

THE WARBLER

Monthly Magazine of the Woking Referees' Society

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Season 2017/18 October Edition

WOKING REFEREES ' SOCIETY

FOUNDED 1927

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The next meeting of the Woking Referees' Society will be on Monday October 2nd 2017

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

AGENDA

- ◆ **7.30 Academy Meeting**

- ◆ **8.00 Chairman's Welcome**

- ◆ **Guest Speaker**
Tim Lawrence
"End Game"

- ◆ **Society Business**

- ◆ **10.00 Close**



**Next month's meeting will be on
Monday November 6th 2017**

**The deadline for November Warbler is Friday
27th October**

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

From the Chair



Hi Everyone,

I was fortunate last month to go on holiday to Malta, unfortunately I traveled the same day as the Malta v England game. I travelled in pure luxury on EasyJet, on what can only be described as a school bus, the quiet teachers at the front and the rowdy kids at the back, which made me proud to be British! I dutifully watched the game on TV in my hotel and thought it was a good game, England won and the referee team did well. The following day, laying around the pool, I was amazed to hear Brits berating the Referee and Assistants, it just shows win or lose and no matter how good you are, you can't please every-

one. So go out enjoy your upcoming games be consistent and be the best you can be, you won't please everyone but as long as you've done your best you can come away happy

Well done to last month's guest speaker on his first presentation to the society.

This month's speaker is Surreys FA's Referee Development Officer Tim Lawrence. This year so far, Surrey FA training team have trained well over a 100 new Referees, and its Tim's job to make sure they complete their training by refereeing five games each within 4 months - not an easy task along with making sure all the other Referees in Surrey are receiving sufficient training and support and, on top of that, taking time to visit league meetings and referee societies.

Enjoy your games and see you soon

Pat

Membership & Accounts

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

2017 Current Status	
General	£2,164.65
Supplies	£154.00
Belgium	£0.00
Training Fund	£534.30
Youth Fund	£113.50
Total	£2,966.45

Just a Sec!



- ◆ Many thanks to the RA/FA Youth Referees Development Fund for their £200 contribution towards our new 2 in 1 Laptop for our Academy. In particular I'd like to thank Alex Bradley, National RA/FA Youth Council Rep. for the South East, for informing us of the scheme and pointing us in the right direction regarding our application and finally for authorising the payment.
- ◆ This month's meeting sees the welcome return of our very own Surrey FA Referees Development Officer Tim Lawrence, who's going to tell us all about the "End Game"
- ◆ We have Paul Field, Nation RA Chairman, as our guest speaker at the November meeting and I have invited our fellow Surrey RAs along to hear what Paul has to say about his vision for the future of the RA. So please make a special effort to attend and demonstrate what a thriving Society we have.

Mac's Musings

I read a post on Facebook today from Surrey FA , advertising a new initiative for talented footballers aged between U6 and U12 with birthdays between January and August only and called "Late Birthday Project" (LBP) The idea is to combat the Relative Age Effect (no doubt initialled as well) by allowing talented younger players to flourish without the influence of older bigger boys (Yes it's only aimed at boys for some reason). It would appear from the post that this has been successfully trialled elsewhere. Now my son and his fiancée both have sons from previous partners who have an age difference of 10 months (currently 6 and 7 years old) who are exactly the same size. So even within a 6 month age gap there must be variations in size, as there is in adult football. Just compare Lionel Messi at 5ft 7ins with say Ronaldo at 6ft 1ins probably 2 of the best players in the world currently. Still if it gets more youngsters playing and learning then it must be a good thing.

I was refereeing an U14 boys game recently and that is certainly an age group along with possibly U15s, where there is often a huge size and strength difference as the effects of puberty take hold. It also makes it quite difficult to referee as trying to judge whether a larger lad has used excessive force, or a fair shoulder charge against a much smaller player. I must admit in the interest of player safety I always err on the side of caution.

I read that both the Surrey Intermediate and Guilford and Woking Alliance Leagues are now asking their referees to wear "smart/casual" attire to their appointed games. No more tracksuits or wearing referees kit to the games. It would seem a tie is optional. I just hope that the Leagues don't mind if I leave in my kit/tracksuit as I find many of the showers in some of the "clubhouses" rather unappealing and I would rather travel home a bit sweaty and shower in the comfort of my own home

Keeeeeep whistling ! (Yes Strictly is back)

Mac

Woking Referees Society Meeting September 4th 2017

The Academy meeting was held before main meeting and was streamed live on Instagram using the new tablet device purchased with the aid of a grant from the RA Youth Council.

Main Meeting

Collin Barnett, Vice Chairman, welcomed the 21 members attended the September meeting.

Apologies for absence received from Pat Bakhuizen Mac McBirnie, Vince Penfold, Tom Ellsmore, David Cooper, Roy Butler, Ken Chivers.

Presentation

Callum Peter gave an interesting presentation on his experiences and those of Shawn Barclay plus 2 other Surrey Referees at the 2017 Dana Cup which took place at Hjorring in Denmark.

The presentation included photos and a number of video clips including a training session held by Tim Lawrence Surrey FA RDO, who accompanied the Surrey Referees on the trip.

The tournament consisted of teams from all over the world and had Referees from as far afield as New Zealand. Referees were appointed to 4 games a day and Assistants with only appointed once the tournament reached the quarter finals.

This was Callum's 2nd year of attending the Dana cup which he again thoroughly enjoyed.

A short break followed

After the break, the meeting was shown the tablet used by the academy for streaming that was purchased with the aid of a grant from the RA Youth Council - Bryan Jackson explained how we became aware of the grant process and how we had been given £200.

Following this, society assistant secretary and newly promoted to level 3 referee, Andy Bennett, showed a number of clips from his first game of the season in a 'what would you do?' session. Interesting debates followed on what decision should be given before Andy told the meeting what decisions he gave and why.

Andy then showed an incident where he was assistant referee and was needed to deal with an over exuberant bench and their reaction to a decision not to award a penalty.

Following the raffle the meeting closed at 9:55

Bryan Jackson



Photos from September Meeting

Top Left - New Laptop in action at the Academy meeting

Above - Callum Peter giving his presentation on the Dana Cup.

Left - Callum receiving his "Young Referee of the Year 2016/17" trophy from Colin Barnett, Vice Chairman

Dates for your Diary 2016/17

2nd October	Society Meeting	Tim Lawrence, Surrey RDO
6th November	Society Meeting	Paul Field, Chairman RA
11th December	Society Christmas Dinner	
8th January	Society Meeting	Ray Heb RA Board Member
5th February	Society Meeting	TBA
5th March	Society Meeting	AGM

Academy News

Hi All

Last month we discussed the importance of goal setting for the coming season.

If you could set yourselves a short term , mid term and long term goal for your season what would they be ?

The October meeting will be our first Full Open forum of season were members in attendance or online viewer can post match incidents or questions for discussion.

We will be live on Instagram from Loop Road at 19.30 to tune please search for wokingrefereessociety and remember to follow

If you wish to share prior to the meeting please send your questions to academy@wokingreferees.co.uk or post on the Woking Referees Society facebook page.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the October meeting.

Gareth Heighes
Woking RA Training and Welfare Officer



2017 SURREY REFEREE EVENT

Featuring EFL Referee **Craig Hicks**

26th October | 7pm | Imber Court, Molesey



We're delighted to announce that EFL Referee Craig Hicks will be the key note speaker at our Annual Referee Event on 26th October.

Craig, who begun refereeing in the English Football Leagues 1 and 2 this season, has come through the ranks as a Surrey referee - from his beginnings in the Epsom & Ewell Youth League, his time in the Referee Development Group, and through to his appointment in the Surrey Senior Cup Final in 2016.

The event will be held at Imber Court, in Molesey, and as usual we will be hosting a free buffet for all of the attendees. As well as Craig Hicks' talk, there will also be an update on all things Surrey refereeing, as well as the chance to network with all of your fellow referees

Date: 26th October

Time: 7-10pm

Location: Met Police FC, Imber Court, Ember Lane, East Molesey KT8 0BT.

Elbowed, kicked and scratched.....

...and sledged by the ref, too! This the headline to the following (slightly edited) extract from the autobiography Gunning for Greatness: My Life, by **Mesut Özil**, via *The Mail on Sunday*. –**Spotted in The Chiltern Referee**

The Premier League is the toughest challenge I've experienced in football. If you can't take it here, without whining, then you're history. It's something I had to get to grips with in the first few weeks and months after my switch from Real Madrid. Whereas in Spain the entire game is based on elegant ball play – even teams from the lower leagues try the same – in England you have scratching, biting and fighting. There's barely any respite. You fail to notice how hard it is during the game itself and how many attacks the body sustains.

I've had scratches on the neck and bruises on my back, shoulders and chest from opponent's elbows welcoming me into the Premier League when the referee wasn't watching. After I'd been brutally brought to the ground in one of my first encounters, the opponent hissed "It's not Real Madrid, it's not La Liga". In an attempt to fight back at such I'd go running to the ref and try to 'work' him. Every player does it. We all try to influence the referee verbally, to raise his awareness if we're worried about getting hurt.

We complain so that next time the ref will watch more carefully and spot if we're kicked or elbowed. I do this just like Franck Ribery, Arjen Robben or Lionel Messi – all players who get kicked a lot because their opponents are trying to upset their rhythm and because sometimes it's the only way to stop them. But, to my great surprise, I was forced to realise that even English referees have their very own form of communication. In my early days at Arsenal they dismissed my appeals in a way that made me think I'd misheard them. They'd say things such as "Don't whinge. You've got to deal with it. Welcome to the Premier League."

Sledging from the opposition. Cutting comments from the refs. And football that's harder than anywhere else – that's the Premier League. That's English football. And that's the football I've got used to and love today.

Just a Second, Ref ...

The big debate about what you can wear for safety reasons reminds me of what happened once when I was refereeing a football match.

During the game I accidentally collided with a player and our heads made contact, my nose being cut by the player's teeth. As my nose was being treated, the player took out his false teeth, and checked they weren't broken.

When the game resumed, some minutes later I indicated "play on" by shouting and making a sweeping arm movement. Unfortunately, there was a player just beside me and I caught him on the face, my watch causing a deep graze.

At the end of the match, the player with the cut face came to me and said, "Ref, at the start of the match you checked we weren't wearing anything dangerous and told me to remove my watch, which I did. Then your watch cut my face. Funny old game, isn't it?"

So should all false teeth be removed before a match? And should referees keep their watches in their pockets?

(Daily Mail 24.1.07

Courtesy of The Chiltern Referee

Match Day Respect Outline

The Surrey Youth League is now positioned as the second largest league in the Country and has playing in it around 11,500 Children week in and week out. We pride ourselves in providing, with the clubs, a safe environment for Children to enjoy organised sport on a Sunday morning.

Much of what you will see and be part of is a great environment, this is the norm. However over the last few seasons we have seen a rise in poor touchline behaviour, so much so that in the 2015-16 season I found myself in the national press, reporting on the bad elements that can plague our game.

The Local and National support I received to “Do Something” to eradicate the poor behaviour was overwhelming and humbling. With this support we have moved forward to raise the stakes in ensuring that the adults do everything we can to improve standards and make this abuse and general disrespect to Referees and Linesmen, especially the young U14 – U18 refs, who are all volunteers, qualified or not, socially unacceptable.

As a consequence from the 2016-17 season we will now be running a process whereby the Referees will be submitting, to the league, reports on disrespect shown towards them and club linesmen. In the Codes of Conduct you sign up to is a list of the standards that are expected from everyone on the touchline, if people transgress these standards, then they will now be subject to sanctions from your club, it will happen this season.

Educational sanctions and further sanctions can and will be applied – these will range from Verbal and Written warnings, through Letters of apology being written to Parents of U18 referees, to having to sit a FA Respect Video with certificate printed to prove the course has been taken and to ultimately being expelled from a club.

The League will guide the clubs in the process and if the Clubs take no action or Parents refuse to follow the club guidance then the league will withhold fixtures for the team concerned. The league will deem the in action contributing to it being unsafe for that team to play matches, fixtures will only be re-instated when appropriate action has been proven to have taken place.

We want everyone to enjoy the Sunday experience and not be subjected to unacceptable behaviour by the few, by embracing the pilot and the Codes of Conduct we hope that one day that this type of incident, whilst rare, will become socially unacceptable. Following an FA approved pilot in 2016-17 The “Don’t Spoil My Game” process now has the full approval of the FA. We are not eradicating the passion and the support on the touchline, but the abuse and questioning of referees will be a thing of the past. We hope that something special will happen within this league that makes the Sunday morning, much more enjoyable and safe for everyone.

Graham Ekins
SYL Chairman



The above card is being handed out to parents of the players in the Surrey Youth League. Hopefully it will have the desired effect and make parents think twice before sounding off at players/ managers/ referees.

A tale of two referees

A short time ago I observed a referee in action. He had a determined approach to his work, insistent that things were done in a sensible manner. He was consistent and totally impartial. He was invariably polite when he spoke to players and club officials and he was not afraid to show a little leeway in terms of law application as and when he thought it reasonable. He was intolerant of players making provocative comments to opponents. He was, I noted, quite natural in the way he spoke to players and when suitable opportunities arose he was prepared to encourage them to 'enjoy' behaving themselves. **I was impressed by this referee.**

By contrast, a few days later I watched another referee who, would you believe it, occasionally insulted some of the players! His nasty attitude extended to the way he spoke to the two team managers. In terms of his decision making, however, he dithered and showed inconsistency. His sarcasm, I decided was a cover-up for his cowardice. In the second half he proved to be inattentive to the kind of tackles that were designed to injure opponents. But his provocative, loud-mouthed comments invited dissent. He grew more and more insensitive to the players' obvious frustrations, and because of his negativity the game erupted into mass confrontation. All he did after the final whistle was to offer excuses and blame other people. **I was certainly not impressed by this referee.**

I invite you now to read those two abstracts again. This time, some of the words have been underlined and are in bold font. All will be explained at the end!

A short time ago I observed a referee in action. He had a **determined** approach to his work, **insistent** that things were done in a **sensible** manner. He was **consistent** and totally **impartial**. He was invariably **polite** when he spoke to players and club officials and he was not afraid to show a little **leeway** in terms of law application as and when he thought it reasonable. He was **intolerant** of players making provocative comments to opponents. He was, I noted, quite **natural** in the way he spoke to players and when suitable opportunities arose he was prepared to **encourage** them to 'enjoy' behaving themselves. **I was impressed by this referee.**

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EXPLANATION

*Look at all the words underlined and in bold font and think about refereeing qualities. take note of the first letter of each word in bold font, and keep them in the order they have been used. What words do they spell out? That's right - **DISCIPLINE** and **INDISCIPLINE**. One of these referees was his own best friend, the other was his own worst enemy - and all because of **ATTITUDE**. No more needs to be said.*

(Penned by Ted Ring the Editor of BENCHMARK, the magazine of Sheffield & Hallamshire RS - February 2017 and spotted in The Chiltern Referee)

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP SEASON 2017 - 18

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 & COUNTY RA SUBSCRIPTION + PA INSURANCE) Expires 31/3/2018 – National RA membership until 30/9/2018	£36.00	
FULL MEMBER - OVER 18 – Electronic Warbler (INCLUDES pdf copy of Society Magazine sent by email, RA & COUNTY RA SUBSCRIPTION + PA INSURANCE) Expires 31/3/2018 – National RA membership until 30/9/2018	£25.00	
FULL MEMBER – UNDER 18 – Printed Warbler (INCLUDES Paper copy of Society Magazine, RA & COUNTY RA SUBSCRIPTION + PA INSURANCE) Expires 31/3/2018 – National RA membership until 30/9/2018	£25.00	
FULL MEMBER – UNDER 18 – Electronic Warbler (INCLUDES pdf copy of Society Magazine sent by email, RA & COUNTY RA SUBSCRIPTION + PA INSURANCE) Expires 31/3/2018 – National RA membership until 30/9/2018	£14.00	
AFFILIATE MEMBER (i.e. Full Member of another Referees Society) Expires 31/3/2018	£20.00	
FRIEND OF WOKING SOCIETY Expires 31/3/2018	£20.00	
OPTIONAL RA PHYSIOTHERAPY INSURANCE If required please contact Bryan Jackson		
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.....

I AGREE TO ABIDE BY THE RULES OF THE SOCIETY AND AGREE FOR MY DETAILS TO BE SHARED WITH 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

MURPHY'S MEANDERINGS

Two similar problems, two ways of dealing with them.

It was midway in the second half and I was running the home team's defence on a midweek afternoon Football Combination match played in an empty Football League stadium. The home team were applying a lot of pressure and play had been around the away team's penalty area for some time. Apart from the goalkeeper every player was in the other half of the pitch. Two defenders stood either side of the centre circle on the half way line engrossed by what was happening in front of them, whilst the away centre forward was positioned between them about five yards into his own half.

All of a sudden, an away defender gave the ball a mighty kick sending it into the home team's half. As his colleague kicked the ball the centre forward was off, like Usain Bolt out of the starting blocks, and by the time the defenders had stopped being spectators and started being players he was well into their half running towards the goal. He beat the goalkeeper to the ball, rounded him, and scored. The defenders turned to me and raised their arms appealing for offside and they were soon joined by several of their colleagues. I was aware that the referee was staring hard at me and I just stared back keeping my flag down.

Several players came across and started shouting at me, others shouted at the referee. Although he was in no position to see it was quite obvious that the referee thought the centre forward was offside, or at least wanted to give an offside decision, so he came across to me. When he was about ten yards away he shouted, asking if it was a good goal as it looked offside to him. I replied that it was a good goal whereupon he turned and with a shrug and a face that said "It's not my fault" said to the players, "The linesman says it wasn't offside" and with that he gave a goal ran to the centre. For the rest of the game I was subjected to derogatory comments from the home dugout and players who continually made sarcastic remarks, jokes, questioned and criticised my decisions. These could be heard quite clearly in the empty stadium but went unchecked by the referee.

The second incident happened when I was running the away team's line on a Football League game at Chelsea in front of a large crowd. Play was around the Chelsea penalty area and the away defenders were positioned in the centre circle on the half way line. The centre forward had craftily moved to my wing a few yards inside his own half. The home goalkeeper grabbed the ball and in one movement drop kicked the ball deep into the away team's half down my wing. By the time the defenders knew where the centre forward was he was well into their half. A goal resulted and the immediate reaction of the defenders was to raise their arms and then come running towards me shouting and appealing for offside. The referee had read the situation and was quick to act. Taking up a position with me about ten yards diagonally to his right and the players about ten yards diagonally to his left he shouted to the players, "C'mon lads, he was onside and we all know it was a good goal so let's just get over it and get on with the game." The players hesitated for a second, and although not happy, turned and, mumbling and grumbling, lined up for the restart. The referee mouthed to me "okay", I nodded and smiled and the rest of the game went off without incident.

Two similar problems, two ways of dealing with them. What type of referee are you?

Tony Murphy

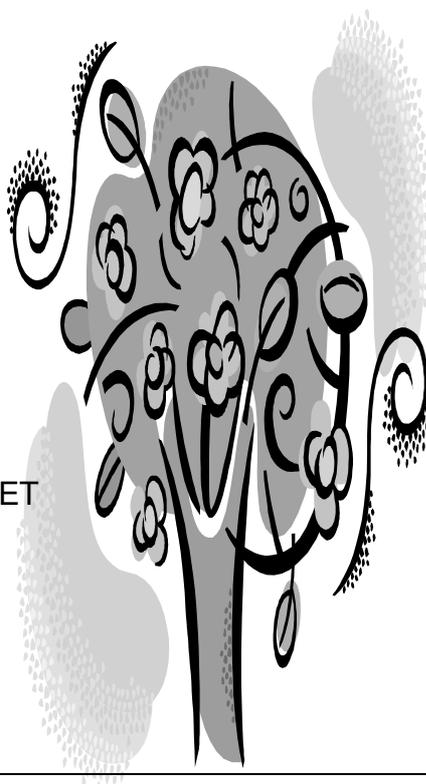
PlumTree

FA Women's Cup
8th October 2017
Godalming Town v Haringey Borough
Referee: Paul Gorrige
Assistants: Nick Arbuckle and Brian Reader

FA Women's Cup 1st qualifying round
Victoire 2 V Burgess Hill 2
Burgess Hill won on penalty kicks 3-1
Assistant ; Nick Arbuckle assistant

FA Women's Cup 2nd qualifying round
Godalming Town 3 V Eastbourne Ladies 2 AET
Referee ; Nick Arbuckle

National League - Premier Division
Eastleigh v Chester
4th Official ; Tom Ellsmore



Surrey Sports Park

Dear Colleagues,

At the Guildford RA meeting tonight I learned from Bob Dick that the Surrey Sports Park are cracking down on parking at the facility. You may be charged a fine if you exceed 3 hrs there so the advice is to give your car registration in at reception and explain who you are. I am informed that this is the correct procedure.

Kind Regards

Adie

W hoops . . !!

An amazing, true story from the Middlesex area: A Beazer Homes League linesman was refereeing on his local league, when he came under a lot of criticism from a large, ugly and loudmouthed woman on the touchline. Towards the end of the game, after suffering this abuse for long enough, he said to a player who happened to be running alongside him, "God, fancy being married to that, " At which the player said " I am".

Woking Warbler May 1991

Jawahir Jewels – the most remarkable referee in England ?

The thing Jawahir Jewels always enjoys is the moment it dawns on the players involved that she will be refereeing their game. When she trots out on to some swamp of a municipal pitch to take charge of a Sunday morning hangover hackaround, she is unfailingly amused by the look of astonishment that descends over the faces of those about to kick off. "I love it," she smiles. "Sometimes I have to tell them about five times: 'Yeah, man, I am your referee.' And they usually go: 'No way, when's the proper ref coming?'"



It is not entirely surprising they need telling. Weekend amateurs rarely find their games presided over by a tiny, black, Muslim young woman in a head scarf. In fact she is the only such Football Association-qualified official they are likely to encounter. "I say to them: 'Excuse me, don't judge me till you've seen me in action,'" she says. "I do know how to play football and yes I do know the offside rule. Which is more than most of them."

I first heard about JJ – as she likes to be known – after my son played in a London league game she refereed. He said she was excellent: totally in control, keeping up with play, brave and consistent in her decision making. Even so, midway through the second half one of the opposition players had towered over her (everyone towers over her) poking his finger in her face as he noisily complained about a call she had just made. My son had intervened, telling the bloke to back off. "Look at her," he had said. "Show a bit of respect." "It's you who's not showing her respect," the finger-jabber had retorted. "I'm showing her proper respect: I'm treating her like I'd treat any other referee." To which there really was no answer. When I remind JJ of that incident, she grins wide. "Yeah, you'd be shocked at what sometimes gets said. I say to them: 'Talk to me normal, don't chat rubbish.' But they always do it. Sometimes I watch rugby on telly, see the way they talk to the ref and I think: wow that's proper respect."

The time I catch up with her in action she is taking charge of a fund-raising match at Dulwich Hamlet's ground for the excellent educational charity Football Beyond Borders. She looks so vulnerable out in the middle, in her head scarf and black leggings, every player on the pitch apparently at least a foot taller than her. But she shows no fear dealing with former Premier League players such as Jamie Lawrence and Leon Cort. And, in turn, they seem to regard her as competent, even if Lawrence at one stage rails against her decision to overrule her linesman on an offside call.

"First half I didn't really notice her, which is kind of what you want of a ref," says Cort. "Second half got a bit tougher, more competitive, harder for her. But she's learning. She done well."

If it seems astonishing that somebody who already faces sizeable openings to prejudice would wish to embrace a calling which is routinely subject to abuse and violence, JJ says she loves everything about being a referee.



It's brilliant," she says. "It's such fun, man. Can't get enough of it, being involved in the game I love."

JJ refuses to be given the runaround, even if the players do tower above her. But not every official in charge of junior football is a black, Muslim woman in a headscarf. From the start, some of the comments boiling up from the touchline were more than pointed. "One game a guy was really racial," she recalls. "I didn't hear him. But other parents did." One spectator approached her after the match and asked if she wanted to make a formal complaint.

With their support, she reported the abuse to the local FA, but did not hear any more. Not that it put her off. She decided to qualify properly as a referee. And she was soon moving up the ladder, able to take control of more significant matches, like women's games at City University, where she is studying computer science.

Brought up in north west London by her Somali parents, JJ, now 23, has been mad about football for as long as she can remember. A promising schoolgirl player, she first took up a whistle when she was undertaking her coaching badges in her teens. Initially it was on an informal basis: taking charge of junior matches. And immediately she did so, she came to appreciate that this was not a pursuit for the faint-hearted. "It wasn't the kids, they were great," she says. "It was the parents. I always had parents bad-mouthing: 'What you doing ref? You're useless.' It's what everyone who refs kids games gets. I just smiled."

Her ambition soon began to form: eventually to take charge of matches in the Women's Premier League. But to get there, she first had to referee men's 11-a-side games, to test not just her ability to read the game, but her resilience.

"My dad said to me from when I started: be careful, there'll be haters out there," she says. "But I see myself as a strong person. If someone says something to me I don't get emotional. I just think they're ignorant."



Now studying for the FA's Level Six referee qualification, she has a long way to go to reach her stated aim. But her attitude and enthusiasm has already been recognised on the amateur circuit. "I go all over the place, miles," she says. "Refereeing doesn't make me nervous. What makes me nervous is thinking I'm not going to get there in time for kick-off because I'm having to get there on public transport."

When she does arrive, there is one thing of which she can be certain: park matches are the most exposed element of the game for referees. They turn up alone, without linesmen, finding themselves often at the wrong end of serious anger-management issues. And all for a £35 match fee.

“When you’re on your own, trust me you have to work twice as hard,” she says. “And you get no help. I always prepare for the worst, I’m always on YouTube looking at footage of how referees cope [Mark Clattenburg is her favourite].”

Despite assumptions, what she has found does usually happen is not abuse or violence. She has never been called anything untoward to her face, except “b----- ref” which she rather enjoys hearing, as it means she is being judged on what she does rather than who she is. Mostly what she encounters in park fixtures is not high-level prejudice but low-level gamesmanship. “Sometimes you’d be shocked how blatant people are about cheating: ‘I never touched it ref,’ when they quite clearly just booted it out.”

JJ, though, says she will not withstand any nonsense. “Have I ever sent anyone off? Yeah, course, loads. Trust me, I never let anyone get away with it. If they want a fight, go to the boxing gym. They’re not doing that on my football pitch

And she says that refereeing three, four, sometimes five matches a week has taught her a lot about herself.

“It’s helped loads in my university life,” she says. “If you’re just chilling the whole time, man that’s boring. It’s good to stretch yourself, to test yourself. Decision-making, being strong: you learn so many values from being a ref. And what I love is, get it right, they trust you.”



Not that everyone is invariably convinced by the tiny woman in the head scarf. And for those who still treat her with scepticism, who still make it clear when she first turns up that she really does not belong in their game, she has a useful visual trick. “Sometimes I do kick-ups at half-time just to show them I’m not here by accident,” she says. “That usually opens their eyes. Mainly because I’m probably better than most of them at it.”

This article first appeared in the Telegraph and spotted in Touchlines , Sutton Referees Magazine



I've read in a book of Northumbrian humour that the following small ad is alleged to have appeared in the Lonely Hearts column of the "County Clare Times" sometime during the 1980s. I can't say that I really believe it ever got printed!

"FOOTBALL FAN, two legs, dribbler, long balls, also likes to play on the ground, seeks to make a pass at female supporter, no draws, two points, holds everything in the air, with a view to scoring."

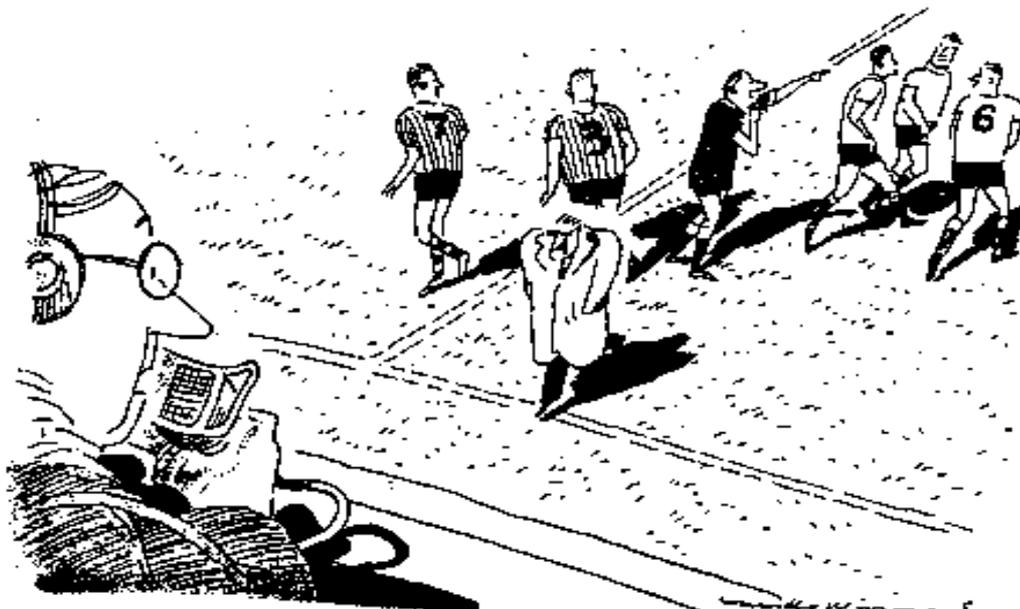
Brian Reader

I went to the liquor store Friday afternoon on my bicycle, bought a bottle of Scotch and put it in the bicycle basket.

As I was about to leave, I thought to myself that if I fell off the bicycle, the bottle would break. So I drank all the Scotch before I cycled home.

It turned out to be a very good decision, because I fell off my bicycle seven times on the way home.

- ◆ Celtic Manager, David Hay, still has a fresh pair of legs up his sleeve.
- ◆ Many supporters say they wouldn't stand for all-seater stadiums (*the last two by John Grey*)
- ◆ There's never a good time to score an own goal against yourself- *Guy Michaelmore*
- ◆ The game is balanced in Arsenal's favour - *John Motson*
- ◆ With the last kick of the game Bobby Macdonald scored with a header - *Alan Parry*
- ◆ Well, I think Arsenal will either win or lose the Championship this year - *Graham Taylor*



'Well, thank goodness common sense has prevailed. It seems Gascoigne's agent has let the referee off with a severe warning'

Punch 1991

Pages from Yesteryear

IN PRAISE OF REFEREES

The vitriolic invective against referees has been gathering pace for some time now. Scarcely a day goes by when yet another pundit criticises their role and impartiality. It culminated (for me) with the article in The Gooner (No 21), calling referees "wa.^rs"

Far from agreeing with all the media pundits, hacks and half-witted foul mouths, I think the general standard of football refereeing is quite good. Most people who criticise referees have absolutely no idea of how difficult it is to referee at any level and how rigorous the selection and promotion procedure is. (Fact: 50% of newly qualified referees quit after their first few games because of the level of dissent they encounter.)

It must be remembered that the referee and his two linesmen are out there because they love the job. With this love comes a level of commitment to training which would put most pro footballers to shame. When a referee isn't pounding the streets to keep his fitness level up, or watching matches so he can learn from other referees then he is probably giving his time to lecture other up-and-coming referees. What has caused this constant criticism to erupt? In my opinion; two things. One: a general intolerance by home supporters to recognise anything other than their own team's fortunes. Two: the protagonists of the game of professional football are cheats. In my opinion (again) Liverpool's brand of so called professionalism makes Ben Johnson look like the Angel Gabriel.

Watch them on TV and you see a constant barrage of shouts going on at the referee all the time. It is something that all teams now practise. Referees now admit that they have lost the battle against dissent at professional level. To do his job at pro level, the referee must be prepared to accept being called a four letter so-and-so at every turn.

Of course referees make mistakes. They are human beings and the very nature of their job means that they will make hundreds during a season. However, these will even themselves out over the season. Look at the two penalty awards involving Perry Groves over the past weeks. Aston Villa, not given. Sheffield United, given.

The abuse and gamesmanship which now prevail - under the win at all costs pretext - means that the merits of each of those decisions will never be discussed rationally.

Another factor in the referees' favour is the fact that most pro footballers don't even know the Laws of the Game, yet constantly question the referee, then explain it away as being hyped-up.

Every player cheats by calling out for a throw, free kick and corner, even when they know the ball isn't in their favour. Players push, shove and foul to gain an advantage then shout and roll about to get an opposing player cautioned. Yet when it suits them they will ask the referee not to send off a player. This sham under the guise of professionalism. Managers tell their players to go out and get a hard tackle into a particularly skilful player who might be a little shy of the physical stuff. Note how opposing players have accused Anders Limpar of being a dive merchant.

How many people know that pro clubs keep a book on different referees, marking down his particular weaknesses which they might be able to exploit in their favour. Does he let the first bad foul go (right we can nobble their star player)? Does he make the wall retreat the full ten yards? Does he have a blind side at corner kicks? Can we pressurise him with dissent?

Looked at in this context, it's no wonder the poor referee rnkkes unforced errors. The solitary figure in black is a dam - holding back a tidal wave of anarchy. To put up with this our protectors of the Laws get £100 plus the pleasure of the contempt of overpaid cry babies on the pitch plus one-eyed bigotry off it. Imagine going about your hobby and having constant criticism levelled at you. Film stars get less and end up being paranoid. Most referees are level headed and will always have a smile and a chat for everybody who wants to talk football with them. Sadly, this doesn't extend to the ranks of pro footballers who are too busy discussing business with their agents to discuss the laws with a referee.

Whenever referees get together they talk about the game and how they can better th«ir own faults. They get assessed and take pride in good marks. Bad marks mean they get dropped from the League list. When did you ever read of a referee getting fined for drink driving or convicted of assault at a disco. All Football League referees are subject to the closest scrutiny and marking procedures so only the cream rises to the top. It is a fallacy for some people to suggest that there could be a better system for selecting referees.

What football needs to realise is that the man in black is the most important part of the game. The upholding of the values he represents is the future of the game. The Arsenal programme used to feature a column which said: "Don't Boo the Referee if... If your brain is the size of a pea and your intolerance level of fair play is below zero.

Written by Colin Ward in the Arsenal Fanzine 'TheGooner'

This first appeared in the Warbler May 1991

They Said It !!



- ◆ You know, the Brazilians aren't as good as they used to be, or as they are now - *Kenny Dalglish*
- ◆ Lukic saved with his feet which is all part of the goalkeepers arm - *Barry Davis*
- ◆ A lot of hard work went into this defeat - *Malcolm Allison*
- ◆ He hit the post, and after the game people will say, well he hit the post - *Jimmy Greaves*

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Adie's Bean and Gone !

The new season has started well with all of the SCILW Referee Report sheets coming into me by the following Tuesday. This was brilliant as I was able to update the website on the Tuesday evening and get all my databases filled in for that particular day leaving me free on the Thursday and Friday to update the G&WAFL sheets. At this moment in time I am still awaiting a couple so *please* assist us on the League by getting them in on time. The 23rd and 30th are on the FT Website and I am currently working on the 7th and 14th of October. The first week's results of Cautions/Dismissals in the SCILW are 28 Yellows and 2 Reds.

Although early in the season the cup competitions have commenced with both County and League. *Please, please* read the rules of the competition you are officiating on. If you have any doubts contact your Referees Secretary. I do have a guide so if you want a copy let me know and I will e-mail a copy over to you. It has been 'OK-ed' by Bob at County so we know it is correct.

The old snitch is improving as those of you who have seen it will know. I had my final visit to the Maxillofacial Dept at the Royal Surrey on the 5th of Sept and was informed that the consultant wished to see me. As my appointment was originally for October I was really on tender-hooks (that was a polite way of putting it) for 15 minutes until he came in to see me. I need not have worried as he confirmed that although it was malignant the histology confirmed it had 'been completely excised with clear peripheral and deep margins'. Leaving the dressings off the team then passed me back to the care of my local surgery. I have been out and officiated a few times but have to cover my nose with factor 50 sunscreen and wear a peaked cap for a while. I cannot praise the medical team enough who looked after me - kind, polite and so friendly. They were absolutely brilliant all the way through and even my own surgery, when I went up the day after the op with the dressing hanging off due to excessive bleeding saw me without delay. We hear so many complaints against the NHS so I want to commend them.

I think we are coming to the end of the 'runner bean' season in the Freeman garden which is a shame as they have been particularly good this year. The late frost in the spring put paid to my plum blossom but we did have a fair crop of Damsons so Diane made some jam and we had a most delicious Damson sponge which was one of my rare treats as being a diet controlled diabetic I don't normally indulge.

Enjoy your games and keep your availability updated.

Adie



Willie the Whistler The 'Red Card' Referee

Part 62: Same incident - Two accounts

The players account of the incident:

*"I won the ball I have no doubt
Hey Ref don't tell me not to shout
My challenge was fair and perhaps it was strong
Do I have to listen to you ramble on
I raise my voice because of the crowd
That is why I'm talking loud
You cannot caution me for my first offence
That really does not seem to make any sense
It's impossible to challenge with no contact
It's a contact sport and that's a fact
Just because the other player appears to be hurt
He started it all by pulling my shirt
I don't know what you learnt at your referees'
classes
But I really think that you need glasses
To open your eyes might improve your vision
Then you might give the right decision"*

The referees account of the incident:

*“There is no need to raise your voice
All of us have that choice
As for the substitutes I’m not counting them
And the crowd today is not even ten
A foul is a foul and a card is a card
Please do not think that I’m being hard
The challenge was reckless and that’s a yellow card
The contact was unfair and it was hard
Please lower your tone and give me your name
And please ensure you don’t do that again
I may wear glasses but they improve my vision
That helps me to make even better decisions
As a referee we all have flaws
But I am always fair when I apply the laws
As your referee I will be persistent
And I guarantee I will be consistent
For this incident I was in a good position
And I have no doubt of my decision
Another 89 minutes of this match remain
Now not another word so don’t com-
plain”*

*I hope you enjoyed the different accounts of
the same incident.*

Willy Woodwork





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What Would You Do - Answers to September Issue

Q1. A keeper parries a direct free kick to a striker who was standing in the defensive wall. But when the striker scores the rebound, your assistant flags for offside. The attacker is furious; he points out that he was only in an offside position because the wall edged forward over your foam line as the shot was struck. He is right. What would you do?

A1. You should have stopped play and ordered a retake when the wall encroached. But you have no choice but to rule the attacker offside - when he received the ball he was offside, gaining an advantage, so he has to be penalised. Restart with an IDFK to the defence.

Q2. A keeper is struggling to put his glove back on after being treated for an injury, so his physio steps back onto the pitch to help. But at that moment a goal-bound shot flies in, and the physio - furious that you restarted before the keeper was ready - deliberately deflects it wide. What would you do?

A2. Calm every one down, and inform the physio that he will be reported to the authorities. When the keeper is ready restart with a dropped ball from the point where it was when the physio touched the ball. If the contact happened in the goal area, the kick should be taken from a point on the goal area line parallel to the goal line.

Q3. An exciting cup final has seen eight goals shared across normal and extra time and kicks from the penalty mark are required to decide the victor. Incredibly, the first six penalties are all either missed or saved but then, as often happens, the lower order save the day and penalty after penalty is safely despatched. Eventually, both sides have taken eleven penalties each and the score is 8-8. We therefore need to start again - but the captain of the first team informs you that his first three takers do not want to step up again. Instead he nominates his goalkeeper - who took the final penalty of the first eleven - to go again immediately and take penalty number 12. What would you do?

A3. Nothing. Law 10 states: each kick is taken by a different player and all eligible players must take a kick before any player can take a second kick. This principle continues for any subsequent kicks but a team may change the order of kickers.

Q4. Your cup final has been played on a pudding of a pitch. With not much good football played, neither side have looked remotely like scoring and even extra time has failed to see the deadlock broken. You prepare for kicks from the penalty mark. The Blue captain advises you of his first five penalty takers. The Red captain, however, is still in conversation with his players and says he will probably take the first one but they will work out the remaining order as they go along! What would you do?

A4. Nothing. Law 10 states: Each team is responsible for selecting from the eligible players the order in which they will take the kicks. The referee is not informed of the order. A rule change clarifies that the names or the order of the kickers do not have to be given to the referee. So, proceed but make a note of the player's number taking the kick!

Q5. Last season two rival players clashed violently. You are in charge for the first meeting since the incident - and you're shocked to see one of them run out with a big wig on, mocking his opponent's trademark haircut. The wig is firmly fixed. What would you do?

A5. Explain the wig must go! - it might be a danger to other players. Have a word with the player over his clear lack of respect and warn him of his future conduct.

Q6. During a stormy match a player collects the ball from the crowd to take a throw-in. As he does so a fan hands him a banner which contains a message - "*Ref! Were you born an idiot? Or did you study?*" The player smirks and walks slowly over to you - deliberately displaying the banner for all to see - and hands it over to you. What would you do?

A6. Although the banner came from the crowd, the player has ostentatiously displayed it to everyone. The wording is clearly offensive, insulting and abusive language. So dismiss the player, issue a red card, and report the details to the authorities.

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

What Would You Do?

Question 1.

You share a surname with the home team's keeper. When he commits a foul on an opponent in the penalty area, you award a penalty against him. His team mates scream foul abuse at him, using his surname. But several of them are looking directly at you. What would you do?

Question 2.

At the coin toss with the captains you fumble the catch. But the home captain cleverly plucks the coin from the air before it hits the grass, then slaps it on his wrist and challenges his opponent in the usual way. The away captain shouts "heads" and heads it is. Both are happy to kick off in the normal way. What would you do?

Question 3.

You accidentally block a defence-splitting pass, so you apologise for your clumsiness. You think the players have accepted it and moved on - but moments later, the midfielder who actually played the pass suddenly sends you flying with a brutal "accidental" body charge. "Sorry for being so clumsy", he says. What would you do?

Question 4.

The last defender makes a clean tackle on the edge of the area, and ends up in a heap with the striker. Spotting another forward racing on to the loose ball, which has stopped right on the 18 yard line, the defender swipes it away with his hand. What would you do?

Question 5.

You have played extra time in a cup final with the Reds having finished with 10 men - a defender had two yellow cards. You prepare for the kicks from the penalty mark and the Blues have selected a player to be excluded in order to equalise the numbers. As the Red team take their second penalty, the Blue keeper dives to his left but shouts in pain as his knee buckles under him. Clearly he cannot continue. The Blues still have an unused substitute, and you advise the Blue captain that since it is the keeper who is injured, they may use him. However, the captain says that it is the player who was excluded at the start of the penalty kicks who is their best keeper replacement and he wishes him to be allowed back on to the pitch. What would you do?

Question 6.

You award a free kick to Blues 15 yards outside the penalty area. You are surprised when the defensive wall line up on the edge of the area rather than 10 yards from the ball. You signal the kick to be taken and a superb effort is blasted into the top corner. As the scoring team celebrate, the defending team protest that they had expected to be advised as where they should stand, as their coach had emphasised their always playing in a sporting manner and never encroaching at free kicks. They are now upset that you have allowed their sporting attitude to be used to their disadvantage. What would you do?

Question 7.

A player emerges for the second half wearing spectacles, saying his contact lenses kept falling out. What would you do?

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

Courtesy of the Chiltern Referee

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