

THE WARBLER

Monthly Magazine of the Woking Referees' Society

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Season 2020/2021 May Edition

WOKING REFEREES' SOCIETY

Founded 1927

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The next meeting of the Woking Referees' Society is on Monday 10th May 2021

The Meeting will once again be conducted by Zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87478165154>

Meeting ID: 874 7816 5154



Agenda

8pm Welcome

Guest Speaker

Stuart Carrington

“Dealing With Conflict”

Centenary Club Raffle

Society Business

10pm Close

**The August meeting will be on
Monday 9th August 2021
The deadline for the August Warbler is
Friday 30th July**

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

Chairman's Chatter

Hello everyone and welcome to our final edition of this season's Warbler.

I think I can safely say that there hasn't been (and hopefully won't be again!!) a year like the last one we've all had to endure. What a challenge it's been for all of us, both in our personal and professional lives.

All I can say here and now is that with some small light at the end of the tunnel approaching, I hope that all of you have managed to cope in the best ways possible and that we can now turn our attentions to regaining control of our lives and looking forward positively once again.

So, let's focus on that word "**positive**". I used trusty Google to find the official definitions of the word as I'm from the North, never went to school, went down the pit at 12 years of age and therefore was not clever enough to know it off the top of my head....

Adjective:

1. *Consisting in or characterised by the presence rather than the absence of distinguishing features*
2. *Constructive, optimistic, or confident*

Noun:

1. *A desirable or constructive quality or attribute*

Reading through these and having a think about them (as I watch Brian the Labrador finally settle on the bed that he's been trying to destroy for four months of his short six months of life so far) I realised there are several comparisons we can make with our Woking Society.

- ◆ We are graced with the presence of a fantastic and vibrant membership that distinguishes us and gives us a high profile as a Society across not just the county but also the country
- ◆ I truly believe we are an optimistic, forward-thinking society that challenges when it must but is also confident in the direction to which it is going
- ◆ I think many Societies around the country would look at our model and be very envious of our membership numbers, our guest speakers, our committee and ultimately how we conduct ourselves

Another positive we must talk about is our Guest Speaker list over the last 12 months.

For those of you who made it to April's meeting on Zoom, what a night Bobby Madley treated us to – it was simply fantastic the way he approached the evening (which Mac will no doubt recount elsewhere in this issue) and engaged with all of us on the call. I received several messages after the evening congratulating the society on (another) quality speaker and I think I'm safe in saying that Bobby was one of the most popular, honest, and fascinating guests we've ever been lucky enough to host.

Which takes me on to May's guest speaker, **Stuart Carrington**.

Again, Mac has a bio for Stuart elsewhere inside this fine tome but just to remind you of an email I sent out to the membership back in the Autumn of last year during Lockdown 2.0. There was a four-part documentary on BT Sport and UEFA.TV called Man in the Middle which was a behind-the-scenes programme featuring many of the European FIFA referee and assistant referees and how they go about their lives in and out of football. Stuart was part of this programme and featured regularly across the four shows, discussing the *Psychology of Football Refereeing*.

I also attended an online webinar courtesy of Surrey FA in which Stuart was the presenter and to say it was a fascinating evening is an understatement. Off the back of that, I got in touch with Stuart and asked if he'd be so kind as to put up with us lot for a couple of hours in May... and he kindly agreed!!

He's also the author of a brilliant book which I'm hoping he'll be able to talk about for a few minutes as well when he joins us.

His talk will be on **Managing Conflict** and we're also hoping to get a 30min Q&A in with him after our mid-session break so please, as always, make space in your diaries and join us from **8pm sharp on Monday 10th May** – it's going to be another cracking evening.

So, as we finish another season let's reflect on all the positive things' we've still managed to achieve despite the challenges that were put in front of us and remember once again that **we're all part of an optimistic, desirable, and distinguished society.**

I wish you well in any remaining games that you may have and I'm always at the end of the phone or email if you want to chat about anything at all.

Thanks for all your support this year, see you on Monday 10th May at 8pm for the season finale and let's make it a good one.

Cheers

Andy



Quick Quotes



- ◆ Whoever wins today will win the championship no matter who wins
Denis Law
- ◆ And Meade had a hat-trick. He scored two goals.
Richard Whitmore
- ◆ The boys feet have been up in the clouds since the win.
Alan Buckley
- ◆ Chesterfield 1 Chester 1 Another score draw there in the local derby.
Desmond Lynam
- ◆ He's burning the midnight oil at both ends.
Sid Wadell

Membership and Accounts

2020/21 Membership
As at May 1st
29 Full Members
11 Friends
1 Affiliate Member
43 Members have not yet renewed

2021 Current Status	
General	£2489.68
Supplies	£159.77
Belgium	£0.00
Training Fund	£181.97
Centenary Fund (formerly Youth Fund)	£858.03
Total	£3,689.45

Centenary Club

The April meeting Centenary Club winners were :—

Ken Chivers £45 .50

Richard Adamson £19.50

With £65 going into the Centenary Fund.

We have currently 65 numbers sold so this month's prizes will be the same as April.

Dates for your Diary 2021/22

9th August	Society Meeting	Law Amendments	Gareth Heighes
6th September	Society Meeting		
4th October	Society Meeting		
1st November	Society Meeting		
13th December	Society Christmas Dinner		
2022			
10th January	Society Meeting		
7th February	Society Meeting		
7th March	Society AGM		
4th April	Society Meeting		
9th May	Society Meeting		

This Month's Speaker

Stuart Carrington



Stuart is a Lecturer in Sports Coaching Science at St Mary's University, Twickenham, London, and the author of '*Blowing the Whistle: The Psychology of Football Refereeing.*' He obtained his BSc (Hons) in Sport and Exercise Science from the University of Gloucestershire and his MSc in Applied Sport Psychology from Staffordshire University. He began his PhD in 2020, focussing on the psychology of football officials.

He holds the Primary Certificate in Rational-Emotive Behaviour Therapy (REBT).

Stuart has worked as a football coach in the UK, France, Italy and Australia and has worked in education since 2003.

Just a Sec

- ◆ **Welfare Officer.** Jackie Bisley has kindly volunteered to take on the role of Welfare Officer for the Society. If you have any welfare issues please do not hesitate to contact Jackie at jackiebisley@yahoo.com 07803 147868
- ◆ **Safeguarding For All.** If you are completing this module please remember to also complete the post course questionnaire otherwise it won't appear on your FA record. Interestingly, once completed it only appears under "Learning" on your Whole Game login and not under "Safeguarding"
- ◆ **August Meeting.** This will be on 9th August when Gareth, our Training Officer will be taking us through the Law Amendments for next season. With any luck we may even be able to meet in person at Meadow Sports Club.
- ◆ **Committee Meeting** . Was held on 21st April. Please contact me if you would like a copy of the minutes.
- ◆ **Congratulations** to Paul Saunders for his FA Observer accreditation.

Mac's Musings

What a absolutely fascinating meeting we had with Bobby Madley last month. I know we've had some great speakers over the last 10 months but listening to Bobby really was a privilege and we wish him well in his quest to join his brother Andy back in the premiership. (see page 16 for an article on Andy Madley)

Back in January, our esteemed Chairman Andy was explaining via facebook, that even in the coldest of weather, he was a "short sleeve" advocate. I did wonder whether it was because he was of northern heritage and therefore of a more hardy disposition than us "Southern Softies", or an edict by the referee for all the officials to look the same and maybe score an extra point or two from the observer. So I happen to be watching match of the day at the time, catching up on the FA cup games that weekend and I made note of the following :-

Chorley v Wolves ; Referee Anthony Taylor short sleeves, both A/Rs long sleeves

Leicester v Brentford; Referee Michael Oliver short sleeves, both A/Rs long sleeves

Manchester United v Liverpool ; Referee Craig Pawson and A/R 1 short sleeves A/R 2 long sleeves.

I know back in the day that observers or assessors as they were called then, had on more than one occasion when I was running a line, mentioned that all 3 officials should wear the same sleeve length. I always thought it rather petty as I'm sure players or spectators don't notice. If an official, in particular an A/R's,(who doesn't always get the opportunity to run around as much as the ref) performance is affected because they are freezing, then its rather self defeating. But obviously its ok at the top.

The foot is still playing up, which is rather galling as I'd love to get back out and blow the cobwebs out of old foxy (literally). The strange thing is the foot isn't too bad when I'm walking but very sore when running and also sometimes very painful when I'm resting. Must be a trapped nerve or something. I know I probably should try and see my GP, but trying to get an appointment at our local clinic is like Spurs attempting to win a trophy or even get into the top four of the Premiership this year. That's one problem with getting older, one may be one of the first in line for a Covid jab, but by heck injuries certainly take longer to heal, or foot to be specific.

This is your last Warbler for this season. I hope I've managed to keep you all entertained and informed these last 10 rather trying months. I must say a big thank you to my regular contributors namely Adie Freeman, Dick Sawden Smith, Tony Murphy (including the cartoons), Jim De Rennes, Keith Hiller (aka Willy the Red Card Ref) Mal Davies and of course the various magazines that I often unashamedly plagiarise, such as The Normidian, The Chiltern Referee, and The Word. Plus a number of our own members such as Brian Reader and Hamish Brown.

A big thanks also to the guys whose adverts help support and pay for the printed Warblers and Red Eye Printers who have been known to produce the printed Warblers the same day that I've sent them.

May I wish you all a safe and sunny summer and see you all on 9th August .

Mac

Letters to the Editor



Thanks Mac again for the Warbler

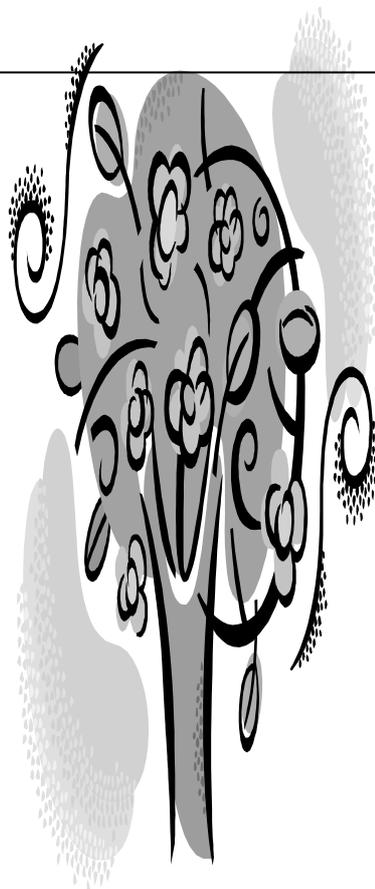
I was interested in the article from the 1973 edition of League Football magazine, submitted by Tony Murphy. Not everyone will be aware that in the early days' floodlights were not always that brilliant. One referee I ran the line to, complained bitterly because my refereeing shirt had short sleeves. He relied on seeing the white cuffs when you raised the flag. Flags weren't all that bright either in those days. One of my refereeing colleagues designed and made a pair of fluorescent cuffs which he sent to the FA but they rejected them completely.

Dick Sawden Smith

Hi Mac,

Not sure if it qualifies as a plumb, I have now been accredited as a full FA Observer. I will still be working as a County Observer too.

Paul Saunders.



Premier League U17 Cup Semi-Final
Brighton & Hove Albion v Leicester City
Amex Stadium
Referee: Tom Ellsmore

Capital Woman's Cup (Junior Section) Rd 2
Guildford Saints Ladies v Richmond Park u18.
Referee : Paul Gorringer

How Times Have Changed (for the better I suggest)

(Spotted in The Normidian)

Shown here is a photo of a Women's team from 1921. The Football Association then made the decision to ban women from playing football until 1971 when the ban was finally lifted. The female game was flourishing and was attracting phenomenal attendances. It was 1922 and the Football Association announced a ruling that football was *'Quite unsuitable for females.....and not to be encouraged'*.



So fast forward and congratulations to Rebecca Welch who is the first ever female referee to be appointed to a League fixture - League Two between Harrogate Town and Port Vale on 5th April. I am delighted to report that all went well. Two yellow cards for reckless challenges and no controversial incidents.





WOKING SOCIETY - THE REFEREES ASSOCIATION
 Affiliated to the Referees Association & Surrey County Referees Association
 President: Vince Penfold

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP SEASON 2021 - 22

I HEREBY WISH TO BECOME A MEMBER OF WOKING REFEREES' SOCIETY, AND ENCLOSE MY SUBSCRIPTION / WILL SEND MY SUBSCRIPTION VIA INTERNET BANKING AS FOLLOWS:-

	COST	AMOUNT
FULL MEMBER - OVER 18 - Printed Warbler (INCLUDES Paper copy of Society Magazine, RA SUBSCRIPTION + PA INSURANCE) Expires 31/3/2022 - National RA membership until 30/9/2022	£30.00	
FULL MEMBER - OVER 18 - Electronic Warbler (INCLUDES pdf copy of Society Magazine sent by email, RA SUBSCRIPTION + PA INSURANCE) Expires 31/3/2022 - National RA membership until 30/9/2022	£16.00	
FULL MEMBER - UNDER 18 - Printed Warbler (INCLUDES Paper copy of Society Magazine, RA SUBSCRIPTION + PA INSURANCE) Expires 31/3/2022 - National RA membership until 30/9/2022	£24.00	
FULL MEMBER - UNDER 18 - Electronic Warbler (INCLUDES pdf copy of Society Magazine sent by email, RA SUBSCRIPTION + PA INSURANCE) Expires 31/3/2022 - National RA membership until 30/9/2022	£10.00	
AFFILIATE MEMBER (i.e. Full Member of another Referees Society) Expires 31/3/2022	£14.00	
FRIEND OF WOKING SOCIETY Expires 31/3/2022	£14.00	
OPTIONAL RA PHYSIOTHERAPY INSURANCE If required please contact Bryan Jackson		
CENTENARY FUND DONATION £1,£2,£3,£4,£5,£10 or Whatever		
	TOTAL	

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

.....POSTCODE.....

TELEPHONES (H)..... (M).....

E-MAIL ADDRESS.....

COUNTY FA REGISTERED WITH..... FA NUMBER (FAN).....

REFEREE LEVEL..... DATE OF BIRTH.....

BY PAYING MY SUBSCRIPTION I AGREE TO ABIDE BY THE RULES OF THE SOCIETY AND THE REFEREES ASSOCIATION. I ACKNOWLEDGE THAT WOKING REFEREES SOCIETY WILL ONLY CONTACT ME BY EMAIL, MAIL OR TELEPHONE WITH REQUESTS AND INFORMATION RELATING TO SOCIETY BUSINESS, REFEREEING OR OTHER RELEVANT FOOTBALL INFORMATION.

I ALSO AGREE FOR MY DETAILS TO BE SHARED WITH THE REFEREES ASSOCIATION FOR THE PURPOSES OF BEING A MEMBER OF THE REFEREES ASSOCIATION

SIGNATURE.....DATE.....

RETURN TO :-BRYAN JACKSON,
 1 WOODSTOCK GROVE, GODALMING, SURREY, GU7 2AX.
 Tel: 01483 423808
 Email: membership@wokingreferees.co.uk

CHEQUES PAYABLE TO:- WOKING RA or Send funds direct to 30 94 77, a/c no 02710897

www.wokingreferees.co.uk

Last Month's Meeting

12th April 2021

an Evening with Bobby Madley



Andy welcomed 40 members and guests to Woking RS's April meeting and thanked Bobby Madley, our guest speaker for taking the time to share his knowledge and experience with us.

Andy showed a couple of slides which listed Bobby's career highlights which include Championship Playoff referee

2016, Community Shield referee, 2017 Cup Final 4th Official 2017 and appearing at Woking Referees' Society 2021.

Bobby started by discussing what he felt was, to some extent, wrong for refs to think "No Ref—No Game." And while it's important to feel and show confidence there is fine line between that and arrogance and it's also important how people see you.

This led onto Bobby's thoughts onto "what are the key skills of a successful referee".

Approachability : He used the analogy of reviews of plumbers where the worst ones were not actually about the plumbing itself but about the person. i.e He was rude, late, didn't remove his shoes, overcharged etc. As referees we get paid for doing a job and we shouldn't expect to be treated like royalty. One club told him the worst left changing room was always the referees. (*Mind you a lot of the refs changing rooms themselves leave a lot to be desired. Ed.*) It's worth remembering that when being marked on our games "approachability" is worth 10 points.

Thick Skin. Bobby said although professional referees are often accused of being too thick skinned on the pitch by seemingly ignoring obvious abuse, in reality they seldom get a lot of abuse and contrary to popular he has never been told to hold back on red cards for the big named players. However one area that has become a problem for referees and officials is the abuse they now receive Online. Bobby then showed us a number of tweets he had received which went from what could be described as "banter" to death threats to him as his family. Unfortunately as Bobby wasn't on social media at the time and it was another Robert Madley who received the abusive tweets. It was interesting, he continued, that players get media support when abused but not referees. Most disappointing of all was the unwarranted criticism from fellow referees.

As Bobby knows to his cost and he was open and honest about his own situation, posting what one thinks is an innocent remark can easily come back and haunt you. Even to the extent of affecting your career prospects when applying for a job as all prospective employers now check potential employees social media accounts.

We shouldn't forget that football teams mean the world to fans and so we should expect criticism when we get decisions wrong. Although we can get 204 out 206 decisions correct it is the 2 we get wrong that we get remembered for. Bobby reckoned that the media hate VAR as they then can't blame the referee. *(Although they are not averse to a having a pop at the VAR ref. Ed.)*

Preparation. Bobby showed a slide with a quote by Abraham Lincoln who said "If I had 6 hours to chop down a tree, I'd spend the first 4 hours sharpening the axe". He then talked about the importance of fitness and ensuring that he managed put in "one more lap" than his colleagues. Knowing the teams and their tactics is also important but equally so is not over thinking situations and to always expect the unexpected.

Teamwork and Communication was Bobby's next topic and it was very interesting to hear how, when refereeing Chelsea, John Terry told him how he liked to be called JT except when a more formal note was required when he was to be called "Captain". Bobby said now when refereeing he makes a point of knowing and using the players names. This he finds makes him more approachable. The exception is when he needs to "have a word" in which case he uses their number in order to indicate more formal approach.

Norway. Bobby explained how a move to Norway and refereeing at a less stressful level, (the Premiership had almost become more of a "job") he once more fell in love with football and refereeing.

Having returned to England and officiating in the Championship league he is once more enjoying life and is hopeful that he may one day join his brother Andrew in the Premiership.

Bobby said he is always open to advice and remembers a time when he heard a rather elderly referee say to a player who was complaining about a "soft" foul.

"Son, hard or soft, its still a boiled egg." Which he has since used himself.

We then had a long Q & A session which Bobby kindly answering a number of questions from members ranging from how do you manage the toss up at Premiership games (teams never seem to change ends) to don't be afraid to take advice from non refs, including managers and your mum.

Other questions included.

"Do professional footballers make good refs?" Not necessarily as they have to start from the bottom and many would not be able to handle the criticism.

"Do you think that sin bins would work at the professional level?" No because the top teams are quite capable of performing with 10 men for 10 minutes.

"What advice would you give to new referees?" Make sure you know the Laws of the Game. I'm not a fan of the new 2 or 3 day course as it doesn't give enough time to really understand and learn all the Laws in detail.

Andy thanked Bobby for taking the time to speak with us at Woking and for his entertaining, insightful and honest talk and hoped that he would visit us again in the future. Andy wished Bobby all the best for the remainder of the season and hoped that we see him in the Premiership next year.

Society Business : Centenary Club — see page 6

Membership.—Bryan said there were still 46 members who had not yet renewed.

Training.—Gareth talked about a recent Surrey Referees Workforce meeting with Surrey FA. This to be discussed further at the forthcoming Committee Meeting.

Andy closed the meeting at 22.40

Minutes of Surrey County Referees Association delegates meeting held on Zoom on Monday 26th March 2021 at 7.30pm.

1906. Present: Andy Bennett (interim chair), Brian Reader (secretary), David Crick (RA officer), Tony Loveridge (Woking), Paddy Boshell (West London), Jason Carey (Kingston), Bob Giacche (Kingston), Peter Crichlow (Croydon). Brian Fish (Guildford) joined the meeting at 8.10pm.

1907. Apologies for absence: none at the time.

1908. The minutes of the meeting held on 25th January 2020 were approved.

1909. Matters arising (not otherwise on agenda): One action from previous meetings over a year ago is still outstanding: RA publicity posters for referees changing rooms. **Action: Brian R to contact Vince Penfold when Covid restriction relaxed.**

1910. Pat Bakhuizen, Andy, and Brian R had had a Zoom meeting with Sally Lockyer (Surrey FA CEO) and Brent Pettit (Surrey FA RDO) on 27th January. A list of actions was agreed by Sally, followed up by her with a conformation e-mail on 29th January. The 3 SCRA representatives had agreed the e-mail was an accurate record of the meeting, and it had been circulated to all Societies by Brian R.

1911. Among the actions agreed was a fortnightly Zoom meeting between Andy and Brent on Fridays at 11.00am. Andy gave an update on those meetings; it was positive that we have communication, Brent had made himself very available, and had been quite open.

1912. Sally and Brent were the guest speakers at Woking RA meeting on 1st March. Sally had spoken about Surrey FA's plans for the future, and Brent on the strategy for referees, followed by a Q&A session.

1913. Sally and Brent were also the guest speakers at Kingston RA meeting on 22nd March, with a similar format. There had been some constructive criticisms expressed by members present. Some questions went unanswered at the time, but Brent had followed up quickly afterwards to provide them.

1914. A discussion of the two meetings followed. One major outstanding item was membership of the Surrey FA Referee Working Group – Andy advised that he expected to learn the names later in the week. **Action: Andy.** Bob asked about welfare of members and whether there is any theme or pattern to reported problems. David advised to ask Brent to get data from the Whole Game System. **Action: Andy.**

1915. General guidance on the return to football, especially grassroots, had been received from Surrey FA.

1916. Referee training. It was reported that there was unease amongst referee tutors (now known as referee developers) in the county about the proposed number of courses coupled with the reduction in the number of tutors. The number of courses had changed several times already, but the basic question was how Surrey FA expected to run 50% more courses with 50% less workforce to deliver them. Sally seemed to think at the Kingston meeting that it would be possible to "borrow" tutors from other counties. David pointed out to us that County FAs do not "own" tutors, but that each County FA is given a sum of money by the FA per candidate out of which they pay tutors.

Martin Etheridge had asked at the Kingston meeting if there could be a specialist assistant referee course. **Action: Andy to raise referee training questions with Brent.**

1917. Andy asked all present to think about the role(s) they could and would wish to play in SCRA after the AGM. Andy said he is happy to continue as interim chair until the AGM, but the committee should address and think about whether there are other names that wish to stand as Chair at the AGM in June. **Action: all.**

1918. RA Board elections. All Societies had received notice of the election and candidates. David was thanked for his helpful advice.

1919. RA rule changes. All Societies had been notified of proposed rule changes. David was again thanked for his helpful advice.

1920. Quest programme. Woking and Kingston RAs, both already holding bronze standard, are considering seeking silver standard. In answer to questions on the benefits of Quest to LRAs, David said it was the kudos, and likened the scheme to FA charter standard for football clubs. [*Post meeting note: David has since supplied a national list of LRAs holding Quest bronze standard (31), silver standard (5), and gold standard (1).*]

1921. Society reports. (Kingston). One of the younger members of Kingston RA (a minor) had made some very valid points at their March meeting (see minute 1913 above) asking what steps Surrey FA take to educate managers, coaches, and players not to be abusive to young referees. He had also asked what incentives there were for young referees to stay on the books. It had been good to hear such a young referee speaking up like this.

1922. Secretary's report. He had routinely copied all correspondence received from Head Office to Societies to ensure they had received it.

1923. Treasurer. Absent, no report. [*Post meeting note: late apology for absence received.*]

1924. AOB. Laws of The Game 2021/22. Andy said he had spoken to Brent about roll-out. Brent's idea was to hold it as a single county-wide event. David mentioned that in the past it had been run on LRA by LRA basis, but the drawback was that GDPR doesn't allow us access to non-members and therefore LOTG needed to be circulated by County FA. Andy said it was important to reach all referees, especially level 5 & 6 officiating at grassroots.

1925. Next meeting will be the AGM on 7th June.

1926. Meeting closed 21.55.

You Must Be Joking



- ◆ A man has been shot with a starting pistol. Police say it's definitely race related.
- ◆ There's a new record holder for the world's biggest egg. 7.4 kilos! That'll take some beating.
- ◆ I'm a non-believer and avoid church religiously.
- ◆ Will resigned from the army because everyone kept telling people to fire at him...
- ◆ Everyone hates me because I'm paranoid.
- ◆ The whole idea of golf is literally to see who can play the least golf

How Arch-Critic Andy Madley Became One of Premier League Top Referees

By Ben McKenna writing in the Yorkshire Post Friday, 15th May 2020,

As a 16-year-old who was used to giving referees a bit of stick, Premier League official Andy Madley admits that he had never entertained the prospect of becoming a referee.

The Huddersfield-born official is now one of the top referees in the country and, before the outbreak of the coronavirus, was the man in the middle for Premier League and Championship games on a weekly basis.

He took charge of his first top-flight fixture in 2018 and was promoted to the Select Group 1 Referees list prior to the start of the 2019/20 season.

Madley's brother, Bobby, was a Premier League referee up until 2018 but was sacked by the Professional Game Match Officials Limited for sending a video mocking a disabled person to a friend.

When he was progressing through the leagues, Madley admits he was rarely compared with his younger brother, who is set to become a National List referee again next campaign.

"I would not have been doing refereeing without Bobby," said Madley.

"When we started progressing through the levels and I was driving home and maybe feeling I had made a mistake or felt I hadn't done something right, Bobby was the person I would always speak to.

"We were both on the Football League together and then Bobby moved on to the Premier League.

"We would speak after every game about what happened.

"Rarely did we turn up and have spectators or players say, 'I hope you are better than your brother.' We were never really compared."

The Madley brothers were both aspiring footballers as teenagers, with Bobby playing in the academies at Leeds and Barnsley while Andy was in Huddersfield Town's school of excellence.

"I was one of the worst players with referees, I would always walk away and mutter something under my breath but I would always make it loud enough for the referee to hear," revealed Madley. "I was always getting cautioned for stuff like that when I was playing Under-16, Under-17 level.

"Bobby and I both played at reasonable levels. He played at Leeds and Barnsley in their academies and I was in Huddersfield's school of excellence.

"We just got to the stage where we were both falling out of love with football. Bobby had an injury that was recurring so he was ready to pack it in at the age of 16.

“But he rang me up one night asking if I fancied doing a refereeing course and I put the phone down on him. I thought about it and then asked him what it involved and it was only £15, and one night a week for a few hours.

“I started to pick up all these things, I knew nothing about football looking back.

“The first two years of refereeing, I hated. I used to come home and throw my bag in the corner and say I am not doing that again.”

Working his way through the lower divisions, Madley had no linesman and was largely left on his own but it was when he made the step up to higher levels of non-league that he started to fall in love with officiating.

He continued: “I was going to finish at the end of one season but then got invited to be an assistant referee in the North Counties East League.

“I thought I would give it a go, you are working in teams of three and I wasn't on my own any more.

“I remember going to Yorkshire Amateur in Leeds. There is music playing before the game, turnstiles ticking round and you have got a programme with your name in it. Albeit there are 50 people there but there is an element of, ‘I have made it, this is brilliant.’

“That is where I got the love of it from, I really enjoyed it once I was able to work as part of a team.”

Madley is “itching” to get back to work but insists he and his colleagues will not rush back too quickly as football edges closer to a return.

He added: “I have got one of the best jobs in the world. I get to walk out with the match ball in front of thousands of people on a Premier League matchday with all these outstanding talents who are on the pitch.

“It is something we can't wait to get back to, we are itching to get back. As a group one thing we know is we have got a responsibility to make sure we don't go back too quickly.”



Andy Madley checking VAR



Pages from Yesteryear

The Warbler September 1975

The day is drawing near. Soon I am to start my second season as a third class football referee.

I have checked my kit five or six times. I now have three whistles, a new set of flags, and have treated myself to a £13 Stop watch. There will be no questions now over injury time. My boots are waxed and polished till they sparkle like new, laces lying perfectly across the lace holes.

My 17 year old son looks at them curiously, and makes some remark about being bonkers. I seem to recall seeing his boots in the garden shed, still covered in last seasons mud. Ah! well, we all learn as we grow older.

I have registered with the West Surrey Boys League, and I am waiting anxiously for the postman to deliver my first match. I say to my wife how I would like a Division 2 or 3 to start with, just to get warmed up. (I should be so lucky)

The day arrives, my letter is lying on the mat, I excitedly pick it up and while opening it, hurry into the kitchen where my wife is pouring out the early morning tea. I pull out the white card, look at the two teams, o.k., division "P" My stomach immediately does a double somersault, I start to sweat and my hands shake, the prospect of a happy start to the season fades away as memories of last season came flooding back.

Four Bookings (Sorry Cautions) swearing amongst the teams and loads of agro. It almost caused me to pack it all in. I recall Bill Millard saying "Don't worry we all go through it, Next season it will be a lot easier"

OK I say to myself, they are only boys, same age as your own son, go out there and show them whose boss, September 14th 11am K.O. Its a beautiful day. I have my own dressing room, and I sit taking my time, thinking about the game, how I am going to run it. I hear a manager giving his team a pep-talk in the next room. The language he is using makes me cringe. I thought to myself, God help the referee who has that team. Yes, you have guessed it, it's my home side. If you disregard the dirty play, petty fouls, and bad language its not a bad game. Then I allow a goal that was flagged as off -side by the linesman, who just happens to be the home team manager. He informs me that he will report me, and I get a tirade of abuse from the home spectators.

Ten minutes latter I blow for fall time. I feel mentally exhausted. The tension is easing away as I am left alone to walk back to the dressing room. No one speaks to me, no word of thanks. I think to myself typical division "P". I look up and my wife is handing me a cup of coffee. She says "I thought you had a good game dear"

Suddenly I feel good again. The sun is still shining and I have the rest of Sunday to go, and it's a beautiful drive home. There must be something about this refereeing; already I am working out next week's game,

Ian Fraser (Class 3)

MURPHY'S MEANDERINGS

I had been appointed as a linesman on a County League match played in a local village. The changing rooms were some way from the pitch and, because of vandalism, all doors and windows had been fitted with metal shutters. There was no skylight and some of the windows had been bricked in. The door to the referee's changing room had warped and, consequently, when the Secretary had closed it after paying us, it was firmly closed and soundproof. We chatted for a while, had a shower, and then left. However, to our surprise, on opening the door of our dressing room there was total silence, everybody had gone and we were the only people in the building. A quick search of the building realised our worst fears. We were locked in, there was no way out, and we didn't have a mobile phone between us.

We started to call and shout but to no avail. We then inspected the shutters but they were firmly installed and held on by metal bolts. We started calling and shouting again but still no luck. We wandered around the changing rooms seeking inspiration and hoping one of the others would come up with some ideas. None came, and knowing there was a Sunday morning match, fears of spending the night in the changing rooms loomed. There was nothing we could do but call and shout and hope somebody would hear us. Eventually, we struck lucky. A boy riding past on his bicycle heard us and knew where to get the key to the changing rooms. At 6.45, to our great relief, and some embarrassment, we were freed. One can only imagine the look on the Secretary's face when he opened the changing rooms on Sunday morning had we have been forced to spend Saturday night there!

Talking of lining on County League matches, a linesman told me of an incident that once happened in a game at which he was officiating. During the first half the ball was blasted towards the goal and hit a defender full in the face from only a few yards, bursting blood vessels in his nose and knocking him to the ground. The trainer came on and, as the player was helped to his feet, he smiled at the referee, exposing the fact that his four upper teeth were missing, and said, "Have you seen my teeth?" Whilst the player was escorted from the pitch, the referee and the players started looking round the penalty area for his teeth. There was a small crowd of about 50 people who, whilst not knowing what was going on, found the sight of the referee and players walking around the penalty area looking for something, amusing, and there were cries of, "The referee's lost his contact lens." As the player, who had been more worried about his nose to notice what was happening, reached the dugout, he realised that the game had not restarted and, looking back, asked what was going on. "They're looking for your teeth", the trainer said. The player went a little sheepish. "I only said that for a joke," he said. "I never wear my false teeth during a game and leave them in the dressing room." Amid cheers from the crowd, it was left to the trainer to explain the situation to the referee.

WHO DECIDES WHAT THE GAME EXPECTS?

Let me take you back a year or two to the Champions League semi-final. second leg, between Juventus and Real Madrid. The aggregate score is 3-3 and deep into added-on time. Michael Oliver awards a penalty to Real Madrid, which virtually ensures their place in the final. The Juventus goalkeeper dissents so violently that Oliver sends him off. Pierluigi Collina, considered by many as the best ever referee, later backed Oliver. 'It was,' he said, 'a penalty correctly given. The referee saw what happened, made an assessment and made a decision.' Remember that last sentence.

But not everyone agreed. Armet Guvener, former Head of Refereeing for the Turkish FA and previously on the FIFA panel for referee instruction, gave a different view in an article for Soccer America magazine. '..the penalty kick was a correct call but a non-call would have been a more correct call, as that is what 'football expected' at that time of the game'. Although referees at different levels, referee to the same Laws of the Game, in his view, they approach the game differently and make different interpretations, 'It depends he believed', on 'what the games expects at their level'.

Is this a view that Guvener alone holds? Seemingly not. At a training session at an RA Development day led by Premier League Officials, we were told. 'If there is a foul throw-in or a player prevents their opponents taking a free kick early in the match, don't penalise them. The Law may demand it but it is not what the game expects'. Whatever happened to 'start the game as you mean to go on' and 'the first fifteen minutes are the most important,' sayings that we grew up with? We all know that if we give an early card of any colour for an infringement that's hardly worth it's call, then we have made a rod for our own backs , because that is the level we have to conduct the rest of the game. That is not ignoring blatant fouls that occur because it's near the beginning of a match.

Who is that decides what the game expects at all these levels? Is it the FA or FIFA or the IFAB and how will they tell us which decisions are to be corrupted? In a newspaper that I wrote for, for many years, I congratulated the referee of the Arsenal v Manchester United match for sending off Sol Campbell, for smashing his elbow in the face of Ole Gunnar Solskjaer as side by side, they chased after the ball. An Arsenal Season ticket holder wrote to the Editor (not the sports editor) demanding that I be chastised in some way. 'I pay a lot of money to watch Arsenal,' he wrote, 'and I expect to see a game between two teams of eleven players'. Are spectators then part of this unperceived game that has these expectations?

Let's stop for a moment and reflect on what we are being asked to do, being exhorted to do, by looking in the Laws of the Game. Law 5. The referee. powers and duties. number 1, The referee enforces the Laws of the game. It doesn't say 'providing they are what the game expects'. What Michael was being told, was to ignore the law that he should have enforced, for which Collina and even Guvener agreed was a foul. Let's recall what Collina also said, 'The referee saw what happened , made an assessment and made a decision. See, think and act.

Stuart Carrington, author of 'Blowing the Whistle', the Psychology of refereeing, said that making a decision is an instinctive act for a referee, the more experienced a referee becomes then the more instinctive are the decisions. He said that is exactly how it would have been for Michael Oliver in that match, for that decision. Stuart Carrington compared it with Harry Kane scoring a goal. Kane is not asking himself 'have I got my balance right, have I got my foot over the ball, it is automatic. Imagine therefore if before blowing his whistle, Oliver would have had to ask himself, 'I wonder if this is what this imperceptible game expects?

If you ask players and coaches what they want from referees, the most quoted answer is consistency and that means throughout the match. So let's get back to basics, refereeing to the best of our capabilities and enforcing the laws of the game. throughout the game.. beginning, middle and end.

Dick Sawdon Smith



“MOVE OUT,” I SHOUTED

Soon after I qualified as a new referee in Essex, I was officiating in a match in the dizzy heights of Division 5. All through the match the home team had been trying to play the “offside” trap, with very little luck. Basically, the defence’s timing was sadly lacking, calling the defence to move out after the ball had been played, leaving lots of opponents onside.

However, it was also a very exciting game and I was thoroughly absorbed in my new-found skills as a referee and would “Ooh” and “Aah” if the ball went near to goal.

Having awarded a free kick to the away team on the half-way line, the home defence duly lined up along the edge of the penalty area. Positioning myself to be level with the second last defender, I signalled with the whistle for the kick to be taken. As the player ran up to kick the ball, I forgot myself. “Move out,” I shouted. The whole of the defence moved as one, leaving six players offside.

What should I do? I hit the whistle for offside. As the defence congratulated themselves, I ran like the clappers to be in position for the resulting indirect free kick.

Only two people knew who made that call, myself and a spectator who later informed me that he, “Didn’t think referees were allowed to call the offside trap!”

Geoff Tubbs (Loughborough Whistler)

With thanks to Tony Murphy

Adie's Been Out and About



It seems that we have only just started back and I am sorting out games for the end of the season. Sadly this session has been short but has at least given some of us some football. The SCILW is due complete on the 22nd of May while the GWAFL will complete the 'round-robin' format on the 8th of May and will follow with semi's and finals. Well done all of you for going out and officiating in difficult conditions but at least we have had some superb weather for the games.

I have been out and about seeing Referees and teams (and keeping local). From what I have observed there have been some good games and some excellent refereeing. Obviously not every game has gone smoothly (I read all the reports) but I think all the Match Officials have handled their respective games well.

I did see one incident that made me scratch my head a bit. I fully appreciate that we have had three and a half months with no games and people have been able to wander around the local Parks while respecting the Government guidelines. I was watching a game last Saturday and after around 20 minutes a woman cyclist rode straight across the pitch with the game being played!! Thankfully it was during a lull – the defending team defender was retrieving the ball for a throw in. The attacking team defence challenged her but she rode gaily through oblivious to what was going on.

You will all remember my rant about the 'lyrca loonies' but that just begged belief. Brian Reader kindly e-mailed me with a lot of information pertaining to cyclists on the Downs Link which I shall be utilising so many thanks for that Brian.

The kitchen is completely finished, they just have to fit the lavatory in the little room off the kitchen so we are nearly there. Diane decided that the existing kitchen-roll holder (that I put in hours of work to manufacture) would not be suitable so requested (sorry, demanded) a new one – in red. Two hours hard labour turning out a base from Zebrano wood (and in my lunch-times a highly polished aluminium finial), a polished shaft was fitted and dyed red. Three coats of varnish and next weekend I will polish it, so another project completed!!

Euro Super League? No comment from me – nuff said on that already.

Stay Safe

Adie





An interesting refereeing story.

Do you know this man? his name was Francisco "Paco" Bru, and he was one of the most iconic Spanish referees ever, a pioneer in the field.

He started off as a footballer (playing also for FC Barcelona), to then become the national team coach and finish his footballing career as a match official, something he did until 1923.

As a referee he was known to enter the field of play (in the most challenging games only) with a Colt revolver.

A journalist once witnessed him taking the pistol out of his coat, leaving it on the table of his changing room and, when he finished dressing, before going out onto the field of play, inserting the weapon between his shirt and pants before the astonished eyes of the players.

His "motto" became history: "We can do two things: either we end the game in order or tomorrow a few of us will be in the obituaries".

In an interview in the later years of his life he admitted that the gun was only a toy, but only he knew that, so there were not too many protests to his decisions.



“Well, that’s enough about me – my husband will now explain the laws of offside to you.”

THE BALLAD OF WOKING TOWN

My last 3 Vauxhall Opel League appointments to Woking Town FC have been jinxed in a way that nobody in their wildest imagination could visualise.

1. The saga started in January 1988 when the first of the three unrelated incidents occurred. :-

The referee, the other linesman and myself all met in the changing room, exchanged pleasantries and then went to look at the pitch. Some minutes later, having ambled around the pitch we made our way to the side, by the half-way line in order to return to the dressing room. Now it just so happens that the two dugouts are either side of the half-way line, so that you have to pass between them, then go down two or three steps in order to reach the dressing room. As the other linesman was about to exit the pitch, he was looking for the steps in order to ensure his footing and was not too concerned about the first obstacle, getting between the dugouts. It was therefore with a mighty crack that he hit his head on the corner of one of the dugouts. The impact opened up a large gash on his forehead which required hospital treatment. A substitute linesman had to be found in order for the match to proceed.

2. The second incident happened in the first competitive match of the season in August 1988. :-

The match was 35 minutes old when the referee had the misfortune to twist his ankle in a small hollow in the pitch, whilst running at speed. After initial treatment, the referee continued to half-time but his mobility was noticeably affected. During half-time he made the decision not to continue further as the injury was too severe. I was the senior linesman that day so I was the one to take over. After the initial horror and self-doubt which seemed to last an age, but which, in reality, was probably only a single second, I jumped at the opportunity. The second half raced past without any undue complication or controversy, although the heavens did open up the second half was played in a downpour

3. The third incident occurred on a cold wet night in November 1988.:-

As with incident one, all three officials met in the dressing room, had a yarn about recent match incidents and went to inspect the pitch. When we returned at about 6.45 pm, the Woking Secretary informed us that the away side had not arrived and when, at 7.00 pm, 30 minutes before kick-off, he brought in Woking's team sheet, they had still not turned up. Shortly afterwards, we were told the away team coach had been delayed in traffic but that several away team players and the manager had arrived. It transpired that 6 players had made their own way to Woking including two players who had missed their train in London and had hired a taxi at the cost of £45. The time of the kick off came and went and just before 8 pm, we were told they would be another 30 minutes. As the competition handbook did not say how long the referee should wait in such circumstances and they had still not arrived by 8.30 pm the referee telephoned the Vauxhall Opel League for advice. As he did so the coach arrived, the coach driver having got lost. The match commenced at 8.40pm. and was completed without incident, the only goal being scored by Woking in the last minute at about 10.20pm.

Geoff Rood (1989)

A FUNNY OLD GAME

Refereeing a recent match which was being played in a very sporting manner, with players from each side helping one another to their feet and a generally friendly flavour to the game, I was thinking that I have to give both these sides ten for sportsmanship. This was in spite of the fact that in the first half I had sent a player off for stopping a goal by handling the ball. Then it happened! In the second half a player went down from a tackle from behind and, although a good blast on the whistle signalled a foul, a melee took place which would have required an action replay to have picked out the offenders. There was as many as I could be sure of with a watertight report, and three red cards were duly raised. Now, I thought, I may have a few problems but no, the game then continued in the same friendly sporting manner as it had previously. I was walking off the pitch a bit bemused thinking I don't believe I have ever refereed a more sporting game and I have sent more players off than ever before, when a couple of the players I had sent off, who by this time had changed and had been on the line, came to me, shook hands and said, "Well done, Ref." No, I did not dream this, it actually happened. With four players sent off, I thought, I can't give ten marks for sportsmanship so I gave nine but feel I was less than generous for one moment of madness.

Ernie Hoskins (Basingstoke Bleep)

Both articles courtesy of Tony Murphy.



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After Lockdown - My First Game Back Willy Red Card Referee

With no fixtures since early December I was delighted to be returning to football. To be honest when I saw the venue I was not too happy as it was Hackney Marshes. I had not been there for many years and always an awkward place to drive to. As any good match official should do I wanted to plan my journey in advance to any road works. What I did discover is that the venue was being used as a Covid centre and that there was limited use of the car park. I reverted to 'Plan B' and planned my journey via public transport.

I had received an email from the referee who was due to be observed and he wanted me to be at the venue at 1.00 for the 2.00 kick off. This was the Easter weekend and there were a number of underground/overground and bus disruptions. On that basis I left home at 10.15.....yes, really!

Okay maybe I left a little too early as I finally arrived at Hackney Marshes at 12.00. Better early than late. There were many stewards on duty as they managed the people and the traffic for the covid jobs. I had made the right decision not to take my car.

The on-site café was closed as were the changing rooms but fortunately the toilets were available. The time passed quickly as I chatted to other referees and random players. Everyone delighted to be back to football.

We were on Pitch 8. How difficult could it be to find? I saw the Observer and it took us twenty minutes to locate the pitch. Yes, twenty minutes. You would think the pitches would follow number by number.....good luck to finding your pitch the next time you have to go there!

It was whilst I was making my journey to the Marshes I decided to utilise the time by making a few notes as to what I needed to be aware of.

FITNESS – I do take great pride in my fitness but with gyms being closed (Yes, I am a member of a gym!) and by working from home my level of fitness had declined and pre match was a concern.

After the match - Absolutely no concerns at all. The walking distance alone for the journey was almost two miles plus by arriving so early and with lots of stretching this ensured I was physically prepared.

POSITIONING/MOVEMENT

- Fits in with fitness. But even if a person is very fit they still have to anticipate the play and be ready to move and change position in a second.

COMMUNICATION/SIGNALS

- No issues here. Always important to keep 'eye' contact with the referee. Extended arm for the Assistant Referees signals. Clear and precise.

- PLAYERS FITNESS

With no matches I wondered how fit the players would be. Maybe we were fortunate that at twenty minutes and the score at 2-2 the fitness level did not drop. This was a cup fixture and I don't think that anyone wanted extra time, I certainly did not. Fortunately the winning goal was scored with two minutes remaining.

- AWARENESS

I remembered a match a few seasons ago that I was an Assistant Referee and as the game kicked off there was a controversial offside decision within the first thirty seconds. I was still looking around at the surroundings and I was not focused on the match. Lesson to be learnt here was to be aware, focussed and to be totally concentrated on the match. For this match I was prepared physically and mentally as I took my position on the touch line I 'cleared my head' to be ready.

Let's hope this season is completed and no more lock downs going forward.



Willy the Red Card Referee

Below shows Hackney Marshes from 1962. There were 120 adult pitches but a sign of the times today there are only 60. In 1975 to hire a pitch costs £2-00. Today it costs.....£93-60.



Courtesy of The Normidian



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