to be with us. (a 200 mile round trip). We then discussed a couple of “what would you do” questions before the meeting closed at 10pm.

Last Month's Meeting



Chairman Pat thanked Aaron Farmer our guest speaker at the January Meeting and presented him with our customary bottle of wine.

Dates for your Diary 2018/19

4th February	Society Meeting - Paul Howard & David Coote
11th March	Society Meeting and AGM - Steve Worsley
1st April	Society Meeting - TBA
13th May	Society Meeting - Keith Hiller aka "Willy Red Card"
17th May	Eve of Final Rally– Bentley Priory, Stanmore Middlesex
6th and 7th July	RA Development Weekend– Venue De Vere Horwood Estate, Milton Keynes

REPORT ON SCFA REFEREES COMMITTEE 5.11.18

Introduction and operation of sin bins. Tim Lawrence has been doing webinars and visiting referee societies (two remain to be visited). Advice to leagues is responsibility of Football Services Manager. Committee has suggested that matter should be raised at end of season meetings of leagues. There will be a presentation to County Members at the general meeting on 11th December.

FA strategy and Key Performance Indicators for County FAs. It was noted that FA does not collect and collate figures on like-for-like basis. One problem for County FAs is that referees are not necessarily completing full details upon registration, and the system does not allow them to update detail themselves. This is causing extra work for County FAs. I have been asked to spread the word to fully complete the forms upon registration, please. It was noted that FA systems do not allow them to compare data accurately, e.g. for small-sided football, nor do they allow for referees covering two matches in on day.

Encouraging referees to apply for promotion. There was a lengthy discussion on how to encourage more referees to apply for promotion e.g. from level 5 to level 4 as numbers doing so are low. This is likely to be the subject of a small working party.

County Cup appointments. I raised this subject following Sutton Society's comments at our last meeting. Present systems have been in place a few years. But it seems that the Referees Secretaries of some leagues had not been nominating any referees for County Cup appointments, in an effort to try to keep games on their leagues covered. There is also a perception of bias towards the west of the county over the east in the awarding of appointments. Another small working party is proposed to review the system.

There have been problems with appointed match officials dropping out very late, particularly in Senior and Premier Cups. Closed dates are not being advised, and this causes "an unnecessary and time-consuming exercise of re-appointments". For 19 matches, 57 officials were appointed and it took 104 re-appointments to finally cover all matches. Reminder from County FA to properly close dates, please!

It is also suspected some referees may be improperly turning down County Cup matches in favour of other (lower-ranked) games. Another reminder from County FA not to do this, please!

October referee event. SCFA a bit disappointed: 150 refs had booked; only 101 attended; 56 no-shows, 7 turned up without booking. No attendees were female, despite personal e-mail to every Surrey female referee a few days beforehand. Only 28 attendees gave any feedback.

**Brian R.
16.11.18**



Post meeting note: This turned out to be the final meeting of the SCFA Referees Committee as the SCFA general meeting on 11th December approved a recommendation to abolish all existing committees and instead have small working parties on specific time-limited projects. SCRA had been able to nominate a representative to the Referees Committee; it is not yet clear how SCRA will retain direct representation at SCFA though we maintain a good relationship with the RDO.

SCRA delegates meetings are unaffected and will continue bi-monthly.

REPORT ON SCRA DELEGATES MEETING 26.11.18

The usual meeting was preceded by a short EGM to elect a Chairman. Pat Bakhuizen was elected unopposed.

Main matters discussed:

- ◆ Camberley & Farnham Society has closed.
- ◆ Pat clarified venues, dates, and costs of training courses for new referees
- ◆ A member of another Society unable to referee due to injury had claimed from RA Benevolent Fund, SCFA Benevolent Fund, and is claiming from FA Benevolent Fund. Reminder that it may be possible to claim from all 3 sources in cases of genuine hardship.
- ◆ Complaints about unavailability of hard copies of "Laws of the Game": LOTG are on the internet but many refs did not want to have to download and print out all 224 pages! But Croydon Society had bought 54 copies direct from IFAB (pre-paid by members).
- ◆ RA Head Office had not responded to SCRA request for attendance figure at national AGM. It was thought (at SCRA) that having AGM separate from Conference had proved a failure and was unlikely to be repeated.
- ◆ A member of another Society has been suspended and fined under FA Rule E3. He had pleaded guilty to charges of improper conduct and aggravated offence. Member had not attended the hearing. No RA advice or assistance had been sought at that stage, and he was only now questioning the severity of the punishment. Moral is always to seek RA assistance at a very early stage in such cases.
- ◆ Report on SCFA Referees Committee meeting 5.11.18.

Brian R

4.1.19

In the Middle with Dick Sawdon-Smith

Writing in The Reading Chronicle 5th Jan 2019

WES Morgan, captain of Leicester City, recently asked for referees to sit down with his team and explain what is a yellow card and what is not

His team, he said, are confused after receiving a number of yellow cards, some of which seem to be for trivial offences.

I have some sympathy for his point of view, especially as there have been a number of changes in the last three years.

In some circumstances, identical looking offences now have different outcomes. However, listening to supporters at football matches, it is obvious Leicester players are not the only ones who may find some clarification useful.

To start with it may surprise many that in the Laws of the Game, there are only six cautionable offences listed, plus two new ones connected with VAR, which we need not concern ourselves with here.

The six listed it, however, have many subsections, which would take more space to explain than I have available in a single column, so I will leave them for future weeks.

Let me first say a little more about yellow cards.

A yellow card is purely the public announcement a player has been cautioned. This is so often sadly called a 'booking'.

This is not a term we recognise in refereeing; it is a caution.

Whereas in professional football, the referee tends to just show the yellow card, in local football we are required to do a little more.

We have to take the players name, tell them they have been cautioned and warn them if they commit another cautionable offence, they will be sent off.

The referee should then show the yellow card. If the referee should for some reason forget to show the yellow card, (as I have done) it does not mean the caution has not been made.

I sometimes wonder if perhaps professional players should also be given this warning as to their future conduct.

So often you see them, go on to commit another, often silly or unnecessary cautionable offence and this then of course, means the inevitable red card.

Dick Sawdon Smith
(Reading RA)

Ed . I appreciate that the above is aimed at the readers of the Reading Chronicle and as referees we should be familiar with the content of the article, but I was asked the following by one of our society members who was unable to attend the January meeting due to work commitments. He explained that he was about to caution a player when he realised he had forgotten his cards. He took the players name and waved an imaginary card in the air. He asked if I would ask members at the meeting what would they do. Unfortunately I forgot, Sorry RH but I think the above may answer your question . Mac

This Month's Speakers

Paul Howard and David Coote

Paul Howard - Level 2A Referee - National League Premier Referee

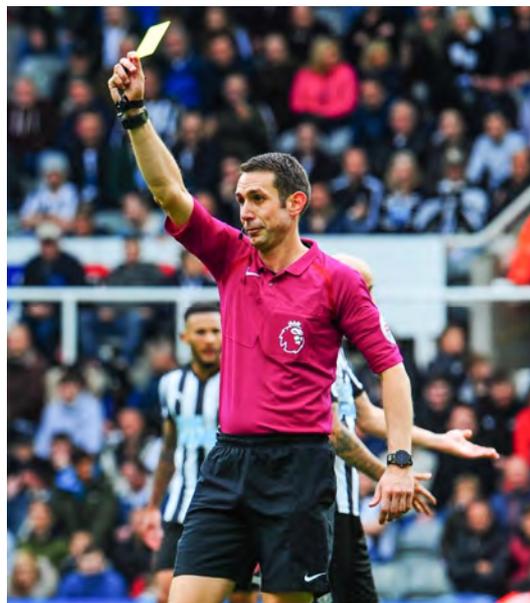
Paul qualified in 2004, officiating through the local parks and county leagues before achieving Supply League referee status in 2010. After two seasons at Level 4 on both the Kent and Spartan Leagues, he was promoted to Level 3 where he spent four seasons. During his time at Level 3, he was an assistant referee on the Conference South, before being promoted to the Conference National, and promoted again to the Football League Assistant Referee List in 2015. His first game on the Football League was Oxford United v Crawley Town in the August of that year. After just a year on the Football League line, he had to decide whether to specialise in refereeing or assisting and chose to referee, signing off with a line - again at Oxford United. The tough decision to choose refereeing was rewarded with promotion to 2B in 2016, spending two seasons at this level before being promoted to 2A and the Panel Select list of referees in 2018. He has officiated in numerous end of season play-off fixtures from Ryman and Southern League level up to Conference National level, with the highlight being a line on Bristol Rovers v Forest Green in the Conference National semi-final live on BT Sport. He is an FA tutor and runs London FA's Development Group for level 5's and 4's coming through the system.

David Coote - Level 1 Referee - Premier League Referee

- 2006 - National List and Panel 2A referee
- 2009 - FA Vase Final AR and promoted to Premier League as AR
- 2010 - FA Trophy Final AR and Promoted to Football League referee
- 2014 - FA Vase Final Referee and League 1 Play Off Final Referee
- 2016 - Full time SG2 Championship Referee
- 2018 - Promoted to SG1 referee



David Coote
→



←
Paul Howard

Dave Cooper

50 years a Ref and Woking RA Member

Last month I included an article about another "Dave" who was celebrating 50 years as a referee on the Cheltenham League and thought we have our own Dave, namely "Cooperman" and so I asked him a few questions about his career.



Dave started his refereeing in 1968 at the age of 20 after suffering an injury whilst playing. He attended his referees course at Woking Referees Society and trained under Cedge Gregory, our training officer at the time. (Cedge remained a member of Woking RS right up to his death a few years ago).

Dave recollected that he became a member of Woking RS before he had actually qualified.

He gained promotion to the then level two a couple of years later, gaining his level one two years after that.

His Plum appointments since included -

- 1986/7 Referee Surrey Intermediate League Reserves Cup Final
- 1997/8 Referee Surrey Sunday Senior Cup Final.
- 1993/4 4th Official Surrey Senior Cup Final
- 1996/7 Referee Combined Counties Division 1 Cup Final
- 1997/8 Referee Surrey Youth Cup Final
- 2001/2 Referee Surrey Womens' Cup Final
- 2008/9 Surrey Veterans' Cup Final.
- 2012/3 Combined Counties Youth Cup Final.

2008 was a traumatic year for Dave as he was diagnosed with a brain tumour and underwent an emergency operation to have it removed.

Fortunately he made a full recovery and continues to referee in the Surrey Intermediate League as well as the Guildford and Woking Alliance and The Surrey and Hampshire Border League. He also runs a line on the Suburban and Combined Counties Leagues.

As well as a football referee, Dave is also a qualified cricket umpire, which as he says, keeps him busy during the summer months.

Dave is known for his no nonsense approach and players certainly know where they stand when he is refereeing.

I asked him what he like most about refereeing and why he is still blowing his whistle after 50 years. His answer was that he “enjoys the camaraderie and giving something back to the sport.”

Dave’s contribution to Woking RA is also very impressive. He served on the committee for 15 years before taking up the role of Secretary which he held for a further 9 years. Although he stepped down, he is still kept busy organising the bi yearly trip to Belgium to meet up with the Soleo referees society.

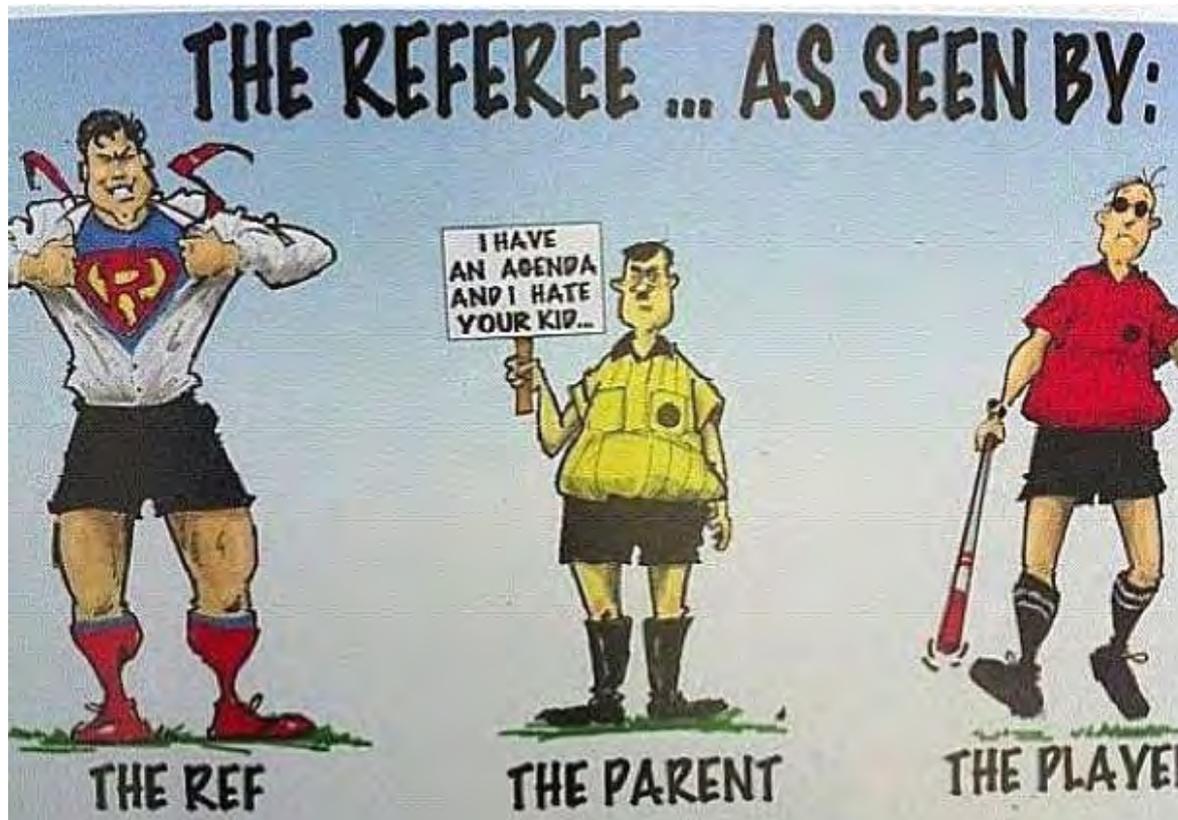
I happened to bump into Dave a few weeks ago at Abbey Rangers. I had just finished my game and was heading back to the changing rooms and glanced across at a game on the main pitch in front of the club house. I heard a familiar stentorian voice call across the pitch and there was Dave taking a player to task.

We met up just after and I asked him how the game had gone. “Oh fine” he said “just three yellows and one red” . “No change there then Dave” I thought, as the players all walked passed and shook his hand with a “well done ref, good game “

Mac

NB

Dave is not the only member who is still active and has clocked up 50 years. I hope to be able to bring you their stories in future editions. So watch this space!



Being The Best We Can

On Thursday 11th October I attended the AFA Lonsar In Service Training evening at Alexandra Park Football Club. A very suitable venue. A large club house with ample car parking spaces and also good travel links for both train and buses.

The evening was circulated to all AFA registered referees and likewise to the London Football Association referees. Good tutors to deliver the sessions and a FREE cooked dinner! And what a choice of food there was on offer and all beautifully cooked. A free evening for all so I would have thought the evening would have had a waiting list to attend but very sadly including the tutors I counted only *twenty* people in attendance.

I feel very strongly that ALL match officials should be a member of the Referees Association and attend and support their local referee's society. As I know after forty plus years as an active referee that incidents can still happen that we have not dealt with before. A prime example for me was a match last season when I was an assistant referee for a match at the Hive which is the home of Barnet Football Club. Apart from the stadium the venue is a real community centre and has a number of pitches on their site for matches. On this particular day Barnet were at home to Portsmouth. The Portsmouth fans on route to the stadium entrance walked passed our pitch and on three occasions there were pitch invasions. These would have been numbers of around thirty plus fans each time. This is not an incident that we have to deal with thankfully on a weekly basis.

Referees societies gave the platform for referees to share their match incidences and hopefully are given guidance and advice as to how deal with their experiences and what to do next time. This can only make us wiser and ultimately better referees.

So a widely circulated event but where were the people? It was a very good evening. Always good to chat with other match officials and always a million match incidents to discuss maybe with a nice drink as well.....or in this case a drink and a dinner!

The evening was well presented being led by Deryll David and ably assisted by Ryan Kelly, Andy Taylor and the AFA Lonsar chairman John Cook. The evening was '**Being the best we can**'.

Deryll set the tone for the evening by telling us all that '*if we put zero in and will take zero out*'. If we just go through the motions as a referee that is not enough so we need to make the effort and the more effort that we put in then that can only be a benefit and help us to improve to go as far as we want to go as a referee.

Deryll asked us five questions with four options. The purpose was to emphasise the importance of knowing the laws. One of the questions was the ball was in one penalty area but two attacking players were in the opposing penalty area and were fighting. What was the restart? What a great question!.....Please consult your Laws of the game for the answer!

After the five questions we watched footage from several non-league matches and we discussed how the officials could have dealt better with the incidents.

The most interesting was a mass brawl involving many players and the benches. Most referees in the pre match instruction talk about how the three match officials should make a 'triangle' and note the instigator, the retaliator and the goal keeper who runs fifty yards then strikes an opponent and then runs back to his goal. On this occasion both goalkeepers and all the players seemed to be involved and the officials 'triangle' showed all the three officials almost standing shoulder to shoulder in a line. Certainly not the best way to observe the proceedings as they all saw the same.

After FIVE minutes this brawl had stopped, started, stopped and started again. The referee asked both sets of players to go back to their own half and the first red card saw the carded player then having to go passed the opposing Players to reach the changing rooms.

This again caused the players to brawl again. Should one of the assistants escorted the player off? Just food for thought.

'Being the best we can' certainly made us all think.

- ◆ What can we do better
- ◆ How can we do things better
- ◆ We need to know the laws
- ◆ We need to apply the laws
- ◆ Detailed pre match officials expectations
- ◆ Match officials team work is essential
- ◆ Isolate the offending player when being cautioned/sent off
- ◆ Don't get too close when the players are brawling
- ◆ A late assistants flag is better than no flag i.e *'wait and see'*
- ◆ Deal with offending players *'delaying the restart'* at free kicks
- ◆ Sometimes just moving up to three steps can make the difference of observing an incident
- ◆ Keep fit

What an enjoyable and very well organised evening. The evening was both inter active and thought provoking. It made me think and hopefully everyone present as well.

We all have to officiate *'on our toes'* as we always have to be prepared as we really never know what will happen next! Good luck with the pitch invasions (*safety first.....always!*)

Blow that whistle, wave that flag!

Keith Hiller

Match official, Observer, FA Licensed Tutor

Mac's Musings

A number of Woking Society members attended the service of thanksgiving to celebrate the life of Pam Wells at St John's Church, St John's Woking on Saturday 12th January. Pam, who passed away before Christmas was our Patron for many years and the wife of Dennis who has been our Chairman and President.

It was testament to Pam's popularity as a mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and friend to so many that the church, which is by no means small, was packed out.

The service was lovely with both her sons, daughter and 2 of her grandchildren each paying a tribute to Pam. The Woking Ladies Choir of which she had been a member sang a couple of songs and her nephew Revd David Howard gave a heartfelt and often amusing address.

After the service Tony L and I caught up with fellow member Peter Guest, and retired members Alan Watson and Phil Gasson. Over a cup of tea we had a chat with Pam's daughter who, when reminded that her late Dad, as a referee, would probably not have approved of holding the service at 3pm on a Saturday afternoon, laughed and apologised and thanked us for coming along.

The last time I had bumped into Pam was at a charity quiz when she said that although she wasn't involved with the Society, she did still enjoy reading her copy of the Warbler each month and keeping up with the goings on in the Society. My everlasting memory of Pam was when my wife and I were on a cruise to the Norwegian fiords. We were waking into the theatre one evening when there was a shout "Coeee Mac !!" I looked round and there was Pam accompanied by a few lady friends. We chatted later and she explained that she was enjoying the cruise with as she described the "Merry Widows of Woking."

A lovely lady who will be sorely missed. RIP Pam

As you may have read or heard, the Society is keen to set up a Mentoring programme for our members, both newly qualified and anyone who feels they need a friendly helping hand.

To this end 5 of us recently attended a Referee Developer Workshop organised by Tim Lawrence and run by FA tutor Richard Glynn—Jones at the Surrey FA headquarters in Dorking. There were 17 delegates in attendance, mostly referees but interestingly also a few Observers. The workshop was excellent with a lot of emphasis on the purpose and methods of coaching and mentoring, which of course are very similar. We learnt about the different techniques we can apply, based not just on the needs of the mentee, but also on the different ways in which people actually learn and how to identify these. We discussed the importance of asking "open" questions i.e How?, what?, why?, when?, where? who? (Often referred to as 5 bums on a rugby)

There was a lot of interactive sessions including having to identify the attributes needed to be a mentor/coach in a picture format on a flipchart. Nick "picasso" Arbuckle volunteered to be our artist whilst Brian Reader, Colin Barnett, Steve Rudrum and myself all added our penny's worth. I then stood up front with our masterpiece whilst being "questioned by another delegate using the afore mentioned technique. Thanks must go to Tim for organising and Richard for delivering an interesting and informative workshop. Time now to put our new found knowledge into practice.

Mac

Taking Names

A friend of mine was sitting in the lounge of a hotel in Madrid waiting for an important phone call. A page came around calling "Varl-yah-thay, Señor Varl-yah-thay". You cannot really blame either the page or Don that his call was missed. His name is Wallace. One might, however, assume TV commentators to be correctly informed (dream on!). The Leeds defender could perhaps expect a little better than "Radderbee" when his pronunciation is "Har-day-bay"; and you have to feel sorry for poor Ndlovu that he becomes "Endlove" rather than a phonetic "Oond-low-voo". But I guess we've all been there. After all, some of those Slavic "chucks" ain't easy – and even Mateus Rosé has caught some out!

I was blowing Boksburg versus Florida Albion in the Transvaal Football League and a couple of my decisions hadn't quite worked, as I might have wished. Coming off at half-time, it was suggested I was having a 'mucking nightmare'. I intimated this opinion was neither entirely accurate nor welcome, and found the response that I might be better occupied spoiling someone else's game rather offensive.

I asked the player's name and believed it to be 'Hayes'. Had it been *Smith* or *Jones* my action would have been the same: "Spell that, please".

"You" he said.

"Spell it, please" with a measure of irritation.

"Why?"

"That's the way the system works. Understand?"

"Yes".

"Then spell your name".

"I just did".

"Spell your name" says I, voice rising a decibel or two.

Another player interrupted. "It's U-Y-S, Uys", he said, clearly unimpressed with my local knowledge. How was I to know that's pronounced "Ace"?

One thing about refereeing, the learning curve never ends.

Mike Coventry

Courtesy of The Chiltern Referee

Mispronunciation ?

The above reminds me of a game I was refereeing when one of the players kept shouting "Mine" when going for the ball.

"Put a name on it please number 6" I called to him. "I just did" he replied.

"Didn't sound like it" I countered. A team mate then said " His name is Mike,....but he's got a cold"

Mac

Law 18 explained - A second helping

By the late Len Randall, then an Uxbridge RS Member



The application of Law 12 usually occupies more of our thinking time during a match than all the other Laws put together; viz:

So much of our decision making is based upon pure judgement, even guesswork, and depends enormously on being in the right place at the right time.

The opinion of the referee is mentioned several times in the Law when determining guilt. Forming correct opinions in the minimal thinking time we have before making our decision whether or not to penalise again only develops with experience.

The Law is written in such a way that if it were applied quite literally in the average game you would rarely finish with the full complement of players on the pitch. Frequently the match would have to be abandoned because of the number of sending-offs.

Equally, if it were applied literally throughout the match, referees' interpretations do vary and so come up against the problem of inconsistency. What do players want? They have the simple choice between 27,000 robot administrators who run boring games that rarely last for 90 minutes, or accepting that referees are just as human and fallible as the players themselves.

What the Law gives us is the wide authority to deal with actual transgressions in whatever way we believe to be appropriate to the circumstances. There are 5 choices open to us when the ball is in play: penalise, penalise and warn the offender, penalise and caution the offender, penalise and dismiss the offender, or play an advantage and possibly later go back and deal with the offender.

What we are expected to do is to apply and interpret the Law in a sensible manner that is in line with common current practice i.e. not scatter round cautions like confetti. Our objective is to supervise a game in which unsporting and dangerous tactics and actions are prevented or penalised.

In the application of the Law there are several key words we have to keep in mind in determining our response to player's actions such as: intent, severity, danger, frequency. Actions we judge to be purely accidental, regardless of the outcome, cannot be penalised. Only player's intentional actions can be penalised by the referee. The skill is in judging accurately the player's intent.

The severity of any action or incident needs to be weighed up before deciding what should be done. How heavy or late was the tackle? How foul was the language? Did the player strike the opponent or was it more of a push? Was the player's complaint strong enough to be termed dissent? The safety of all concerned is of paramount importance. Any action on or around the FoP that constitutes danger to self or others has to be dealt with.

How frequently has a particular player committed an offence? Is it the first or fourth time he has tripped, pushed or held an opponent or complained about decisions? The player who becomes an obvious offender should be warned after perhaps his second significant (but not cautionable) offence and then cautioned if he commits a further offence.

These considerations have to be used in deciding upon whether the action to be taken is to be more than a simple penalisation for the offence. Players in general accept that they must expect to be cautioned or dismissed for the more serious offences. There are those who accept an adverse decision in a calm, even pleasant manner. Be aware though that some players are more volatile and will react badly at these situations.

Always keep a safe but sensible distance from players you are dealing with. Look at them while you are talking to them and you should expect them to give you the courtesy of looking at you. Speak quietly but firmly and do not let them run off until you have completed your interview.

Courtesy of Mike Coventry and the Chiltern Referee



Giving Up

Things are really difficult. I can't seem to do the right thing no matter how hard I try. I give up. She says she's absolutely sick of me; what with refereeing Saturday and Sunday, cricket umpiring in the summer, motor racing and the little bet here and there. Doesn't seem fair though, she knew I was sports mad when she met me. Nevertheless, last night being our wedding anniversary, I tried to see things from her side and booked a table for two, for 8pm. By 9pm things were ten times worse! ***She hadn't potted a single red***

Just in Time

Home from his game, at 7pm the referee opened a lovely bottle of red wine. The label read *Consume by 2020* - he finished it by 19.55.
The above thanks to The Chiltern Referee

The Missing Ticket

Two old men were holding up the queue outside the turn-style before the game, while one of them hunted for his ticket. He looked in his coat pockets and his waistcoat pockets and his trouser pockets, all to no avail. "Hang on a minute, said the gateman, "what's that in your mouth?" "It's the missing ticket!"

As they moved back inside his mate said: "Crikey, Cyril! You must be getting senile in your old age. Fancy having your ticket in your mouth and forgetting about it!" "I'm not that stupid," said old Cyril, "I was chewing last week's date off it."

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Adie's Mum in Law Gets the Electric Chair

In last month's Warbler I wrote about the duties of Referees in connection with the CAR's. This seems to have been greeted well and I had some feedback from two Referees enquiring whether the clubs would be reminded of their responsibilities concerning this issue. This had been on my mind as well and last week we had a full council meeting with the clubs and I brought up the subject to the various secretaries, requesting that they passed this on to their respective managers and players. We will continue monitoring to see if this has helped.

A couple of Referees asked how the Mother-in law was these days as I hadn't mentioned her in the last article. She duly arrived at 'Chez Freeman' on the 23rd of December and promptly commenced filling her face with mince pies. Like me she is diabetic so should not really eat them, however, Christmas Day saw her nosh her way through mince pies, Christmas pudding and finished off the evening with Christmas cake. None of which I will touch as they are loaded with sugar. She was not well Boxing Day (much to my amusement) so spent most of the day in the armchair. This armchair is an electric recliner that I bought for Diane but on arrival she always claims it (much to Diane's chagrin) and getting her moved is similar to removing a rock limpet. We took her back to Kent on the 27th and had an interminable journey with her reading out loud every road sign for the 80 mile trek. Heaving a sigh of relief we returned home to some peace and quiet.

In both the SCILW and the G&WAFL we shall soon start the knock –out stages of various competitions. I will try to notify you of your games concerning whether they are Round Robin or Knock Out so ensure you are familiar with the rules of the Competitions. Any doubt, please contact me and I will send you over a reminder of which event has what rules. There are likely to be late changes to games at present so please keep an eye on your e-mails. We are doing our very best to give you as much notice as possible but this past week has been awkward as I was very short of Referees. On that note please keep your availability up to date with not only me but other League Ref Secs so we can appoint you to suitable games.

I have sent the Referees marks into County so they will soon be making their selections for County Cup Finals and Semi-Finals. Please make sure you respond to any communication from County as there are many competitions to sort out.

Adie



Willy the 'Red Card' Ref

How it all began

What a great photo of Willy the 'Red Card' Ref in his playing days pictured below. Willy's preferred position was substitute and when once asked if he was 'left or right footed' he replied *'Neither, I can't kick with either foot!'* This was the main reason why Willy became a referee at such an early age and he admits it was the best thing he ever made.



The photo shows Willy coming off the pitch at the end of the match and enjoying a victory against their local rivals and Willy on the score sheet as well. His team, the Chiswick Flyovers played in the lower divisions of the local league and Willy's claim to fame was that he once scored two goals in the same match. The photo dates back to the early 1980's and just look at those shorts! (Interesting to note that none of the players had tape around their socks and they all managed to stay in place.....are the socks inferior these days?)

From being named as the substitute almost every week Willy did not see much action on the pitch and it was no fun standing on the touch line in freezing conditions wearing those shorts and relying on possibly playing just the final few minutes of the match. In the 1980s only one substitute could be used and there were no 'rolling subs'.

It was a referee who told Willy he should consider becoming a referee and it was the thought of being involved for the ninety minutes that 'sold' the idea to Willy. The league actually paid for Willy to go on the course and naturally Willy qualified at his first attempt.

It is no secret that Willy gained his reputation for showing the red cards. Was Willy firm.....Yes! Was Willy consistent.....Yes! Was he usually correct.....Yes! Players may have disagreed with Willy's decisions but did they know the laws like Willy.....No!

As we all know after all these years Willy is still blowing the whistle and waving that flag in the local parks and his best tip to all referees especially the newly qualified ones is.....

'To be in the best possible position to give the right decision'

That is very sound advice for all referees at all levels. Another well-known phrase used by Willy is.....

'Know the law, apply the law'

That does not mean producing a yellow or red card for every infringement but the unwritten law is Law 19 and that is to referee with '*common sense*'.

This is meant by showing empathy to the players, to communicate and a stern word to the offender and maybe involve the captain as well. This again is not in the laws but is referred to as the '*stepped approach*'. A quiet word, a final warning with the captain and if for example the offence has been persistent infringement then no one will be surprised if a yellow card is then produced.

Arrive early for the pre match check

Always make a good first impression – Be polite and courteous

Smart and tidy appearance with shiny clean predominately black boots

Loud whistle

No whistle required for throw ins, corner kicks unless contentious

Anticipate where the ball and action will be next

Use the dead ball time to your advantage i.e. for a goal kick move close to the half way line

Communication – Not just by using whistle and arm signals but talking to the players

Signals - Clear and precise

Keep fit

There are other factors to consider but by starting with the basics the given advice is a tried, proven and tested formula and a perfect foundation to build on. Willy has always been a confident referee. Even when there is doubt.....*who had the last touch? Throw to Reds or the Blues? Corner kick or goal kick? Did the whole of the ball go over the goal line?*

Decisions, decisions, decisions.....we have to make the decisions! They have to be made and in a confident style and manner. A strong arm signal and a loud voice of 'Blue ball' will assist you greatly and help 'sell' your decisions to the players. If you are confident with your decision that will take the doubt away from the players.

PTO

Running around a local park pitch with no neutral assistants is not easy. We all witness on 'Match of the Day' when the assistant referee makes the wrong call on an offside incident. Mistakes are made with three officials at the highest level but none of us will get every decision correct and even less chance with off sides at the local park when we are by ourselves.

Willy must be doing something right as he has officiated on over 1000 matches and 28 cup finals to date.

There have been many yellow and red cards and a few abandoned matches along the way. Does Willy have any regrets.....'Absolutely none'!

'Maybe there should have been a few more cards' he reflects! Willy went on to add 'If there is a yellow card offence apply the law and show the yellow card and likewise if there is a red card offence then apply the law and show that red card! Know the law and apply the law and ultimately you will gain more respect.

Remember.....Follow the 10 point guide and that will put you on the right path to succeed. If Willy can achieve it then so can you!

Good luck and enjoy!

Willy 'the Red Card' Ref



Who'd be a Scottish referee? Not me!

Matthew Lindsay writing in The Herald (Scotland)

WHOEVER it was who first declared "you can't understand someone until you've walked a mile in their shoes" had a point! Having run a few miles in the boots of Scotland's referees, a more derided, maligned and persecuted bunch you are unlikely to encounter, last week my admiration for and empathy with our match officials has suddenly sky rocketed.

..... At a time when both the competence and impartiality of our match officials are being increasingly called in to question by irate fans and even, alas, by managers and clubs, it proved to be an enlightening experience.

Not being a supporter of Aberdeen, Celtic, Hearts, Hibernian or Rangers, I have never subscribed to the widely-held view that referees in this country are biased against a particular team due to their background or leanings. As the late, great Tom "Tiny" Wharton, the iconic Scottish whistler of the 1950s, 60s and 70s, once told me over a cup of tea and a chinwag in his Newton Mearns home "your religion changes every time you run up the park in an Old Firm game".

Yet, I have certainly been highly critical about the handling of big games and scathing about the award of critical decisions in print in the past. In future, though, I will not be quite so hasty to pass judgement.

My first – and hopefully last – experience of refereeing a match came when I went to watch my eldest son play for his school team.

As the game was about to kick-off it emerged no whistler had turned up. So I got tapped on the shoulder by one of the coaches and asked to step in to the breach.

Now, it was hardly the second leg of the Copa Libertadores final between Boca Juniors and River Plate in the Bernabeu. It was a seven-a-side game between a bunch a 10 and 11-year-old boys on one third of an artificial pitch in the suburbs of Glasgow.

Nevertheless, it gave an eye-opening insight into the lot of the man-in-black. Who knew, for example, that determining which player touched the ball last in a 50/50 challenge and which team should subsequently be awarded a throw-in could be difficult? Having a linesman would have helped.

But it was startling how something so seemingly straightforward could be so challenging. The reaction to many of my calls – indignation, outrage, tears, re-crimination, disbelief – was also unexpected.

Anyone who says that kids aren't influenced by how high-profile professional players behave on television is, as Steve Clarke might well say, talking out of their backside.

One particular objectionable urchin, who must have stood all of three feet tall in his studs, spent a couple of minutes after the game offering a less than complimentary appraisal of my performance. Apparently, for example, shouting isn't allowed in boys' football and is punishable by a free-kick. You learn something new every day.

As for the spectators! Their conduct of the smattering of onlookers in what was effectively a kickabout left much to be desired. One especially joyless parent on the sidelines took time to inform me "that was a blue ball" after one of my dubious calls. Had he sensed my deep-rooted anti-blue agenda?

Then there was my positioning. I made Willie Young look like Kylian Mbappe as I lumbered about the pitch trying to keep up with the action. But I lost count of the occasions I found myself either in the way of play or in a hopeless vantage point.

How do referees possibly work out in the blink of an eye if a player who was in an offside position had been interfering with play after a goal is scored by a team mate? How do they cope with making such a call in front of tens of thousands of people? The mind truly boggled.

Several Stella after the ordeal, I concluded that referees are selfless not clueless individuals, have a nigh on impossible task and deserve our sympathy and support not abuse and opprobrium.

At the very least, they need VAR. The system, as we saw at Russia 2018, isn't perfect, but in an age when every passage of play is filmed from half a dozen different angles and incidents dissected the instant they happen, it would help quell a growing disaffection with match officials and make their lives easier.

Via Mal Davies and spotted in The Touchlines



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What Would You Do - Answers to January Issue

Q1. You are carrying out some pre-match warming up exercises on the pitch. You notice that two opposing players get into an argument and start fighting. What would you do?

A1. Dismiss both players, but allow them to be replaced by named substitutes i.e. both teams would be able to field 11 players.

Q2. The goalkeeper's cap becomes dislodged and falls to the ground just as the ball is kicked towards the open goal. The ball strikes the cap and stops the ball entering the goal. The goalkeeper then picks up both ball and cap and continues with play. What would you do?

A2. Allow play to continue. The cap is part of the player's equipment and landed there inadvertently. If the keeper had thrown the cap at the ball the decision would be very different.

Q3. You award a free kick to Reds. The Red No. 6 takes the kick, but slices it, The ball hits you and rebounds back to the kicker. He volleys the ball into the net. What would you do?

A3. Award an indirect free kick to the opposition. The kicker has kicked the ball twice, and the referee is "neutral" – he is considered as part of the pitch.

Q4. A defender slices a goal kick, but seeing an opponent will receive the deviated ball, runs after it. Before any other player has played it, but with the ball outside the penalty area, he deliberately plays it with his hand to stop the opponent receiving the ball. What would you do?

A4. Award a direct free kick to the opposition. The player could also be the subject of further disciplinary action (unsporting behaviour)

Q5. You award a goal kick to Reds. After a goal kick has been taken but before the ball has left the penalty area, a Blue attacker runs into the area and is deliberately fouled by the Red No. 6. What do you do?

A5. Caution or dismiss the player depending on the nature of the foul; retake the goal kick.

Q6. You award a goal kick to Reds. The Red No.6 takes the kick passing the ball towards a colleague standing to the side of the penalty area. The ball skews in the mud and passes over the goal line without having passed out of the penalty area. What would you do?

A6. Retake the goal kick – the ball had not come into play.

Q7. You award a throw-in to Reds. The Red No 8 throws the ball directly to his goalkeeper who touches the ball in attempting to stop it entering the goal. However, the ball does enter the goal. What would you do?

A7. Allow the advantage and award a goal.

What Would You Do ?



Question 1. In a Sunday League game, the home side's new winger is show-boating, performing a keepie-uppie on the wing. A veteran opponent loses patience and fouls the winger violently. You send him off, but then notice a crowd of players around the winger, laughing. In the challenge the winger's kit has been torn, and it is obvious she is female! What would you do?

Question 2. As a Red defender is adjusting his shin guard, the ball is played passed him to a Blue attacker who is running close to the touch line. The defender dives to his left and with the shin guard in his hand touches the ball which goes over the touch line. What would you do?

Question 3. In the same incident the Red defender is changing his boot, which he throws at the ball. It hits the ball which goes over the touch line. What would you do?

Question 4. At the pre-match toss, one captain informs you that he fully intends to exercise the special status accorded to a captain. You wonder what he means. What special status or privileges under the law, does a captain have?

Question 5. You award an indirect free kick to the Red defence. The Red No.3 steps up and deliberately kicks the ball against a Blue opponent so that he can play it a second time. What would you do?

Question 6. During a very physical and aggressive match, you see an unused substitute, standing outside the field of play, throw a boot at an opponent on the field of play. What would you do?

Question 7. During play you notice a Red player wearing some jewellery. You stop play and order him from the field of play to remove the offending items. Sometime later you notice that he is still wearing some jewellery. You stop play to remonstrate with him. What would you do?

Question 8. During kicks from the penalty mark, one of the goal-keepers gets injured and wants to be substituted. There is one kick to be taken. What would you do?

Courtesy of The Chiltern Referee

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