

THE WARBLER

Monthly Magazine of the Woking Referees' Society

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Season 2013/14 January Edition

WOKING REFEREES ' SOCIETY

FOUNDED 1927

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INSIDE THIS MONTH'S WARBLER

- Page 1: Agenda***
- Page 2 : Chairman's Chat, Accounts /Membership***
- Page 3 : Mac's Musings***
- Page 4 /5 /6/ : Another Illusion ; Cyril West***
- Page 7: Pages from Yesteryear***
- Page 8: Charles, Harry, Billy and Me ; WOKram***
- Page 9 : Where and When : Len Randall***
- Page 11/12 : Pots and Kettles Serve Men in Black***
- Page 13 : Adie Hams it Up***
- Page 14/15 : The Encroaching Penalty ; Willie the Whistler***
- Page 16 /17 : Murphy's Meanderings***
- Page 18/19 : Time for a Change ; Ken Goldman***
- Page 21 : This Month's Speaker : Adrian Freeman***
- Page 22 : Plum Tree / Dates for your Diary***
- Page 23 : Press Cuttings***
- Page 27/28 : What would you do Answers / What would you do?***



**The next meeting of the
Woking Referees' Society
will be held on
Monday 6th January 2014**

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

AGENDA

- ♦ **7.15 Academy Meeting**
- ♦ **8.00 Chairman's Welcome**
- ♦ **This Month's Speaker**



Adie Freeman
"The Referees Secretary"

- ♦ **Society Business**
- ♦ **10pm Finish**

February's meeting is on Monday 3rd February 2014

**The deadline for the February edition is
Friday 24th January 2014**

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

Chairman's Chat

Hello Everybody

By the time you read this, Christmas and New Year's Eve will be a blurred memory and we will all be preparing for the first games of 2014, (weather permitting).

Unfortunately I will be unable to attend the January meeting due to a family commitment, so I would like to wish all of you a very happy and successful New Year, I am sure Colin will do an excellent Job as Vice Chair.

Following publication of the December Warbler, I received a couple of complaints about comments in the article (Minutes of the SCRA meeting) on page 12; The comments reported criticisms of SCFA and alleged that SCFA do not care about any referee at 5-7 who are not applying for promotion, and that promotion candidates get priority.

I vehemently disagree with these comments and can assure you all that there are equal opportunities for non-promotion candidates to attend and take part in training, IST's and workshops specifically designed for the education and support of Non-promotion referees, on top of this there are special workshops organised the RA/FA, with the assistants of SCFA and the experienced team of Referee Tutors and Instructors.

However, I would like to point out that; all these opportunities are voluntary and those details are always published on the SCFA Website.

Finally, as I do not know who raised these comments, I cannot discuss the issue with them directly, if the person concerned would like to discuss the matter further, I would be pleased to hear from them.

Regards and enjoy the rest of the season.

Barry Rowland (Chair)

From the Treasurer / Membership Secretary

2013 Current Status

General	£1881.22
Supplies	£242.09
Belgium	£0.00
Youth Fund	£113.50
Total	£2,236.81

2013/14 Membership

As at 25th December
64 Full Members

Mac's Musings

Adie mentions in his article the curse (or benefit?) of modern communication namely the smart phone. When I retired last year and handed back my faithful mobile, my daughter insisted that I had to buy an i-Phone and marched me down to the phone shop. I must admit, the number of actual phone calls I have made or received on it is barely in double figures, but it makes up for it in the number of e-mails, texts, whatsApps, etc I receive. As well as receiving all my refereeing appointments by e-mail, I now find that all my confirmations from clubs is also by e-mail, usually on the back of the Referees Secs initial message even though the league rules state that they should phone the referee.

Actually I find I prefer an e-mail as being a proud but sometimes confused owner of previously mentioned i-Phone (other smart phones are available) I can check my mail with 2 clicks and a swipe when I want, rather than be disturbed by a phone call at an in-opportune moment. I also have a record of when I was contacted. Another useful feature is the camera, but I must protest at those who use an i-Pad as a camera. On a recent holiday a number of fellow tourists were using these and always seemed to be standing in front of me when taking their photos. The problem is that they are so big that they totally block out the view for anyone standing behind them –very thoughtless I think.

I recently had to ask a club linesman to kindly put his device away as he was spending more time looking at his phone than the game. One could argue that at least when they were speaking into a phone they could also watch the game, rather than watch a Sky Sport Super Sunday Premiership Game

On Page 9 is an article by Len Randall which I spotted in the Chiltern Referee regarding the interpretation of the Offside Law. His issue is around the interpretation of “interfering with play”. The International FA Board Decision 2 states that this means “playing or touching the ball”. Now I usually remind my club linesman of this in my brief pre-match instructions, but the problem is, when a player in an offside position is chasing a long ball, at which point does the linesman flag?

In one of my games some years ago, a forward was chasing a long ball which had been booted over the top of the defence, I saw the linesman's flag go up, but as the goalkeeper was rushing out I decided to wait as I was sure he would reach the ball first, plus of course technically the forward wasn't at this point “offside” Now either the goalie was slower than I anticipated or the forward was quicker, but they met the ball simultaneously. Result was a collision and 2 injured players. The linesman quite rightly pointed out that if I had blown up when he had raised his flag, the incident would have been prevented.

Len's question also is in this situation, where did the offence take place and from where does the resulting free kick take place.?

I now tend in these situations to blow up when the linesman raises his flag and where ever the infringing forward happens to be at his time is where the kick is taken. This may not be technically correct but seems to me to be the fairest solution and also one, maybe almost importantly, one which the players are happy to accept. Plus no one gets hurt.

May I wish you all the best for the New Year and may all your resolutions be fulfilled

Mac

ANOTHER ILLUSION !

The late great Stan Cullis made a similar mistake to all those people who thought that England's 4 - 2 win (after extra time) against Germany in 1966 proved we were the best in the world when, after Wolves (a Football Club based in the West Midlands that has seen better days!) had a 3 - 2 home win under the Molineux lights, against HONVED (the Hungarian Army side), a few months after Hungary (Puskas and all) had beaten England twice, home and away. Stan said : "Take a look at the Champion Club side in the World !". Both beliefs remain complete disillusion. Even in the early 'fifties' anyone with half a brain and even one bit of football knowledge would have been able to see that players in almost every other country were better at the basic skills than many of our own 'stars'. And they tended to work harder to improve. Ever since that time one might claim we have been trying to do a 'catching up' exercise but have failed dismally simply because of a form of arrogance, not exclusive to the English, nor to the British, that allows us to ignore the fact that we have much to learn.

It might now be safe to declare that 'it has all come home to roost' by virtue of the fact that we probably have one of the largest piles of 'football money' of any country in the world, a.k.a. The Premier League, but (sadly) most of its real talent was born abroad. So much so, that even when a budding English player appears to be emerging he may have to be loaned out, or sit on the bench, awaiting his chance to replace, for the final ten minutes of a game, someone with a very strange couple of names, neither of which we are able to pronounce until one of the pundits has done it for us about 12 times.

The machinations of the Football Association have amazed me for as long as I have been interested in the game. Apart from watching Cannock Chase Colliery play on the local Sports Ground, about 3 minutes walk from my childhood home, and in the Walsall Senior League at 3 p.m. on Saturdays, whilst still at Junior School, my first experience of the Football League stuff was at Molineux in late 1936 with my brother on his first leave from the R.A.F. No. 5 'bus to Walsall, four pence each way for me, One shilling & twopence return for Vic, then the No. 29 trolleybus to Wolverhampton, alternate vehicles being Walsall Corporation blue or Wolverhampton Corporation Green & Yellow, 2Vz pence each way for me, ninepence return for Vic. Being in Staffordshire at that time, Wolves hierarchy had the good sense to put the ground as near the Town centre as possible, and as a founder member of the Football League the place definitely had atmosphere.

The first two opposing teams I saw there (in Division One) were Brentford & Grimsby. Midland football was pretty good at that time, with West Bromwich Albion as second choice of 'game to watch' on a Saturday afternoon. No floodlights of course, all the games scheduled for midweek were played on the early closing day, and on both Saturdays and Wednesdays the kick-off times had to vary from 3 back to 2.45, then 2.30, and then 2.15p.m. as the nights drew in. Player loyalty was the order of the day, though I do recall Bryn Jones leaving Wolves for Arsenal at a then record £14,000.

December 1944 found me working for B.O.A.C. in London, with enough interest and cash to be able to find a match to watch each Saturday. 16¹/₂ years of age, a subsidised trip home once a month, life was pretty good, despite the occasional V1 or V2 making quite a noise.

July '46 produced my 'calling up'¹ papers, home first, then to Padgate for induction, and on to Yatesbury for 'square bashing'¹. Right alongside the A4 in Wiltshire, and one or two trips to watch Swindon, before settling at HALTON, in Bucks, with ample opportunity to reacquaint myself with a few London grounds for almost two whole years before demob 3 days before Christmas 1948. My first International : England v Argentina at Wembley, as one of the 'Festival of Britain' games on May 9th 1951, notable for the fact that RUGILLO, the Argentine goalie, got quite annoyed at the barracking he was getting and came round the back of the net (whilst the play was going on) to shake his fist at all of us. We won 2-1. Prior to that I had seen Wolves beat Leicester in the 1949 Cup Final on a front row ticket that cost Three shillings and sixpence, obtained for me via Southampton F.C. by a BOAC mate who bet me that Wolves would not beat Man. U. in the semi-final. Add in seeing 2 League Cup Final wins against Man City in 1974 and Forest in 1980, followed by a Sherpa Van Trophy win when Wolves tried playing in the League basement for a season or two, so I have seen 'my club'¹ win four times at Wembley in 3 different competitions. For the record : Billy Wright was THE player for me. When the Premier League first 'took off Chelsea plundered a player or two from abroad and the Border League still had one 'all-Spanish' team in membership. They asked for a free Sunday to go to watch Chelsea, with the Secretary telling me his season ticket cost over £1,000 and he didn't want to waste it. I queried the attraction, he said he was now able to see World Class players. Since that time the Premier League has flourished, and how, but definitely to the detriment of our game as a whole, and the National team in particular.

Continued next page

Money talks and Premier League money speaks loudest of all. I don't believe it matters one iota how many Academies, or Centres of Excellence, or whatever, are set up by any of our Clubs, there can be no going back. Such initiatives can, will & should produce an occasional British born or at least 'home-grown'¹ genius of a footballer, 'Law of averages and all that'¹ but the 'quick fix'¹ of an import will always be available and be likely to be the chosen solution to a gaping vacancy. 'Yes'¹ some British lads will get to play, eventually, and occasionally, but an all English, even an all British, Premier League team ? In your dreams, mate. Strange that other National Leagues have not fallen into the same trap ! Germany has plenty of foreign players earning a living but has far more native German players in its own League. Spain will always 'feed off South America, but (again) has plenty of its own Spanish players in its top level teams. How satisfying it must be to be Spanish in what is a real golden era for Spain and its National team. How much would we give to have an Iniesta to score a World Cup Final winning goal? Leaving us with the very slight consolation that when it comes to refereeing that Final it was three of OUR whistlers and flag wavers that were given the job.

CW.



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When: Every Monday – 6.45pm start for one hour (or until someone keels over, whichever comes first)

Where: Meadow Sports Club, Loop Road, Woking

Aim: We plan to make our society members and friends that little bit fitter with some fun, sociable fitness work to keep us ahead of our competition.

What do I need?: Just bring your boots and some training gear and between us we will have some laughs as we aim to be the best of the best....ish

Andy holds a UEFA Z Licence in fitness coaching so any ideas and/or drills are happily encouraged and welcomed.

Please contact me for more details so that we can plan numbers.

Andy

Mob: 07538 714747

Email: andy.bennett@palmbreweries.com

The following were taken from The Warbler Dec 1989



"Wait until the European Court of Human Rights hears about this."



"I admired the way you handled 'Raabo Kelly' over that disputed off-side goal."

FOUL - SHE'S A HE !!

Women soccer players turned nasty when the home team goalie was exposed as a man... wearing a wig with two oranges up his shirt! Trainer Nico Hink, 43, took over when the female goalie failed to turn up for the match at Noord-Scarwonde, Holland. But visiting players, suspicious about his powerful kicking and hairy legs, grabbed Nico's wig. He fled, discarding his black brassiere and two oranges!



Kicking up a rump-ass

A report in a London evening newspaper of 30th November caught my attention, the report said "Aldershot defender Ian Wood has quit soccer after scoring the winner against Blackpool last Saturday - his first goal for the club."

It went on: "Wood, 25, is joining the family butchers' business near Mansfield, although he had 18 months of a contract left with Aldershot."

He said 'This season I have been one of the victims of the Referees' get-tough policies. Their approach is a joke and has affected my game!'

Veil, now let's not *mince* words. As referees we have a **steak** in this game, but must we *shoulder* all the responsibility? Players who get the *chop* don't have a *leg* to stand on, and should *bacon-tent* with decisions, however *offal* they may seem at the *thyme*, and stop *beefing* about it. Personally, I *fillet's* a good thing Wood's packing up - his *heart* isn't in the game !

Footnote:- Let us make no *bones* about it. If Ian Wood had watched Liverpool play Queens Park Rangers, he would not have found the *meating* a *carve-up*!! *wood* he?

With acknowledgements to The Whistler" The magazine of Wimbledon Referees' Society.

Charles, Harry, Billy & Me – 6.

“Sideways’ it’s called. Very funny and also quite poignant. I’ve watched it several times. It’s one of my favourite unusual films.”

“Oh yes, that’s right” piped up Billy. “Just couldn’t remember the title. It’s about a stag trip around the California winefields. Paul Giamatti plays the more serious guy who has planned the journey for his friend who is about to get married, but the friend is more interested in having a last-minute play around with the women they meet along the way”.

Harry clearly had little to say about films in general to form a constructive argument here, so was intent on steering the conversation in an alternative direction. The usual direction was football, although you could say that his knowledge on this was little better than average, too, despite his continued presence in our small circle.

“I’ve heard tell that there is again a big drop-out rate amongst referees. And this despite the ‘Respect’ campaign and everything, ‘cause I thought the amount of abuse heard was a lot less these days. Mind you I’ve seen quite a number of younger refs around lately”.

“We seem to do well in this area with training new young referees and retaining them, as in our local Association we take care to mentor them early on once they have passed the exam”, I said.

“It’s true that there has always been a problem in retaining youngsters coming into refereeing”. This has been a favourite subject with Charles so he was keen to expand on this point. “They can quickly become disillusioned, either from verbal abuse, or lack of confidence in the decisions they make during a match, unless they have someone they can discuss this with subsequently. That’s why the mentoring scheme is an important one. There are, of course, sons who follow fathers into refereeing, and these kids have an obvious advantage from the outset”.

“That’s all very well”, Harry said, “but surely good refereeing, like most other things in life, comes with experience, rather than anything else”.

“Some youngsters seem to appear confident quickly”, returned Charles, “but others look as though they would rather not be there or make decisions very tentatively with no air of confidence at all”.

It was time I added to the debate. “I was doing a League Cup semi-final recently, appointed as Assistant, with a young referee in the middle. The League like to do this to give young referees the experience of reffing a cup-tie with more experienced referees appointed to the line to help them out as necessary. However, he straightaway appeared somewhat overawed by the occasion. He did not give us any pre-match instructions, and us two Assistants were asking or confirming what he required us to help out with. The match was an Under 12s and there was not much difficulty in dealing with anything that happened. There were lots of offsides which both of us flagged for. And when the resultant indirect free-kicks were taken he did not raise his arm to indicate these. We both drew his attention to this in the half-time interval, but he still did not do it in the second half. He wasn’t a bad referee, I think he was just nervous about being in the middle with two experienced Assistants”.

“Actually, how long do you keep your arm up to signal from an indirect free-kick?” I was a bit perplexed that Harry did not know this one.

“Until the ball touches or is played by another player or goes out of play”.

“Or a goal is scored”. Harry again.

“No no no. You can’t score direct from an indirect free-kick. That would then be a goal kick to the opposition”.

Taken aback by Billy’s superior knowledge, Harry tramped off to get another round.

WokRAM.

Where and when?

Sitting in the exalted company of a former FIFA official recently, we got into conversation about a mistake [we thought] that the assistants were making. They were both taking the 'wait and see' guidance on flagging for offsides to a ridiculous extreme.

I grew up in the days when a forward 70 yards across the field from the activity who was sitting on the ground re-tying his boot-laces would be flagged offside just for being there - forget about 'interfering with play'.

The latest advice on interpreting actual offside reads:

"interfering with play" means playing or touching the ball passed or touched by a team-mate.

This explicit interpretation is now being used and is making some decisions look ludicrous. A long ball is launched up field and a forward just in his opponents' half and in a technically offside position, chases after it in the company of a pursuing defender. They arrive at the ball together and challenge for it just by the goal-line having run 50 metres taking 6 seconds. Then the lino flags the forward offside. The flag is raised then pointed at where the forward eventually touched the ball.

The big question is: **From where should the free kick be taken?**

Let's look at Law 11:

Infringements and sanctions

In the event of an offside offence, the referee awards an indirect free kick to the opposing team to be taken from the place where the infringement occurred

Now we come to the nub of it - where did the offence occur? Was it near the halfway line where the forward was when the ball was played by a team-mate? Was it when he - some 6 seconds later - eventually caught up with the ball?

There is a big difference between the opponents' getting a free kick on their goal line as opposed to on the halfway line! In this game, free kicks were always being taken in this game from where the offender eventually got to the ball.

Two more quotations from Law 11:

A player is in an offside position if he is nearer to his opponents' goal line than both the ball and the second-last opponent

Offence

A player in an offside position is only penalised if, at the moment the ball touches or is played by one of his team, he is, in the opinion of the referee, involved in active play.

So, the 'offside position' was where he was standing first in the opponent's half - near the halfway line.

But, he is only penalised when he becomes 'involved in active play'.

Common sense would say that he becomes involved in active play immediately he took chase for the ball from that offside position in which he was standing. The assistant can only 'confirm' that he benefits from being in that offside position when he wins the race for the ball some 6 seconds later.

But that still doesn't really answer the question of where should the free kick be taken from.

I and my FIFA friend agreed that a free kick near the halfway line would have been correct for that was when the offender was in that 'offside position' i.e. when the offence occurred.

In this game, every free kick for an offside infringement was taken from where the offender eventually got to the ball and touched it. Some of these disadvantaged the team offended against by over 30 metres.

A very strict interpretation you might think but was it fair?

Len Randall

Courtesy of The Chiltern Referee

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Pots and Kettles Serve Men in Black

This week, in an old feature with a new twist we're calling They Are The Refs, we ask you to use your knowledge and experience of the rules of football to adjudicate on a hypothetical in-game scenario. And here it is: in an otherwise fairly, quiet week, your attention is suddenly drawn to two retired referees, going at it on the sidelines and clearly potentially interfering with play. So you stop the game and head over, where the fourth official, who has seen the incident develop, fills you in on the details.

You learn that Mark Halsey, in an off-the-ball incident, has gone in slightly over the top on substandard refereeing in the professional game and that Graham Poll has taken exception, accusing Halsey - in remarks clearly picked up by the microphones of talkSPORT - of "100% betraying what paid him a living he would never have earned as the warehouse manager he was".

To which Halsey apparently said: "If anybody is letting the profession down, some of his comments over the years have been atrocious. But that's Graham. We don't get on and I don't like the way he's done things over the years.

At the point at which you arrive, the pair of them are nose-to-nose and breathing heavily, and the air is thick with slightly camp rancour. So what do you do? Tough one. There's a sizable temptation, obviously, to dismiss the whole episode adjust handbags, plain and simple - the kind of all-about-nothing tiff that's bound to blow up occasionally between former officials who are no longer under much pressure, and would probably blow over again very quickly if you simply left it. At the same time, Halsey's allegations of incompetence among professional football referees are substantial, not to mention surprising. (Who knew?) Should you punish him for making them?

As for Poll's part in all this, yes, he was clearly subjected to provocation, but should he have reacted? These days, if you raise your hand to another ref, even on the radio, you can't expect to go unpunished. On the other hand, Poll thought that Halsey was betraying what Poll calls "the refereeing fraternity", and that's a serious charge -although, as Poll has spent several years now chewing out the brotherhood on their individual failings, match by match, this could be a classic case of the pot calling the kettle the man in black.

Tempting to card Poll for his behaviour here on the basis of sheer brass neck. Or should one - as so often in times of bafflement - take one's cue from the inspirational practices of Dennis Wise? Back when the chirpy crop-haired rascal was captain of Chelsea, and an altercation broke out on the pitch between Gus Poyet, his team mate, and an opponent, Wise rushed in and, with the instinct for peacemaking that characterised his long and successful career, instructed David Elleray, the official at the time; "Send both them ****s off".

So what would you do? Personally, I haven't got a clue. Refereeing, eh? It's harder than it looks.

*Giles Smith (The Times 12 October 2013).
and spotted in the Chiltern Referee*



'Ello! 'ello! 'ello !

I recently went to referee a match in the Chiswick and District league and when I got to the dressing rooms I saw marked up on a blackboard the dressing room allocation for the teams playing that day. I noticed one of the clubs was "Chiswick Police" and, being a policeman myself, I thought I would go over to their pitch and see if I could recognise anyone I knew. Having got changed, I asked the groundsman where the "Chiswick Police" were playing, to which he informed me that they did not play on these fields. I pointed out their name on the blackboard and with a wink he told me that he always put their name on the board, and had been doing so for some time, as it obviously had the effect on players behaving themselves after the game !

Hamish Brown (*writing in the Dec 1989 Warbler*)

**Exquisite British Humour** (courtesy of Tony Murphy)

The train was quite crowded and, a U.S. Marine walked the entire length looking for a seat, but the only seat left was taken by a well-dressed, middle-aged, French woman's poodle.

The war-weary Marine asked, 'Ma'am, may I have that seat?'

The French woman just sniffed and said to no one in particular. 'Americans are so rude. My little Fifi is using that seat.'

The Marine walked the entire train again, but the only seat left was under that dog.

'Please Ma'am. May I sit down? I'm very tired.'

She snorted, 'Not only are you Americans rude, you are also arrogant!'

This time the Marine didn't say a word; he just picked up the little dog, tossed it out the train window, and sat down.

The woman shrieked, 'Someone must defend my honour! This American should be put in his place!'

An English gentleman sitting nearby spoke up, 'Sir, you Americans seem to have a penchant for doing the wrong thing. You hold the fork in the wrong hand. You drive your cars on the wrong side of the road. And now, Sir, you seem to have thrown the wrong bitch out of the window'.

Spurs' summer transfer policy:

They sold an iPhone 5 and used the money to buy a house phone, a calculator, an alarm clock, a camera and a torch.

Gotta love us seniors

During a visit to my doctor, I asked him, "How do you determine whether or not an older person should be put in an old age home?"

"Well," he said, "we fill up a bathtub, then we offer a teaspoon, a teacup and a bucket to the person to empty the bathtub."

"Oh, I understand," I said. "A normal person would use the bucket because it is bigger than the spoon or the teacup.."

"No" he said. "A normal person would pull the plug. Do you want a bed near the window?"

Adie Hams it up!

Generally speaking, as humans, we don't like change. One of my work colleagues once told me the only people that like change are babies! We like continuity and I often hear my peers refer to 'the good old days'. Our current communication devices really are state of the art. My sons use i Phones but I have to admit I do have concerns when I see so many young people with their phones permanently clamped to their ears. I have had a couple of instances where Club Secretaries have e-mailed me to tell me that they cannot get hold of the referee (due to a waterlogged pitch). I phone them up and enquire whether they have tried the referees land line. Not one has! There does seem to be a misconception that everybody is consistently available on their mobile phones. I can tell you that I am not. Firstly most mobiles do not work where I live – my sons call it 'Area 51' but can access their phones through the broadband hub so they stay in contact. Secondly, at work, I am more often than not found in the test shop and with four rigs testing the helicopter gearboxes you cannot hear a thing.

Continuing on the subject of change, I went into Currys/PC World a fortnight ago to obtain some more printer cartridges and as I entered the shop I was faced with this huge screen TV – 84inch 3D. They only wanted 14K for it (how much?). This got me thinking and I wandered over to view some of the less expensive models. I now know that a 24inch TV is classified as a 'small screen'. Thinking back when I got married I saved like fury to buy a 16 inch colour Panasonic TV that cost me 4 weeks wages! Puts it into perspective!

I am writing this article on Christmas Eve at 7am due to the fact that we had no power yesterday from 3:30pm. I listened to the Arsenal v Chelsea game on the radio and we got power back at 10pm. I don't think I missed much! The weather took it's toll on the 21st of December with only 5 games played in the SCILW. It was a good decision not to play over the Christmas break as this may give the pitches time to recover – only time will tell and what the weather throws at us.

I spent a day last week (as I have been on holiday from work since the 12th –they owe me) in the kitchen using my culinary skills. Two Honey Roast Hams, 50 sausage rolls and a plethora of cheese straws. I figured that one of the hams would be dumped in the freezer and give the family a treat by letting them have one straight away. Unfortunately I had forgotten that my youngest son (who is back from Uni) is on a health and exercise campaign. Half of the ham disappeared in one foul swoop. I know he is eating loads of protein but that was definitely OTT. Not even in my younger days did I eat a sandwich that thick!! Christmas in the Freeman household will be Mother in Law free this year so we are looking forward to no moans, groans and 'Bah Humbug'.

Have an outstanding New Year and I hope to see you all on the 6th.

Adie

The Adventures of Willy 'The Whistler' Woodwork

Part 27 –The encroaching penalty

Match: Cockfosters Casuals –v- Reds Rovers
League: Division Three – Sunday Park League (North)

I was standing in a good position and had a great view when the Casuals defender carelessly tackled the Rovers attacker in the penalty area. There was no doubt in my mind that I was going to award my penalty as I went to blow my whistle.

Just out of habit I looked over to the club assistant referee. I expected him to be waving the flag frantically to also acknowledge that he agreed with me and that it was a penalty. Naturally I had expected too much from one of the teams substitutes who had reluctantly agreed prior to the match to be one of me assistant referees. There he was looking over to the next pitch as he spoke to a friend on his mobile phone. Alas, I expected too much. My 'assistant' did not even see the incident.

Anyhow that did not matter. My whistle was blown, I pointed to the penalty mark and to my amazement not one solitary person either on or off the pitch said a word. May be they had realized by now that any dissent and a yellow card would be produced or may be they all realised just how right I was in actually awarding the penalty.

The player who had been fouled picked up the ball and placed it on the penalty mark. 'Are you taking the kick?' I asked and he smiled and told me he was. I then told him to wait for my whistle. I then looked at the goal keeper and told him to stay on his goal line until the ball is kicked and finally after waving for a number of players not to stand in the penalty area I said in a loud voice 'No encroachment please'. The assistant referee took up a position on the goal line and started to wave his flag. I asked 'What was the matter?' He replied 'Nothing ref, just wanted you to know that was a penalty'. I thanked him and asked 'Did you have a good view of the incident?' He then told me he did.....what more can I say!

A referee has to manage the situation of a penalty kick, namely the placing of the ball on the penalty mark plus the identification of the penalty taker plus the goal keeper being situated on the goal line and finally the players all being behind the ball and out of the penalty area. All of which I had done.

I then noticed the assistant was waving the flag again. I wondered what he wanted this time. He pointed over to the half way line. I looked over where the Casuals manager shouted over to me 'Substitution ref, is that okay?' Without any thought I replied 'No it is not okay, you will have to wait until the penalty kick is taken'. The Casuals manager queried my decision and I quickly explained it was not the appropriate time and that he should wait a few seconds. He was not happy but I felt it bordered on unsporting behaviour and delaying the restart of play.

Out of the corner of my eye I noticed the assessor making more notes and to be fair it did put a doubt in my mind as to whether I was right or wrong to not allow the substitution.

I placed myself half way between the penalty mark and the goal line so I had a good view if the goal keeper stepped forward from his goal line and to also see if any players encroached into the penalty area.

I blew my whistle and the taker run forward and kicked the ball low to the goal keepers left. The ball entered the goal but I immediately blew my whistle and pointed to the penalty mark. 'What was wrong with that?' asked the penalty taker in disbelief. I told him that two of his team mates had entered the penalty area before the kick was taken and that was encroachment, which in fairness I had warned the players about and an offence had been committed. On that basis the kick had to be retaken.

As you would have gathered my decision was not a popular one but as I have said many times previously, I knew that I was right.

The Rovers captain picked up the ball and placed it firmly on the penalty mark. 'I'll take the penalty kick this time' he said as he took a few steps back in preparation of taking the kick. 'But he can't do that' said a number of the Casuals players. 'It is a retake so the same person must take the kick'. Actually that made perfect sense. It was a retake it should be the same person who took the original kick. I explained this to the captain and thankfully he agreed with my decision. The original taker reluctantly stepped forward. He kicked the ball again low to the goal keepers left but this time the goalie guessed correctly. He dived and managed to save the kick as it went wide of the goal but over the goal line. 'Corner' the Rovers players shouted but I pointed not to the corner but to where one of the Rovers players had encroached into the penalty area prior to the kick being taken. I explained it would have been a corner kick but because a Rovers player had encroached and a goal had not been scored then the restart had to be an indirect free kick to Casuals to be taken where the encroachment occurred.

Twice in a minute.....I was correct again.

Rovers insisted that it should be another retake as I had done for the first kick and accused me of being inconsistent in law but not even awarding them a corner. I had to caution two Rovers players for dissent before the indirect could eventually be taken.

No doubt you would know what do if a player encroaches at a penalty kick. Hope you deal with the situation as well as me.

Willy Woodwork

Willy 'The Whistler' Woodwork

P.S When the first penalty was taken and there was encroachment from the two attacking players was the referee correct in asking for the penalty to be retaken?

Must the same player retake the penalty?

Can a substitution be made immediately after a penalty is awarded? Was our ref correct to say 'No'?

If the penalty is missed but an attacking player has encroached, is an in direct free kick to the defending team the correct restart?

Our ref believes he was correct on each occasion but what do you think.....was Willy Woodwork right on all his decisions?

MURPHY'S MEANDERINGS 2014.

I was refereeing a Football Combination match at the Dell between Leicester and Southampton. A Leicester defender tackled a Southampton player just inside the penalty area on the linesman's diagonal and the Southampton player went to ground. The linesman started waving his flag immediately and then, as I blew the whistle, he put the flag across his chest. The defender was very unhappy with the linesman's decision and glared at him. The linesman, instead of moving away from the player down the touchline, stood his ground and glared back, emphasising his decision by putting his flag across his chest again.

I could see the situation getting tense and went towards the linesman. As I did so, the player took a few steps forward and told the linesman exactly what he thought of him and his decision. The linesman started flagging vigorously but I was already very close and had heard what the player had said. I sent him off but have to say that I thought it an unnecessary dismissal for, had the linesman acted differently, it could have been avoided.

Most referees' instructions at a penalty kick were for the linesman to act as goal judge only. I always felt that as a linesman I should be given more responsibility. Consequently, when I became a referee with my own neutral linesmen I asked them to check the goalkeeper moving as well and this game was no exception.

A Southampton player had placed the ball for the penalty kick but nobody seemed interested in taking it. Eventually, the right full back, standing on the half way line, was given the responsibility. Not worrying about placing the ball, he walked forward, starting to run as he reached the "D" of the penalty area. Striking the ball beautifully he sent it into the middle tier of the stand behind the goal.

Before I could do anything the linesman started waving his flag. As I went across to him, he took a couple of steps onto the pitch and started shouting to me that the goalkeeper had moved before the kick was taken. All the players heard, and I had no option but to have the kick re-taken. However, fate hadn't finished. The same player took the kick, in the same manner, and, quite professionally I thought, put the ball in exactly the same place. Giving the linesman no chance to do anything further, I waved for him to get back in position on the touchline and got on with the game.

On the subject of Linesmen (this was before the change of title to A/Rs)

It was only my second Hampshire League division 1 match and I was very nervous as the home team was known to be both physical and verbal. I arrived in good time and was able to have a look at the pitch and take in some of the surroundings. The ground was open on three sides but behind one goal there were several tennis courts. Soon after I arrived, one linesman turned up but by a quarter to three there was no sign of the other linesman. "Can't understand it," said my only linesman, "Jack Smith's the other linesman and he only lives round the corner."

The home club Secretary was concerned and I asked him to try and find someone else to run the line. At ten to three my second linesman arrived, already changed with a tracksuit on and holding his boots in his hand. "Bit late," I said, trying to hide my agitation. "What's wrong," replied the linesman, "I've only got to put my boots on." Just then the home club Secretary came in and, whilst relieved, was plainly upset as he had wasted time trying to find another linesman. Quickly I gave my instructions but I do not think much registered with my second linesman as he was too busy trying to untie a knot in the laces of his somewhat dirty boots. (Had a game this morning and haven't had time to clean my boots.) I must admit that as we left the dressing room I was not entirely happy with my pre-match preparation.

From my point of view the first half went well although my earlier doubts about the linesman proved to be correct. He waved for every offside despite being told to only flag when players were interfering. However, my only real problem was five minutes from the end of the half when I looked towards the linesman for an offside decision only to see him talking to some spectators on the half way line. "They asked me how long to go and I was telling them," he told me at half time.

When I started the second half I thought I had the measure of him but after ten minutes he caught me out. A shot sailed over the goal into the tennis courts and as I took up my position for the goal kick I noticed the linesman running across the courts to retrieve the ball. He then kicked the ball to the goalkeeper who proceeded to take the goal kick. "Wait a minute," I said, "The linesman was good enough to get the ball for you, at least you can wait for him to get back." The goalkeeper gave a smile and shrugged his shoulders. As the linesman took up his position I glared at him hoping that he could read my thoughts but all he did was smile back at me and give me the thumbs up to show he was ready.

Fifteen minutes later it nearly happened again. With the ball nestling in the far corner of the tennis courts the goalkeeper turned and shouted for the linesman to get the ball. I immediately told the linesman to stay where he was and told the goalkeeper to get the ball. "Don't be like that, ref," replied the goalkeeper "he's the best ball boy we've had for a long time."

Nothing further happened during the match and I resolved to discuss everything with the linesman in the dressing room. However, it was not to be. Immediately we sat down a club official came in carrying some cups of tea closely followed by the Secretary to pay us. As soon as they left I turned to speak to the linesman. He was already dressed in his tracksuit, boots in hand, and he got in first. "Thanks for the game, ref, thoroughly enjoyed it, got to rush, see you around," and with that he disappeared out of the door. Pleased that the game had gone well I just had to laugh.

Tony Murphy

P.S. The local referee arrived at a game only to see the ground shrouded in fog. Accompanied by a couple of home team players, he walked to the goal net at one end of the pitch. He peered through the fog to the other end. "Sorry lads," he said, "I can't see the posts at the other end." "That's not surprising," said one of the players, "We've not put them up yet."

Time for a change- by Ken Goldman

The famous slope at Underhill has seen numerous changes in both the Laws and tactics since it was first opened. David Bloomfield the Press representative asked me to write an article for the last programme at Underhill at the back end of last season to look back on these as if I were a time traveller. I am reproducing it here not because we as referees do not know the changes that were made during the 106 odd years that Barnet played at Underhill but because of how the tactical changes that have occurred over that time fit in. Incidentally the late and much missed Mick Osborn actually went through the Law changes from inception some years back and a repeat of those in this magazine might prove educative as well as they are very topical with the 150th anniversary of the Formation of the FA and the Laws of the game now taking place. I have taken the liberty of adding one or two further words here and there for this reproduction as well as changing some tenses.

So firstly it is necessary to determine whether a change in the Laws creates a change in tactics or vice versa. In all probability it is the former, since after a process of evolution to the field and its "furniture" the biggest change of all and the one which still causes the greatest problems was and is the Offside Law. From about 1925 when that Law was changed from having three defenders to two to constitute offside the tactic of the "stopper" centre-half was innovated by Herbert Chapman the

Manager of Arsenal. Ignoring the goalkeeper this eventually translated itself into a system of 3-3-4 and that system remained in place for another 30 years approximately, despite the fact that in the mid-nineteen thirties Stanley Rous (subsequently Sir Stanley Rous) re-codified the Laws of the Game. Visitors to the ground would have seen flying wingers and aerial battles between centre-forwards and centre halves with clever inside-forwards and wing halves running with the ball.

Behaviour both on and off the field was excellent with both sets of supporters happy to mingle with each other, while only a few tough guys got "booked" and fewer sent off.

Changes to the Laws were few and far between although when Hungary beat England 6-3 at Wembley and 7-1 in Budapest it brought about a complete alteration in footwear, shirts and shorts. Because the Hungarians had been sleek in their kit, suddenly out went the old fashioned high back leather boots, baggy shirts and shorts and all became streamlined instead. The first major change in tactics came when the Brazilians won the World Cup in both 1958 and 1962 when there was the introduction of a 'back four', i.e. an extra centre half, with 4-2-4, the preferred formation and as has been the case ever since the World followed the Winners.

Meanwhile floodlights had been introduced and evening football eventually became commonplace as the pylons were built, even at non-league grounds such as the then Underhill. Tactics were changed again after 1966 following England's World Cup victory and the order of the day became 4-4-2. Gradually at all levels in the 1970's when Barnet were converted from a club to a Limited Company, the game became rougher and the red and yellow cards brought in for the 1970 World Cup were frequently in use (not specifically at Barnet who subsequently became a League club and have yo-yoed back into non-league and then

League football over time).

By the time Barnet became a League Club more law changes were on the way. Goalkeepers were no longer allowed to run with the ball bouncing it as they did and were restricted to four paces. Throw-ins were to be awarded to the opposition if thrown from the wrong place a move pioneered by Jimmy Hill who also once ran the line in league match at Arsenal and a further addition to the serious foul play Law was created by expulsion for stopping an obvious goal-scoring opportunity and this also applied to defenders handling on the goal-line. There have now been a raft of changes to the Laws which include goalkeepers allowed to move sideways but not forward at a penalty; cautions for encroachment or delaying free kicks, goalkeepers no longer to receive the ball into their hands from a colleague's foot, or at a throw-in.

Meanwhile tactics have altered again with teams now playing three at the back with two wing-backs i.e. 5-3-2 or more recently 4-3-2-1 or 5-3-1-1 which are fast becoming the systems of choice for many sides.

The advent of Women's football has seen that grow to be the fastest rising sport in the Country and Ladies teams have now played on that famous slope as well.

Obviously quite confusing for our time traveller, who must now move on his time machine to the Hive (obviously Barnet's new home) for future developments as and from the start of the 2013/2014 season.

Courtesy of The Normidian



Allegedly broadcast on "Have I Got News For You":

"I heard that one of the players allegedly involved in match fixing was interviewed on TV yesterday and said he was totally innocent and hoped to be playing in the 1-1 draw against ***** next Saturday!"

Doh!

A new monk arrives at the monastery. He is assigned to help the other monks in copying the old texts by hand. He notices, however, that they are copying from copies, and not from the original books.

So, the new monk goes to the head monk to ask him about this. He points out that if there was an error in the first copy, that error would be continued in all the other copies.

The head monk says, "We have been copying from the copies for centuries, but you make a good point, my son."

So, he goes down into the cellar with one of the copies to check it against the original. Hours later, nobody has seen him. So, one of the monks goes downstairs to look for him. He hears sobbing coming from the back of the cellar and finds the old monk leaning over one of the original books crying. He asks what's wrong.

"The word is celebrate," says the old monk.

From the letters page of "The Guardian":-

17.10.13 "When I worked for French Motorail in the 1970s a man phoned and asked to book a **courgette**. Thinking he was referring to a type of car, I asked him the length of his **courgette**, after which the conversation became increasingly surreal".



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This Month's Speaker

Adie Freeman

I have been officiating for 13 years in the SCILW, the G&WAFL, the S&HBFL, and the SPL. I am currently in my 5th season as Referees Secretary for the SCILW after spending 3 years as Assistant Referees Secretary.

I work as a Precision Mechanical Engineer in the Aerospace Industry. I served an apprenticeship as a toolmaker in the mid-seventies and added Machine Tool experience as a contractor for my company at Ford Dagenham and Bordeaux, Rover at Longbridge, Lister at Dursley, Jaguar in Coventry and Perkins in Peterborough. Currently I manage the Helicopter Gearbox Division for my company in Basingstoke. Married to Diane (a teacher) for almost 30 years we have two sons. The eldest is a self-employed General Renovator and the youngest is reading Law at Portsmouth University.

I am delighted to accept the invitation to come to the Woking Referees Association and talk to you about my role as a Referees Secretary.



Captions for the above picture of Adie please (he's the one in black!)

PlumTree

SCFA Premier Cup Quarter Final
Worcester Park 1st v Camberley Town Res
Assistant Referee; Nick Arbuckle

SCFA Sunday Junior Cup
Old Bagshot v Royal Admiral.
Referee ; Tom Ellsmore

Fulham U-18 v Leicester City U-18
Assistant Referee ; Brian Reader

Chelsea U18 v Norwich U18
Assistant Referee ; Paul Saunders



I called at a friend's house the other day and found him walking around with a fly swatter. When I asked if he was succeeding in getting any flies, he said, "Yes, two males and three females." Curious, I asked how he could tell the difference. "Simple", he said, "The two males were on a beer can and the three females were on the phone."

Dates for your Diary 2013/14

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 6th January 2014 | Society Meeting
Adie Freeman, "the referees secretary" |
| 3rd February | Society Meeting - The Surrey County FA Road Show |
| 3rd March | Society Meeting - AGM |
| 7th April | Society Meeting - Lucy May |
| 12 May | Society Meeting - TBA |
| 17th May | Summer BBQ and Charity Football Tournament |

Press Cuttings - Courtesy of Brian ReaderDarlington & Stockton Times

Before a short service at Darlington crematorium on Tuesday of last week, his coffin was placed by the fireplace at the Town Hall and he was toasted by friends, family and former customers.

Thames Valley listings magazine.

Whistle Down the Wind. Andrew Lloyd Webber' shit musical Mon-Sat eves 7.30pm. Wed & Sat mats 2.30pm.

Economist (on-line)

Many have large markets outside the Islamic world – among them Koc Holding, a Turkish conglomerate whose subsidiaries include Arcelik, which sells household appliances across Europe.

Southend Evening Echo

(headline) DRUGS RUNNER HID CRACK IN HIS PANTS

Westmorland Gazette

(small ad) Lady, reasonable looks, medium build, 65, likes short walks, outings, the occasional drunk.

Sky News webpage

She said "So I tied up his hands and feet and got a kitchen knife to chop off his organ and bring an end to his lust once and for all". The man, who has not been named, was taken to a local hospital where his penis was re-attached by doctors.

Daily Telegraph

LESBIAN MODEL WINS SEX PEST CASE AGAINST BOSS. George Foxwell, her lawyer, said; "The applicant's case is that it was implied that if she slept with Miss Hough it would be good for her career. This is a classic case of sexual harassment, someone who is looking for an advantage by using their power and tempting the person with a carrot."

My Merton

OUTDOOR BOWELS FOR THE DISABLED. Wednesdays, 4pm – 6pm, John Innes Park, Mostyn Road, Merton Park.

BBC News (on Ceefax)

Playtex said women had complained a strap connecting the two cups of the Deep Plunge Clearly Daring bra broke while it was being worn. The Company blamed tearing in fabric connecting the bra cups, and said "less than a handful" were affected.

The Times

Animal smuggling in Australia is not all one way. Last month officers arrested a man trying to enter the country with a snake in his trousers.

The Guardian

A teenager accused of exposing his penis in a burger bar has been cleared at the Old Bailey after the 19-year-old alleged victim admitted she might have been looking at her mop handle. Does Michael Gove's sex education policy need a re-think?



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What Would You Do?

(answers to ~~November~~
December issue)

Q1. A defender desperately trying to kill time by holding the ball in the corner, uses the flag post as leverage to maintain his balance. His opponents complain and stop challenging him. What do you do?

A1. Stop play. Players cannot use the flag posts to keep themselves upright. Caution the defender for unsporting behaviour and restart with an indirect free kick.

Q2. The away team's wingers have destroyed the home defence in the first half. To try and disrupt them, the home manager orders his ground-staff to repaint the touch lines at half time making the pitch narrower, but still within legal dimensions. What would you do?

A2. Have the new markings removed and the old ones restored. In the professional game clubs have to register the size of the FoP before the season starts. Conditions in the two halves must be the same.

Q3. It's a penalty shoot out at the end of a cup final. An extraordinary 21 penalties have been taken and scored - but the final player is young and inexperienced. Overawed by the occasion, he refuses to take a penalty, and wants his side's star man to take it instead. What would you do?

A3. The nightmare scenario. The Laws require him to take the kick and you cannot continue unless he does. If he refuses completely, caution him for unsporting behaviour and if that makes no difference abandon the tie, and report the incident.

Q4. A Red striker fires a long range effort at goal. The keeper, realising he can't get to the ball, instead hangs on the crossbar, lowering it by an inch or so, and causing the shot to hit the bar rather than go into the goal. What would you do?

A4. If you are sure that lowering of the bar definitely prevented a goal, dismiss the keeper for denying a goal, and restart with an indirect free kick on the goal line. If you are not sure, caution the keeper and restart the same way.

Q5. On a small park pitch with Reds losing 2-1, their keeper comes up for a late corner to his team. Blues' keeper clears the ball with a truly hefty punch up field and the ball subsequently bounces into Reds' unguarded net. What would you do?

A5. Award a goal. No offence committed.

Q6. A corner kick is taken, and as the cross comes into the goal area, there is an accidental clash of heads and an attacker drops to the ground. You immediately stop play with the defending keeper having the ball in his hands. What would you do?

A6. No offence committed. Restart with a dropped ball. Law 5 "powers & duties" bullet 8

Q7. A Red corner kick is played nonchalantly a few feet. A colleague approaches the ball intending to dribble it in but sees a Blue defender, aware of the attackers' plans, so he picks up the ball and replaces it in the quadrant. What would you do?

A7. Award an direct free kick for handball: Law 12 "Direct free kick" bullet 10 - handles the ball deliberately.

(Ed. Questions 1-4 were taken from "You Are The Ref" by Keith Hackett and Paul Trevillion. Questions 4-7 were set by Sid Harrison for the National RA Quiz, 2013)

Courtesy of the Chiltern Referee

What Would You Do?

Question 1.

A Red forward celebrates a stunning hat-trick by climbing the frame of the goal, sitting on the crossbar and waving to the fans. Then he happily trots back to the centre circle for the kick off. What would you do?



Question 2

You award a direct free kick to Reds for handball. As you blow for the kick to be taken, two players from the attacking (Blue) side, who are standing by the wall, begin fighting each other. It totally distracts the opposition - and while they turn to watch, the kick-taker curls the ball into the net. You realise the fight was a ruse. What would you do?

Question 3

One of your assistants flags you over for a chat. He alerts you that he is being repeatedly racially abused by a small group in the crowd. What would you do?

Question 4

A Red striker keeps complaining he is being held by Blue defenders at corners. When it happens again, instead of trying to struggle free, he firmly clasps the hands that are gripping him so that you can see them, and screams for a penalty. What would you do?

Question 5

Reds play a through ball to their striker in an offside position. Before it reaches him a Blue's defender attempts to intercept but deflects it past his goalkeeper into the net. What would you do?

Question 6.

All Red's attackers are onside when their winger (No.7) crosses the ball. Striker (No.9) immediately moves forward into an offside position. However, the ball then strikes you, the referee, and ricochets to No.9 who quickly nets the ball and celebrates his goal. What would you do?

Question 7.

You award a penalty kick for a foul by the goalkeeper. At the kick the goalkeeper dives, pushes the ball against a post and back into play. An attacker, the only player to have encroached, rushes forward and slides the ball into the goal. What would you do?

(Ed. Questions 1-4 were taken from "You Are The Ref" by Keith Hackett and Paul Trevillion. Questions 4-7 were set by Sid Harrison for the National RA Quiz, 2013)

Courtesy of the Chiltern Referee

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