

# THE WARBLER

Monthly Magazine of the Woking Referees' Society

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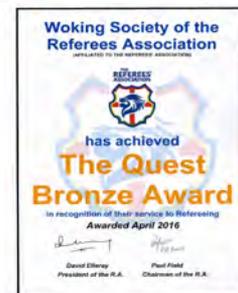


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Season 2020/2021 September Edition

# WOKING REFEREES' SOCIETY

## Founded 1927

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### INSIDE THIS MONTH'S WARBLER

**Page 3: Agenda**

**Page 4/5: Chairman's Chatter**

**Page 6.: Membership & Accounts / Just a Sec**

**Page 7 : Society Membership Application Form**

**Page 8 : Mac's Musings /Plum Tree**

**Page 9 : Plum tree / Dates for Your Diary**

**Page 10/11 : Last Month's Meeting—Tim Robinson**

**Page 12/13 : Letters to the Editor**

**Page 14 : Adie's Writing with Fire**

**Page 15 : The Womens' Game—The Early Years ;**

**Page 16 /17: Welcome Back—The New Normal Season ; Keith Hiller**

**Page 17 : Taking The Knee : Peter Elsworth**

**Page 18/19. How Can I Remember ; Dick Sawden Smith**

**Page 20 : Covid –19 Guidance for Re starting Football (page 5)**

**Page 21 : Staying Alert at Leatherhead ; Jony Bolland**

**Page 22/23 : Willie The Red Card Ref - The Pitch Inspection**

**Page 26 : Referee Assaulted**

**Page 27: Referee Assaults ; Mark Clattenburg**

**Page 28 : Referee Assaults and the Sentencing Council; Paul Field**

**Page 29 : The Winker ; Mike Coventry**



# The next meeting of the Woking Referees' Society on Monday 7th September

The September Meeting will once again be conducted via  
Zoom commencing at 8pm

Please look out for Andy's Invitation and Zoom Link.

Further information to follow.



**The October meeting will be on  
Monday 5th October 2020  
The deadline for the October Warbler is  
Friday 25th September**

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

# Chairman's Chatter

**September 2020**

Hello Everyone and welcome to our September edition of the Warbler!!

I'm typing this as I watch the UEFA Women's Champions League Final between Wolfsburg & Lyon and I've now almost got used to seeing big flags and card-board cut-out fans inside stadiums instead of the real thing – how long is it going to remain like this before some kind of normality is restored I wonder?

Luckily for nearly all of us, football is back upon us, whether that be pre-season or league fixtures. Whichever it is, isn't it great to be back out there on the "green stuff" and to be blowing a whistle and waving a flag again – I've even missed the (mild) abuse from fans and players alike!! Must be going soft in my old age....

I've heard from several of you already around how well the pre-season games you've been involved with have gone – this is great news, especially as many of these pre-season "friendlies" tend to be anything but!! Usually you've got the mixture of exuberance, new players trying to make a good impression to their team mates/management and some that are still wishing they were in the night-club and that being on a football pitch is the last place they want to be.....remember, treat every game the same, apply the laws, use your player management skills and smile as much as you can – the players more often than not appreciate it!!

A few bits of news concerning some of our members.

1. The Extra Preliminary Round of the FA Cup starts on Tue 1<sup>st</sup> September and I've seen via MOAS that several of you are out on games, some with a whistle and others with a flag. To all of you involved, many congratulations on your appointments and to be out there officiating in the best cup competition in the world is fantastic – the Society is very proud of you.
2. Woking Society is also represented well in the latest lists released showing Surrey Development Group and FA CORE (Centre of Referee Excellence) members. Again, this is a great honour to be nominated and the additional support and access to top-quality FA coaches and development material really is superb. Good luck to all our members involved and please savour the experiences you have from being a part of these groups.

Thanks to all of you who attended our August Society Zoom meeting when we welcomed SG2 & Premier League referee Tim Robinson once again. Tim has become a great friend to our society and his presentation was, once again, bang on the money and relevant to all levels of match official as we discussed the effects of Covid-19 and "Refereeing Behind Closed Doors".

I'm sure Mac will cover elsewhere the evening in a bit more detail but what struck me was how similar the issues are, whether you're officiating at the highest levels of the professional game, right down to the games on the local Rec on Sunday morning. I got a lot of messages after the evening from you all saying how interesting the presentation and discussion was and how certain things would be of help in your coming games.

Our membership is continually growing and this month we welcome Ollie Hind, Joe Wright and Daniel Trout to the organised chaos that is Woking Referee Society!! Gents, we hope you enjoy being part of the wider Society and we look forward to welcoming you very soon, either by Zoom or in person.

Finally, I'm hoping to find the time to put together a little piece about my recent Play Off Final at Wembley for the next issue. It was an amazing experience and I hope I can do the whole day and the experience justice in word format....?!!

Enjoy this edition, enjoy your upcoming games and we'll see you very soon for our September Zoom meeting on September 7<sup>th</sup>.

Cheers  
**Andy**



*The following arrived in the post the other day but didn't say who it was from. I don't usually include anything that arrives anonymously but I did think that this was quite amusing. (plus I had a gap to fill ) Mac*

The fame and reputation of the Woking Referees Society and its magazine The Warbler are expanding rapidly. The Society's committee, and especially the Editor, are delighted to see that The Warbler has been reviewed favourably several times recently in other media. Here are just five examples:

"Brilliant"

*Good Floodlighting Magazine*

"100% Comprehensive"

*Best State Academy Schools Guide*

"I couldn't put it down"

*Squeamish Vets Monthly*

"Scrumdifferous, grandificent, and flippercanorious.....the complete antidote to ultracrepidarianism in football"

*Lexicographers Digest*

"Totally riveting"

*Historic Boatbuilder*

The Editor asks members to send in any other reviews of The Warbler that they may find.

# Membership and Accounts

<b>2020/21 Membership</b>	<b>2020 Current Status</b>	
<b>45 Full Members</b>	<b>General</b>	<b>£2,264.91</b>
<b>7 Friends</b>	<b>Supplies</b>	<b>£198.14</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>50 still to renew</b>	<b>Centenary Fund (formerly Youth Fund)</b>	<b>£521.50</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£3,170.52</b>

## Just a Sec!

- ◆ A big thank you on behalf of the Society to Neil Collins who has generously donated £250 to the Woking RA funds. Neil is one of our Life Vice Presidents, having in the past been our Treasurer and Training Officer before retiring and moving down to Somerset.
- ◆ 50 Members are still to renew. If you wish to continue to be a part of the best Referees' Society in Surrey and reap the benefits of all that entails then please get your subs off to Bryan "Jacko" Jackson asap.
- ◆ Unfortunately our speaker for September, Dave Phillips, has had to pull out due to work commitments. Andy is busy using his cajoling, persuading, arm-twisting, blackmailing skills to find us a replacement and we'll let you know as soon as he is successful.
- ◆ I have written to Meadow Sports to enquire about the availability of their clubhouse and whether they are open yet and able to accommodate us once more. The latest government guidelines say that organisations such as ours can meet in Covid-19 secure locations, provided that the rules around social distancing, cleaning, hygiene, face coverings etc are adhered to. Although the rules say there is a maximum of 30 people allowed in any one venue, I don't think we could get 30 socially distant bodies in the Meadow Sports clubhouse. I'm still waiting to hear back so we will have to see. Watch this space as they say.
- ◆ All those who ordered the latest IFAB Laws of the Game book should have now received them. I have 2 spare copies should any one wish to purchase one.



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

## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP SEASON 2020 - 21

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
<b>FULL MEMBER - OVER 18 - Printed Warbler</b> (INCLUDES Paper copy of Society Magazine, RA SUBSCRIPTION + PA INSURANCE) Expires 31/3/2021 - National RA membership until 30/9/2021	£32.00	
<b>FULL MEMBER - OVER 18 - Electronic Warbler</b> (INCLUDES pdf copy of Society Magazine sent by email, RASUBSCRIPTION + PA INSURANCE) Expires 31/3/2021 - National RA membership until 30/9/2021	£21.00	
<b>FULL MEMBER - UNDER 18 - Printed Warbler</b> (INCLUDES Paper copy of Society Magazine, RA SUBSCRIPTION + PA INSURANCE) Expires 31/3/2021 - National RA membership until 30/9/2021	£21.00	
<b>FULL MEMBER - UNDER 18 - Electronic Warbler</b> (INCLUDES pdf copy of Society Magazine sent by email, RA SUBSCRIPTION + PA INSURANCE) Expires 31/3/2021 - National RA membership until 30/9/2021	£10.00	
<b>AFFILIATE MEMBER</b> (i.e. Full Member of another Referees Society) Expires 31/3/2021	£20.00	
<b>FRIEND OF WOKING SOCIETY</b> Expires 31/3/2021	£20.00	
<b>OPTIONAL RA PHYSIOTHERAPY INSURANCE</b> If required please contact Bryan Jackson		
<b>CENTENARY FUND DONATION £1,£2,£3,£4,£5,£10 or Whatever</b>		
	<b>TOTAL</b>	

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

.....POSTCODE.....

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

E-MAIL ADDRESS.....

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[www.wokingreferees.co.uk](http://www.wokingreferees.co.uk)

## *Mac's Musings*

I hope you all read and even saw the video of Satyam Toki, a level 5 referee who was viciously assaulted in a friendly in August. The video clearly shows his attacker striking Satyam 3 times and attempting to have another go before teammates stopped him. Apparently at the time of writing this, the police have still not contacted him to make a statement. (see page 26). According to the press the Police suggested to Satyam not to press charges as his assailant was a newly qualified teacher and would lose his job. Apparently the guy has also contacted Satyam and asked the same and has offered to pay for any loss of earnings.

My thoughts are should the assailant actually be a teacher given that he obviously has little control over his emotions and temper? I don't think I'd want him anywhere near my grandkids.

That same week, Paul Field, Chairman of the RA issued a plea to all referees to write to their MP to support a submission to the Sentencing Council to increase the punishment for assaults of referees, not just football, but all sports, in line with those imposed for assaults on police, ambulance and care workers. (See page 28) As a help I have included the e mail addresses of 2 of our local MPs below.

One of our own Society members, 75 year old Roy Butler, was attacked and viciously punched by a player two years ago. He was eventually contacted by the police and gave a statement . The result was that the player had to pay him £125, which as far as Roy knows was his only "fine". He was also banned by the FA for 7 years. Not a lot given the injuries and mental trauma suffered by Roy.

Most referees would have thrown in their whistle after such an experience but not Roy. Unfortunately Roy suffered a heart attack early last year and is still awaiting surgery. No doubt the Corona virus situation hasn't helped. We wish Roy all the best and hope he gets treated soon.

I'm not a lawyer but what I can't understand is why an assault on a referee doesn't appear to be a criminal offence and that it was up to the ref to press charges. Compare this to the rather sad Carolyn Flack situation where she allegedly assaulted her boyfriend and despite him not wishing to press charges the police and CPS went ahead and did so, with tragic consequences.

As you all probably know I often include articles from other publications, none more so than the Chiltern Referee, edited by Brian Richards, who I have just read in their latest issue, has retired from the role after an incredible 39 years.

My heart felt thanks go out to Brian, without whom this publication would be a much poorer read. I wish his successor(s) the best of luck.

Don't forget to e mail your MP and ask them to support the submission to the Sentencing Council.

michael.gove.mp@parliament.uk     jonathan.lord.mp@parliament.uk

**Mac**

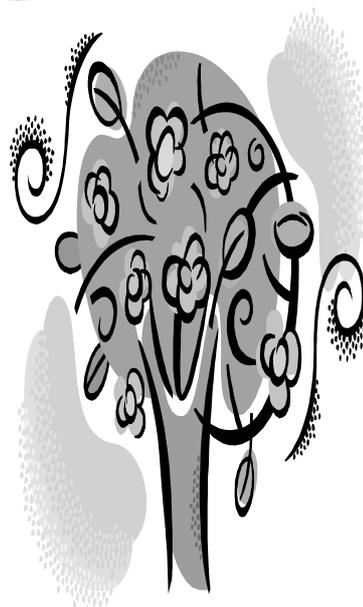
# PlumTree

FA Cup Preliminary Round  
1st Sept, Camberley vs Blackfield & Langley.  
A/R Roy Lawrence

FA Cup Preliminary Round  
Frimley v Fareham  
A/R Pat Bakhuizen

Erno Vajda tells me he also had a  
FA Cup Preliminary Round as A/R but forgot to tell  
which one Congratulations anyway.

Carabao Cup  
Saturday 29th August  
Stevenage FC v Portsmouth FC  
4th Official : Andy Bennett



## Academy News

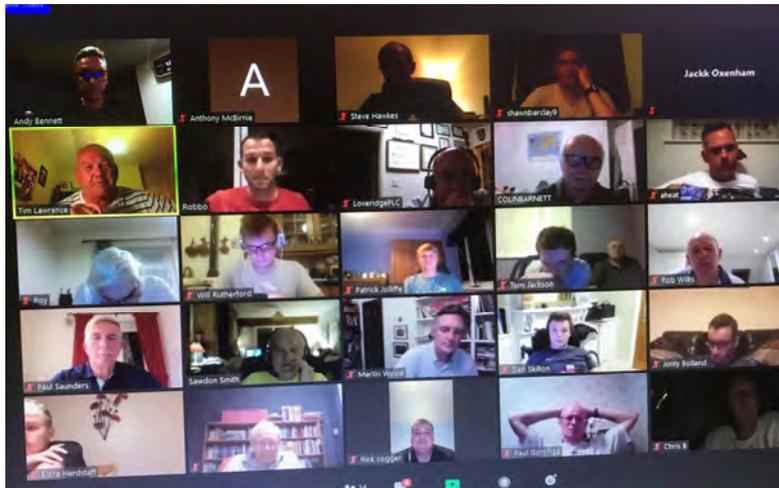
No news on the Academy front this month.

## Dates for your Diary 2020/21

### 20/21

7th September	Society Meeting - TBA
5th October	Society Meeting - Tony Dean
2nd November	Society Meeting - Charlotte Crook
14th December	Society Christmas Dinner CANCELLED
4th January	Society Meeting
1st February	Society Meeting - Steve Worsley
1st March	Society meeting AGM
12th April	Society Meeting
10th May	Society Meeting

## Last Month's Meeting



The first Society meeting of the 2020/21 season took place via Zoom on 10th August when we were honoured to have Tim Robinson (SG2 and PL Referee) as our guest speaker.

Chairman Andy opened the meeting and welcomed Tim and 39 members and guests from other Societies.

Tim's talk was entitled "Refereeing Behind Closed Doors" and covered the whole gamut of the effects Covid 19 has had for referees at all levels of the game, including his games on the EFL.

Tim started off by asking members a couple of questions including "What have been your lockdown challenges and concerns". Answers included "Staying fit" "Family Life (including home schooling)" "Staying safe". and "What concerns do members have from the pandemic."

Answers included " Maintaining fitness" : "People and players not having the same concerns about the virus " : " Factoring in Covid –19 guidelines and protocols into your matches."

Tim said that there was constant discussion amongst the PGMOL officials and that although clubs and leagues should have Covid –19 protocols in place they will invariably be looking to the referee for guidance. Its important that referees are up to date with the FA guidelines and we shouldn't "overthink" the situation as its going to be with us for some time to come. The main thing at grassroots is just to try and maintain social distancing as much as possible.

Tim spoke of the mixed messages he and fellow officials were getting when the pandemic first appeared ; with the FA allocating games, the media saying they were cancelled, PGMOL saying they weren't ; then they were. It was a worrying time, not least with the financial implications and lack of match fees.

During 4 months of football lockdown time was taken up trying to keep fitness levels up, and numerous Zoom meetings.

Once games looked like starting again it was a question staying safe with continuous health questionnaires and Covid –19 testing.

Tim and his fellow PGMOL officials were issued with a 40 page instruction detailing Covid 19 protocols and match day guidelines. These included having to be tested 5 days before a game, followed by temperature checks on the day, staggered arrival times, changing room constraints, safety briefings, etc etc.

Tim then showed us video clip where he was 4th official and the problem of relying of a club official to work the subs board. It isn't helped by the confusion around the current ruling allowing 5 substitutions, but apparently teams only have 4 opportunities to use them. In the video one team wanted to make a sub, the ball came out for a throw in for the opposing team, who took a quick throw. Meanwhile the club official put up the board despite the player not actually being ready and Tim not approving it. The manager wanting to make the sub apparently went off on one.

We then had a Q & A session with Tim fielding a number of questions from the audience. These included, amongst many others :-

Q. "What was the hardest level to attain during promotion,?"

Tim " Apart from the Premier League, it was moving from Level 3 to 2. With over 200 referees at level 3 fighting for the for 10 or so Level 2 positions.

Q. "What is the biggest advice you could give to anyone looking for promotion?"

Tim. " Just enjoy your games. Be yourself . Don't try doing anything different just to please the observer"

Q . "What do you do before a game to take the pressure off ?"

Tim " I always have the same routine, although I've had to adapt it to fit in with the new Covid 19 guidelines. My main one is that I always listen to the same 3 songs before a game ( *Ed. Unfortunately I didn't hear what they were*)

Q " What about after a game?"

Tim. " One thing I've found is to never read anything on social media"

Q. Do you find you need to switch off from refereeing?"

Tim " Yes. Family time is very important to me . Its very easy to get sucked into refereeing and let it dominate your life. I find playing golf helps me to relax—Oh and I never watch football.

Andy thanked Tim for a fascinating insight into "Football Behind Closed Doors" and for kindly agreeing to make himself available as such short notice at our Zoom meeting. We all "came off mute" and gave Tim a warm Woking round of applause.

AOB . Mac told the meeting that he was still waiting for delivery of the IFAB Laws of the Game books. 20 books have been ordered with 18 copies reserved for those who requested one.

Andy closed the meeting at 21.55



Woking Referees' Society was out in force on Saturday 22nd August at Leatherhead v Epsom & Ewell on the Isthmian League.

Always great when you can officiate with friends

Jonty, Paul and Andy enjoying themselves.

Read Jonty's report on how Leatherhead dealt with the Covid restrictions on page 21

## Letters to the Editor

**Hi Mac**

Thanks for the invitation to the Zoom meeting last evening. An excellent evening, I thought, and well attended. I filled a few pages in my notebook.

I have booked Tim for Reading RA in October, I recently checked that he was still OK. who knows that might end up as a Zoom meeting.

I appreciated the woman member in her second year who said how do I remember all these changes when I go out to referee this season? I feel sorry for young referees starting today, there are so many conditions to some of the decisions.

If you take the one we recently discussed, if a player illegally stops a promising attack, you show him/her a yellow card if you can get your notebook out quickly enough. If however, they take a quick free-kick before you do, you can't go back and show a yellow card, unless it was something like a reckless tackle, when you do.

I'm grateful to the other young referee who said it was difficult getting back in the routine, He has to say to himself, what have I got to do next? I'm always like that and thought it was the onset of dementia. It was good to hear Tim say that the main thing is to enjoy your refereeing.

To my mind, if you don't enjoy it, what is the purpose of doing it.

**Dick Sawden Smith**

## Letters to the Editor

**Hi Mac**

I read your item about the Premier league etc being ruled by money.

It reminded me of a letter I received some years ago writing for a different newspaper that I write for now.

My article congratulated the referee of the Arsenal v Manchester United game for sending off Sol Campbell for elbowing Ole Gunnar Solskjaer in the face as they both chased after the same ball.

The editor of the newspaper received a letter from an Arsenal season ticket holder virtually calling for my sacking. He paid a lot of money for his season ticket he said, and he wanted to watch matches between two teams of 11 players. The letter finally was handed down to me and I replied to the gentleman asking if he wouldn't rather watch a game based on skill rather than brutality. He never replied.

I also remember an event in the days of FAMOA when the Premier League guest speaker had recently ignored a face to face confrontation with Wayne Rooney. He was asked why he had not sent off Rooney as he had already received a yellow card. 'Just imagine.' he replied, 'what all those people watching the match would have thought if I had sent off Wayne Rooney for calling me a name'?

So we pay the price. !

**Dick Sawden Smith**

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**Gents**

### Law Amendments Zoom Meeting Tuesday 4th August

Many thanks for inviting me to join what turned out to be a great evening on Tuesday - full marks for both content and presentation.

Sorry I haven't got Pat's email address, so please pass on my congratulations to him for a superb all-round performance in what was a most entertaining and educational event.

Just received your August magazine , which retains its impressive high quality in every respect at the start of another season.

Best Wishes to you and all your colleagues at Woking RS,

**Ian Campbell, Vice Chairman Referees' Association**

## Adie's "Writing With Fire"

The planned commencement of the SCILW and the G&WAFL is fast approaching so *please* send me your availability. The SCILW commencement is the 19<sup>th</sup> of Sept and the G&WAFL is the 26<sup>th</sup>. I will emphasise that these are the planned dates, we have a lot of people coming back from their holidays and the local schools re-start on the 1<sup>st</sup> of Sept. I have no idea what the consequences will be but I will keep you up to date with as much information as I have got.

A couple of points for you all. Clubs will be advised to request when they contact the Referee as to how the Match Official fees are to be paid. There has been advice to use BACS. I personally will not be giving my bank details to all and sundry (throws GDPR out of kilter in my view). My advice is to take a plastic bag and the club rep can put the money in there. Take it home and disinfect the money or leave it for 72hrs (out of reach of the better half). Secondly, go to the games in kit, tracksuits are acceptable so you do not have to enter any of the buildings. As the season progresses it will be more uncomfortable after a wet and cold game so a couple of towels for your car seat will be the order of the day. We don't know how long this will go on for so be prepared and *always* have a couple of anti-bacterial hand gel bottles ready for use in your bag.

News on the Freeman household. As some of you are aware, one of my favourite hobbies is woodcraft. Boosted by my success with the pyrography unit I decided to purchase a wood-turning lathe. A few minor adjustments to the electrics in the shed and it was all installed. A mate of mine came good with a trailer of cherry-wood so once I have chain-sawn these into turning blanks they can go under the shed to dry out. The old grey matter is thinking of using my off-cuts and gluing them together so that I get multiple wood effects when turned so I will have plenty to do, trouble is I still have to go to work!!

My eldest son rode a motor-bike some dozen years ago but always wore his protective armour no matter what the weather. I spotted a youngster on a 50cc chicken-chaser last week clad in helmet, shorts and nothing else! To make matters worse on the floor of his scooter he had a long box poking out some 18 inches either side of his machine. It makes me wonder if some people think they are indestructible. I shuddered to think of the skin damage if he came off (ouch)!!

We are just off for a week's break in Kent – not going anywhere out of the country in present times. Quite looking forward to it as we have planned to go to Canterbury Cathedral and Port Lympne Zoo. Pleasant for Diane too as she is going 'home to her roots'. Hopefully we can get to the coast at Littlestone as well.

Stay Safe (and Sane)

**Adie**



## The Womens' Game – The Early Years

Below is a photo of a female football team. A photo of a current team would not bring too much attention but this as the dress code shows is Mrs Grahams X1 who played exhibition matches around the country in the 1890's.

Most interestingly was one of the players named Emma Clarke who was the first known black female professional footballer. Born in Bootle, Liverpool she also occasional played with one of her sisters in the same team. Emma was paid five shillings a week and her food and lodgings were also paid for.

Emma who was born in 1875 also played for British Ladies. Their first exhibition fixture was against a Female Factory team. The venue was close to us at Nightingale Lane, Crouch End. This was March 1895 and the attendance was over 10,000.

The female game was flourishing and was attracting phenomenal attendances. One year on and the Football Association announced a ruling that football was '*Quite unsuitable for females.....and not to be encouraged*'.

Women were banned from playing football by the FA in 1921 for over fifty years in the UK. It took the FA until 1971 to be allowed to play football again! Back in 1895 the English Champions, Sunderland played the Scottish champions, Hearts at Tynecastle which was billed as the 1895 World Championship and the attendance was.....15,000.

*Emma Clarke shown top row, second from left.*



*Courtesy of The Normidian Magazine*

## **Welcome Back to the 'New Normal' Season..... A Referee's Account**

Regardless of all the guidelines relating to social distancing and all what has been suggested from the FA and the local counties having just returned home from a pre-season friendly I have decided to write about my first hand experiences.

Before I left home I applied sun cream lotion plus hand sanitizer and hand wipes. I wanted to be prepared and I had no intentions whatsoever to be shaking any ones hands at the venue. I did not pack my assistants flags as I had no intention of others hands using my flags. This was a 3<sup>rd</sup> versus 5<sup>th</sup> elevens friendly so at this level they do not have assistants appointed to their matches.

When the match was confirmed I was informed that the club house would be closed. Normally the players would meet in the bar area and watch the early match on the television. Instead the players were in the outside seated area. Fortunately it was a glorious sunny day and with two matches being played at the venue it was a busy area. People sat beside one another and were standing chatting side by side. I saw a few masks being worn but the vast majority were not. I was approached by a person who I assumed to be the manager. He put his hand forward with the gesture to shake my hand. I instinctively took a step back and announced that I was not prepared for any contact due to social distancing. He smiled and accepted my apology. He told me the changing rooms would be closed as were the toilets.

There were two matches scheduled and the pitches were side by side. Players were greeting one another as if Covid-19 did not exist. There was no social distancing for the team talks and players continued to hug one another when goals were scored.

With the players knowing in advance that the changing rooms would not be available it appears the players came in the main already changed. With regard to no toilets being available that also did not cause a problem for the players. The solution was to just stand by the bushes and trees instead. Problem solved!

I was delighted to say I had a good match but as I blew for the final whistle players started shaking hands and players were approaching me. I declined all hand shaking but players still wanted some form of contact as if it was mandatory. Elbows, fist to fist and players wanting to pat me on the pack.....'no' leave me alone. It was almost impossible to avoid contact.

The truth is to actually play a game of football it is impossible to social distance. The substitutes stood side by side on the touch lines. They have the option to social distance but choose not to. I did not expect any player to wear a mask but all the others watching, with the two matches being played there was not one mask being worn.

A number of players went off to the local pub after the match. Let's be honest do people even sit or stand one metre apart?

So this was my account and here is the question for debate..... Should 'grassroots' football be played?.....what do you think?

**Keith Hiller**  
Level 5 Referee

### “Taking The Knee”

The official line regarding the BLM movement at grassroots level is as detailed below:

*As you know, The FA as an organisation is supportive of the Black Lives Matter movement. However, to the extent there are any requests for players to take the knee or display the Black Lives Matter slogan as part of their clothing at grassroots level, the current view is that any such requests should be dealt with locally by the relevant Counties/leagues as they deem appropriate and based on any relevant considerations.*

In practice we would expect referees to implement the following approach:

*Should any players, technical staff or match officials wish to demonstrate their support by taking a knee for a short period at the beginning of the game, the match referee will ensure the request is accommodated.*

*Club officials from both teams and match officials should discuss pre-match to ensure the referee can pause the game momentarily at kick off.*

I hope this is of assistance.

**Peter Elsworth FA**



## HOW CAN I REMEMBER ?

When Tim Robinson asked members at the August Zoom meeting ,what concerned them most about returning to the middle after such a long layoff, one member facing her second season as a referee replied, 'How am I going to remember all the Law changes?' A relevant answer when I think of three referees I was out with earlier in the season. All obviously forgot (or ignored) the change at a dropped ball by waving for the ball to be kicked back to the goalkeeper, which in fact, they have never had the authority to do under the Laws.

However, I think this leads to a bigger question, how do new referees remember all of the Laws? I recall an interview with an American woman referee who had just refereed in the Woman's World Cup Finals in Canada. Talking about her early days when she faced screaming insults launched at her by watching parents, she said, 'Didn't they realise that I was 14 years old and had only just started refereeing and couldn't be expected to know everything'. Why should anyone expect new referees to remember it all?

As a Tutor at the end of the basic course I would say to the newly qualified referees, just because you have passed the exam, don't think you know it all, because you don't. Don't put your book on the Laws of the Game in a draw and forget it. Once a week reread it, taking one Law at a time. Take the book with you to games and if you weren't sure of a decision you had made, look it up as soon as you are on your own.

But of course you have to put the Laws into operation. I remember mentoring one 14-year-old referee at his first game. who gave a free kick that perplexed some parents. At half time I asked him what it was for, and he said 'offside'. The player concerned was certainly in an offside position. 'But do you remember', I asked, 'who last played the ball?' He thought for a moment, 'Oh no' he said, putting his head on his brow, 'it was a defender.' He knew, just didn't remember at the right time.

Another piece of advice I have always passed on is 'if you are not sure what to do, always do what you think is the fairest.' An example is a game where I was watching when a spectator stopped the ball going out over the touch line. The young referee still gave the throw-in to the team it would have gone to had it actually gone out of play. There was not a glimmer of dissent. I congratulating him after the game, whilst reminding him that the correct action should have been a dropped ball.

Another young referee I was mentoring was faced with an attacker rushing into the penalty area to intercept a goal kick (before the law was changed). The referee made the kick be retaken. At half time he said to me. 'I couldn't remember what to do. Did I get it right?' So if you are not sure, always ask questions. I know I said 'look it up' but I realise that some times it is difficult to find the right Law. Did it come under 'Referees powers and duties', or 'Fouls and Misconduct' or perhaps 'Free kicks'? Don't EVER be afraid to ask questions, I've had referees phone me up, two or three years after I had mentored them.

Who do you ask? Well if you had a mentor that's an obvious choice but if not, ask someone you can trust. Perhaps the Society training officer or another senior member. Remember, no one will think it is a stupid question, the only stupid questions are those that don't get asked.

So how do you remember all the changes? Same way. Keep them close to hand. Reread every now and then, especially if you've had an incident when you weren't sure about the decision.

Still troubled? Ask questions.



*Dick Sawdon Smith*

*Of course you can always download the IFAB Laws of the Game App onto your smart phone. Mac*



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**COVID-19 GUIDANCE ON RE-STARTING OUTDOOR GRASSROOTS FOOTBALL – FOR ALL | page 5**

Toilets ; Toilets should be open pre-match or training, during the match or training and for 30 minutes afterwards. See further guidance

**PROMOTING GOOD HYGIENE**

Your clubhouse should create an environment that encourages and allows all users to maintain good levels of hygiene through hand washing, sanitisation facilities **and toilets**. Consider what steps you will need to take to educate users to be responsible for their own hygiene and to ensure you minimise the chance of transmission of Covid-19 within your facility. Consideration should be given to:

- Additional hand sanitisers throughout the clubhouse;
- Signs clearly directing people to where they can wash their hands;
- Ensuring all handwashing stations are in good working order and provide soap, hot water and hand sanitiser;
- Providing hygiene standards' promotional posters and signage throughout the clubhouse;
- Supplying disposable paper towels in handwashing facilities;
- Minimising the use of portable toilets;
- Carrying out 'trial runs' to test and adapt your plans.

*The above appears on the FA Guidance on re-starting outdoor grass roots football for all. Why therefore are clubs not opening the toilets In their clubhouses / changing rooms ( see Keith Hiller's article) and relying on nearby bushes (n.b. I once saw a player urinating against a corner flag) I can't see our lady referees agreeing to that. No hand washing facilities ? No attempt at social distancing,? Trying to shake the referee's hand? No wonder infections are up amongst younger people. **Mac***

**Store Front Signs**



### Staying Alert at Leatherhead — Jonty Bolland

My game at Leatherhead last Saturday was the first game back with spectators allowed. Clubs could allow up to 300 people in to watch the game, and I think Leatherhead had close to that last weekend for what was a good game. The 'new normal' will take some getting used to, but I thought Leatherhead did a great job of staying COVID-safe and I certainly was more than comfortable with the arrangements.

A few things of note: Certain sections of the seated areas had been roped off so fans could socially distance, and Jeremy, the club secretary had informed me that they had sanitised literally "everything" - and I mean everything. Corner flags, goal-posts, railings and seats had all been cleaned properly, it really was a thorough job and were clearly taking it seriously.

On our side we did things a little differently too. Our "pre-match" took place out on the pitch, rather than the usual inside just to give ourselves some extra space. With no boardroom or anything like that to go to (due to COVID restrictions) we hung around out on the pitch longer than usual, limiting the time in the changing room. The "walk-out" is gone, as is the pre-match handshake so a quick look at equipment in the tunnel but the players entered the field of play straight away and we met them after.

.After the game; no post-match hospitality (also due to COVID) so a quick shower and straight out of the door with limited contact with anyone else. All in all, a very smooth operation from all at Leatherhead. Things were certainly taken seriously and all risks were minimised effectively. Fingers crossed for an uninterrupted season.

### Poetic Pastiche (anon)

I won't arise and go now, and go to Innisfree ...  
 I'll sanitise the doorknob and make a cup of tea.  
 I won't go down to the sea again, I won't go out at all,  
 I'll wander lonely as a cloud from the kitchen to the hall.  
 There's a green-eyed yellow monster to the north of Kathmandu  
 But I shan't be seeing him just yet and nor, I think will you.  
 While the dawn comes up like thunder on the road to Mandalay,  
 I'll make my bit of supper and eat it off a tray.  
 I shall not speed my bonnie boat across the sea to Skye,  
 Or take the rolling English road from Birmingham to Rye.  
 About the woodland, just right now, I am not free to go,  
 To see the Keep Out posters or the cherry hung with snow.  
 And no, I won't be travelling much, within the realms of gold,  
 Or get me to Milford Haven. All that's been put on hold.  
 Give me your hands, I shan't request, albeit we are friends,  
 Nor come within a mile of you, until this shit-show ends.

## Willy the 'Red Card' Referee

### The Pitch Inspection

Match: Muddy Fields F.C -v- The Whistle & Thistle  
League: Sunday Park League (North) Division Two  
Pitch condition: Take a look for yourself!  
Weather: Overcast but a sunny day expected

There was no doubt about it.....Muddy Fields F.C had the worst pitch in the league. To be honest the worst pitch anywhere! They were lucky if they played one out of every three games but home is home and this was their home!



I had come prepared and put my wellington boots on for my pre match pitch inspection. I walked as close as possible to the pitch. As the photo shows this was close enough for safety reasons. I was here for a football match not a swimming contest.

Knowing the water would soon disappear due to the good drainage I walked back to the club house where I knew a nice cup of tea would be waiting for me.

As we all know the pre-match pitch inspection is all about the player's safety and only the referee should make that decision. If a team are not at full strength they would not want to play the game but if a team had their best players present they would want to play regardless of the match conditions.

Well it was no surprise to me that thirty minutes later and as predicted the surface water had disappeared so it was all systems go for the match to proceed. I bounced a ball on the pitch which proved the ground was not too hard or too soft. It was a 'good' bounce and I checked for anything that could be dangerous such as a can, twigs from the trees, mess from dogs or any rubbish that was potentially dangerous.

Okay the half way line markings were not that great but there again nor was the standard of football!



The groundsman also worked in the club house in the....bar! You can draw your own conclusions! Not perfect but clear lines and would not affect any of my decision making.

I walked over to the goals for a closer inspection. A little surface water but safe to play as per Law 1 – The field of play.



The birds looked happy as I approached. The goals were secure and I would check them again as soon as the nets were attached. It is important to arrive early to check the pitch conditions as I had done today.

Remember - Leave home early, plan your journey, pitch inspection, team sheets and enjoy the match.

**Willy the 'Red Card' Referee**



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## Referee who was punched by a player in an amateur game is **STILL** waiting for police to take action... but he will press charges despite private messages from attacker - who is a **TEACHER** - offering him money for time off work

The referee who was punched by a player on the pitch has complained how the police have still not taken his statement — a fortnight after the incident took place.

Satyam Toki was officiating a grassroots game in [London](#) when he was left with excessive bleeding above his left eye after an alleged assault by a player he had just sent off.

The 28-year-old is determined to press charges even though he claims his attacker — a teacher — has been privately messaging him to offer him money to cover his time off work.

Toki was initially reluctant to press charges, saying he was 'influenced' by the police, who informed him his attacker was a teacher and would lose his job. But after seeking advice from fellow referees on social media, he feels he owes it to his colleagues to take further action

But Toki says the Metropolitan Police are yet to act, telling *Sportsmail*: 'I have contacted the police on three occasions since the incident, most recently on Friday. Each time they say someone will be in touch with me to take my statement, but there has been no contact back from them yet.'

This is the only thing I can do and they are not doing anything about it. I feel disappointed and helpless. I have no option left. I don't know why it is taking so long. Someone else will see this and think, "Oh, that player didn't get any punishment." In a different situation you might have someone killing a referee, bringing a knife.'

Since footage of the attack went viral earlier this month, Toki has received support from other referees in the game, including *Sportsmail* columnist Mark Clattenburg, who called for the player to be criminally charged.

Martin Cassidy, chief executive of charity Ref Support UK, said: 'I believe the way the police are acting they are complicit, just like the FA, in not protecting referees enough. We're trying our best to react and force them to do something now.'

*David Coverdale & Kieran Gill Mail Online 26th August*



## **MARK CLATTENBURG: Being assaulted is a reality facing every referee at grassroots level with respect low and animosity high... it's no wonder some don't see it worth the risk**

I was 16 when my old teacher, Mr Reach, took a few of us pupils from Cramlington High School to sit a refereeing exam.

He had quickly told me I wasn't going to make it as a footballer, so this might be my next best route into a career in football.

By 18, I was refereeing adult matches. That was challenging. Abuse was routine and it was about how you dealt with those people, with that conflict.

I'd be lying if I said I wasn't scared. Even when I went out with my mates at the weekend, a bloke might come up to me in the pub. He'd remember I'd awarded a penalty against him, or shown him a red card, and he'd threaten me.

Thankfully, I was never physically assaulted, like Satyam Toki was in his pre-season friendly at the weekend. But this is a reality facing every referee at grassroots level. You're exposed, and it can be an extremely difficult environment for the man or woman who dares to wear black and blow the whistle.

There are 28,000 referees in the UK and it's only right that they should feel safe. The higher you go in the pyramid, the more protection you have, but examples of officials being abused or attacked in the lower echelons continue to crop up. It is little wonder some do not see it as worth the risk.

Satyam was hit three times by his attacker, but we all know it can only take one punch to do irreparable damage. It's an unfortunate reflection of society. Respect is low and animosity is high. But football has a duty to protect its referees.

Charity Ref Support UK are doing good work and the Football Association have taken positive steps, such as by roping off pitches to restrict angry parents. But it's about education. It's about ensuring players, parents, fans, anyone and everyone realises that respect must be shown. It's about the small minority who think it's acceptable to threaten or show violence learning it's anything but.

The consequences need to be severe, too - more than issuing a suspension for the perpetrator. If an incident such as this takes place, it has to become a criminal matter. Treat the player as if he was any man on the street. Why should it be any different just because you've crossed some white lines?

***Mark Clattenburg writing in Sports Mail***





For the Attention of: Chairmen and Secretaries of CRAs & LRAs; Life and Direct Members

Dear All

Over the last couple of years, The RA has been very aware of some extremely low sentencing by the courts when a match official has been assaulted. The Board decided that some action was required to address this, and an opportunity arose when the Sentencing Council announced the opening of a consultation period on certain aspects of their Sentencing Guidelines. We consulted with a number of MPs and were encouraged by them to make a submission to the Sentencing Council, which is an independent body that determines the sentencing guidelines to the courts.

This consultation was due to take place in 2019, but got delayed until this year due to the General Election in December of last year being called.

The RA, via David Crick (our Representative to The FA), has worked with the external affairs team at The FA to ensure that this submission also carries their support, as well as engaging with the governing bodies of other major sports such as Rugby Union, Rugby League, Cricket, Hockey, etc.

The RA Welfare & Representation Team has pulled together a legally-based document since the target audience is from the legal professions, and we have attached an Executive Summary for your information. We can provide the full document on application.

We would very much appreciate it if you would please contact your local MP by early September to elicit their support and backing. Having such a 'swell' of support behind us will put a degree of pressure on the Sentencing Council when they come to deliberate this topic - and the more MPs we can get 'onside', the better.

We would particularly welcome assistance in this respect from LRAs (or individuals) in the constituencies of those MPs who hold positions within the Cabinet (<https://members.parliament.uk/Government/Cabinet>) or who are members on the following Commons Select Committees:

**DCMS (Julian Knight MP - Solihull - is its Chairman)**

<https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/378/digital-culture-media-and-sport-committee/membership/>

**Justice (Sir Robert Neill - Bromley & Chislehurst - is its Chairman)**

<https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/102/justice-committee/membership/>

In the first instance, please contact me via [chairman@the-ra.org](mailto:chairman@the-ra.org) for the full document and guidelines.

Paul Field  
Chairman

## THE WINKER

The 2006 World – much went wrong – including certain things I've never spoken of, until now, writes Wayne Rooney for *The Sunday Times* of April 5, 2020, carrying a particular situation that your Favourite Reporter feels obliged to copy. "Looking back" he says, "I should never have gone there."

"Of course it's hindsight. Back then I was 20, it was my first World Cup and there was so much expectation on me. It was an impossible situation and if I had senior players telling me not to go, I wouldn't have listened. But I learnt that you have to be 100% fit – for everyone's benefit – and I was never close to being 100% in Germany."

"Frustration built up in me during the tournament and I started wondering if I was going to score; the press keeping on saying if England are to succeed I must have a great tournament; and as much as you try not to look at that it does get in your head. You start thinking how you need goals, you need to make a difference, that being a lot of pressure but you don't talk about it – not wanting people to think you're mentally weak, you keep it inside you bottle it up and get to the point where it boils over. And it did with me."

"Going into the quarter-final against Portugal saying we're better than we've shown so far and it's good we haven't peaked yet was the psychology and we thought we'd win. The game was going OK, then, early in the second half, came my red card."

"It was a reaction to the referee – Horacio Elizondo – not giving me a free kick, there being a clear foul, the ex-Chelsea defender Ricardo Carvalho was pulling and pushing me, Petit came in from the other side. Elizondo did nothing and I planted my foot down on Carvalho – it was one of those moments when you're not thinking. I knew it was a red card and back in the dressing room I watched the rest of the game on TV. Ronaldo, of course, had run over to ask Elizondo to send me off and I'd pushed him away." (*Favourite Reporter*: Come what may, I'll NEVER forgive Ronaldo for the wink he gave a colleague having clearly talked the referee into the red card for Rooney, and no action on Carvalho. The press tried to drag it out all summer).

For Rooney and Ronaldo it is claimed 'no issue' lingered between them – Rooney scored twice in a new season opener at Fulham, winning 5-1, complete with a set up for Ronaldo. It calmed everything down. The next three years were their best as partners. The red card and the wink in Gelsenkirchen were forgotten.

**Mike Coventry writing in the  
Chiltern Referee**





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