

# THE WARBLER

Monthly Magazine of the Woking Referees' Society

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Woking Referees Society

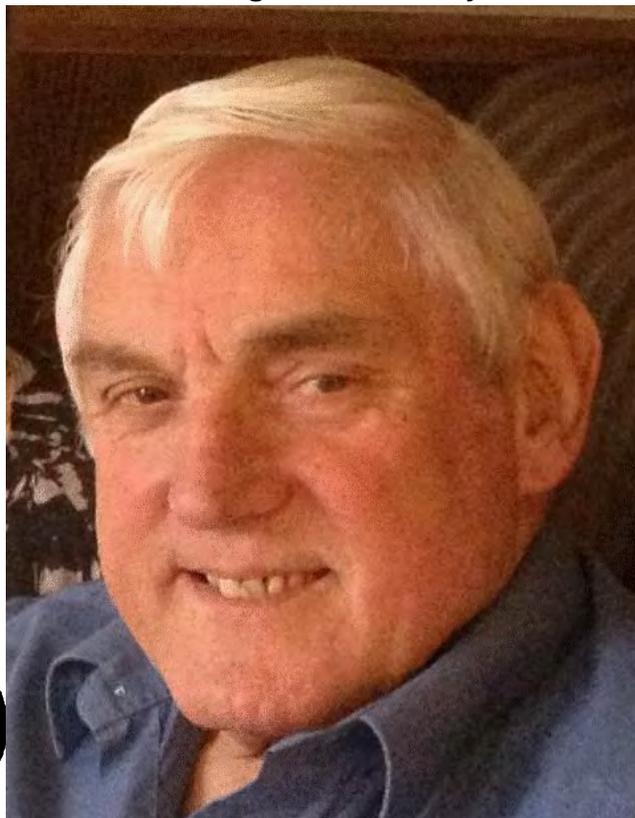
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wokingrefereessociety



Roy Butler

1943 - 2020



Rest

In

Peace



Season 2020/2021 November Edition

# WOKING REFEREES ' SOCIETY

## Founded 1927

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# The next meeting of the Woking Referees' Society on Monday 2nd November 2020

The November Meeting will once again be  
conducted via Zoom commencing at 8pm  
With an Academy Meeting at 7.15pm

Guest Speaker to be Confirmed

Please see the link for the meeting below

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87361984201>



**The December meeting will be on  
Monday 14th December 2020  
The deadline for the December Warbler is  
Friday 5th December**

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

## Chairman's Chatter

Hello Everyone.

Welcome to our November addition of the Warbler.

This month I'd like to pay tribute to our very own Life President, Roy Butler who sadly died last week.

I know Roy had suffered over the last few years with certain health issues but not two weeks ago he was joining us on our October Zoom Society Meeting and fully contributing to the debate in his own inimitable style!!

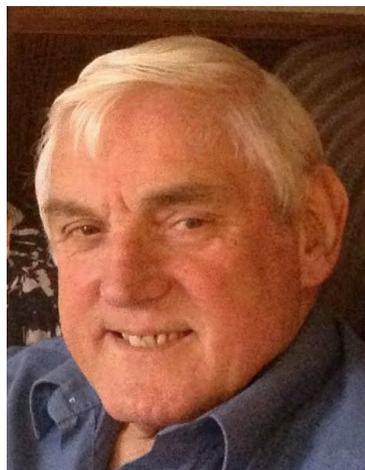
It was certainly fun to watch and listen to Roy as he debated with our Guest Speaker and several of the membership over certain refereeing and law issues and to be honest, I still can't quite believe he's no longer with us.

Roy was certainly a character and one that we all knew and loved – and that is not an understatement. Within hours of the news, Mac, Pat and I had all spoken to and seen/heard of many tributes to Roy on social media and within the local (and wider) football community.

There have already been many hilarious stories about Roy (some printable, some not so!!) that have come into me from various well-known local referees, clubs and league officials and we're hoping that some of these will be shared over this and December's Warbler to remind us all just how much Roy meant to us here at Woking Society and non-league football in general.

Let's also remember and thank Roy for his contribution to Woking Referees' Society. Over the years, Roy has held the following positions:

- Chairman (we achieved our highest membership numbers ever under Roy's leadership at nearly 120)
- Vice Chairman
- Secretary
- Asst Secretary
- Treasurer
- Supplies Officer
- Press Officer
- Committee Member



He was also recognised by the National RA with a Long Service award and Mac has worked out that in August this year, he had completed 50 years as a referee. Simply put, this is an outstanding achievement and an outstanding service to football, refereeing and our Society.

It is a testament to the high regard that Roy held within the local footballing community that both the Combined Counties and Farnham Vets leagues held a minutes silence before their games last weekend.

It just leaves me to say that we are a much poorer Society for Roy's passing but a much richer Society for having known him.

Thank you for being you, Roy and on behalf of all the membership here at Woking Referees Society, I'd like to send our heartfelt condolences to all your family and friends.

**Andy.**



## Dates for your Diary 2020/21

2nd November	Society Meeting -
14th December	Society Virtual Christmas Party
4th January	Society Meeting.
1st February	Society Meeting - Steve Worsley
1st March	Society meeting AGM
12th April	Society Meeting
10th May	Society Meeting

# Membership and Accounts

<b>2020/21 Membership</b>	<b>2020 Current Status</b>	
<b>68 Full Members</b>	<b>General</b>	<b>£2632.65</b>
<b>8 Friends</b>	<b>Supplies</b>	<b>£212.37</b>
<b>1 Affiliate Member</b>	<b>Belgium</b>	<b>£0.00</b>
<b>76 Referees trained in 2019/2020</b>	<b>Training Fund</b>	<b>£185.97</b>
	<b>Centenary Fund (formerly Youth Fund)</b>	<b>£538.86</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£3,569.85</b>

## Just a Sec!

- ◆ It was with much regret that we were informed of the death of Roy Butler on 21st October. To say it was a shock would be an understatement, having seen and heard him at our Zoom meeting just a week or so previously when he appeared to be in fine form. Although at the time of writing we are unsure of the cause, we do know that he had been waiting for a heart bypass operation for some months. As one of our longest serving referees and members of Woking Society and a character of well renown he will be sorely missed.
- ◆ We have received many tributes to Roy from near and far, which goes to show how much regard he was held in the football and refereeing communities. Some leagues including the Combined Counties and Farnham Veterans League also held a minutes silence before their games on Saturday 24th October. As well as many on facebook and from Woking Society members, we have also received tributes from Kingston Referees Society, David Crick, and Soleo in Belgium, to name but a few.
- ◆ Congratulations to the members who have been given various FA Cup games. Good see the abundance of "Plums" on the tree this month.
- ◆ A committee meeting was held on 21st October. Any member wishing to read the minutes should contact Mac at [Secretary@wokingreferees.co.uk](mailto:Secretary@wokingreferees.co.uk).
- ◆ One decision made at the committee meeting was that we intend to hold a "Virtual Christmas Party" on 14th December in lieu of our planned Christmas Dinner. Look out for further details.



### Roy Butler RIP

On behalf of the members at **Kingston Referees' Society**, may I pass on everyone's condolences. There have been some lovely tributes from members on our What's app group this afternoon which I have just read whilst on holiday.

Roy was held in high regard by our members and will be sadly missed by us all.

I hope that his many achievements will be recognised by Surrey FA in due course because he gave so much time to both the county and local leagues, as well of course to you at Woking RA.

Our condolences to his family of course, and it would be appreciated if you could pass these on.

Regards

*Philip Jones*  
Secretary, KRS

### From David Crick

May I give my condolences to the Society and Roy's family on his recent passing. He was a long-standing servant to the local game as well as serving as what would now be a Level 4 for quite some time. Undoubtedly he will be missed and the game in Surrey poorer for his absence.

May he rest in peace.

Kind regards

David Crick

(The Football Association Councillor representing The Referees' Association)

## Training News

Congratulations to Pat Bakhuizen and Gareth Heighes who both interviewed by the FA for the "new" tutor role and were both successful. As was Steve Worsley from the Kingston Society who we look forward to visiting us again in the New Year, albeit remotely I suggest. They now have the fancy new title of "FA Referee Developers"

See page 10 for further news

## **Roy Butler – 20/6/1943 – 21/10/2020 A Tribute**

It was back in 1978 that I first encountered a referee who was referred to by most of the players, that obviously knew him, as 'xxxxxxx Butler'! I was just finishing my A-levels and had started playing in the Woking Leisure Centre Summer 5-a-side league. We came across each other many times in the 40 odd years that followed.

There were far too many to recall, but even before I passed my refereeing exam in 1984, our paths had crossed numerous times when I was a 'committee man' at Walton and Hersham and he was appointed to games either at Stompond Lane or on the rare occasion that I went to away games.

Then, once I had started on my own career with the whistle I would see Roy at society meetings either behind the bar at Woking FC or when he was on the 'top table' as Treasurer. Those attending would always try to shout out "£10 cash in hand" before Roy could start his report.

I've also did many games with Roy either on the line when he was in the middle, or on opposite lines (he was always senior!!).

I also attended many RA conferences in the past when Roy was part of the Woking contingent. We never attended the annual dinner on the Saturday evenings, always preferring to accompany Hamish Brown from one night club to another, which allowed Roy to show his dance moves! These moves can be seen on the documentary made about Howard Webb during the 2008 European Championships – Roy is on the middle of the dance floor in one of the final scenes!

Roy was also a stalwart of trips to Belgium having been on most of the trips and has many friends in Lier where KSOLEO (the Belgian Referees Society we are friends with), are based. I'm sure during many of the games he officiated at during their tournaments I've heard words in Walloon, French and Dutch mentioning 'xxxxxxx Butler'! He had a reputation in Europe too!

At the Society meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2017, Paul Field (National RA Chairman) presented Roy with his 45 year award but prior to the meeting Roy had sent me a list of all his 'Plum' appointments since 1975/76 which contained 99 appointments with Surrey F.A. That is an incredible achievement, not just to be given so many but to have kept a record over the years of each one. These included Barclays League Division 2 as 4<sup>th</sup> Official at Crystal Palace, games in the FA Cup, FA Trophy, FA Vase, FA Sunday Cup, FA Women's Cup, FA Veteran's Cup, FA Youth Cup, all the Surrey FA Saturday and Sunday Cups along with various other Surrey Cups, not to mention all the Cup Finals on the various leagues he had officiated on.

Roy has been in the Referees Association throughout his Refereeing career. My records go back to 1974/75, that year Roy was Assistant Secretary. He had unbroken service as an Officer and Committee member for the following 40 years.

The roles he held were Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Supplies Officer, Press Officer and Committee member. He was made a life Vice President of the Society in 2014 in acknowledgment of more than 40 years of service to the society. He also received a long service award from the RA in 2006.

It was a privilege to know Roy for over 40 years. He was a great servant to football as well as Refereeing.

RIP Silver Fox.

### ***Bryan Jackson***



Roy being presented with his 45 Year Award by Paul Field Chairman RA November 2017



Roy enjoying a beer with Woking RS friends in Belgium May 2017

Dear Woking Friends,

I was amazed and shocked to hear the bad news that Roy has passed away. More than 30 years ago I met him during the Soleo tournament in which the Woking referees participated. We got to know each other better during the "compulsory" twinning at the bar. The later it became, the more "piss off" we used in our dialogue, but in a friendly way. Over the following years, this became our word of welcome when Soleo traveled to Woking and vice versa. We got to know him as a friendly and warm personality. It is with a heavy heart that we have to say goodbye, especially during these difficult corona times. Not only Corona and the impending Brexit will change the future of our society, but the loss of Roy will also change our collective history. Much strength to the Woking community we both will miss him.  
sincere condolences.

Marc Leysen  
Member of KSoleo

Met vriendelijke groeten / Best regards / Bien à vous

# Training News

Welcome to the training section.

With still not being able to meet up face to face, it's even more important to stay in touch in other ways and continue learning from each other. So as the season moves on and the weather changes, it's time to consider what is required to stay focused, when you're getting cold wet and standing around?

For the next society zoom meeting, there will be an academy section starting at 7:15pm for half an hour, it will be start with a 10 minute laws of the game test and then we can focus on the subject of 'FOCUS'

I would love to hear from you, so I can tailor some more sessions for you, so you can get the best from your games, so please contact me on [patric.bakhuizen@gmail.com](mailto:patric.bakhuizen@gmail.com)

Stay safe and look after your selves and I look forward to hearing from you

**Pat**

## MURPHY'S MEANDERINGS

It was the early eighties and I was running the line at a Football League first division match. The ground was wet and the lines well used because most referees ran the same diagonal. It was muddy on top but hard underneath and consequently very slippery. Play was up the other end of the pitch and I was on the halfway line level with the last defender. A long ball was played deep into my half and an attacker and a defender chased after it. I sprinted down the line keeping up with them. The goalkeeper, racing to the edge of his penalty area, beat them both to it and kicked the ball back up field.

I tried to stop but did so too quickly and my legs went from underneath me. I slid down the touchline on my backside and my legs went either side of the corner flag. As I reached the corner flag I was slowing down and the inside of my leg caught the flag pole spinning me round to face back up field. The whole incident was over in a matter of seconds and, uninjured, I was able to get up quickly and start running back to regain my position. There was a lot of comment and laughter from the crowd as I went down the line and I have to admit that, being able to see the funny side of it, there was a broad smile on my face as well.

**Tony Murphy**

# PlumTree

## FA Vase First Round Proper 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020

### Fleet Town vs Littlehampton Town

Assistant Referee : Roy Lawrence

### Raynes Park Vale v Sheerwater

Referee : William Douglas

### Sandhurst Town FC v North Greenford United FC

Assistant Referee Erno Vajda

### Frimley Green v Flackwell Heath FC

Referee : Callum Peter

### Walton & Hersham FC v Peacehaven & Telscombe

Referee : Neil Keirs

### 1/10/20 ,Womens FA Cup,

Badshot Lea vs Saltdean Utd

Referee : Roy Lawrence

### 19/10/20 FA Youth Cup

,Woking vs Sutton Common

Assistant Referee ; RoyLawrence

### 22/10 - FA Youth Cup Third Round Qualifying -

Camberley Town v Weston Super Mare

Referee : David Payne

### 13/10 - FA Cup Third Round Qualifying

Bedfont Sports v Canvey Island

Assistant Referee : David Payne

### 22/09 - FA Cup First Round Qualifying

Frimley Green v Marlow

Assistant Referee : David Payne

### 19/09 - FA Vase First Round Qualifying

Billingshurst v FC Elmstead –

Referee : David Payne

### Chelsea First team squad v AFC Wimbledon (friendly)

Assistant Referee : Stephen Brown

### 1st Capitol Cup

Abbey ladies 1st v Sutton ladies

Referee : Stephen Brown

### 24/10/2020 The Emirates FA Cup Fourth Round Qualifying

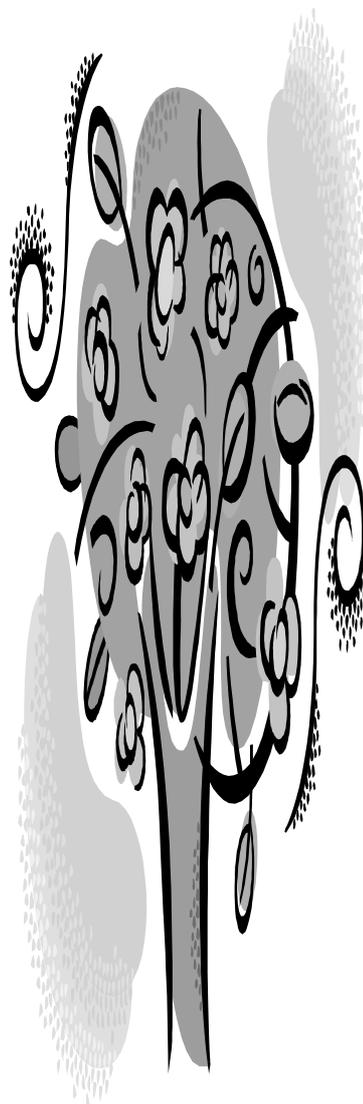
Sutton United FC v Bromley FC

Assistant Referee : Jonty Bolland

### FA Womans Cup, Final Qualifying Rd

Fulham Ladies v Maidenhead Utd Ladies

Assistant Referees : Paul Gorringer & Gareth Heighes



## Last Month's Meeting

Chairman Andy welcomed our guest speaker Tony Dean and 21 members and guests to our October meeting which took place on 5th October, once again via via Zoom.



Tony's presentation took the form of a quiz on the Laws of the Game consisting of questions and video clips along with three or four possible answers . We were then asked to pick our answers by using the "chat" function on Zoom.

Tony explained that when making this presentation at a live venue, he would supply the audience with a hand set which automatically registered everyone's answer anonymously on a screen.

However, using the chat function on Zoom worked quite well. It also gave Tony (and Andy) the opportunity to ask various members why they had chosen a particular answer.

The questions were very varied and ranged from jewellery, pitch inspection, violent conduct between players in the same team, throw ins, goalkeepers changing places and many more.

The question on jewellery surprisingly engendered a good deal of debate, particularly around the seemingly increasing popularity of "ear stretchers". Tony showed us a few pictures including a finger so swollen after a ball hit it that the attached wedding ring had to be cut off and another of a torn earlobe where the "ear stretcher had been torn out.

Following the quiz we had a general question and answer session, which engendered much discussion and debate.

Tony's obvious knowledge of the game, along with his often amusing and self deprecating humour, made for a very enjoyable evening and I'm sure we all improved our knowledge of the LOTG.

Andy thanked Tony for an taking the time to visit us at Woking, albeit virtually, and for his excellent presentation and hoped that once "normality" is resumed he would be able to physically make his way to Woking Referees where he would once again be very welcome.

There then followed a quick round up of Society business. Bryan Jackson informed the meeting that he had been chasing up those who were late renewing their subs and membership now stood at 64.

Pat (Training) said the next new referees course is not scheduled until March 2021, meanwhile the current tutors were now having to re-apply for the position.

The meeting closed at 10.10pm

## Sian Massey-Ellis Abuse and Sergio Aguero (Daily Mail Online)



Premier League assistant referee Sian Massey-Ellis insists her concentration during matches is so high that she is able to blur out any abuse from supporters and also insisted he has never felt intimidated.

The assistant referee was in the spotlight at the weekend after an incident involving Sergio Aguero. The Manchester City striker put his hand on her shoulder after he disagreed with a decision.



Official rules state that players can be cautioned for non-aggressive contact with a referee but can be sent off if it is deemed aggressive or confrontational.

Massey-Ellis, who is the only top flight female official, spoke about her experiences in the men's game during an interview with Outside the Box podcast.

She insisted she is able to block out noise during matches and said intimidation has never been an issue, instead sighting fitness as her biggest challenge.

'Everyone thinks "oh you must get loads of grief" but I don't really because I'm so concentrated on communication, focusing on decisions.

'What goes on in the background is just a blur. People expect me to say that as a challenge but I don't see it as that.

'I think fitness for me is a really big thing, I have to work really hard to be as fit as the lads and fast as the players. If I'm not in the right position to make an offside decision, if I'm not in line with the last defender, most of the time I will get it wrong.

'In my experience, there was very few times where I found I was intimidated. I think you have to be quite a strong character, the way I've always looked at things was they're not saying things about me they're saying things about my uniform.

'I think when I'm dressed in my uniform I'm just a woman in black. When you go on to that football pitch you can be confident, try to make them right decisions. If anyone is worried about getting shouted at, you don't ever notice it. Grassroots football you might notice it a bit more. I didn't ever feel like I was intimidated.'

The official admitted grassroots football can sometimes be a more intimidating place for female referees and recalled a time she was forced to stand up to a parent on the sidelines.

'One time one of the Dad's on the sideline was giving me some grief and I just went over and said "If you think you can do a better job there's the whistle" and he went "no, no, no I didn't mean it like that."

'I said "well stop then" and just went off and carried on my game. I think probably that took a bit of strength. A lot of the time you just ignore it.'

Massey-Ellis has been professional for 10 years and in 2019 became the first woman to officiate in a men's European match - a 0-0 draw between PSV Eindhoven and LASK in the Europa League.

## Howard Webb Has Sadly Put Me In A Quandary

With the onset of the Corona virus and all Referee Societies having to cancel their monthly meetings, Zoom has been a godsend and guest speakers can take part without leaving home. The AFA and London Society pulled off a coup by having a Zoom meeting with Howard Webb, taking part direct from New York, which I was privileged to join. The former world Number One referee and now of course General Manager of the Professional Referees Organisation in North America, had as his theme, what he had learnt since becoming a referee. I have to admit however, that he has left me in a quandary, you might say a dilemma.



To explain this I must go back to my early days as a linesman in senior football. Yes, we were linesmen not assistant referees, with very little talk of teamwork. Your job was to flag for ball out of play and offside, and your flag, as one referee sternly told me, was better late than never but better never late. The referee was king and the instruction 'leave the fouls to me,' was not uncommon.

I noticed however that there were times when the referee made decisions that he was not in a position to observe. For example, a player running towards me on the line might bring the ball under control with his chest but with his arms tight to either side of his body. The referee, from behind, would blow for a handball, which he would never have done, had he seen the incident from my position. So I invented a golden rule for myself when refereeing, if you don't see it, don't give it, don't guess.

Some years later I attended an evening with Howard Webb and one rule he impressed upon us lower mortals was not to guess. I was delighted to have my rule supported by such a leading referee. About two weeks later however, I watched Manchester United against Tottenham Hotspurs on Match of the Day. The ball ran into the Spurs penalty area chased by a United player. Gomez, the Spurs keeper came off his line and dived at the ball, bringing down the United player.

Howard Webb following on behind the United player, gave a penalty. The television replay however, showed that Gomez had clearly played the ball pushing it away before the United player fell over his outstretched body. I was shocked, Howard Webb had broken the golden rule. He had guessed. The score at that time was 2 nil to Spurs, the penalty made it 2-1 and Manchester went on to win 4-2. Harry Redknapp, Spurs manager at the time, claimed the decision had cost them the game, and we all know the old saying 'goals change games'.

Howard actually referred to this incident in his talk from New York but he had changed his thinking. if you are faced with an incident where you are not sure what the decision should be, he said you should trust your 'gut feeling'. That's what he did at Old Trafford. Although admitting that on that occasion he got it wrong, he still felt it was best advice.

So you can see why I am in a quandary. My dilemma is what decision do I make if I'm not sure what happened? Do I 'not guess' and play on, or do I go with my gut feeling.

The one thing of which I am certain. is that whichever I choose, I am as likely to get it wrong, as many times as I get it right.

*Dick Sawdon Smith*



## MURPHY'S MEANDERINGS

I met up with my old mate Eric recently. As usual we talked about football, he's always good for a few stories.

"It's funny," he said, "How players open their mouths and put their foot in it. Take a local game that I was refereeing. One team had an aging goalkeeper. With five minutes to go the opponents centre forward kicked the ball high over the crossbar. With the wind behind it the ball sailed on for a couple of hundred yards. Although winning 2-0 the goalkeeper sprinted after the ball, retrieved it, and sprinted back. Putting the ball on the six-yard box for the goal kick he shouted proudly to his centre half, "I can still show the young ones what fitness is, I've still got it". However, as he took the goal kick, he stumbled and miskicked the ball straight to the centre forward on the edge of the penalty area. He was then committed to doing a "kamikaze" dive at the forward's feet but missed the ball completely. It ended in the goal and he only succeeded in colliding with the forward's knee. As a result of the collision he was unable to continue, was substituted and had to be taken to hospital for a check up to find out if any ribs were broken. He didn't have it then."

"I was watching a local match one Saturday played on Grand National Day. The club linesman was running the line with his flag in one hand and a transistor radio in the other listening to the sports programme. At half time the club linesman asked the referee if the break could be extended so that they could listen to the Grand National on the radio. The referee agreed and the players were happy so they all sat around listening to the race on the radio. Once the race was over they started the second half."

***Tony Murphy***

## Adie's Windy Reds and Yellows

We are now heading into the third month of the SCILW and the G&WAFL Football League Programme. There have been several games called off due to Covid 19 and a couple of Referees who have been isolating.

If you have a test and it is positive you **MUST** not officiate for 14 days and if the test is inconclusive, again you must not officiate until you have taken another and it is negative.

These are not my rules but guidance from the Government. Sorry to have to point this out but these are strange and unprecedented times. We have noted that some areas of our Leagues are now in the Tier 2 classification of Covid 19. I am assured that the local grassroots football will continue at present and if there is any change we will be informing all the match officials.

I have been receiving excellent feedback from you Referees concerning your games – keep this going, you are our ears and eyes out there and, as League Officers, we cannot be at every game.

Interesting scenario on the 10<sup>th</sup> of October when we had a very high amount of cautions and dismissals on that day. Explanation? Ask any person in the teaching profession. When it is windy the pupils are far more difficult. I can only conclude that it is like a full moon condition, people change.

My current wife (I say that to keep her on her toes), is convinced that when men put on shorts they become little boys and have to be treated as such. Conversely, talking to my eldest son's fiancé she is convinced that when women pick up their handbags and go shopping they revert to being little girls – tantrums and all. I will leave it up to you to decide!! I have just noted that the 31<sup>st</sup> of October is not only Halloween but it's a full moon! I just hope it is not windy as my misconduct graphs will take their biggest bashing ever.

I am still enjoying my woodworking on the lathe. Advice on starting this is to only use hard-woods. I figured I had enough experience on them so I wanted to try my hand on some soft woods. With my engineering experiences I fully appreciate the importance of how sharp tools need to be on softer materials. I invested several years ago in an off-hand grinder that has been very useful for sharpening drills. I duly sharpened my turning chisels and gouges and cut out some pine in the chopping saw. I was delighted with the result as the grain was brilliant. I am now contemplating combining my skills with the pyrography unit to burn in Egyptian Hieroglyphics around the outside. Trouble is the old grey matter keeps being more and more creative which is great for me and keeps the brain cells active.

Keep Safe

**Adie**



I asked Adie to send me a few photos of his woodworking prowess, but he obviously wasn't happy although his bowls and vase do look stunning. *Mac*



## MURPHY'S MEANDERINGS

Reading about the problems referees have had with supporters reminds me of a situation which occurred when I was refereeing a Hampshire County league match in the seventies. The home team won the game by three goals to one and there were no problems. However, I did disallow a fourth goal late in the game. It was a straightforward decision accepted by all players without comment.

To get to the officials changing room we had to pass alongside the stand. As we did so, an old lady leant out of the stand and started hitting me on the head with an umbrella screaming and shouting about the disallowed fourth goal. The Secretary was quickly on hand and grabbed the old lady allowing us to get to the changing room. After the game an embarrassed Secretary explained that she had been a lifelong supporter of the club but as she had got older, she had got more cantankerous. Consequently, they had given her a free season ticket in the stand to keep her out of trouble but, unfortunately, she still had her moments.

***Tony Murphy***

## Words, words, words ... Part 1 -- Rulebook Words

by [Paul Gardner](#) , Sep 2, 2020 Soccer America

It happens in every game. The referee goes up to a player, or a group of players, and delivers what looks like a stern lecture. The referee is -- we can assume -- giving the players a warning. They've been breaking the rules, and if they persist, they will be called for a foul, and maybe will get a yellow card.

You might point out that referees have been dishing out the same verbal warnings for decades (e.g. at corner kicks), so they don't appear to be very effective. You'd be right, of course, but you'd also be wasting your time. Verbal warnings are an accepted part of the game, widely used by referees as the first move in the three-step crescendo of punishments that they can inflict: warning (verbal), caution (yellow card), ejection (red card).

The verbal warning allows the referee to soften his judgment, to administer merely a chat rather than a card. It has its greatest value in youth soccer, where giving a young player a second chance seems more humane than immediately whacking them with the full strength of the rulebook.

Possibly. But verbal warnings at the pro level? Does that make any sense? Not to me it doesn't. Pro players are supposed -- should be required -- to *know* the rules of their sport. No second chance for them.

But the truly questionable aspect of the verbal warning is that it is not in the rulebook. I have been scanning FIFA rulebooks for decades, looking for a definition -- even just a mention -- of the verbal warning. I've never found one. In fact, I've never come across the word "warning." Caution, yes. That means a yellow card and the occasions when it must be used are elaborately spelled out in Rule 12.

But silence surrounds the verbal warning. It is neither approved nor frowned on. Just ignored. Well, not quite. In the 2018-2019 rule book, lo and behold, the word itself, "warning," popped up in, of all places, Rule 1 (which deals with The Field of Play).

It was the arrival of VAR that induced the rulemakers to utter the word "warning." The field of play must now include a "clearly marked" area -- the Referee Review Area, RRA, where the referee can consult a monitor showing replays. Rule 1 now stated that a "team official" who entered the RRA must "be publicly given an official warning."

That wording didn't last long. It disappeared from the next (2019-2020) rulebook. But "warning" was gaining ground. It now appeared in Rule 12, under the sub-head Team Officials. A warning was now a disciplinary measure issued to team officials (*not* players) for four defined infractions (e.g. "Failing to co-operate with a match official").

So a "warning" now has official status in the rulebook. It can be used only in the case of four defined offenses, and can be applied only to team officials, and not to players. The status is confirmed in the current (2020-2021) rulebook.

(And there is, inevitably, an exception, and even more inevitably it's the goal-keeper, who can be "warned" rather than "cautioned" for committing an offense when defending a penalty kick).

A mess. To put it charitably. The rulebook does, finally, acknowledge the existence of a "warning." It then severely limits its use: to be used only to penalize four specific offenses committed by team officials. Nowhere do the rules indicate just how this warning must be "publicly given."

A total mess because in soccer the word "warning" has a much wider -- and much more widely understood -- use as the verbal warning given to players: an almost friendly nudge to let a player know that if he doesn't clean up his act he'll be carded.

The rulebook's refusal to recognize the verbal warning continues, it seems determined to stick with its extremely restricted definition of the word warning.

The thought -- logical enough -- that team officials were being "warned" because they could not be cautioned with a yellow card was quickly squelched by the rule-makers. The 2019-2020 rulebook permitted referees to show yellow and red cards to coaches. But the current 2020-2021 rulebook repeats the narrow definition of warning and its limited use.

So a totally unsatisfactory situation persists. Referees at all levels use a three-step disciplinary approach, where the rulebook, making no allowance whatever for verbal warnings, allows only the two-step caution/ejection path.

There can be little doubt that many a verbal caution is given to avoid having to give a yellow card -- i.e. as a way of not applying the rules of the game. There may well be good reasons for such flexibility in youth soccer.

It should certainly not be permitted at the pro level. Yet it happens in every game. What is required from the rulemakers is an open acknowledgment -- a welcome, really -- of the verbal warning, with a clear definition of what it is supposed to accomplish.

Plus the introduction of a clear referee signal. I would suggest the use of a blue or a white card. Once that has been decided, those irritating chats should be a thing of the past. You got a blue card and everyone knows what that means. Next foul, you're on -- at least -- a yellow. No need for the ref to explain anything.

If a blue card is to be seen as the first phase of a three-step disciplinary chain, that should be stated in the definition. If it is to be part of the player's disciplinary record, then it must become part of the official game stats and part of each player's profile (and each referee's too).

The blue card, I think, should not be used at the pro level. What is needed there is a more stringent approach to the award of yellows and reds. And a ban on chatting referees. I fail to see the value of giving experienced pros a second chance to foul.

## **Soccer America**

*I fail to understand why this reporter continually refers to "the rules" instead of what we all know as "The Laws" - perhaps it's an American thing.  
Very annoying though. Mac*

## DOES HAND BALL INTERPRETATION REALLY MATTER?

The interpretation of handball matters very much: increasingly matches are being decided by free kicks or penalties awarded for handball offences.

As recently as season 2018/19 the Law remained relatively straightforward, as it had been for very many years. Law 12 on handling offences began by stating that:

*Handling the ball involves a deliberate act of a player making contact with the ball with the hand or arm*

The key word here is *DELIBERATE*. As referee, or sometimes as assistant, the only question I had to ask myself was:

“Did the player mean to do it? Was the handball intentional?”

This was not always very easy to judge since we can't read players' minds, but reasonable decisions could be made by considering whether or not there was a movement of the hand or arm towards the ball, or whether the player had lacked the time to remove his arm from the path of the ball.

The only problem with this interpretation was that it didn't seem fair if a player gained a clear, perhaps goalscoring, advantage from an accidental handball. In fact, in these situations referees tended to penalise the player, although doing so was contrary to Law.

Perhaps this at least in part explains why for season 2019/20 and again for 20/21 the wording of the Law was changed. Unfortunately, it has been made much more complicated and much more difficult to administer with anything approaching a convincing sense of fairness. It seems unfair that very slight accidental hand ball offences which make no difference to the continuation of the game should be punished by the award of game changing free kicks and penalty kicks.

Graham Souness has suggested that the International board (IFAB) must have known what the result of the change would be, but favoured it because more controversy and more goals would be “for the good of the game”. That is, for its entertainment value, so important in retaining and increasing the global television audience.

Perhaps this view is over cynical, but one cannot help but wonder how carefully the implications of the new interpretation were thought through from the perspective of the match officials at all levels of the game who have work with it and manage the inevitable controversies.

***Jim de Rennes***

Kingston RS

### Caught Short.?

Please see correspondence between Pete Rogers at Sutton RS and David Crick below



*Hi David*

*I hope all's well*

*It would seem over the weekend at certain grounds there was no toilets available for Referee's and players and from all accounts park rangers were doing on the spot fines if anyone was caught peeing behind the bushes. My concern is, what if the Referee is reported to County FA?*

*Could they be charged under FA Rule E3 ? your reply asap would be really appreciated.*

*Regards*

*Pete Rogers*

*Sutton Society RA*

*Hi Peter*

*All well here, thanks, I trust the same is with you.*

*The answer to your question is, technically, yes ; BUT Referees should be reminded of their responsibilities to other participants (most especially if they are u18). If the referee has to 'go' then they would be best advised to ensure that no-one can see them 'perform'.*

*We had a case a while ago up north where there was no cover at all in an u18 game and the referee sensibly told both Managers to get their teams to look the other way. This mitigated the chances of a Charge!*

*Hope this helps a bit.*

*David Crick*

*The Football Association Councillor representing The Referees' Association*



**"Do you, Arnold, promise not to moan when football on telly clashes with Coronation St?"**



**"It's referee's elbow, brought on by all the sendings-off".**



**"Just in case you get sent-off, you can put on this false beard and go back on as sub".**

## **Former Ref Keith Hackett would support two major rule proposals from Arsene Wenger**

Posted by  
[Tom McNeil](#)

Arsenal legend Arsene Wenger the Chief of Global Football Development for FIFA which is a powerful position, and he's recently made some proposals which would tweak the current game as we know it.

I got the chance to to speak to former Premier League ref and boss of PGMOL Keith Hackett about these proposals, and he's broadly in favour.

Wenger outlined his vision for the changes in an interview with French outlet L'Equipe, which was picked up by Get Football News France, and here's the main takeaways from that:

***“For the moment, you are offside if a part of your body that you can score with sits ahead of the body of a defender. I would like it to be that there is no offside so long as a (single) body part which a player can score with is in line with the defender”***

He also has some slightly more radical plans which would involve tweaks to the corner and throw in laws:

***“We are also considering other things: an in-swinging corner that goes out of play and comes back in could be made valid, this would create new goal-scoring opportunities.”***

***“There is also the option of quickly playing a free-kick to yourself.”***

***“ I would also like to change the throw-in rule: five minutes before the end, a throw-in for you should be an advantage, but in these situations you are facing 10 outfield players in play, whilst you only have 9. Stats show that in 8 out of 10 of those throw-in situations, you lose the ball. In your half of the pitch, you should have the possibility to take a kick instead.”***

Hackett spoke about having a great working relationship with Wenger during his time at Arsenal, and he's on board with his plans to change things, but also wishes the handball law was addressed:

***“Sadly he avoided the recent impact of the mess that the Handball Law has created on the game which has been making life very difficult for the referees.”***

***“Whilst I have recently stated that the law makers from IFAB should stop tinkering with the laws, I personally would like Wenger's suggestions to be adopted. The current offside law is chalking off too many goals.”***

There will be two schools of thought with this as the purists won't want anything to change, but Wenger himself pointed to a recent alteration which has improved the game.

He stated that the adaptation of the rule where the keeper didn't need to kick the ball out of his box from a goal-kick has changed the game for the better, and clearly he would be hoping that these proposals will have a similar impact.

Changes like these will take time to approve so you shouldn't expect things to change overnight, but it's worth keeping an eye on this to see if any of these are implemented.

***Spotted in "Caught Offside" Courtesy of Mal Davies***

#### Classy Insults



*"I am enclosing two tickets to the first night of my new play; bring a friend, if you have one."*

- George Bernard Shaw to Winston Churchill

*"Cannot possibly attend first night, will attend second .... if there is one."*

- Winston Churchill, in response



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## The 'Red Card' Gallery

There are times that a photo says it all so here we have a lovely selection of what appears to be red card offences but possibly due to the referees position the offenders were not all sent off.



**Top photo was a yellow card!**



If you see any contact and challenges like these.....there is only one colour and that colour is red!

**Willie “*the red card*” Referee**

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I just milked a cow for the very first time!!!  
I got a pat on the head ...

If the person who named Walkie  
Talkies named everything

Stamps = Lickie Stickie

Defibrillators = Hearty Starty

Bumble bees = Fuzzy Buzzy

Pregnancy test = Maybe Baby

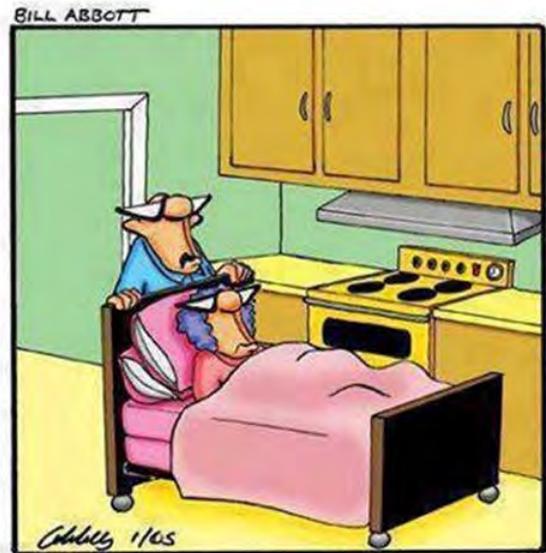
Bra = Breastie Nestie

Fork = Stabby Grabby

Socks = Feetie Heatie

Hippo = Floatie Bloatie

Nightmare = Screamy Dreamy



“I figured you should have  
breakfast in bed on your  
birthday. Can you reach  
the stove okay?”

**DO NOT LET THEM  
TAKE YOUR  
TEMPERATURE WHEN  
YOU ENTER A STORE!  
IT'S A SCAM!  
THEY ARE ERASING  
YOUR MEMORY!  
I WENT IN FOR  
BREAD AND MILK  
& I CAME OUT WITH  
6 BOTTLES OF WINE!**

[©womenafter50.com](http://womenafter50.com)

Is the daisy powerline 856 good for squirrels?



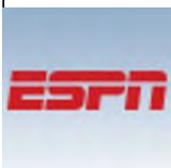
2 answers · Hunting

No, it is too long to hide in their nest and the trigger is too far forward for their paws to be able to hold and fire at the same time.

Most of the squirrels in my hood just carry a small handgun, like a Glock 26 or 27.

Hope this helps.

- ◆ How many dyslexics does it take to change a lightbulb? Steven.
- ◆ An electrician arrives home at 3am. His wife says "Wire you insulate?" He replies "Watts it to you? I'm Ohm aren't I?" It's a current joke but a bit shocking!
- ◆ Friend: A cannibal took my wife to see a Russell Crowe movie. Me: Gladiator? Friend: No, I really miss her now.
- ◆ My alligator has stopped working. It's got reptile dysfunction disorder!



## German goalkeeper banned for eight years after attacking a referee

A goalkeeper in one of Germany's lower leagues has been banned by the local football association for eight years after attacking a referee.

The goalkeeper, named Samet -- due to legal reasons in Germany, it is not possible to give his full name -- also faces criminal charges following the attack.

He jumped on the referee from behind during a match between SV Oppum and CSV Marathon II in September after the hosts were awarded a controversial 80th-minute equaliser.

The visitors believed the goal had been scored from an offside position, and the resulting row with the referee led to a red card for one CSV player.

As the game was about to continue, the goalkeeper stormed out of his box and attacked the referee from behind.

The match was immediately suspended and the goalkeeper's club, CSV Marathon, ordered a restraining order against the player coming to the club's premises. However, he was not expelled from the club straight away due to legal reasons. "Players like him won't get a second chance at CSV Marathon Krefeld," the club's general manager, Axel Wiebus, told ESPN.

The club pushed for the maximum ban to be imposed on the keeper, and on Thursday, the local FA handed the player an eight-year ban.

"We can now expel the person from our club," Wiebus said. "Attacking the referee is a no-no.

"It's honourable work we are doing, and things like that just take away all the fun. "We'd rather focus on our great work with our partner club SC Hellas. It tarnishes everything."

**Stephan Uersfeld** *Germany correspondent* *Via Mal Davies*



I accidentally passed my wife a glue stick instead of a chap stick. She's still not talking to me

*I had a rose named after me and I was very flattered. But I was not pleased to read the description in the catalogue: - 'No good in a bed, but fine against a wall.'*

*- Eleanor Roosevelt*

A friend said he hadn't been swimming in an Egyptian river. He was in denial.



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