

# THE WARBLER

Monthly Magazine of the Woking Referees' Society

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Season 2017/18 May Edition

# WOKING REFEREES ' SOCIETY

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# The next meeting of the Woking Referees' Society will be on Monday 14th May

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

## AGENDA

- ◆ **8.00 Chairman's Welcome**

- ◆ **Guest Speakers**

**Andy Bennett & Tom Ellsmore**  
**"Life at Level Three: The Learning Curve".**

- ◆ **Woking RA 90th Birthday Celebration**

- ◆ **10pm Close**



**The next meeting will be on  
Monday 12th August  
The deadline for August Warbler is  
Friday 3rd August**

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

# From the Chair

Hi,

This is the last Warbler of the season, so it's my last chance to invite all of you to the last meeting of the 2017/18 season on May 14<sup>th</sup> where we will be celebrating our 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday with a buffet, a bit of fizz and a celebratory birthday cake.

Our guest speakers will be Tom Ellsmore and Andy Bennett, who have both completed their first season as level 3 referees. They will be giving a review of their season and an insight into the experience of officiating within semi-professional football

Congratulations to all of you who received your promotions, and if you didn't quite make it, it's not the end of the world. Take a look at your observations and take note of things that are repeated and strive on to next season and if you need help or advice, all the members of the academy and the society are on hand to offer any advice you might need

As always during the break there will be lots of opportunities to referee at tournaments and friendlies. These are good ways to keep on top of your fitness and in touch with refereeing, league and club friends. Just be aware that these games must still be sanctioned by the FA. If you're not sure, then you can contact the county office to check that the tournament or friendly is sanctioned by them, this will cover you with any problems that may occur



Finally have a lovely Summer and see you all soon

**Pat**

## Membership and Accounts

2017/18 Membership	2018 Current Status	
126 Full Members	General	£2,537.42
7 Friends	Supplies	£214.35
1 Affiliate Member	Belgium	£0.00
66 Referees trained in 2016/2017	Training Fund	£1044.89
78 Referees trained in 2017/2018	Youth Fund	£113.50
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£3,910.16</b>

Of the 78 new referees, I have transferred the following numbers of referees to other local societies

5 to Camberley ; 11 to Croydon ; 13 to Sutton ; 12 to Guildford  
 1 to Dorking ; 2 to Aldershot ; 2 to Basingstoke ; 1 to Bracknell  
 5 to Kingston

The remaining 26 are from our catchment area so have been added to our membership

**Bryan Jackson**

## Just a Sec!

- ◆ Congratulations to those of you who have gained promotion this year. I've listed the successful candidates on the Plum page 19
- ◆ As only 2 members have requested tickets for the Non League Finals we won't be organising a bus this year.
- ◆ There's still time to book your place at the RA Development Weekend . Further details on Page 16. A must if you're serious about progressing your refereeing career.
- ◆ Please be assured that the Society is on board with the new General Data Protection Regulations which come into effect later this month.
- ◆ Please note there is no Academy meeting this month, although I suspect Andy and Tom's presentation will be an education in itself.



Above—Pat presented Graham Ekins with the customary bottles of fine wine following his fascinating presentation at our April meeting

## Academy News

Hi All

With the 2017/18 season drawing to a close I would just like to say thank you to everyone who attended and participated in the academy meeting's throughout this season.

For myself personally it's great to see our members success and progression this season from promotions and County and League cup final appointments.

Also, I would like to take this time to thank the Training Team for their support and help. The academy would not be the same without their input

In April we used our "Open Forum Session" to discuss a member's 1st assessment of the new marking season. We talked about the game and his development points and his strengths to see how he can take the advice given into his next game.

Due to a issues beyond my control I will not be in attendance in May.

I hope you all enjoy the much deserved break in the summer and I look forward to see you all next Season

Yours In Football

**Gareth Heighes**



## Last Month's Meeting

The Woking Society welcomed Graham Ekins Chairman of Surrey Youth League to our April meeting. Graham explained how two years ago he and the League's committee grew frustrated by the seemingly increase in poor behaviour by a minority of team managers and spectators, particularly towards referees and club linesmen, which was blighting the enjoyment for the majority.

Whilst on holiday and possibly boosted by the occasional rum punch, he decided to write to all the Clubs, including the Teams managers expressing his concern over the behaviour of a minority of teams. He quoted the terrible example of a referee being stabbed by a parent in the Netherlands and foresaw the same happening here if things didn't improve. His letter was picked up by a journalist and became front page headlines in The Times. From there, other news agencies including Sky came knocking and as did the FA.

Following meetings with the FA, including Surrey, a number of strategies were put into place to combat the situation.. These included

- ◆ All club managers, coaches and parents were asked to sign a code of conduct, which also spelt out the sanctions were they to transgress.
- ◆ All teams agreed to supply a "Respect Marshal" who in conjunction with the referee was responsible for the behaviour of his/her spectators. This included reporting to the League any misconduct
- ◆ The FA donated £5k towards additional respect signage and the respect marshal's bibs.
- ◆ All the referees were encouraged, and given training, to complete match reports.
- ◆ A rule was imposed banning spectators from standing behind the club linesman. This apparently had the biggest impact on spectator behaviour.
- ◆ Clubs are informed of any breach of the respect rules—and there cannot be any dispute.— and must handle sanctions against any transgressors. This can take the form of parents/managers having to complete an online "safeguarding" course.
- ◆ League sanctions can include games not being allocated to teams that continually break the rules.

The overall effect is that clubs are now taking more responsibility for their teams actions. Graham showed us a series of graphs which showed a definite improvement in behaviour of all concerned, including the referees match reports. The latter are fundamental for the league to monitor behaviour and any new referee signing up for the SYL are required to complete a dummy report card to ensure they are familiar with the process.

There is, explained Graham, a problem with teams using "rogue" referees who are not signed up to the league and often are not registered with a County FA and invariably have no CRC or Safeguarding accreditation.

The actions that the Surrey Youth League have formulated with the backing of the FA have been incorporated into the National Youth League rules and can be adopted by any league.

Chairman Pat thanked Graham for his fascinating talk and presented him with the customary bottles of wine .

Following a Q & A session the meeting closed at 10pm

## **SURREY COUNTY REFEREES ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018**

This brief report covers the period from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018.

The AGM held in June 2017 saw no changes to our officers, though later in the year Keith Glover resigned as Treasurer. Steven Maguire (Croydon Society) has since offered to take on the role and will be standing for election. Ray Mallery has stated he will step down as SCRA Chairman at the AGM, this after very many years service to the RA at national, county and local society level. We are grateful to Ray for all his work for us.

We continued to hold delegates' meetings in alternate months (except during the summer), usually at the Surrey County FA offices. However, their move to new offices at Meadowbank, Dorking did not go as smoothly as hoped, and because of the unavailability of rooms our January 2018 meeting was held at the nearby Mole Valley Council office in Dorking and our March 2018 meeting was cancelled altogether. Societies are entitled to send two delegates to each meeting, but the majority send only one.

Brian Reader has continued to be our nominee on the County FA Referees Committee and continues to raise issues there on behalf of the CRA and local societies. He couples this with taking the minutes of that committee.

The project for a Surrey RA Youth Council was put on hold due to a lack of volunteers coming forward. However, it was then discovered that the existing Surrey County FA Youth Council already has a number of referee members on it and it was realised to have two separate Youth Councils could well be an unnecessary duplication of effort.

Membership figures have continued to be erratic, with some Societies seeing good growth and others being static or worse. It was decided during the year by Redhill Society that they would formally agree to wind up, and that the county RA would replace it with a "virtual Society" (one that does not meet, and is run by the county RA) covering all of SE Surrey. There are precedents for virtual Societies in other counties.

The RA-FA development hub scheme did not continue into the 2017-2018 football season, much to Woking Society's regret as they had been one of the Societies involved in the pilot and had considered it a success in attracting good quality speakers and also attendances.

The County RA has tried to adopt recommended RA best practice for meetings and welfare, but we have yet to draw up and adopt a formal action plan.

***Brian Reader***

Hon Secretary

3.5.18

## Sin Bins Trial to be Extended

Sin-bins will "almost certainly" be introduced in English football in the future, says the FA's head of referees Neale Barry.

Local park leagues in Nottinghamshire are already experimenting with sin-bins, whereby players take 10 minutes out of the game if they receive a yellow card, after IFAB (International Football Association Board) gave national associations permission to test the initiative two years ago.

Barry, speaking on [Sky Sports for Support The Ref](#) week, is positive about its use so far, though its use may be more suited to grassroots football rather than the professional game.

Barry said: "I think it is almost certainly something that could work, and almost certainly something that we will, as a football association, introduce in the future. "Last year we had 32 leagues experimenting the sin-bin phase, and it's been positive. We're extending the number of leagues in the experiment next year, and then looking to extend it again in 2019/20.

"The discussion we're having is how far up the leagues do you go with the sin-bins. It's been a very, very positive start, and people understand that it can work, we just need to make sure we bring it in slowly. Undoubtedly, though, it will be rolled out across grassroots football in the coming years."

Barry also believes the introduction of sin-bins would reduce dissent, and says the stats prove that players take more responsibility for their actions if they feel it could harm their team.

"Anything that we can bring in to make the referee's job easier, and helps people take responsibility for their own actions, then hopefully the image of the game can improve. There has been a 38 per cent reduction in dissent in the 32 leagues experimenting with it, and I think a lot of that comes with peer pressure.

"If I'm in the sin-bin having had a go at the referee, and I'm in there for 10 minutes, then my team-mates are not very happy with that. So I think it does reduce the dissent."

Former Premier League referee Dermot Gallagher has concerns about sin-bins, however. He feels the policing of sin-bins could become troublesome, however, and does not feel the new rule would be right for the game at present.

"Some referees think it works, some don't. It's very hard to police, because if I give somebody a 10-minute sin bin, then give another player a 10-minute sin-bin, you have no fourth officials at those levels, so they're policing themselves.

"It's quite difficult with what else they have to deal with on the field. It's a good idea, I think, but I'm not sure it's quite right at the moment."

*Thanks to Mal Davies*

***The following report is somewhat at odds to the one on the next page***

MILAN: International sports journalists' association AIPS has "strongly condemned the growing and unacceptable antagonism towards referees in Italian football."

Bullets were sent in the post to three key figures at the Italian Referees' Association, according to its president Marcello Nicchi, legal action was launched by fans against Serie A referee Marco Di Bello and a journalist claimed referees had 'declared a war against the people.'

AIPS president Gianni Merlo said: "The whole situation is unacceptable. Italian referees have done their best. The introduction of VAR has much improved the situation: 95pc of the decisions with VAR were perfect.

"One can't understand these kind of actions that want to reverse the current situation. Legal action has taken the protests too far. VAR is also a weapon against corruption and match-fixing."

This season video referee assistance has been implemented in Italy's top flight. The technology will also be introduced at this summer's World Cup finals in Russia. In Serie A VAR has proven to be a good experiment but with mixed public reactions, which have recently spilled over.

Last month, an estimated 1,000 Lazio fans showed up outside the Italian football federation's offices to protest at mistakes that went against them because of VAR.

Lazio coach Simone Inzaghi, apparently endorsing the protests, said: "We would have had an extra seven points this season without VAR."

In December, an aggrieved group of Biancocelesti supporters also initiated legal action against match officials Piero Giacomelli and Di Bello over perceived errors in a 3-1 loss to Torino. Di Bello controlled the Milan derby on Wednesday without any problems.

VAR protests reached an unacceptable zenith when bullets were sent to three key figures at the Italian Referees' Association.

Nicchi claimed he, vice-president Narciso Pisacreta and referee selector Nicola Rizzoli – who officiated the 2014 World Cup final – were all sent the parcels in the mail. Police have begun an investigation.

Nicchi also condemned recent comments in which a TV journalist spoke of a war declaration by referees, saying: "There is a journalist who said in a broadcast: 'They have declared war on a people and in war you do not play the whistle, you are shooting. You have to shoot the referees and not allow them to referee.' This is the consequence."

Merlo added: "We can't accept that our colleague can say these incredible, offensive and ignorant words. In our profession, we have must have balanced views. A professional journalist is a public figure: he has rights, but also duties."

*Thanks to Mal Davies*

## **Red cards, faults and simulation in decline: VAR enhances fair play in Serie A**

With just four match days left in Italy's Serie A and a thrilling finale between Napoli and Juventus to come, one of the unsung heroes of the season has been VAR, or at least that is what the stats suggest thus far. Fair play has been the biggest benefactor with a notable decline in expulsions, fouls and simulations.

**The stats prove it** - The observation is backed up by stats, which Nicola Rizzoli divulged in a meeting with stakeholders of the Italian game.

\* 1736 checks were made in 346 matches (330 in Serie A and 16 in the Coppa Italia)

\* these checks pertained 916 goals, 464 penalties, 356 expulsions

\* a 105 corrections were made, with only 17 errors, of which 8 affected the results

\* refereeing errors were reduced to just 0.98%, compared to 6.05% in the pre-VAR era.

\* referral times have gone down from 1'22 during the first three match days to just 31.5 seconds

**VAR Introduction** - The Video Assistant Referee was introduced at the start of this season in Italy, abolishing goal-line referees, a novelty in the 2016-2017 season. Serie A covered the costs of about €2 million for the implementation of the new technology. Previously, FIFA had tested VAR at the 2017 Confederations Cup in Russia, the 2017 U-20 World Cup in South Korea and the 2016 Club World Cup in Japan.

**Skepticism at the start** - On the first two match days of the Italian season VAR felt a bit intrusive. 'Discorsi da bar' - football's talking points on a Monday - turned into 'discorsi da VAR.' Confusion reigned, slight infringements were scrutinised by players and coaches and not the 'clear and obvious errors' that had to be reviewed. Even semantics perplexed: was it il VAR or la VAR?

**A success in Serie A** - Famous goalkeeper Buffon worried it was making the game inhuman, too robotic and harder to judge for referees, but, as the season progressed, the benefits of the system led to a general acceptance among players, fans, media and observers. The technology has enhanced the idea of fair play in the Italian game: expulsions, fouls and simulations have diminished; more penalties have been granted. Referees have been more performant and faults have taken gone done.

**Communication is key** - "One of the most important aspects is communication, which we are sometimes lacking is precisely the referee's communication to the VAR or vice versa," admitted referee Gianluca Rocchi, who was a protagonist in the crucial clash between Juventus and Napoli over the weekend.

**Crunch time in Russia** - This summer VAR will face its biggest test yet, at the high mass of the global game, the World Cup in Russia. In March, the International Football Association Board, IFAB, enshrined VAR into the laws of the game. The FIFA Council then ratified VAR's use at the World Cup. With a haphazard application at last year's Confederations Cup, the system will be under heavy scrutiny. FIFA and its refereeing department have gone to great length to ensure VAR will run smoothly at the finals with multiple seminars and practice camps around the world, among other Dubai and Coverciano in Italy.

**Communication at the World Cup** - The world governing body will also implement new measures to ensure smooth communication with fans during the World Cup. At the finals, supporters won't be left in the dark about the reasons behind decisions of the VAR. FIFA has rolled out a VAR information system. A FIFA staff member will listen in to the VAR's decisions and communicate those to TV commentators and stadium personnel operating the giant screens.

by Samindra Kunti, AIPS Media



*Referee Orsato after seeing the VAR assigns the penalty to Sampdoria during the Serie A match between UC Sampdoria and AS Roma on January 24, 2018 in Genoa, Italy. (Photo by Paolo Rattini/Getty Images)*

Via Mal Davies V & A



## **Don't Blame Michael Oliver for Madrid Meltdown!**

From Mal Davies' Weekly Newsletter and Touchlines

It is often said that a good referee is the referee who makes his decisions and is not seen. Unfortunately for Michael Oliver, in his biggest game to date, this was not the case.

All was going well in the Champions League quarterfinal second leg between the two European giants of Real Madrid and Juventus, especially if you supported the Italians who were 3-0 up, until the final moments of the match.

Juventus' Medhi Benatia concedes a penalty for a foul on Real Madrid's Lucas Vazquez. With the clock ticking down at the Santiago Bernabeu, Madrid began a last-ditch attack. As the ball was played into the Juventus penalty area, defender Medhi Benatia inexplicably barged into the back of Madrid's Lucas Vazquez just as the forward was about to shoot. Benatia made a challenge for the ball but made no contact. He was guilty of impeding his opponent by physical contact, a clear foul.

Anywhere else on the field, this action would have resulted in a free kick being awarded. But in this instance it provided a penalty kick to Madrid and near certain Champions League elimination for Juventus.

Premier League referee Oliver, 33, had no hesitation with his decision and showed immense character to give such a monumental spot kick. His decision was based purely on the actions of Benatia.

Of course Oliver would have been aware of the magnitude of the occasion but, at that precise moment, all thoughts of where he was -- the game, the timing, the occasion -- would have become secondary.

As a referee, the call comes from your gut and what you have witnessed. Oliver was in an optimal position and his body language showed a positive and decisive reaction.

The reaction of the Juventus players was predictable, given the consequences -- they were moments away from extra time and could have avenged last season's defeat in the final to the same opponent. Oliver showed great restraint and attitude in standing firm in support of his decision.

Unfortunately, the continued remonstrations from Juventus goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon and the physical contact that accompanied his uncontrolled outburst had to be met with the appropriate response. Buffon was sent off for physically manhandling the referee. The verbal outburst would probably have been lost in the moment, but laying hands on an official is taboo and required him to be shown a straight red card.

The fact that it was potentially Buffon's final match in the competition would have no bearing on Oliver's actions; Buffon overstepped the mark and he paid for it. Buffon's comments after the match, in which he questioned the character of Oliver -- calling him "a killer, an animal" with "a garbage bin in the place of a heart" -- were classic reactionary statements to what was an emotional occasion.

When the dust has settled, Buffon will surely reflect on his actions and accept that Juventus goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon was sent off after confronting referee

Michael Oliver. Oliver acted on instinct. It was a foul, it was a penalty, and Buffon should have been the one to keep his head and focus on saving the resultant spot kick.

Juventus club president Andrea Agnelli's claim after the match that a video assistant referee (VAR) would have helped his team's cause was also unfounded. A VAR would have only been used if either the penalty kick or the red card were "clear and obvious" errors by the match officials, and neither of the decisions fell into that category.

Similarly, his accusation that UEFA assigns referees who "are against Italian clubs" is clearly wrong, certainly in Oliver's case.

The English official has taken charge of eight Champion League games, with Juve's game at Madrid his third involving an Italian club. Coincidentally, Oliver's first time officiating a Serie A side was Juve's 2-1 win against Sporting Lisbon in October 2017, in which he booked two players on each side. Two months later, he took charge of Napoli's match at Feyenoord, in which the Dutch side claimed a win in stoppage time despite having a player sent off. Hardly evidence to suggest Oliver is "against Italian clubs."

Oliver will reflect on his evening's work with mixed fortunes. He was about to oversee arguably the biggest game of his career with aplomb, with all the headlines hailing Juve's great comeback. However, due to Benatia's late aberration and Buffon's uncontrolled reaction, Oliver finds himself at the centre of the story -- somewhere no referee ever wants to be. But he made the biggest decision of his professional life correctly, can be proud of his bravery, and he will no doubt make a few more in what promises to be a long and rewarding career.



Lionel Messi and Luis Suarez watching their two children play soccer like millions of dad do across the world. Notice how relaxed they are, notice how they're not giving any instructions to their boys. It is fascinating to see how two of the greatest players of our generation are letting coaches educate their children and not trying to do it themselves. If Messi and Suarez are able to relax and watch their children train/enjoy/play the beautiful game, as parents shouldn't we all do that same ?



Meanwhile

1st Dad "Which one is your lad then?"

2nd Dad "Why?"

1st Dad "Just wanted to tell him how rubbish he is"

2nd Dad "You can't say that he's only a kid. How would you like it if I said that to your lad?"

1st Dad "You have done all game"

2nd Dad "Why, who's your lad"

1st Dad "The Ref"

**Flamengo had the ball in the back of the net just a second after the referee blew up** *Published 26 April 2018*

Flamengo drew 0-0 with Colombian side Santa Fe in their Copa Libertadores group clash in Bogota on Wednesday night.

The first time that these two sides met last week came in controversial circumstances. The match was played inside an empty Maracana Stadium as a punishment to Flamengo for fan violence which marred last December's Copa Sudamericana final. That match finished 1-1.

But on Wednesday, Uruguayan referee Daniel Fedorczuk stole the show after a hugely contentious decision in the last few seconds of added time.

Just after he blew the final whistle, Flamengo substitute Geuvanio slotted the ball past goalkeeper Robinson Zapata – but his goal was ruled out, as Fedorczuk had already signalled the end of the game.

*Note ; This ref obviously didn't attend our October 2017 meeting when Tim Laurence gave a fascinating talk on "The End Game" when we discussed the optimum and potentially disastrous times to blow the final whistle.. Don't you just hate it when just as you blow up, some twit boots the ball away down the far end of the pitch and you end up trekking half a mile to fetch it. No ball boys for us down the rec. Mac*

## *Mac's Musings*

Well, another season about done—although with the bad weather we've had since the New Year, the games seem to be still coming. A fixtures secretary's nightmare I would suggest.

Amusing incident the other day. I'm reffing an u17s game and the ball goes out for a throw in just inside the defending teams half. The ball however travels down the pitch ending up opposite the edge of the penalty area. A defender collects the ball and promptly throws it to his keeper, some 20 yards or so from where the ball went out of play. I blow up and award the throw in to the opposition. Great cry's from the players and manager/ coach, including " You have to tell them first" Me " No I don't" Them "Yes you do" Me " I would have done if the player had asked me " I do wish managers would learn the laws of the game

As this is your last Warbler until August and your editor is looking forward to a couple of month's rest, I would like to take this opportunity to thank those who regularly contribute to the magazine and who make my life easier. In particular Adie Freeman, Keith Hillier (aka Willie the Whistler) and Tony Murphy. In addition I'd like to thank the regular contributors to The Chiltern Referee including Len Randall, Mike Coventry, Dick Sawden Smith and editor Brian Richards. Also the Sutton Refs magazine Touchlines and their editor Mike Coen. Without their invaluable words of wit and wisdom your Warbler would be a much thinner publication. I'd also like to mention Mal Davies whose trawl of the internet for refereeing content each week invariably produces articles which I hope dear readers that you find of interest.

Wishing you all a sunny and restful summer

**Mac**

## Making Good Referees Great

'Reach for the Sky' is the theme for the 2018 Referee Development Weekend from The Referees' Association. Join us for a host of training sessions and development workshops, where we will be looking at a range of key topics aimed at improving your refereeing toolkit. There are many highlights, including interactive indoor workshops, the Referee Awards Dinner with entertainment, a fun-filled team based quiz and a number of practical outdoor sessions. With a great range of high profile guest speakers, recognition awards and much more, there is something for everyone. 2018 sees the Development Weekend continue to grow - so we look forward to seeing you at the event.

Why not check out [www.the-ra.org](http://www.the-ra.org) for the highlights from last year.

<https://www.the-ra.org/video/Radw-2017-first-comp.m4v>

### The Presenters

Senior FA Referee Tutors

Steve Tanner, Daniel Meeson and Farai Hallam

### Already confirmed FIFA and Premier league officials

Bobby Madley, Chris Kavanagh, Lee Betts, Stephen Child, Craig Pawson, Anthony Taylor, Atkil Howson, Matthew Wilkes, Stuart Attwell, John Brook

### From the PGMOL

Chris Foy - Head of community and public engagement

Neil Cotterill - Head of Coaching



### Where

De Vere Hotel, Staverton, NN11 6JT

### When

Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th June 2018



We will have a few key-notes during Saturday, including Hawkeye presenting VAR.

Our workshop topics are

### Saturday - indoor classroom sessions

1. What is your game plan – Serious Foul Play Recognition
2. How do you pull back the match – Conflict Resolution
3. , Agile, Capable – Game ManagementAdaptable

### Saturday Awards Evening

### Sunday

Practical sessions

Specific Welfare Training course – Lead by Richard Watson – Birmingham County FA





Once upon a time on a bright winter's day following a heavy snowfall three referees from a well-known local Referees Society decided they ought to do something very different from anything they had done before. One of them had a car, and so they drove out into the countryside to go for a walk in the Surrey Hills. After nearly an hour of their walk, they had not yet got lost. Their path then took them through a white-painted wooden gate and they could see a second white-painted wooden gate not very many yards further ahead. Between the two gates they came upon a set of tracks in the snow which they stopped to examine.

The first one said, "Those look like cattle tracks."

The second one said, "No, I think those are sheep tracks."

The third one said, "You are both wrong, those are deer tracks."

They were still arguing when the 11.45 train from Guildford to Gatwick hit them.

*Courtesy of Brian R*

*And Glenn La Roche*



## Dates for your Diary 2017/18

<b>14th May</b>	<b>Society Meeting</b>	<b>Andy Bennett/ Tom Ellsmore</b>
18th May 2018	Eve of Final Rally,	
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> May 2018	Non-League Finals day,	
Saturday 9th & Sunday 10th June 2018.	Development Weekend – De Vere Staverton - Daventry NN11 6JT -	
Saturday 21st July 2018	Annual General Meeting - <a href="#">Sports Connexion</a> - Leamington Road, Ryton on Dunsmore, Coventry CV8 3FL	
12th August	Society Meeting	

## Should New Referees Be Identified?

An intriguing addition to the Law of the Game in this seasons re-write, has been to Law 5 – The Referee, which says, 'Decisions will be made to the best of the referees' ability, according to the Laws of the Game and the "spirit of the game"'.

What exactly is the reference to the referee's ability intended to suggest? Perhaps, to point out that we should expect the ability of referees to differ depending on their experience and the level of games, in which they are involved. It amazes me how some people in youth football expect their referees to be as expert as those in the professional game. Some years ago, I was asked to run the line at an under 14 academy game and to act as mentor to the 16-year-old referee. The coach of the other Football League club involved hurled abuse at the young referee and on the final whistle, I had to stop him from charging over to castigate him for his mistakes. I pointed out that, yes, he had made mistakes but so had his players, they were all still learning and no one would suggest that any of them were perfect.

Often when mentoring new referees, I have spoken to parents about their attitude to a young referee who could be refereeing for the first time. These days he or she could well be a trainee referee, not even passed the exam on the Laws of the Game. Why do they expect them to have the ability of Howard Webb? When I point this out to them, I find their attitude often changes.

I read an article recently in an American football magazine on the same subject. In America, mass youth football has a longer history than in this country but they still have not solved this problem with parents. I remember an American woman referee after she had officiated at the 2015 Women's World Cup in Canada telling of her first games when she started refereeing as a young girl. 'It was terrible', she said, 'the parents were screaming at me. Don't they understand that you are doing your best but you don't know everything yet?'. She went on to achieve great things but how many young referees decide that the aggravation just isn't worth it .

The American writer of the article, who has experienced situations similar to my own, felt that if new referees were identified, they would receive a much more sympathetic reception from parents and coaches alike. His suggestion was that new referees should wear grey shirts with 'Referee Education' on the front, for their first two years. I see it perhaps, as not so much the 'L' plate for learner as the 'P', which increasing number of new drivers are voluntarily displaying after passing the test. This is to show they need a little more time and consideration from other road users.

Is this suggestion a reasonable innovation for new referees? Would it lead to more tolerance and understanding? Or is there a better way to educate supporters of youth football as well as those who take part in the lower regions of the game, that their games will be refereed to the best of their referee's ability?

*(Ed. This was written by Dick Sawdon Smith for the Reading Chronicle earlier in this year. And spotted in The Chiltern Referee*

# PlumTree

**Congratulations to the following members who have gained promotion this season.**

**Level 3**

Jack Oxenham

**Level 4**

Shawn Barclay  
Rachel Marlow  
David Payne

**Level 5**

Roy Lawrence  
William Siegmund

**Level 6**

Charlie Cable  
William Douglas  
Carl Jones

**Plum Appointments**

**Combined Counties U21 Development Cup Final**

A/R - David Payne

**Surrey FA Saturday Premier Cup**

Raynes Park Vale v Nottsborough FC  
A/R : Pat Bakhuizen

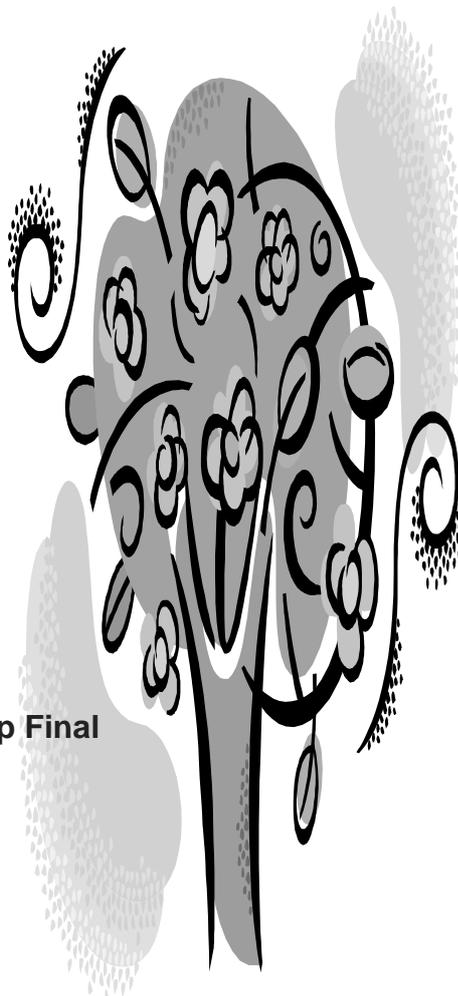
**SCILW Reserves Invitation Shield Final**

Knaphill Athletic Reserves V Worlesdon Phoenix Reserves  
A/R Carl Jones

**Surrey and Hants Border Sunday Football League**

**Twyford Cup Final**

J B Rangers v Abbey Rangers  
A/R Roy Butler



“I think they’ll have to throw the kitchen sink at them now a bit. Maybe not the whole sink, with the all the plumbing - maybe just the taps for now.

David Pleat urges caution

“There is a no - smoking policy in all parts of the Layer Ground. Anyone who is caught smoking will be taken away, strapped to an electric chair and eletocuted until they are dead, Thank You.

Colchester stadium announcer makes his point

# Pages From Yesteryear

The holiday season beckoned and 'she who must be obeyed' would not take no for an answer. A dilemma as the football season had already started. This called for some quick thinking.

My sister in Jersey offered us some accommodation and making use of Brian le Bretons contacts, I rang the Jersey F.A. Secretary Charlie Tostevin. The following day Brian Youd, the League Secretary rang offering me not one but two games. The first at the Springfield Stadium, the main island venue, under lights, the teams being last years Champions Sporting Academics V wanderers. The second game being a top reserve game on the Saturday.

Jersey, although part of the U.K. and only half an hours flight away, is a different world particularly in football terms. The top team does gain entry to the F.A. Vase and a couple of officials do get appointments also, but basically contact with the mainland is restricted to a few club tours and inter-island competitions. Jersey V Guernsey being X certificate stuff on occasions apparently and a football league official usually gets the middle.

Jerseymen call people from Guernsey "donkeys", and they reciprocate by calling them "Crappeaus", a type of frog for those of you that don't know. Tourists are affectionately known as "Grockles".

The Jersey League comprises three premier divisions and three reserve divisions, each comprising eight or nine sides. All fixtures for the season are in the handbook- postponements are a rarity, though not every side plays every week. The Springfield is shared by six sides alone. There is a Sunday Competition and a Youth League. Brian Youd officiated at 100 games last season and there are less than 30 officials on the island so everybody knows everybody and you could referee the same side as many as three times a season unlike here. On an island 12 by 8 miles, a 20 minute drive is considered a long way, St Ouens despite being the only other club on the island with lights and having a good clubhouse cannot attract St Helier players up country - "Its too far".

My game went like a dream. I was picked up by Brian and arrived about 45 minutes before kick-off, A look at the pitch, big and lush, in very good order and it was time for the pre match instructions. No great differences, but the linesmen even if official usually swapped sides at half time and flagging for corners and goal kicks was normally the rule.

A cracking game followed, the standard being very high, the best players could easily hold their own in the Diadora. The players were a mixed bunch, scousers, scots and even the odd local who speak with a heavy Afrikaan type accent. With a Portugese team in the league no wonder they have a dispensation to use red and yellow cards. The final result was 1-1 although it could have been many more and I think the players appreciated a different face in the middle. My two linesmen Malcolm Ray and Charlie Tostevin had both done a good solid job for me on what was a debilitating hot evening with the game having been played at an unremitting pace throughout.

After the match we retired for a well earned drink. I even got my fees for both games up front (Only £7.50 a game, Roy and no expenses). Another local difference then became apparent. A light and bitter is known US a 'light boiler'. A very pleasant evening ended with me presenting both Brian and Charlie with Society ties as a thank you for all their help

The Saturday match at St Ouens was a much gentler affair with Club linesmen In fact the home club were on their third linesman by half time. The match was again very sporting and ended in a 1-0 victory for St Ouens. A pleasant session ensued in the bar in the company of the club's president Jack Renault, this thwarting all my "I won't be late dear" plans.

That ended the active part of the holiday though I did manage to see half of another game. The rest of the week was given over to a succession of large lunches/drink and the beach interspersed with a trip to Sark. A visit to the Zoo saw Brian Jackson impersonating Jumbo in the Gorilla pen or was it the other way round? I can thoroughly recommend a trip to the island, for football Brian Youd and Charlie Tostevin could not have been more helpful, or even just for a holiday. Hopefully we will see them in Woking. A word of warning, if you do go, don't forget to get clearance from Les Harrington. Perhaps B le B could even arrange a Society trip for us in the near future?

**Bruce McLaren** (writing in the Warbler November 1991)

### What they say about Refs



"Even the referee shook my hand. He could have given me a penalty—that would have been even better.

Alan Shearer

"This referee is so poor I'd have been booked just getting off the coach

Norman Hunter

"You only have to fart in the box to concede a penalty these days

Kevin Blackwell

"The referee was booking everyone. I thought he was filling in his lottery numbers

Ian Wright

"It was the 95th minute of their usual seven minutes of injury time"

Alex Ferguson

" I personally think referees should be wired up to a couple of electrodes and they should be allowed three mistakes before you run 50,000 volts through their genitals "

John Gregory

"We'll see you in the second half of the Uriah Rennie show"

Preston's half time announcer

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Or Linda on 01276 512 735



## Adie's Peaches, Plums and Potholes

The end of the season looms ever closer and the appointment duty has almost finished. A supreme effort from all the Referees in the SCILW and the G&WAFL for coming forward and offering to officiate in the plethora of evening games. I am most grateful for your efforts – the responses have been absolutely brilliant – Thank You.

I shall be getting the forthcoming season's application forms ready soon. Please complete them ASAP and sent back to me to ensure you are in the League Directories. This helps me tremendously as I then do not get constant e-mails from Club Secretaries asking for Referee details to enable them to make contact for a game. I do send out any updates as do my League Secretaries but these seem to be ignored by the clubs who appeal to me with "*They are not in the Handbook*"

Update of one of my major gripes. I have noticed that there has been a sort of effort by the Highways Dept to try and patch up some potholes. At least we can see *some* effort being made but as these are only a temporary measure how long will it be after a good downpour has washed it all out.

One particular offending pothole on the approach to the Hogs Back via Puttenham was so bad that it would have taken the front suspension and steering out of any car that hit it and I dread to think what would happen to a motorcyclist.

In my duty as League Officer I have been attending the League Cup Finals and twice travelled to Abbey Rangers FC. I do not use the M25 very often but that road would really get my goat on the concrete zones. Heaven knows what it is like living anywhere near these areas, a fully loaded 18 wheel Arctic was in the next lane and the racket he was producing from his tyres was almost deafening. I have to say that this new Kuga does absorb most of the ruts and rough areas – glad I changed now.

I am keeping my fingers crossed that we do not have a heavy frost now. Close inspection of the fruit trees in my garden show a lot of promise for the Plums and Damsons, plenty of blossom on the Apples and my Peach tree has some small fruit forming for the first time. With a bit of luck and a following wind it *could* be a bumper year but I will not count my chickens yet!!

Have a really great summer, a well-deserved rest and we will catch up again for the 2018/19 season

**Adie**



## Willie The Red Card Referee



How it all began.....

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

The photo shows Willie coming off the pitch at the end of the match and with that smile they must have been celebrating a win that day. His team the Chiswick Flyovers played in the lower divisions of the local league and Willie's claim to fame was once scoring two goal in a match. The photo dates back to the early 1980's and just look at those shorts!

From being the substitute almost every week and in those days the teams could only name one, by becoming a referee Willie had a match every week and if he didn't abandon the match it usually lasted ninety minutes.

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

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

That is very sound advice for all referees at all levels.

Willie went on to add another of his famous quotes.....

*'Know the law, apply the law'*

That does not mean producing a yellow or red card for every infringement but the unwritten law is Law 19 and that is to referee with common sense. This is to show empathy to the players, to communicate and a stern word to the offender and maybe involve the captain as well. This again is not in the laws but is referred to as the 'stepped approach'. A quiet word, a final warning with the captain and for example the offence has been persistent infringement then no one will be surprised if the yellow card is then produced.

Remember..... ***'Do it to enjoy it'.***



# Pages From Yesteryear

## No Name Ref !

During the course of any game of football, players appeal to the referee for offences by the opposing side. The most common of these is claiming for hands—even when it is obvious that the offence is accidental. However another appeal is gaining ground in popularity, i.e. "He didn't call a name"

Ref" When told that a name does not have to be called, players are uncertain as to the law. Recently I refereed a game in which the "name" appeal was made several times. I did not penalise on any occasion telling the players that no offence had occurred - as I have done in many other matches.

After the game, however, some of the players asked me for clarification of the law as there was no consistency in the interpretation.

They were given the correct meaning of the law and were happy with the explanation given,

This concern by players, along with many other similar incidents in other games, has made me look closer at Referees' interpretation of the laws.

Shortly after the match refereed above, I was watching a County League game with a class 1 Referee in charge. On two occasions, the Referee penalised a player and told him the offence was not "calling a name". As no unfair advantage had been gained on either occasion, the game should not have been stopped. Incidentally the match was restarted with an indirect free kick but a caution was not administered to either of the offending players.

Looking at law 12 (Fouls and Misconduct), there is no offence for not calling a name and five offences are listed for which an indirect free kick can be awarded: (1) Dangerous play (2) Charging fairly when ball not within playing distance (3) Intentional obstruction (4) Charging the goalkeeper- in certain circumstances and (5) Goalkeeper taking more than 4 steps in possession or time wasting. As the "calling offence" is not covered in these five, it can only be classified as "ungentlemanly conduct" (*now unsporting behaviour* Ed) which must be punished by cautioning the player concerned and restarting with an indirect free kick (*Surely this is a direct FK.? Ed*)

However, to come into the "Ungentlemanly conduct category in the first place, the player must gain an unfair advantage—which may be in shouting "leave it" to an opponent. He may even shout "leave it John" to an opponent whose name he knows - This is also ungentlemanly conduct, even though although a name has been used.

If a player shouts "leave it" to a team mate, provided the opposition are not tricked into leaving the ball, then no offence has occurred. Until referees read the laws and understand them thoroughly, inconsistency is going to continue through mis-interpretation. It is therefore the duty of all referees to know the laws—AT PRESENT, IT APPEARS THAT THEY DO NOT.

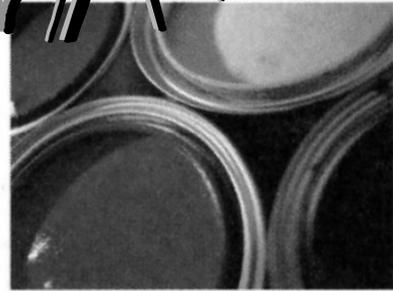
*This article was written by Barry Goddon<sub>a</sub> and we pass our acknowledgements to the Pompey Whistler for re-producing it. It first appeared in The Warbler October 1974—and is still relevant today*



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**What would you do ? Answers to April Issue**

**Q1.** A defender who is trying to block a goal-bound shot suddenly appears to suffer some sort of seizure - flinging an arm out and deflecting the ball wide before collapsing. As you call the physio on, you've no idea whether or not he was faking it What would you do?

**A1.** If, after treatment the captain and physio both said he was OK to carry on then it would be fair to assume it wasn't a genuine medical incident, that he was in control of himself, and that he deliberately denied an obvious goal. Thus here show him a red card and award a penalty. If the medical staff said he cannot carry on, accept that it wasn't a deliberate handball (it was a genuine medical incident), and award a corner.

**Q2.** Midway through the second half with the home team 5-0 down, the home captain is seriously injured. After the ambulance is called, the home manager tells you that the rest of the team are now too traumatised to continue. He wants an abandonment. What do you do?

**A2.** If you believe the team is not trying to con you and both the captain and physio say he was OK to carry on, then it would be fair to assume it was not a genuine medical incident, that he was in control of himself, and that he deliberately denied an obvious goal. Hence show him a red card and award a penalty. But if the medical staff said he was not fit to carry on accept that it was a genuine medical incident, not a deliberate handball, and hence award a corner.

**Q3.** On a very slippery surface a clumsy defender launches himself into a sliding foul, right by the corner of the 18-yd box. Initial contact is made outside the area, but then the foul continues into the box. The pair end up sprawled in a heap outside the area again. What would you do?

**A3.** Award a penalty. If a foul starts outside the area and continues into it you have the option of playing advantage on the initial foul or penalising the "continued offence" inside the area. Hence, in this case award a penalty.

**Q4.** Minutes after a dispute over an offside call a Blue defender blasts a clearance out of play straight at your assistant. As you run over, the defender says, "He didn't see the offside, and he didn't see that coming either. He needs glasses". What would you do?

**A4.** Dismiss the Blue defender for his act of violence (kicking the ball at the assistant), restart with a throw-in to Reds.

**Q5.** Your match has been physical throughout. The Red's physio has been very active, and his latest job is to treat his keeper, who had been badly winded in a collision with a Blue forward. With the keeper back on his feet the physio leaves the FoP over the goal-line, but remains in the vicinity in case the keeper need further assistance. Play restarts with an awful back-pass to the keeper causing him to dash from his line to dive and parry an attempt at a shot. The ball spins free inside the area and the still somewhat groggy keeper seems to be taking an age to regain his feet. Meanwhile the forward's momentum has carried him over the goal-line beside the goalpost where he immediately spins to run back on to the FoP and regain the loose ball. The Red physio, realising that the forward will get there before the keeper, grabs his shirt band holds him back as the grateful keeper finally falls on the ball. Neither physio nor forward are on the FoP. What do you do?

**A5.** Award a penalty. Law 12 states; "a substitute, substituted or sent off player, or team official commits an offence against or interferes with, an opposing player or match official outside the FoP .... play is restarted with a free kick on the boundary the nearest to where the offence occurred; a penalty is awarded if this is a direct free kick offence within the offender's penalty area".

**Answers to April Issue continued**

**Q6.** You are refing a high-profile match. The score is 2-2. In the final minute a Blue defender makes a mistake from which a Red attacker races into the penalty area onto a pass from a team mate. Before the Red player reaches the ball, the Blue defender attempts to recover his error. He slides in from behind and brings him to the ground. As you blow for a penalty, your assistant raises his flag. The Red attacker had run from an offside position. What do you do?

**A6.** The Red attacker should not be judged offside and the penalty stands. Law 11 states: "If a player in an offside position is moving towards the ball with the intention of playing the ball and is fouled before playing or attempting to play the ball ..... the foul is penalised as it occurred before the offside offence ...." In this instance despite being clear through on goal, the attacker had not yet played the ball and so had not become active. In reality the expected outcome would be to penalise the offside, retaining credibility and match control

**What Would You Do**

**Question 1.** In a cup match Reds are winning 9-0. In the final minute a despairing late tackle by a tiring Blue defender means that Red have the chance for a 10 goal win from the penalty. The penalty taker completes his run-up, then without pause, pirouettes on his left foot and back-heels the ball into the net with his right. The startled keeper does not move. A Blue defender complains that is not allowed and the penalty should be retaken. What do you do?

**Question 2.** In a demanding game both teams are reduced to 9 players following a late mass confrontation. With 10 mins left a Blue defender, already on a yellow card, trips an opponent to break up an attack. You issue a second yellow card but, on seeing the resulting red card a colleague loudly describes your decision in abusive terms. You have no choice but to issue him with a matching card, leaving Blues with only 7 players. Less than a minute later, with Reds attacking, a Blue player injures himself in attempting a tackle right on the touchline. In great pain he drags himself off the pitch. As the Reds continue their attack a Blue player screams at you that they are now down to six men - below the minimum seven - so the match should be stopped. What would you do?

**Question 3.** You are refereeing in a senior league which is strict regarding team-sheets. 10 minutes into the match you penalise the right back for a foul but notice he is wearing a No.12 shirt. The team sheet clearly showed Nos.1-11 were starting. On checking, you realise it is not just the shirt number that is incorrect. The player on the team sheet as a substitute started the match because the named number 2 had felt unwell in the warm-up and so was sitting on the bench as a substitute. What would you do?

**Question 4.** A sudden gust blows a freak bounce over the keeper's head. As he turns to chase it he spots that the wind also blew a spare ball onto the pitch. He points at it and screams at you, "Stop the game". Then his original ball rolls into his net. What do you do?

**Question 5.** A goalkeeper accidentally collides with a defender and an opposition striker. Whilst medical staff see to them, the striker's captain insists that all three players leave the FoP before play restarts. What would you do?

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

# WARBLER REFERENCE GUIDE

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