

THE WARBLER

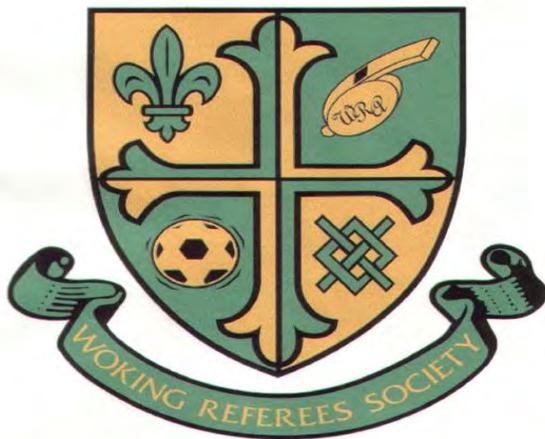
Monthly Magazine of the Woking Referees' Society

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Season 2017/18 January Edition

WOKING REFEREES ' SOCIETY

FOUNDED 1927

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The next meeting of the Woking Referees' Society will on Monday 8th January

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

AGENDA

- ◆ **7.00 Training Session /Academy Meeting**
Andy Bennett
- ◆ **8.00 Chairman's Welcome**
- ◆ **Guest Speaker**
Ray Herb
NRA Board Member / Chairman W Middlesex RS
- ◆ **Society Business**
- ◆ **10pm Close**



The following month's meeting will be
Monday 5th February 2018

The deadline for February Warbler is Friday
26th January 2018

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

From the Chair

HAPPY NEW YEAR,

I hope you all had a peaceful and relaxing Christmas and a restful New Year's Eve! Now it's time to get set for the fun and challenges coming up in 2018

Once again the December meeting was the Christmas meal at Hoebridge, once again it was a fantastic evening, with good food, good humor, a fantastic quiz, the raffle with more prizes than people and of course the wonderful conversation with friends, well done to Martin Read for a wonderful event

So we start this New Year of meetings on January 8th with an outside training session at 7pm with level 3 referee Andy Bennett, all members are welcome to come along and join in or just watch, and then the main meeting starting at 8pm with our guest Ray Herb.

Ray is the Chairman of West Middlesex Referees Society and a member of the National RA Board. He is also a qualified Tutor and Level 3 Observer and we look forward to welcoming him to Woking.



I look forward to seeing you on the 8th, so here's to an eventful and exciting 2018

Pat

Membership & Accounts

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

2017 Current Status	
General	£2,578.61
Supplies	£154.00
Belgium	£0.00
Training Fund	£614.89
Youth Fund	£113.50
Total	£3461.00

Just a Sec!

- ◆ Congratulations to Martin Read for once more organising a superb Christmas Dinner at Hoe Bridge. The food and service were excellent and the fun quiz and monster raffle made for a great evening and a great way to herald the Christmas festivities.
- ◆ There was a good representation of Woking referees plus fellow colleagues from Hampshire and the local football leagues to pay their respects at Mike Ellsmore's funeral last month. The Society made a contribution of £250 to Macmillan Cancer Support, the family's chosen charity. The service was held at Easthamsptead Park Crematorium, which was packed with standing room only, a great testament to Mike's popularity. This was followed by refreshments at Sandhurst Sports Club where Mike along with his wife Kathy had for many years helped run the junior football teams. RIP Mike, you will be greatly missed.

Mac's Musings

Well the weather has started to hit and I've had to call off 3 games already . Well actually one was called off for me by the council, but last weekend we had an overnight frost. The time was 9am with a scheduled KO of 10am. And as the venue for my game was only a short walk away I was having a leisurely 2nd cup of coffee when the mobile "pinged"

It was the home manager of my game saying could I come and check the pitch as he thought it was a bit "hard". I duly trotted down to the pitch and sure enough the ground was solid. Being overcast and little chance of any sunshine breaking through by KO time I decided to call the game off. I think the manager was relieved and I left him calling the opposition who were also waiting for my decision.

I went back to my now rather cold coffee and a few minutes later the old mobile once more "pinged" Another manager from the same club but different age group wondered if could referee his 11am game (if I was free) , at the same venue.

I messaged back that I had just called off the U16s as the ground was frozen. He then phoned me and we spoke for a while and I explained that although according to the forecast the temperature was due to rise with the possibility of rain that afternoon, whether the pitch would be playable in an hour or so was a difficult call to make. He explained that he lived about 4 miles away and was more than happy to take on board my recommendation and would be giving the opposition a call.

It was interesting that both managers were more than happy to call off their games. All too often you get the " well it was worse than this last week and we played" plea. It could be that both games were youth games and the managers were, as was I, very mindful of being responsible for the well being of young bodies.

It could also have been that it was bloody cold and we all just wanted to stay warm and enjoy a hot cup of coffee - I couldn't possibly say !!

Wishing you all a Happy and Healthy New Year . **Mac**

A Christmas Quiz

1. Who created Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer?
2. What is the opening line of 'The Christmas Song' by Nat King Cole?
3. Which town, beginning with letter N, was Jesus raised as a child?
4. What is the time difference between Lapland, Finland and London, UK in December?
5. Can you name two of the three song titles of the 1990's UK Christmas Number Ones by the Spice Girls?
6. Who is the Patron Saint of Children?
7. According to the Christmas carol, which king last looked out on the feast of Stephen?
8. Who plays Juliet in the Love Actually movie?
9. Which famous Christmas poem was written by Clement Clark Moore?
10. What is the name of the fictional town in How the Grinch Stole Christmas
11. By what title was the song Jingle Bells originally released?
12. Balsam, Douglas, Fraser and Noble are all types of what?
13. Who released 'Step into Christmas' in 1973?
14. True or false: Jesus was born on Christmas Day?
15. The Christmas Carol 'God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen' brings tidings of what?
16. What is a baby reindeer called?
17. In which ocean did the devastating 2004 Boxing Day Tsunami occur?
18. In the National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation movie, what creature did the Griswold family discover living in their Christmas Tree?
19. What song was Christmas Number One in the UK in 2016?
20. When is Childermass (Feast of the Holy Innocents)?

Surrey County Referees Association Report

Last meeting 27th November.

SE Surrey. Agreed to progress a virtual LRA for SE Surrey to replace Redhill Society.

Membership recruitment and retention etc. Woking and Croydon Societies continue to build links with local leagues to try to aid referee recruitment .



Guildford Society invites parents of younger referees to attend their meetings. Kingston Society is investigating costs of repeating exercise (last done 5 years ago) of sending printed fliers about the RA to league secretaries. Other suggestions were to try to get mentions on club websites or in programmes.

SCFA handbook. General disappointment that list of referees is not included this year. We also noted that SCFA procedures to report assaults on referees were absent.

Mentoring. Useful discussion held. We will survey Societies to find out how much mentoring is happening, whether formal or informal, also what is working and what is not. Tim Lawrence and Bruce McLaren invited to next SCRA meeting for their views on what SCRA should be doing.

Rules. Draft new rules circulated to delegates for consultation with their Societies. Further discussion in March.

Assaults. One recent case highlighted. SCFA & SCRA had both promptly contacted individual concerned. Matter ongoing.

Brian.

This Month's Speaker - Ray Herb

- ◆ Qualified in 1974 and attained level 4 status.
- ◆ Became a Tutor in 1985 and have been tutoring since. I still deliver basic referee courses and observe many of the candidates in their first five matches.
- ◆ Acted as MRA rep for about ten years before taking over as Chairman of MRA in 1993. After a 3 year appointment, I had to stand down but then became Chairman of West Middx RS, a position I still hold.
- ◆ Took up the post of County Welfare Officer in 2008 and held the position for three years before taking up the post of Referee Development Manager for three years.
- ◆ Became an FA Safeguarding Tutor in 2009 and deliver many workshops a year in Middx, Berks & Bucks and London.
- ◆ I am a level 3 observer and I also observe many referees at County level as well.
- ◆ In July this year, I was elected onto the RA board, where I have responsibility for training and am the lead for the mental health programme.

Tim Vickery's column: Handball - it's not black and white

In a game that could have had a bearing on the outcome of the Brazilian Championship, Atletico Mineiro centre back Leonardo Silva was shown the red card – only to earn a quick reprieve.

The second yellow card was awarded for handball, but the fourth official told the referee that the ball had in fact struck the player on his chest. This was a cut-and-dried decision, a question of fact that was remedied. But handball is a part of the laws which is full of pitfalls, grey areas that no video technology can ever turn into precise shades of black or white.

Because handball needs to be deliberate in order to warrant sanction, it inevitably becomes a matter for interpretation. Did the defender move his arm to block the ball on purpose? Or did he place his arm in a position – the so-called 'unnatural position' – where he was seeking to block the ball? If neither of these apply, no offence has been committed.

A few years ago I did a round table debate on Brazilian TV with a former player who wanted to do away with any of these doubts. If the ball struck an arm in the area, he argued, a penalty should automatically be given, whatever the level of intent. I was shocked to hear it, and not only because in his playing days he had been a defensive midfielder rather than a striker, who might have more cause to bemoan seemingly certain goals being denied by stray arms.

But the main reason for my surprise was that the suggestion was such obvious nonsense. A change of this type would swiftly run into one of the problems that legislators have faced down the ages; a new law or interpretation does not only 'correct' past patterns of behaviour, it also encourages new ones.

Football is a low scoring game. Overcoming the rival defence and beating the goalkeeper is a difficult task. Much easier, then, to win a cheap penalty by firing the ball against the arm of an opponent. This kind of thing has been happening during the course of the current Brazilian Championship.

This year the CBF (Brazil's FA) have issued guidelines calling on referees to take a stricter line on handball, to crack down on the 'unnatural arm position.' Indeed, the CBF recommendation was almost certainly behind the rescinded red card awarded to Leonardo Silva, since the player opened out his arms for balance as he sought to control the ball on his chest.

Plenty of dubious penalties have been awarded when speculative crosses and balls pumped into the box have struck inadvertent arms. The great Tostao, centre forward in the 1970 side and the wisest voice in the Brazilian game, recently had his say.

“For a long time,” he wrote in his twice weekly column, “there has been a proliferation of Brazilian players who dive, denigrating the image of our football all over the world. Now a new breed of sharp practice is beginning to emerge, specialists at kicking the ball at an opponent’s arm, with the collaboration of absurd penalties being awarded by referees.”

It is not always possible to foresee the changes that will emerge from a change in the laws. This one, however, could hardly have been more predictable. Too many games this season have been decided by penalties which would not have been awarded under a more sensible interpretation of handball.

Taken from “You are the Ref” via Mal Davies

Video ref reversal sees Frankfurt’s Wolf recalled from dressing room to continue playing

December 11 – Trials of assistant video referees in the German Bundesliga threw up yet another controversial case at the weekend when a player had actually left the field after being sent off before being called back on.

Eintracht Frankfurt midfielder Marius Wolf was called back from the dressing rooms after having been initially dismissed by the referee in the 1-0 defeat to Bayern Munich.

Wolf was shown a red card for a challenge on James Rodriguez with just under 20 minutes remaining and kicked a microphone in frustration as he walked off.

But referee Harm Osmers changed his mind after consulting video replays and Wolf returned to receive a yellow card instead of red. The decision might have vindicated the whole point of VARs but not when a player had already left the pitch.

“I was in the changing room already,” said Wolf. “Then the team manager came and called me back, said the referee was looking at video evidence. I also said he should do that. For me, it was not a red card.”

The International Football Association Board, custodians of the laws of the game, is set to rule in March whether to rubber stamp the use of VAR for the World Cup finals in Russia, with some members not as convinced as FIFA president Gianni Infantino that the system is foolproof.

Courtesy of Mal Davies

Abuse of power: football's culturally accepted contempt for its own referees. *Edward Eason writing in The Guardian Dec 2017*

Pathetic. Cheat. Joke. These are some of the more "PG" things I've been called over the past month while refereeing football. I give up my Saturday afternoons and Sunday mornings along with hordes of other qualified referees to ensure that the thousands of football games taking place across the country can go ahead.

I qualified as a football referee in 2011, three months after my 14th birthday. An avid football fan, I was excited to experience football from a different perspective, while at the same time earning a bit of pocket money. At a time when my friends were starting to talk about part-time work, becoming a referee seemed like a no-brainer: spending my weekend outside, running around keeping fit, doing a job that I was actually interested in.

I distinctly remember the excitement I felt about getting started as I walked out of the classroom clutching the certificate that said I had qualified as a referee. From that point onwards my weekends consisted of my granddad giving me lifts all over north Kent so I could referee in my local youth league. I would rush to get changed into my refereeing kit after I had finished playing for my local team and jump straight into my role as a referee.

But it wasn't long before I received my first bout of abuse. I was refereeing an under-12s match in a local youth league and I awarded a penalty. There followed a barrage of abuse from one parent on the sideline. I was 14, refereeing a game of 11-year-olds playing football, and I had to experience a fully grown man swearing at me, telling me to fuck off.

I'm now 21 and when I think back to that moment it never fails to shock me. I was a child. I had to instigate the removal of an adult who was abusing me to such an extent that I had no choice but to stop the game – I was petrified. Of the 40 people watching the match, not one stepped in to help me. It was as if they had accepted that because I was the referee I should expect to be abused.

At 16 I started officiating regularly in a local men's Saturday league. The days of youth football and dealing with parents were soon behind me as I began to become more involved in adult matches – a much easier environment in which to referee at a young age. I was looked after very well by the league I officiated in and players generally respected me as a young referee.

I'm now a level six county referee. Primarily I referee open-age men's football in amateur county leagues, as well as serving as an assistant referee in semi-professional supply leagues. I've had some great experiences since I qualified as a referee: officiating in the extra preliminary round of the FA Cup, being part of the Kent FA referee's academy and having the opportunity to officiate at Priestfield Stadium – home of Gillingham, my boyhood club – to name a few.

However, with good often comes bad, which brings me back to my recent experiences refereeing. Taking charge of a Saturday county league game I was subject to constant abuse and dissent from one team. I am my biggest critic as a referee and more often than not I know myself when I have a bad game. But on this occasion I had not had a bad game. I found myself being sworn at when I didn't give a foul throw, being called a joke because I had given a goal-kick and not a corner, and pathetic because I awarded an offside.

It was relentless and lasted beyond the final whistle.

During a game I am good at putting up a block against things and my tolerance level is high but when this is exceeded I never hesitate to do something about it. So for the first time as a referee, I decided it would cause me more problems sending the manager who was swearing at me to the changing rooms, or to show a card to the players who had been giving me dissent. Put up with it for another 40 minutes and try to block it out – I thought that would have a better outcome than if I tried to stop it.

However, the [abuse](#) continued after the final whistle. I was sworn at and humiliated as I went to shake the hands of the people who had spent the last hour making my life hell. I reached breaking point.

After the game, I sat in my car for 20 minutes and began to think about why I give up my weekends to referee. There are plenty of other things I could do on a Saturday afternoon – why am I wasting my time on this thankless task if this is how I'm made to feel?

I came away from that game feeling worthless, and deeply nervous for the next time I would have to referee.

Every game since I've felt extremely anxious about taking to the pitch. Fearing another 90 minutes of abuse every weekend led me to take a little time away from refereeing. I started refereeing because among other things it was a job I knew I'd enjoy – but I found myself despising it.

In rugby, the respect given to match officials by players is exemplary. Rarely do you see players surrounding a referee to question their decisions, let alone swearing at them. Nigel Owens, the well-regarded rugby referee, is renowned for using the phrase: "This isn't soccer" when faced with dissent. So why is it that in football dissent and abuse are accepted? I wouldn't expect to tolerate an onslaught of dissent and abuse walking to the shops, so why is that it when I take to a football pitch as a referee it becomes OK? I'm still the same person that you walk past in the street, I'm just wearing a black kit and holding a whistle.

I know that the support is there for referees when they have bad experiences. There is always someone to talk to and the referee development officers at each county FA are fantastic at ensuring that teams and players who take abuse too far are punished. But it should never have to come to that.

Despite numerous Football Association initiatives such as the Respect campaign and the addition of sin-bins for players at grassroots level for dissent, bad behaviour towards match officials has not sufficiently changed.

Thousands of referees are believed to hang up their boots every year and I don't blame them. Who in their right mind wants to give up their time if they're going to be treated as I have?

Football is regarded as the beautiful game, but until all players, coaches and supporters treat referees like human beings it will be a beautiful game with a very ugly side.

*Sent to me by **Tim Lawrence***

MURPHY'S MEANDERINGS

It was a Sunday league match played at Peckham Rye in the sixties. In fact, it wasn't one game but two as it was a double header. It had been a very bad winter and so many games had been postponed the league had introduced the double header system, two games of thirty minutes each way. The whites had won all their games and were top of the league. Had it not been for the bad weather and postponements they would have been champions already. They played their home games in a private ground with excellent facilities on a full-size pitch. However, the league, in their wisdom, had instructed that the double header against the reds, third in the league with little chance of winning it, be played at Peckham Rye, which had barracks style changing rooms and a pitch which was minimum size and poor quality. The whites had appealed but the league had insisted and the whites weren't happy.

The whites approached the game with an air of superiority but had a poor attitude and moaned and whinged about the pitch from the very beginning. The reds knew the pitch well and were at ease with it. However, against a much better team they were continually on the defensive and used every tactic or trick they knew to frustrate, annoy, niggle and generally get under the skin of the whites. It worked and the whites, already unsettled, reacted badly, lost control of their game. argued, not only with the referee and opponents, but each other, and complained about everything.

Just after half time lady luck smiled on the reds and the pitch played a large part in it. Much of the game had been played between the penalty area and the half-way line in the reds half and there were a large number of "anywhere will do" clearances. One such clearance went towards the white's goal. The goalkeeper, with little to do, was patrolling along the edge of his penalty area and was caught out by the clearance. As he back peddled he slipped on the ground and fell backwards. He could only watch as the ball went over his head and bounced into the empty goal. The reds became even more spoiling as they defended their slender lead against a far superior team and it looked as though they would succeed until the whites equalised in the dying minutes of the game.

The second game started explosively and was in its early stages when all the nastiness and frustration of the first game, fuelled by the fact that both teams were upset at only getting a draw. came to the surface and the game boiled over. One of the white's players made a derogatory remark to the reds goal scorer about his goal, he responded in like manner, a fight ensued and both players were dismissed. This incident took the heat out of the game. The whites settled down and were now far more composed. The reds, unable to recreate the conditions of the first game, were totally outplayed and lost by four goals to nil.

The whites left Peckham Rye feeling robbed. They felt the league had let them down and that on a decent pitch, even over sixty minutes, they would have won both games easily. The reds were happy that they had broken the perfect record of the whites and, with a bit of luck, could have won the first game. That's Sunday football.

Tony Murphy

NB. The white team won all their remaining games thus the red team were the only team to take a point from them.

Refereeing is an obsession

"The whistle bug never leaves you"

They say football captures you from a very young age. I can pin-point the exact moment refereeing entered my life and it's never left me since. My father ran a local football team in Scunthorpe and my brother used to turn out for them.

Now and again I would go along and watch to give the family some moral support, I was too young to actually get the boots on. There I was standing by the side of the pitch one afternoon and the referee - a lovely guy called Fred Hardaker - was in charge of the game. He walked over to me and placed a flag in my hand. He told me when to raise it and when not to raise it. I was 12 years old, and I had been asked to essentially officiate. Talk about being chucked in at the deep end! Two years later, I took my refereeing exam and I started my journey, and I'm so glad I did. It's fair to say Fred Hardaker was responsible for all my future mistakes! Refereeing was in my blood ever since. It was my pathway to the Premier League and since starting in the Scunthorpe & District League I couldn't escape it.

It's a running joke and it's often asked "who would you like to be a referee?" - I would like to offer a bit of an insight into the thought process about the men in the middle and why they decide it's for them. For many, you can liken it to the ambitions of young footballers. They see the bright lights of Wembley, of Old Trafford or at Anfield, and they want to achieve the ultimate goal and walk out at places such as that, alongside the famous faces we all see on the TV and in newspapers every day. They see it as an exciting career path; they want to make it to the top. It almost becomes an obsession to climb the ladder. It's absolutely the same as a footballer wanting to work his way through the leagues and one day, if he's good enough, then the top level may come. That chance may arrive if you work hard enough at it.

We have a very clear promotion pathway and to some, that's a very big attraction. You certainly do not become a referee to become rich or to become popular! It's not everyone's cup of tea, that's for sure, but now referees in the Championship are full-time professionals and are seeing this as a career opportunity. But refereeing is not just for the young. In fact, we have promoted an official to the Football League list who is aged 52.

There's no doubt about it, referees in the main don't do it for the money. It's about commitment, enthusiasm and giving something back, but because of the "no-age" policy which exists, some do see it as a chance to take their life in a different direction. Refereeing can be a great career, I owe my life to it and if you're good enough, you're old enough, age will not hold you back. Once refereeing takes a hold of you, it's very difficult to get escape it.

(Ed. This was the first of a series of articles written jointly by the Football Association and The Non-League Paper. It was penned by The FA's Head of Refereeing, Neale Barry, and appeared in the NLP issued on March 26 201

Spotted in The Chiltern Referee

The Diving Judges !



At the beginning of the season the FA instituted its panel to decide on whether players had been guilty of "diving" oddly called simulation. It has now gathered some experience, albeit only a few cases, and we can see the results of its deliberations. It seems to be working AND accepted by players and managers, with little argument. So it appears to have been worthwhile and has generate (unrealistic?) expectations of a consequential decrease in the occurrence of diving. Hence it gives me an excuse (if ever I needed one) to remind ourselves of its structure/application, and to see how it can further be improved.

Who sit on the panel to decide whether players have deceived referees? - a panel of 13; each of which will comprise an ex-player, an ex- manager and an ex-official. Panels will be chosen from 4 former match officials - (currently Keren Barrett, Steve Dunn, Alan Wiley and Eddie Wolstenhome) and 9 former professionals - (Danny Murphy, Terry Butcher, Lee Dixon, Nigel Adkins, Trevor Sinclair, Alex McLeish, Chris Powell and ex-Liverpool Ladies keeper Rachel Brown-Finnis). The list will be fluid/changeable throughout the season.

How does it work?

Following an incident, each of 3 appointed panel members will be asked to review the footage independently. Only where the panel members are unanimous will a charge be issued. Retrospective action can be taken in instances when the offending player's team has been awarded a penalty or where an opposing player has been sent off.

Other actions?

The new rule has been introduced to deal with simulation and nothing else, but the FA is keen to stress that it will not be used to regularly review diving. If a player denies diving - after being found guilty by the three-man panel - the incident will be referred to the independent regulatory commission.

Feedback?

The FA will use its fast-track disciplinary system to ensure each instance is heard before the accused player's next match. If a player is a repeat diving offender, he may face extended bans, longer than the standard two-match suspensions

In case the players, manages and clubs fail to understand the new rules, or what the punishments are, the FA has made explanatory visits to the majority of clubs. We'll have to wait and see whether the positive move has been maintained.



Brian Richards
Editor of The Chiltern Referee

Plum Tree

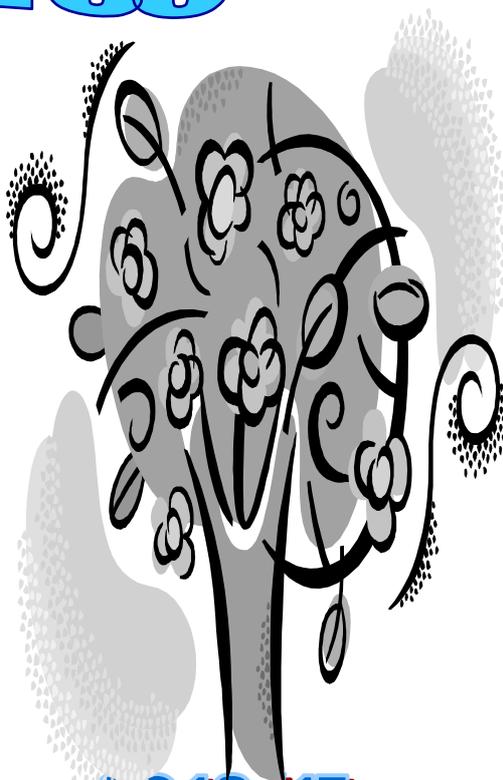
Surrey FA Intermediate Cup
 Parkside United v AFC Ewell
 Callum Peter : Referee

Surrey FA Intermediate County Cup
 Keens Park Rangers First v Merrow First
 Will Siegmund : Referee

Surrey FA Sunday Lower Junior County Cup
 Byfleet Town First v Atletico Buble First
 Will Siegmund : Referee

Cyril West Invitation Cup
 Guildford United v Old Salesians
 Will Siegmund : Referee

Surrey FA Sunday Veterans Cup 2nd Round
 Twickenham Rangers Vets v. Headley Vets
 Roy Butler : Referee



Dates for your Diary 2016/17

8th January	Society Meeting	Ray Herb RA Board Member
5th February	Society Meeting	Mark Ives FA Disciplinary Officer
5th March	Society Meeting	Jim De Rennes , AGM
9th April	Society Meeting	Graham Ekins Chairman SYL
14th May	Society Meeting	Andy Bennett/ Tom Ellsmore



On 23rd November, The Guardian published an entirely factual report that police in the Indian capital had created an all-female motorbike squad in an attempt to tackle rising crime against women, particularly in the city's narrow alleyways.

A few days later they published, on the letters page, a suggestion that managers of football teams playing against Tottenham Hotspur in future should take a lesson from the Indian police on how to curb Delhi alley attacks.

Brian R



English Women Referees Challenge

A few seasons ago I was appointed as assistant referee to the semi-final of the under 18 girls, National County Championship, Hampshire v Kent at Alton Town ground. It was a cracking match with Hampshire coming out victors by the odd goal in three. After the game. I said the coach of the winning side, 'anyone who thinks girls can't play football should have been here tonight'.

I'm sure that viewers watching the UEFA women's cup matches in the summer would have had similar comments. The technical skills and tactical awareness of the payers was very high. The referees, all female, were equally as good and the Swiss referee, Esther Staubli, handled the final excellently.

However, when I looked down the tournament's list of referees and assistant referees, there was only one English name there, that of Sian Massey, well known as an assistant referee on the Premier League. Most other European countries had complete teams of three. Of course. the FA's opposition to women's football for many years and not allowing women to become referees hasn't helped. I remember some years ago, a woman teacher taking the course locally and although passing the exam, she had to be content with a certificate, unable to enrol as a referee.

But all that is behind us now. Women's and girl's football in this country is growing. So is the number of woman referees with more women and girls taking the referees course. One I worked on recently had several, some very impressive. Here is something for them to think about. In Germany, Bibiana Steinhaus, this season became the first woman to referee in the premier division of the Bundesliga and Lorraine Wilson has just become the first woman referee to take charge of a Scottish Premiership game. Their achievement was dwarfed however by Silva Regina de Oliverira, who refereed in the Brazilian Premier Division fourteen years ago.

So the challenge is there ladies and girls. Just think, with hard work and commitment

Courtesy of The Chiltern Referee

Dick Sawdon Smith



The Following 2 articles also appeared in the Chiltern Referee "Letters to the Editor" Whose excellent "What Would You Do" Questions I copy each month

Dear Brian

I have a correction to the answer given to the last question of October's (November in the Warbler) *What Would You Do?* It asked what action should you take if, with an attacker bearing down in his opponent's penalty area, you spot two of his team mates fighting one another in their own penalty area.

The *answer* was to send off the two players for violent conduct and restart with an indirect free kick.

Two years ago that would have been the correct answer. There were only ten offences that you could give a direct free kick for and all but handball were against opponents.

I used to enjoy on training courses saying to the trainees, "Learn these ten and you'll know that every other offence is punished by an indirect free kick". This is no longer the case. In the 'big' review of Laws two years ago all that changed. It now says, "If, when the ball is in play, a player commits an offence inside the field of play, against a team mate, substitute, substituted or sent off player, team official or a match official the game is restarted with a direct free kick or penalty". The reason given for this by the IFAB was that (the game of) football gives out a weak/poor message, if, for example an offence against a match official is only an indirect free kick.

Dick Sawdon Smith

Dear Brian

Could I make an addition to Mike Coventry's "Cautioning Procedure" (Chiltern Referee 227, November issue) that I have found useful over the years. I used to feel a little guilty about this as it was my own idea. It was almost as if I was cheating a little, until attending a session by Steve Dunn, former PGM0 referee and latterly an FA referee coach, when he gave the same advice.

When you go for your notebook after an incident, the player involved isn't always certain whether the card is going to be red or yellow and sometimes, fearing the worst, can get more belligerent. So when taking out the notebook, I take out the yellow card at the same time. I don't show it at this time. I leave that until I have taken his name and warned as to his future conduct but the player knows it is going to be a yellow. I put it in my notebook.

If the offender is a home player, I put it covering the away team's side, and vice-versa for any away team player.

The reason for this is to make sure I write his name down on the right side.

Remember how Graham Poll missed out on a possible World Cup Final because he showed one player three yellow cards before he sent him off.?

The reason for his mistake was that he put the player's number down on the wrong side of his notebook on the second occasion, not remembering he had cautioned him previously.

This will help prevent you making the same error.

Dick Sawdon Smith

Pitch inspections | You Are The Ref

By [Roger Dilkes](#), former Premier League referee, Referee Assessor, Referee Coach, You Are The Ref Head of Coaching

It is December, the weather has taken a turn for the worse and we have been faced with Arctic conditions in the UK, which makes the role of the Referee critical, when determining if the pitch is fit for purpose.

Sometimes, particularly when there has been incessant rain, the local Council will call off all local games on a Friday afternoon and this has proven to be a great initiative, saving teams travelling, referees not being put under pressure to play games and the grounds themselves not being ruined and turned into a quag mire.

Many of our senior football leagues communicate with their Referees and give them advice on pitch inspections, postponements, abandonments or suspension in play, but at local level, the Referee is normally on their own and sometimes this can be a lonely and intimidating experience.

It is important, therefore, that Referees have some kind of protocol for undertaking a pitch inspection and understanding, at all times, that the safety of players is paramount when making a decision. Other considerations like safety of spectators and the match as a spectacle have less significance at local level, but take on more importance at the senior level.

Advice:

Arrive early at the ground

- Report to the Club Secretary or Representative on arrival
- Carry out a pitch inspection without interruption, use a ball if appropriate
- If there is a doubt, check the local weather forecast, it might help
- Prior to kick off, regularly inspect the pitch to check for deterioration in the playing surface e.g. water, frost, snow or fog/mist
- Keep in touch with both teams' representatives
- Where remedial work is required to the pitch, be pro-active and be seen to be interested and ensure that the work is being carried out efficiently
- Do not react to players' comments such as 'we played last week on worse than that Ref!'
- Once the Referee has made the decision to postpone the fixture, both clubs should be advised of the decision prior to the completion of the necessary reports for the Competition Secretary and leaving the ground.

Occasionally, the Referee may be faced with a decision to abandon a game, due to heavy rain, snow or mist/fog. Again, the safety of the players is paramount as is the Referee communicating their thoughts to the Club Managers. Give them an early warning that postponement is a possibility, due to the deteriorating nature of the pitch or weather.

Don't just walk off. This will not earn the Referee much respect in a difficult situation. The Referee should not be influenced by the score or the time to decide to abandon the game. However, if the Referee does finally abandon the game, then this should be communicated formally to all concerned, stressing that the safety of players is uppermost in the reasons for the abandonment.

If there is the possibility of continuing the game after a short break, then this should always be a consideration for the Referee. A sudden blizzard, thunder and/or lightening, a hailstorm or a down pour are just a few examples of where a Referee might ask players to return to the dressing rooms for a short while prior to abandoning the game.

If the Referee decides it is safe to continue the game after a suspension in play, it is advisable to communicate with both Club Managers and allow their teams to have a short warm up before restarting the game. The Referee should also take advantage of this opportunity to be prepared for the restart in play.

Whilst on the same subject - - - - -

Snow Chaos in Cologne

What happens when you cannot find the spot to take a penalty in a Bundesliga game?

That was the dilemma facing referee Robert Kampka when Guirassy was fouled after 18 minutes.

Snow was cleared off the pitch before the delayed kick-off and red lines were painted - but the penalty spot was seemingly forgotten.

So when Kampka awarded a penalty to Cologne, and neither he nor the players could find the spot, the official took 11 steps from the goalline to measure the 11-metre spot.

Guirassy stepped up to score the penalty to make it 2-0.

NB. How many steps would YOU take to determine the penalty spot? IFAB Laws of the Game (Law 1 Field of play dimensions) shows the distance from the goal line to the penalty mark as 12 yards or 11 metres. I would suggest in the UK we would count 12 steps, but obviously our metric colleagues only count 11? Perhaps they have longer legs ? Mac



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Pages from Yesteryear

Why FIFA Referees Can't Toe The Line

Can anyone tell me why it has taken FIFA the best part of six months to come to the conclusion we all reached two games into the World Cup?

Secretary general Sepp Blatter has criticised the standard of linesmen at Italia 90 saying they were partly responsible for overly defensive play. "Many of them weren't international referees with little recent experience of running the line," he said. "Linesmen need to be better trained. They looked at the game like referees, not as linesmen," he added.

This is, of course, because they are top referees and FIFA (whose leader knows so much about soccer he'd like it to be played with bigger goals, smaller teams with four quarters of 25 minutes each) couldn't organise the you know what in a brewery. No country would dream of sending a team to the World Cup finals without adequate match practice. Not even FIFA would allow referees to attend same without adequate match practice (would they?). So why did they let ill-prepared 'linesmen' anywhere near a football match?

In January FIFA set an age limit for World Cup referees because the wise old men struggled to cope with the strain of last year's finals, which is hardly surprising as most of them failed their fitness tests first time. "Many referees over 45 were too old to stand up to the strain of judging one match after another during the month-long World Cup," said Blatter in the Dutch daily newspaper 'Algemeen Dagblad'. Though why he bothered including the words 'after another¹ beats me.

FIFA rushed out-of-condition referees through a second test in a blind panic, basically because if they didn't pass there weren't any more fit ones to call up at short notice. Though it seems a simple sight test would have been in order too.

When only two people out of the world's soccer-watching population managed to miss Maradona's handball on his own goal-line, it was somewhat unfortunate that those two were a linesman and a referee who was standing five feet away!

"For the World Cup we will set an age limit. We will choose younger referees." said the FIFA secretary general. They haven't decided yet what the age limit will be. But when they get around to it, it wouldn't be a bad idea to set an age limit for FIFA officials as well.

Shane McGarvey

This first appeared in the May 1991 Edition of The Warbler

The Curse of Encroachment

Kim Milton Nielsen writing in "You Are The Ref"

The subject of retaken penalties was in the news, even if it was not exactly front page material, as Arsenal beat BATE Borisov in the Europa League, and it is one that has long been a headache for match officials the world over.

That headache was addressed by minor changes a couple of years ago, but for me there could still be the easiest of solutions in dealing with encroachment and that would be to have a total ban on anyone but the taker and goalkeeper in the area, and for there to be no follow-ups.

Any attackers encroaching thus means the risk of a converted penalty being denied and a free kick given in the opposite direction, while defenders encroaching risk the same retake scenario we have today.

The big difference would be the end to players running to convert a rebound or clear the ball. Miss and it's a goal-kick, whatever the circumstances. Only this will be a deterrent for either side to encroach.

I am also told that there was an instance in League Two when Lincoln played Accrington and a defender was just as far forward as the penalty taker. While we can joke between ourselves about offside calls in such situations, I fear this messy part of our game will only continue to cause problems until we bring in a suggestion like the one above.

Answers to A Christmas Quiz

- 1 Robert L. May
- 2 Chestnuts roasting on an open fire
- 3 Nazareth
- 4 2 hours (Finland is 2 hours ahead of the UK)
- 5 2 Become 1, Too Much, Goodbye
- 6 Saint Nicholas
- 7 Wenceslas
- 8 Keira Knightley
- 9 T'was the night before Christmas (originally called A visit from St. Nicholas)
10. Whoville
11. One Horse Open Sleigh
12. Christmas trees / Fir trees
13. Elton John
14. False: Although not impossible, it was very unlikely that Jesus was actually born on Christmas Day
15. Comfort and Joy
16. A calf
17. Indian Ocean
18. Squirrel
19. Rockabye by Clean Bandit ft. Sean Paul and Anne Marie
20. 28th December

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Adie Logged in and On line

The first half of the season is done and dusted as we gird our loins for the second half which will include all the finals and semi-finals. Please make sure you update your availability to all of us Ref Secs so you don't miss out.

This will include the County Cups and Bob Dick will need to know if he and his team can appoint you to the various games.

Your support and diligence has been exceptional, just make sure you get your Match Reports in on time.

Us Ref Secs have to report any defaults on the Rules to the respective Disciplinary Officers and it is imperative these fines go in quickly.

My company owed me quite a lot of holiday so I have had most of December off. Not that it is a rest as Diane always has a long list of jobs for me to do. Very grateful I have my log shed full as the weather so far has been cold and damp and there is nothing better than sitting in the Lounge in the evening with the wood burner going. Only problem is I get so comfortable I drop off to sleep – age I guess or there is nothing on the TV (as Diane has the remote) that is of interest to me. I do manage to claim it for the occasional game at 4 – 4:30 on a Sunday afternoon, other than that I have my small TV at my computer desk (with a DVD player) – sorting out games for you guys!!

I have heard a lot of complaints about deliveries of on-line ordered goods. I have to say, hand on heart, that all the ones I have ordered have come in either early, on time, or, notified of a 1 day delay which duly arrived on the changed date. Maybe it is because I ordered early but I have been delighted with the services. I will probably be frowned on by some people as I only had one brief visit to the shops for Diane's presents but when the prices are so much cheaper on – line, and we all watch the 'pound in our pockets'. I managed to save over £20 on a DVD box set for my better half, free delivery too!

Building work commences on the Freeman property in January so I will keep you updated on that. Going to take a chunk out of the front bedroom and have an upstairs bathroom and walk-in shower. If we intend to stay at this property for the foreseeable future we will need to have these as even Adie and Diane are getting older – kids have left home so we no longer need the large bedrooms.

If it is your intention to go for promotion this coming February / March please let me know and I will be able to perhaps give you a 'taster' if you are going 6-5 with a first team game. Also, if this is your first attempt at promotion, remember, both the league and myself are behind you all the way and you can contact me anytime to discuss the game/assessment. Hopefully you have all passed this season and some will be going on to 'greater heights'.

Have a Really peaceful and Prosperous New Year

Adie



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

Part 65 – It's cold outside

Match: F.C North Pole -v- Chilly Casuals
Weather: Snowy, icy, muddy and cold
Kit: As much thermal clothing as possible

The season had gone well up to now with no matches so far being postponed because of the weather. When the games are being called off due to the weather in the professional game we all know too well there is absolutely no chance of our match being played at the local park.

It is most annoying if it snows on the Monday the local councils call off all the matches in the borough. Many times by the time the weekend comes around there is no sign of snow and ice and it's a lovely sunny day albeit a little chilly.

So here we are in early January all the match will go ahead. The pitch looked in great condition but there was one problem.....it was freezing cold.

Players walked onto the pitch wearing gloves, wooly hats, scarves and thermal long under garments.

What was I to do? What would you do?

Goal keepers can wear baseball hats but outfield players cannot. This is due to player's safety. The players argued that a wooly hat is soft and is completely safe. I could not argue with that. Then I had a thought.....the wooly hat could only be worn if it was the same colour as the teams shirt. The players could not argue with that....Players 0 Referee 1!

I made the same point regarding the gloves but I did relent for the thermal long undergarments being worn.

It all seemed too much effort to ask the players to go all the way back to the changing rooms as it was a long walk and I did not want to delay the kick off any longer.

The match was being played in a sporting manner and all was going well. North Pole were attacking the Casuals goal but their shot on goal was saved by the Casuals goal keeper. He decided to throw the ball to his left back who was positioned just outside of the penalty area. As the goalie released the ball he was unaware of the opposing forward who seemed to be aware of the goal keeper's intentions. The defender received the ball but almost immediately the opponent appeared to run into him. The defender was able to compose himself and appeared to be in the process of passing the ball to a team mate. I then blew my whistle.

If a player has a chance of scoring a goal or there is a promising attack then I would play the advantage but in this situation being seventy yards from goal there was no advantage. Casual's players were not happy with my decision and one of them was duly cautioned when he continued to show dissent against my decision.

Was I right? Would you have allowed play to continue?

Casuals launched the ball forward and one of their forwards was caught in an offside position as he received the ball.

The neutral assistant referee raised his flag but as he did the forward stumbled and the ball went back to the opposing goal keeper. I shouted to 'Play on, play on goalie'. I also beckoned to my assistant to lower his flag.

Despite not using my whistle to stop play, a number of Casuals players approached me to question as to why I had decided to play on but did not do the same only thirty seconds previously when their player was fouled. I explained on that occasion I had blown my whistle and that there was no advantage. They were not happy and could not understand the difference between the two.

Was I right? What would you do?

Make sure that you stay warm!

Willy 'Red card' **Woodwork**



They Said It !



You've got to miss them to score sometimes.
DAVE BASSETT

That's an old Ipswich move — O'Callaghan crossing for Mariner to drive over the bar.
JOHN MOTSON

It was that game that put the Everton ship back on the road.
ALAN GREEN

And Arsenal now have plenty of time to dictate these last few seconds.
PETER JONES

Dumbarton player Steve McCahill has limped off with a badly cut forehead.
TOM FERRIE

A contract on a piece of paper, saying you want to leave, is like a piece of paper saying you want to leave.
JOHN HOLLINS

And I honestly believe that we can go all the way to Wembley . . . unless somebody knocks us out.
DAVE BASSETT



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What would You Do ? Answers to December Issue

Q1 Your assistant knocks the ball out of the quadrant as a winger tries to take a corner. The angry winger refuses to collect it, demanding your colleague does so instead. They square up to one another. What would you do?

A1. Quickly intervene and cool the situation. Ask the winger to get the ball and get on with the game. If he still refuses caution him for dissent.

Q2 The losing red team grasps a life-line with a last-minute goal - they need one more to equalise. But as the scorer races into the net to retrieve the ball, the keeper trips him. Both are behind the goal line. What would you do?

A2. The fact that the incident took place behind the goal line and with play not live, does not alter how you deal with it. So caution the keeper for unsporting behaviour. If the trip was violent, issue a red card instead. Restart with the kick off as normal.

Q3 A debutant whose surname is Fluck is having a bad time - his shirt keeps creasing to obscure one of the letters. Opponents and fans keep shouting the shortened version at him and he's close to tears. What would you do?

A3. There is nothing you can do about the fans, but you should have a word with the opposition's captain. If it continues start issuing yellow and red cards and report the details in your match report.

Q4 A cup tie is 4-4 after extra time, and penalties are needed to decide the outcome. Penalty after penalty are successfully scored until the away team step up for their fifth attempt. Just as you raise your whistle, the home keeper takes two steps forward off his line, so you don't blow. Before you have a chance to say anything, he steps back onto his line of his own accord. However, the away player saw your initial movement and runs up to take the penalty without waiting for your signal. It's a terrible effort and the ball sails over the bar. The home team erupt from the centre-circle and run to join their keeper in celebration. The away player sits with his head in his hands. What do you do?

A4. Once the referee had signalled for a penalty kick to be taken, the kick must be taken. In this case you have not yet signalled for the penalty kick to be taken but it must therefore be retaken regardless of the outcome.

Q5. You are the assistant referee on a County Cup Final. The red team have an attacking free kick in your half of the field. Two of their forwards stand a good 10 yards offside. Just as the kick is about to be taken, one of them runs back towards his own players and another completely different red player makes a perfectly timed run, racing past the defenders and drawing level with the other forward, who was still standing alone but in an offside position. He jumps high and nods the ball down to the other forward who has not moved. That forward volleys the ball home. The entire defence loudly shout for offside. What would you do?

A5. Award the goal. Had the initial forward played the ball direct from the free kick then he would have been offside. However, because he received the ball from a player who was level with him, he is clearly not. As soon as his team mate headed the ball, the offside 'clock' was reset and whatever had gone before became irrelevant as far as judging offside is concerned.

Q6. As a red team striker dribbles into his opponent's penalty area, you suddenly notice a major disturbance at the other end; two red team defenders are punching each other inside their own penalty area. What would you do?

A6 Stop play. Send off both defenders for violent conduct. Restart with an indirect free kick where the defenders were fighting inside their own penalty area. The striker justifiably will feel hard done by, losing his chance to have a shot at goal!

Courtesy of The Chiltern Referee

What Would You Do ?

Question 1 In the 90th min of a cup final, you award Blues a corner. The ball is hit long to the far post with a lot of spin. It dips, swerves and without making contact with any other player, drops into the net for what would be a late winner. You signal for the goal and as the Blues celebrate the Red goalkeeper runs to you with the ball. It is clearly flat and he claims the wild swerve must have been a result of its deflated status. What would you do?

Question 2. A Red forward has noticed that the Blue goalkeeper always bounces the ball several times before he clears it. After a corner, where the keeper has jumped to claim the ball, as everyone else clears the area, he places himself immediately behind the unsuspecting keeper. Sure enough, the keeper bounces the ball, at which point the attacker sticks out a foot and diverts the ball to the edge of the area where his team mate runs in to score. The keeper claims this is unsporting behaviour. What would you do?

Question 3. Before a match, a player - who has been named on the team-sheet - recognises one of your assistants as having been involved in his being dismissed a few weeks earlier. Still angry he subjects your assistant to verbal abuse; you immediately dismiss the player, allowing him to take no part in the match. The Red manager correctly replaces him with one of the named substitutes, leaving him with 4 subs still on the bench. At a stoppage late in the match, with 2 subs already having been made by the Red manager you become aware of a standing row taking place between the manager and your bench-side assistant. Your assistant advises you that the manager was trying to make a third substitution; but he was reminded that his initial use of the named sub plus the 2 game-time changes mean that all three allowed changes have already been made. The manager angrily informs you that you have a donkey running your line. What would you do?

Question 4. A defender is waiting for you to wave him back on the FoP after having received treatment. But when he spots an opponent break clean through on goal, he races back on without permission, tackles the striker cleanly and clears the ball to safety. What would you do?

Question 5. As two opponents square up to each other, the Blue defender, standing just outside the penalty area, spits at the Red striker who is standing just inside. What do you do?

Question 6. After extra time in a cup final the score is still level. The penalty shoot-out has gone all the way to the final player from each side. The Red player calmly slots his penalty home at which point the Blue player has an extreme attack of nerves and says he cannot continue. His captain has a word with him and then advises you that, despite his pleas, there is not way the player is going to take his kick. What would you do?

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

Courtesy of The Chiltern Referee

WARBLER REFERENCE GUIDE

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