

# THE WARBLER

Monthly Magazine of the Woking Referees' Society

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## Season 2018/19 December Edition

# WOKING REFEREES ' SOCIETY

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**The next meeting of the  
Woking Referees' Society  
will be the Christmas Dinner and Raffle on  
Monday 11th December**

**Hoe Bridge Golf Centre  
Old Woking Road  
Old Woking**

**AGENDA**

- ◆ **7.30 Meet at the bar.**
- ◆ **8.00 Chairman's Welcome**
- ◆ **Christmas Dinner**
- ◆ **Christmas Raffle & Quiz**
- ◆ **Back to the bar 'till home time (or closing time?)**



**The next meeting will on 7th January 2019  
The deadline for January Warbler is  
Friday 28th December**

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

# From the Chair

Season's Greetings Everyone,

Winter is here and already games are being cancelled and for some of us we've been dragged kicking and screaming to the shops to get ahead of the Christmas rush, but the reward is staying warm and dry!

There is no December meeting as it's the Christmas meal at Hoebridge Golf Centre on December 10<sup>th</sup>, so the next meeting at Loop Rd is January 7<sup>th</sup> 2019.

The New Year is looming as is the end of my time as Chairman, so at the last County RA meeting I was voted in as the Chairman of The Surrey County RA, I have taken the role to try and improve the contribution that the County RA makes to local RA's within Surrey, so as your representative I need your suggestions as to what you want from the County in the way of support, training, events, etc....

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of your committee to wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and also a massive thank you for all your support.

All the best for the festive season, and I look forward to either seeing you at the Christmas meal or at the January meeting

HO, HO, HO

**Pat**



## Membership and Accounts

<b>2018/19 Membership</b>
<b>72 Full Members</b>
<b>7 Friends</b>
<b>1 Affiliate Member</b>
<b>92 Referees trained in 2017/2018</b>
<b>20 Referees trained in 2018/2019</b>

<b>2018 Current Status</b>	
<b>General</b>	<b>£2,535.12</b>
<b>Supplies</b>	<b>£104.35</b>
<b>Belgium</b>	<b>£400.00</b>
<b>Training Fund</b>	<b>£448.68</b>
<b>Youth Fund</b>	<b>£113.50</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>£3,601.65</b>

## Academy News

For any recently qualified referees or those going for promotion, our Academy provides a safe, friendly and informal environment to hone your skills. So why not come along and see what your Referees' Society can do for you!

The programme for the season looks like this

- ◆ 10th December - No Academy - Society Christmas Dinner
- ◆ 7th January - Law 12 Fouls and Misconduct Part 1
- ◆ 4th February - Practical Session - Law 12 Fouls and Misconduct Part 2  
( Practical Application)
- ◆ 4th March - Law 10 - Determining the Outcome of a Match  
( Cup Final Preparation)
- ◆ 1st April - Practical Session - Assistant Refereeing and 4th Official workshop (including Off-side Recognition )
- ◆ 13th May - End of Season Review / Celebration of Achievement.



Hi All

There's no Academy Meeting this month as we'll all be celebrating at the Society Christmas Dinner.— See you there.

**Gareth**

***The Chairman and Committee would like to take this opportunity to wish all our members a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful and Prosperous New Year.***

***May 2019 bring you polite players, magnanimous managers, amicable assessors and wonderful whistling.***

## David McNamara: Rock, paper, scissors referee backed by hundreds of colleagues

Hundreds of referees have risked being charged with breaching rules by using a rock, paper, scissors protest to support banned official David McNamara.

Hundreds of referees have risked being charged with breaching rules by using a rock, paper, scissors protest to support banned official David McNamara.

The referees used the game instead of a coin toss before grassroots matches over the weekend.

McNamara was suspended for three weeks by the Football Association for using rock, paper, scissors before a Women's Super League match last month.

"A lot of us were thinking of David," referee Ryan Hampson told BBC Sport.

"We wanted to show solidarity."

Hampson, 19, used rock, paper, scissors at a match in Lancashire, and said players had requested it.

"Without me saying a word, four players came up to me and said 'are we getting on the rock, paper, scissors today?' as they had seen coverage of the issue," he said. A coin toss to decide kick-offs is a requirement under the laws of the game.

McNamara left his coin in the dressing room before last month's televised WSL match between Manchester City and Reading.

A charity which offers support to the estimated 28,000 referees in the country said the weekend had shown the widespread support for McNamara.

"We can't condone anyone deliberately breaking the laws of football," said Ref Support UK chief executive Martin Cassidy.

"However, we understand hundreds took part. The level of support should send out a message that the punishment was disproportionate.

"This suggests people are willing to face a possible charge from the FA or their county FA as they feel so strongly about it."

The BBC is aware of many officials who used 'RPS', as it is now being described among the referee community, although some opposed the protests.

"Two wrongs don't make a right. Referees are law-enforcers and not law-breakers," said a Southern Sunday League spokesperson.

"This action is unprofessional and it brings the game into disrepute. Doing this due to a forgotten coin is one thing but this is a step too far."



*I'm sure many of us have at one time or another forgotten our coin, including me, but I must admit I've never thought of using "RPS" I simply put my hands behind my back and held my whistle in one and asked the away captain to choose.*

*We discussed how we all conduct the toss up at as recent meeting. Most seem to ask the away captain to call. Others give the coin to the home captain to toss, which although means both captains are included, does often mean the referee is left to grovel in the mud to pick up the coin as the "tosser" usually drops it.*

**Mac**

## Just a Sec!

- ◆ Hope those of you who have booked to go to the Christmas Dinner are looking forward to an excellent evening of good food and good company.
- ◆ Please see the message below which appeared in the Sutton Referees magazine Touchlines. It's a warning to us all

"Some unwelcome news in that one of our members has been charged under FA Rule E3(2) (Improper Conduct - aggravated by a person's Ethnic Origin, Gender, Sexual Orientation, Disability, etc.). Having been informed of what was said, although it was clearly meant as a light-hearted flippant comment (and probably would have been taken as such if it were still 1975), I am not surprised to hear that a large fine and lengthy ban have been handed out. This has been appealed but I would be surprised if that were to be successful – and it could well result in an increased punishment. Folks these days just love to be offended, so supplying them with the necessary ammunition is simply refereeing suicide!"

As Pete Rogers points out in Touchlines

*FA Rule E3-Improper Conduct (not including threatening and/or abusive language/behaviour)*

*FA Rule E3(2) Improper Conduct-aggravated by a person's Ethnic Origin, Colour, Race, Nationality, Faith, Gender, Sexual Orientation or Disability.*

Please remember, everyone: When you go to a game, avoid the banter with the team players or members of the coaching staff.

**REMEMBER - THEY ARE NOT YOUR FRIENDS!**

- ◆ Should you fall foul of the authorities (FA )in similar circumstances remember that this is where the RA can help. One of the benefits of being a member is that there is a legal team on hand to fight your corner.

## Dates for your Diary 2018/19

<b>10th December</b>	<b>Society Christmas Dinner - Hoebridge Golf Centre</b>
7th January	Society Meeting - Aaron Farmer
4th February	Society Meeting - Paul Howard & David Coote
4th March	Society Meeting and AGM - Steve Worsley
1st April	Society Meeting - TBA
13th May	Society Meeting - Keith Hiller aka "Willy Red Card"
17th May	Eve of Final Rally– Bentley Priory, Stanmore Middlesex
6th and 7th July	RA Development Weekend– Venue TBA

## Last Month's Meeting

Vice Chairman Colin opened the November meeting and welcomed our guest speaker Simon Parbury along with 21 members of the Society.

Apologies had been received from Martin Read, Brian Reader, Pat Bakhuizen , Dave Cooper , Glenn La Roche.

The subject of Simons talk was "Safe refereeing, - prevention rather than cure" Simon asked us, in our groups, to discuss a number of scenarios and ask ourselves the following questions -

- ◆ What are examples of good practice ?
- ◆ What is the correct outcome ?
- ◆ What could be done differently next time to prevent the issue from arising and escalating?

The first three incidents we looked at concerned pre-match scenarios ; two of which concerned the colour of undergarments and team colour clashes, and the third a interesting situation where both A/Rs were reluctant to go "bench side"

After much discussion a mixture of common sense and application of Law and competition rules prevailed.

Simon then showed a few video clips of match incidents which had resulted in a red card, including one which caused added confusion with a double substitution being carried out at the same time as the sending off. You guessed it, the offending team still ended up with 11 men on the field.

Again we looked at what could have been done to prevent the situation, although appreciating that hindsight is a wonderful thing.

We discussed how well the officials had dealt with the various incidents also how they could have been avoided in the first place and what could they have done differently.

Overall it was a lively and informative evening and Colin thanked Simon on behalf of the Society for an excellent presentation and presented him with our customary bottles of wine.

Following the raffle, Andy Bennett showed us a video where following a hand ball, a referee showed a red card for a perceived DOGSO, which was then rescinded when the A/R pointed out that the intended recipient of the ball had actually been offside at the time. Restart was indirect free kick for offside !! We all agreed that a direct FK for the handball should have been the correct call

The meeting closed at 10pm

*Colin thanks Simon for his excellent presentation* →



## **IFAB`s 133rd Annual Business Meeting recommends fine-tuning Laws for the benefit of the game**

Today, the 133rd Annual Business Meeting (ABM) of The IFAB took place in Glasgow, Scotland, chaired by Ian Maxwell, Chief Executive of the Scottish FA. The event saw positive feedback received on the changes to the Laws of the Game for 2018/19 and an agreement to recommend additional changes to the Laws of the Game 2019/20 at the AGM in March 2019, including a change to the dropped ball procedure and goalkeepers only being required to have one foot on the goal line when a penalty kick is taken.

The ABM is designed to evaluate proposals related to potential changes of the Laws of the Game and to make recommendations for The IFAB's consideration at its next Annual General Meeting (AGM). Some of today's discussions focused on the positive feedback received by The IFAB Advisory Panels that met earlier this month to discuss ongoing experiments in the following areas:

- ◆ substitutes having to leave the field of play at the nearest boundary line
- ◆ yellow and red cards for misconduct by team officials
- ◆ the ball not having to leave the penalty area at goal kicks
- ◆ defending team free kicks taken inside the penalty area

The members at the ABM unanimously recommended that all these changes should be supported by the AGM in March for inclusion in the Laws of the Game 2019/20.

Additionally, based on experiences from competition trials the alternative order of kicks during Kicks from the Penalty Mark (so-called 'AB-BA'), the Board noted the absence of strong support, mainly because the procedure is complex, and agreed that it will no longer be a future option for competitions.

One of the most debated areas of the Laws of the Game is handball and this topic was discussed at length during the ABM, with an agreement being reached on the necessity for a more precise and detailed wording for the different types of handball offences. The ABM duly took note of football stakeholders' expectations, so the most significant clarifications relate to 'non-deliberate' handball situations, where there is an unfair 'outcome/benefit' due to the ball making contact with a player's hand/arm (e.g. a goal should not be allowed if the ball goes directly into the goal from a player's hand/arm or if a player gains control/possession of the ball from contact with hand/arm and then scores or creates a goal-scoring opportunity).

Discussions also focused on the next steps to be taken regarding the *play fair!* Initiative, including measures to address attacking players who cause disruption in the defensive 'wall', as well as a dropped ball being given if the ball hits the referee and a goal is scored, team possession changes or an attacking move is created.

The 133rd Annual General Meeting (AGM) of The IFAB will be held in Scotland on 2 March 2019 and will ultimately decide which of today's proposals and recommendations become part of the Laws of the Game as and from 1 June 2019.

*Courtesy of Mal Davies V & A*

## CLUB ASSISTANTS AND OFFSIDE

At a recent meeting of Kingston Referees' Society, I was surprised to learn that some of my colleagues never ask club assistants to indicate potential offside offences. These referees must surely be much fitter and much cleverer than I am, because, from my position on the field, I cannot possibly make correct and credible offside decisions.

I always ask my assistants to help me. On meeting them, I smile, shake hands, thank them for their help and give them the following instructions:

*"Please take a position on the touchline next to your own left back. Please concentrate and stay in line with the last defender apart from the goalkeeper. Make a mental note of any player in an offside position and then wait and see where the ball goes. If it goes to that player or that player goes to the ball, please hold the flag above your head until I acknowledge you either by blowing the whistle or with a wave and/or a word."*

Before handing them the flag I demonstrate the required signal and also show them how to indicate whether the penalised player is on the far, middle or near side of the field. This last request is important because, knowing that they have to give this indication, will encourage them to take more time in making the decision.

I finally thank them again, saying that I can't do my job without their help.

Even before the kick off I'm beginning to estimate how helpful my assistants are likely to be by checking that they are in the correct position. I also quickly discover whether they are fit enough and committed enough to keep up with play, and whether they are taking up the correct position at dead ball restarts. The first time a possible offside decision might be required I learn whether the assistant is following my request that they should *"wait and see"*.

If they flag too soon I try to make an opportunity, perhaps ahead of a goal kick in that half, to have a quiet word to remind them of my instruction. I also make a point of getting close enough to thank and encourage those who are doing a good job.

Always the final decision is mine: it's the whistle that stops the game, not the flag.

If the assistant flags too quickly or is not in the correct place when flagging I'm likely to over-rule the decision unless the offence is so blatant that even I can make an accurate judgement from my less than perfect position.

If, as sometimes happens, one assistant is very reliable and the other one much less so, I can to some extent try to compensate for that by changing my own positioning both in open play and at dead ball situations.

In the final analysis, it's in a team's own interests to provide a reliable assistant. In my experience, they usually do.

***Jim de Rennes***

**MARK Hughes, the Southampton manager, doesn't have the nickname 'Sparky' for nothing and after their game against Watford, he pronounced referee Simon Hooper, as 'not up to standard'.**

Charlie Austin, whose 'goal' was disallowed, has seen his post-match interview put to music and become an internet sensation.

What is it that caused this eruption in the Southampton camp?  
Austin thought he had scored the winning goal, only for it to be ruled offside.

If you've seen the replay on television you will know when Austin took his kick, Southampton's Maya Yoshida, was standing well offside inside the Watford penalty area. Yoshida claimed after the match 'the referee said I was offside but I was miles from the ball'.

This is not actually true. Looking at the camera angle, straight down the pitch, he was well within the sight-line of the goalkeeper. Many people think that apart from blocking the goalkeeper's view, to be given offside a player has to touch the ball or challenge an opponent for the ball.

However, recent changes in interpretation means a player can be given offside without either of these things happening.

One of these says that involved in active play can be by 'clearly attempting to play the ball, which is close, when this action impacts on an opponent'.

For example, if the ball is crossed into the penalty area and an offside player jumps to head the ball but fails and the ball goes into the goal, he can be given offside because his action has made the goalkeeper's unsure of what action he should take.

This wasn't the case in the Southampton match as Yoshida actually backed away from the flight of the ball, but another new interpretation says offside can be given for 'making an obvious action which clearly impacts on the ability of an opponent to play the ball'.

Did Yoshida's offside movement take the goalkeeper's eyes off the ball for a second or two, delaying his dive for the ball?

Not quite the easy decision for Simon Hooper that Southampton claim.

***Dick Sawden Smith writing in the Reading Chronicle***

*I saw Charlie Austin's rant on TV and was amused by the fact a few minutes earlier one of his Southampton team mates had clearly fouled a Watford player in the Southampton penalty area which wasn't spotted by Simon Hooper or his Assistant. Austin, as with most players and managers always seem to have selected memory. My missus says I have selected hearing—but that's a different story. Mac*

## **Premier League referees have toughest job in world football - ex-official Peter Walton**

The Premier League is the worst competition in the world for young referees to refine their skills and learn from their mistakes, former top-flight official Peter Walton has told ESPN FC.

Retired official Keith Hackett tweeted this week that "this is the worst group of professional refs in the life of the PGMOL [Professional Game Match Officials Limited]" and that "no accountability exists" for errors.

"The Premier League is the worst in the world for [criticism], because of the exposure they have, because of the publicity it affords, and because of the rewards on offer for successful teams and individuals," Walton, who refereed in the Premier League from 2003 to 2012, said. "Of course, people want the best all the time and they have the best.

"However, there will be times when people make mistakes, and those are magnified in the Premier League unfortunately."

Of the 17 Select Group One referees who have been assigned Premier League matches this season, seven have experienced fewer than 100 top-flight games, and Walton said they must be given the opportunity to get better in much the same way as players are.

"You don't just go into Waitrose and pick a can of ready-made referee from the shelf and plop them into the Premier League," he added. "We had a really good crop of very experienced referees not so long ago.

"What we have now is a mixture of very young, inexperienced referees and some older referees, and it's because of that we're seeing some mistakes happening. Those mistakes would happen anywhere in the world, but because of the freshness of our referees at the moment, we're probably seeing a few more than we are probably used to."

"We've got referees who lack a little bit of experience at the top level. We need to see that through. How do you get experience?"

"You get it by exposing people to the Premier League, and that's what the PGMOL are doing at the moment. Why do clubs invest so much in academies, in youth football?"

"In the last few years the PGMOL have been investing in younger people, in Football League referees, along with the FA at grassroots levels, and it takes time for these people to come through. We're starting to see the green shoots." Hackett also claimed the Premier League had made a "huge mistake" by not introducing Video Assistant Referee [VAR] technology in time for this season. The system has instead been trialled extensively ahead of its implementation from the 2018-19 campaign.

"What the Premier League have done, I think correctly, is to ensure that before they introduce it, the officials, the referees, the operators know exactly what to do with it, what the tolerance levels are, so there is consistency in the new technology that's being introduced," Walton said. "Throughout the world there have been inconsistencies in its use.

"The Premier League have been clever to take a hit today for a reward tomorrow, and what I hope we'll see is that the work being done behind the scenes this year will bear fruit for next year. If you layer that on top of the new referees we're seeing in the Premier League, VAR can only be good, because if a referee makes a mistake, VAR will, in nine out of 10 occasions, correct that fault.

"The decision will be corrected and the referee will learn from it. No referee wants to be corrected by VAR; every referee wants to get every decision correct first time. But because we have technology and it can help get the correct decision at the end of the day, then so be it."

Walton, who has been general manager of the Professional Referee Organisation for the football leagues in United States and Canada since 2012, also thinks better communication will help improve the atmosphere around referees.

"What we're seeing now is referees talking to clubs and players outside the cauldron of match day," he said. "I think that's really important to cultivate a relationship between the playing side and the officiating side, so that when Saturday comes they don't just see this guy turn up with his black kit on to spoil the game.

"We found that in America, where if we cultivate that type of relationship, there's more tolerance shown to a person you know than a person you don't. Over a period of time that's put us in good stead.

"The more clubs and officials work together to understand the game from each other's perspectives, to understand the frustrations and pressures they're under, it's better for the game."

*Liam Twomey writing in the ESPN, courtesy of Mal Davies V & A*

**Spotted in Touchlines**



**Dedicated soccer moms Gail and Linda were determined to give their unborn children a jump on the competition.**



**"At this age, they can't really be coached. It's more like you herd them in one direction and hope the ball goes into the goal."**

## 3G Pitches

### How dangerous are 3G pitches?

The very long dry summer is going to cause problems for many poorly maintained grass pitches at the start of the new season. Pitches that have had no significant rainfall for several months will have little grass and be very bumpy – not conditions conducive to good or safe football. There are reports of Leagues and Councils already postponing the start of the season because of the state of pitches.

Many clubs will have been using 3G pitches for their pre-season training and practice games, and may be encouraged to continue their use for League and Cup matches into the playing season. Players will be well aware of the rubber crumbs (made from used car tyres) in the 3G surface which stick to boots and socks. In the heat of summer, players may also have noticed distinctive rubber fumes rising from the pitch surface. And a new European report highlights that regular use of 3G pitches is a potential danger to player safety.

### The development of 3G pitches

There is little doubt that playing 'Cage football' is a totally different playing experience from a grass pitch. The game loses its natural environment, ball control is easier, and the game may be faster (at least while the ball stays within the cage).

The FA in 2015 announced plans to build 600 new 3G pitches, and with the prospect of the sale of Wembley, are promising to invest the proceeds in "Community Clubs" to improve facilities, most likely with 3G pitches. (However, their definition of 'Community Clubs' is Level 3 and below i.e. semi-professional football, and definitely not what we would call grassroots. The overwhelming majority of the 30,000 grassroots pitches needing investment are at Level 7 and below. Sadly, under current proposals, the Wembley £600 million will never get to where it is needed.).

### The new European Chemical Safety Report

But major concerns have been raised by Europe's leading authority on chemical safety, the European Chemicals Agency, announcing that it had prepared a proposal that would drastically reduce the legal limit for carcinogenic substances in the rubber crumb infill used in 'third generation' (3G) surfaces. This is a total reversal of its statement 18 months ago that 3G pitches were safe. The reason for the U turn is not yet clear.

Those surfaces, which – unlike traditional artificial turf – help replicate the playing characteristics of natural grass, contain trace levels of known cancer producing agents and there have been mounting fears in recent years that inhaling dust or fumes from them, swallowing those crumbs, or getting them lodged in cuts or scrapes could be hazardous to health.

The proposal was welcomed by campaigners in the UK, including Nigel Maguire, a former National Health Service chief and father of an aspiring professional who died aged 20 in March after a four-year battle with Hodgkin's Lymphoma he feared was caused by the rubber crumb.



The announcement was made just over two months after a Daily Telegraph investigation revealed the UK Government and country's sports authorities had failed to properly warn millions of footballers and rugby players – including children – to limit their exposure to 3G pitches coated in rubber crumb.

### **The professional game is opposed to 3G**

Quite apart from the chemical danger, professional managers and players say there are risks of joint and tissue injuries playing on the artificial surface. In a recent survey of 1800 Professional Football Association (PFA) members, 94% voted against playing on 3G pitches because of the threat of injury and to their careers. And the Football League voted against clubs like Maidstone and Sutton with artificial pitches being allowed to be promoted to the League.

**So, what is the future of 3G?** It is certainly true that players and referees say they feel aches and pains in different areas compared to running on grass pitches, and studs can catch in the firmer surface causing knee injuries. But it is likely to be the switch from grass to 3G that causes the problem. Players can adjust with greater continuity.

If it is a choice between a 3G pitch or no football, there is little doubt where the majority vote would go. And the 3G pitches have much greater availability compared to grass. The problems for 3G pitches are their cost – at least £500,000 each plus ongoing maintenance costs, and the persistent claims about health risks

It must be hoped that the health risk can be eliminated by removing the cancer agents from the rubber crumb. But it may be too late for people like Lionel Maguire.

3G pitches will not in the foreseeable future be able to replace grass and meet the national demand for pitches. So, the nation's grass pitches need the money from Wembley – and a lot more. The cost of improving the nation's 30,000 grass pitches and changing facilities has been estimated at £3billion – averaging £100,000 each. And that can only come from a tax on the professional game's TV contracts and player transfers.

*This article, written by Patrick Morrissey, first appeared in the September issue of ARGUS, the magazine of the AFA RA). I spotted it in The Chiltern Referee. Mac*

**Quotes**

"I don't know if the referee was wearing a Barcelona shirt because they kicked me all over the place. If the referee did not want us to win he should have said so from the off." **Thierry Henry**

"Rooney was complaining all the time, protests and more protests . He reminded me of my kids." **World Cup official Horacio Elizondo**

**Only in the USA ?**

This morning on the Interstate, I looked over to my left and there was a woman In a brand new Cadillac doing 65 mph with her face up next to her rear view mirror putting on her eyeliner.

I looked away for a couple seconds...to continue shaving and when I looked back, she was halfway over in my lane, still working on that makeup.

As a man, I don't scare easily, but she scared me so much, I had to put on my seat belt and I dropped my electric shaver, which knocked the donut out of my other hand.

In all The confusion of trying to straighten out the car using my knees against the steering wheel, it knocked my cell phone away from my ear which fell Into my coffee which was between my legs.

It splashed and burned Big Jim and the Twins. Ruined the phone, soaked my trousers and disconnected an important call.

Damn women drivers!

**Hi Ho Silver**

The Lone Ranger and Tonto walked into a saloon and sat down to have a beer. After a few minutes, a big tall cowboy walked in and said, "Who owns the big white horse outside?"

The Lone Ranger stood up, hitched his gun belt, and said "I do....why?"

The cowboy looked at the Lone Ranger and said, "I just thought you'd like to know that your horse is about dead outside!"

The Lone Ranger and Tonto rushed outside and sure enough, Silver was ready to die from heat exhaustion. The Lone Ranger got the horse water and soon Silver was starting to feel a little better.

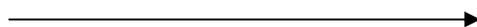
The Lone Ranger turned to Tonto and said, "Tonto, I want you to run around Silver and see if you can create enough of a breeze to make him start to feel better."

Tonto said, "Sure, Kemosabe", and took off running circles around Silver.

Not able to do anything else but wait, the Lone Ranger returned to the saloon to finish his drink.

A few minutes later, another cowboy struts into the bar and asks, "Who owns that big white horse outside?"

The Lone Ranger stands up again, and claims, "I do, what's wrong with him this time?"



# PlumTree

## **Surrey FA County Senior Cup**

Cobham v Colliers Wood United.

Referee: David Payne

Assistant Referee : Callum Peter

Dorking Wanderers v AFC Wimbledon

Assistant Referee : Callum Peter

## **Surrey FA Saturday Premier County Cup**

Ash United v Chessington & Hook United

Assistant Referees Paul Saunders & Gareth Heighes

Epsom & Ewell v Old Dorkinians

Referee : Callum Peter

Assistant Referee : Will Siegmund

Sheerwater First v Corinthian Casuals FC Reserves

Assistant Referee : Paul Saunders

## **Surrey FA Saturday Intermediate Cup**

Knaphill Athletic v Merrow

Referee : Paul Gorringer

Lyne Seniors v Shottermill & Haslemere

Referee : Carl Jones

## **FA Vase 3rd Round**

Sholing v Pagham

Assistant Referee : David Payne

## **FA Vase 2<sup>nd</sup> Round**

Sholing v Malmesbury Victoria

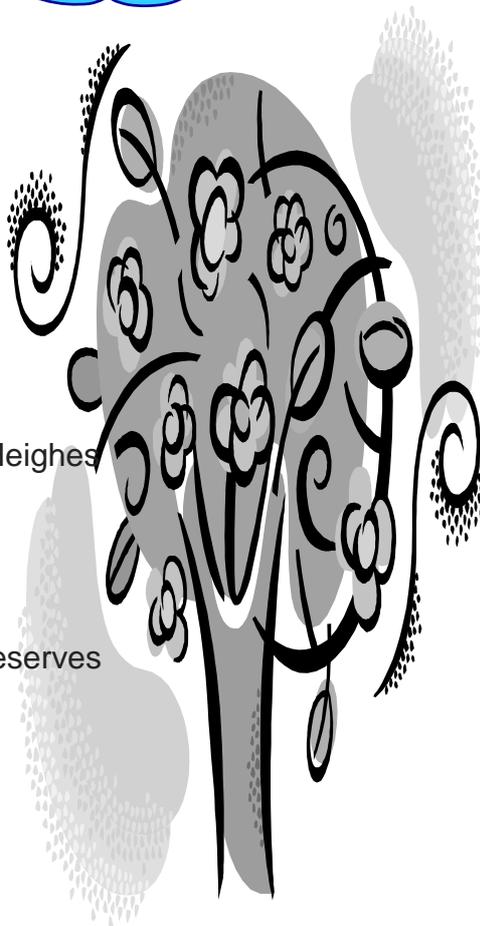
Referee : Derek Laing

Assistant Referees : Will Siegmund & Callum Peter

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Chelsea Ladies First team v Academy Elite X1,

Assistant Referee : Stephen Brown.



Nothin', but you left your injun runnin'!"

## MURPHY'S MEANDERINGS

Back in the eighty's player safety was all about jewellery and studs and as a linesman on the Football League I had to go into the player's changing rooms before each match to inspect them for jewellery and to make sure their studs were not dangerous. Nobody ever considered any other safety issues. I remember refereeing an Isthmian League match where the centre forward had dreadlocks hanging down his back in plaits. I never thought about much at the beginning but one of the player's strengths was heading the ball and it soon became apparent that his dreadlocks were dangerous as they swung around as he headed the ball. At halftime I asked him to tie them up in some way to stop them swinging about. He was not happy and made the usual excuses such as nobody had ever queried it before, the opposition were quite happy, they'd never caused a problem, etc, all which could have been quite true, for instance, it had not been mentioned by the opposition at all. However, he started the second half with them tied up but after a little while they came undone. I should have been firmer but nobody mentioned it, nobody seemed interested, nobody cared, so I let go, it seemed the right thing to do. After the game I told him that, should I referee him again, I would expect them to be securely tied or he would not take part in the game. However, our paths never crossed again so it never arose and I suppose he continued to wear them unsecured.

I was refereeing a local Sunday league game. The home team were the top team in the league, having many good class Saturday senior players in their side and were winning the game quite easily. However, their centre forward was having a bad day, getting frustrated, and, as a result, getting very aggressive with the opposition. I had already spoken to him and felt that if I did so again I would end up cautioning him which I didn't really want to do, so I thought I would have a word with his captain. He was a hard, uncompromising centre half who could be a handful to both opponents and referees and wasn't afraid to say what he felt. However, having refereed him on many occasions, both Saturdays, in senior football and in junior football I felt I had a good footballing relationship with him. Quietly I took him aside and, pointing out that his centre forward was getting a bit out of control asked him if he would have a word with him as I didn't want to have to send him off or caution him. His reply surprised me. "Piss off," he said, "You're the referee. It's your job. You do it, I'm not going to." With that he ran off. Ah well, I thought, plan B. However, during a break in play a few moments later I noticed him talking to his centre forward. The centre calmed down and I never had to talk to him again. Just before the end of the game I again approached the captain quietly and, thanking him for his assistance, asked what the attitude was about. He smiled and said, "I've got a reputation to keep."

Did I ever tell you that I played three games in a Johannesburg Sunday league in the seventies. I had a friend in London who ran a junior league team and when I stayed with him I used to play for them. He emigrated to South Africa in 1976 and started up a junior league team. When I went to stay with him for a month in 1978 I took my boots. His team were made up of British ex-pat and Indian players. The character of the team, the centre half, still stands out in my mind.

He was a massive Indian, tough as old boots, who always played in a turban and jogging bottoms. I played in three games, two against European ex-pats, one draw and one win, and one against a local team which we won but was extremely physical and tough because, I was told, the teams didn't like each other. The one other thing I remember was that the ball came to me much faster than in England and in the first game I lost count of the number of times the ball hit me in the face or on my head because I misjudged the speed of it.

***Tony Murphy***

### **Ref chaos at Millwall v Bolton game after TWO officials injured**

**WANDERERS' game at Millwall this afternoon took a bizarre twist when one of the home fans ended up as a linesman!**

The odd sequence of events began before the game when referee Tony Harrington pulled out through illness, to be replaced by fourth official Lee Swabey.

But when Swabey was forced off with a calf injury midway through the first half – the game was halted for five minutes as the stand-in fourth official, a Millwall supporter, was given emergency orders to run the line.

For the remainder of the first half and the whole of the second, linesman John Leach was referee and Steve Perry – who is normally found on the parks pitches of the South Eastern Premier League – acted as his assistant. The injured Swabey was then placed between the two dugouts as fourth official.

Phil Parkinson, whose side had two points snatched away from them late in the game, recounted the story after the final whistle.

“It was chaos,” he said. “The first ref got injured in the warm-up so we had a Millwall fan as fourth official, who jumped up and applauded when Jordan Archer made that double save in the first half. We had a moan to him, jokingly.

“But then all of a sudden that Millwall fan became the linesman. It was strange and we we're 1-0 up but then the assessor came down at half time to say they had to speak to Dave Allison to see what the procedure is now. God knows what would have happened if another one went down.

“It was a bit chaotic because, as you know, it can be difficult for referees and linesmen at Millwall at the best of times. But when you have got a Millwall fan who has come out of the stand and ends up running the line... Well, thankfully he showed plenty of integrity.”

*Marc Iles writing in The Bolton News courtesy of Mal Davies V & A*

## THERE IS NO NEED FOR IT!

A recent item on the Sheffield RA Facebook page mentioned an aspect of the present-day game that is costing our favourite weekend activity very dearly. If there is anything in games that is absolutely unnecessary it is the merciless and thoughtless pillorying of referees, especially at the less elevated levels of football that involve most referees.

The Sheffield article outlined one particular instance of **a non-qualified volunteer** agreeing to take a game when no qualified official was available. The fact that he was a **volunteer**, and therefore someone who took on this responsibility willingly, made no difference in one ugly respect. One of the management team in the technical area still thought it was acceptable to shout out. **“Are you f\*\*\*\*\*g watching, Referee?”**

I would bet my last penny that he was not complaining about a ‘wrong’ decision that had favoured his own team. I’d suggest also that this disreputable character has not himself tried refereeing. Such is the attitude of some --- but certainly not all --- people who are supposed to be in charge of their players.

What does such unwelcome interference in a game of football tell you about the perpetrator of such language, apart from the obvious fact that he has a very limited vocabulary and a terrible attitude in respect of common courtesy? I know what it tells me. He should not be there to do this sort of thing for a good number of games in the future. The game doesn’t need him!

It is hard enough to persuade people to take up refereeing these days, and it is equally hard to find sufficient qualified referees to turn out at the weekend when this sort of foul-mouthed abuse is, by some people, considered to be the accepted norm.

It is the easiest thing in the world for a referee, be it a qualified one or a volunteer, to react unadvisedly under such provocation and land himself or herself in a very unpleasant and threatening situation. It is just as easy for the official to simply ignore any abuse that is being screamed. But we need to ask the question: what is the short- and long-term outcome of just accepting abuse and not even bothering to report it properly. I think our readers know the answer to that one.

Do the vast majority of players prefer a qualified official to an unqualified volunteer? Do they prefer no referee at all to a volunteer when no official referee is available? The answer to both those questions is definitely “NO!”

Referees would return to being available for more appointments, which is what the leagues want, But unless the County FA and the league officials are **properly informed** of foul-mouthed behaviour by **all** referees who are abused, then nothing much will change.

**There is plenty of advice available for all referees IF ONLY THEY WOULD MAKE SURE THEY BELONG TO THEIR LOCAL REFEREES’ ASSOCIATION.**

*Courtesy of Ted Ring writing in Benchmark Sheffield and Hallamshire County RA*

# Pages from Yesteryear

## MAGIC MOMENTS

It is a well known fact that if a referee is not noticed he is said to have had a good game. For this reason, we tend to remember only our bad games, but to counter this, there is the occasional magic moment which makes it all worthwhile.

Mine came during a Shirley Junior League Cup Tre one Sunday early in November, I was given the appointment on the Friday evening - Purley Way with an 1100 hours kick-off. Having heard nothing from the home team and my efforts to make contact proving unsuccessful, I duly arrived at 1000 hours ready to cover the whole of the playing field hoping to find either of the teams, the correct changing room or the pitch in that order. Fortunately, I made early contact with the visiting team and had time for a quick chat with Steve Maguire who was about to start his Croydon Sunday FL game.

Anyone involved with youth football on a regular basis will be aware it is not just a matter of turning up for a game and expecting everything to be ready, this game being no exception. Help had to be given with the nets and the removal of numerous kit bags from the goal-line as well as trying to clean up the mud-encrusted match ball with spit and tissues. I must remember to put a supply of wet-wipes in my bag!

The match itself was a pleasure to referee, 22 ten year olds of all colours, shapes and sizes with somewhat limited skills, just wanting to play football, with the spectators and team officials giving only encouragement to the boys and accepting my decisions in good spirit.

That magic moment came towards the end of the match with the Yellows leading by 7 clear goals. Their goalkeeper decided to try and get his name on the scoresheet, and left his goal wide open for the Blues to break through and score.

The look on the faces of those Blues at this moment was a joy to behold, and anybody witnessing the scenes of celebration that followed would have thought that they had just won a Cup Final - at the end of the match I discovered that this was the only goal that they had scored all season.

Both teams left the field elated - a credit to themselves and to the League, and I was proud to have been part of it.

***Alan Hook - Croydon. Ray***

***This first appeared in the Warbler May 1991***

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## Adie's Wind, Witches and Wensledale

We are fast approaching the half-way stage of the League calendar and, so far it has been going well. Please ensure that if you have not done so to enlighten me with your availability for 2019. I am reliably informed that there will be no League games in either the SCILW or the G&WAFL for the 22<sup>nd</sup> and the 29<sup>th</sup> of December. We will re-commence on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> of January 2019.

Some interesting scenarios have been noted on the Leagues with regard to the weather. I do not wish to pre-empt a situation but it seems to follow a pattern that there are more cautions/dismissals on days that are windy. I asked the expert (the long-haired General) if this was a feasible reason only to be told that the school staff dislike windy days as the children are far less tractable and that the wind has an adverse effect on their attention levels. I will continue to monitor this and, hopefully, be able to inform you of the outcome for the rest of the season.

On a more delicate subject ; if an incident occurs that prevents you from officiating your game, you **must** alert myself or failing that, in the SCILW John Thornton or Derek Stovold. In the G&WAFL first port of call is again myself or failing that Bob Dick. Just sending an e-mail or text is **not** a 'fire and forget' option. Please ensure you talk to one of us to confirm the contact. Please remember that I live in a 'dead area' for mobile signal so use my land-line on a Saturday morning or evenings.

The festive season is almost upon us, I have been informed that we shall have the wicked witch of the South-East with us this year. We will have to drive down to Kent to get her and, no doubt, nothing will be right in the way we celebrate. Not only that but she will still be complaining about the Kuga – it is a Jeep according to her and too high to get her leg in! Why she cannot come on her broomstick (as it has long-range fuel tanks on it) is beyond me.

Once again my work colleagues and I have ordered our festive cheese which duly arrived this week. If my vegetarian mate eats all that he ordered he will most certainly go off 'Pop'.

Youngest son is with us again and as he eats like a donkey (and never puts on weight) the food supplies will be severely diminished before he goes back.

May I wish you all a very peaceful Christmas and an equally prosperous New Year

**Adie**



## Willy the 'Red Card' Ref

### Part 76 - 'The bar owner from Barcelona'

*It was the first week in December*

*Willy and his wife both wanted a break*

*A weeks rest and a holiday*

*Lots of choose from but which one should they take*

*The weather in the UK*

*Forecast every day with rain*

*Willy's wife said 'Let's book this one*

*It's perfect out in Spain'*



*They booked the holiday that very day*

*So excited that they were going away*

*All confirmed so time to pack*

*Now there was no turning back*

*Willy said 'I don't want to be pedantic*

*But my case is tiny and yours is gigantic*

*You won't fit all your wardrobe in one single case*

*You don't need all those items for your hair and for your face'*



*When it came to fashion there wasn't much Willy could do*

*One thing was for certain that he was not a fashion guru*

*Great weather and sun were just in his thoughts*

*As he went to pack his tiny swimming shorts*

*His wife stared and said 'You'll not be taking those!'*

*Just leave it all to me and I'll pack all your clothes'*

*The journey went quickly and they soon arrived in Spain*

*The weather forecast was perfect with no sign of rain*

*Straight to their hotel and it was time to eat*

*They went to the bar next door to make it easy on their feet*

*The bar was clean, tidy and very bright*

*The staff as well seemed friendly and very polite*

*Willy and his wife had a drink or two*

*But to read the menu in Spanish they didn't have a clue*

*The friendly bar owner said 'Senor, leave it to me*

*I will cook for you our house speciality'*

*Soon the food was at their table and better than anyone could wish*

*Two giant meat balls which looked like a really tasty dish*

*The bar owner later explained 'I must tell you one thing*

*Not far from here is the local bull ring*

*Several times of the year for the local festivals*

*We celebrate with a special dish and we eat the bulls' testicles'*

*By now Willy had already eaten half the food*

*Willy and his wife up until now were in a great mood*

*In normal circumstances a dish they would not select*

*But it tasted so good and far too late to reject*

*Every night the friendly bar owner served the same food  
Cooked to perfection as it was barbequed  
The dish in Spanish is called 'criadillas'  
A dish that local people eat in their homes and their villas*

*So Friday night the same food at the same place  
Willy looks at the plate and you should have seen Willy's face  
The meat balls so small perhaps the bar owner was having a joke?  
Drinking wine at the time Willy almost choked  
Willy said 'Excuse me Senor but all week the meat balls have been so big  
But tonight they are tiny like two swollen figs'  
The bar owner explained 'I agree they are tiny, small and thin  
Because Senor at the bull fight the matador does not always win  
Don't worry I will cook for you both our famous stew  
Sorry about the bull fight result but nothing we could do  
If you have no plans for tonight  
Let me make amends for the dinner and make things right*

*I have a spare ticket for the game as my chef last night cut his finger  
Willy instantly said 'Yes' as no time lost he did not linger  
Barcelona versus Real Madrid the real 'El Classico'  
Willy finished his dinner and off they would go*

*Now during the week in the bar Willy had told many football tales  
Red cards, yellow cards and all the details  
He had mentioned he was a local park referee  
But lost in translation they all went 'Si, si'*

*Now for what happened next there is no explanation  
The stories from Willy all lost in translation  
In the 90<sup>th</sup> minute there was an injury to the ref  
Silence in the stadium as everyone held their breath  
The announcement on the p.a system 'Is there a referee in the house?'  
The crowd around Willy shouted 'Pick Willy there is no one else!'  
Five minutes later and Willy is on the field of play  
Willy with his reputation for red cards so what will he do today?*

*The game is evenly poised at 2-2  
Only twenty seconds remain so not much for Willy to do  
A player from both sides collide and tumble in the penalty area  
Willy blows his whistle.....Penalty? This could not be scarier  
Millions of people around the world watching on television  
Will Willy award a penalty or show a red card what will be his decision  
Willy looked over to his assistant who subtly shakes his head  
Will it be a penalty or a defensive free kick instead?  
The biggest game in the world and this one was a thriller  
Then Willy remembered the words of his great friend Keith Hiller  
'Know the laws, apply the laws and you be loved like Santa Claus'  
Willy awarded a defensive free kick then blew his whistle to end the game  
Refereeing at the local park will never be the same again*

**Enjoy your festivities**

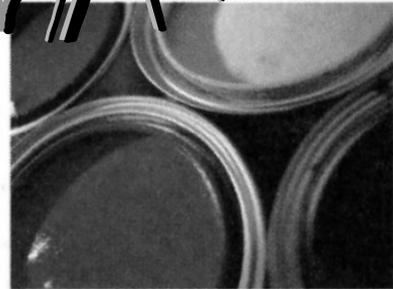
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## What Would You Do? Answers to November Issue

### Question 1.

Not long before kick off the away team's kit man discovers that someone has vandalised the players' names on all their shirts - and has done the same to their spares. There is uproar. What do you do?

**A1** Calm all concerned. The priority is to get the game played. If there's time, it might be possible to borrow another kit from the home team (or another team on the same ground). Failing that, let them play with their own shirts turned inside out, and report the incident.

### Question 2.

A Blue player launches a terrible red card tackle - but suffers a horrible injury in the process. As you try to control the brawl that follows, the injured player is taken off by medics before you can show the red card - and your fourth official waves through a substitution onto the FoP. What do you do?

**A2.** First: your 4th official has overstepped the mark - he cannot sanction substitutions. Second; as play has not yet re-started ask the player to leave the FoP. Third (if appropriate), clarify that the injured player was dismissed - that you did not brandish a red card before the injured player left the FoP, is irrelevant.

### Question 3.

A defender jumps up and down in front of a Red forward who is trying to take a quick throw-in. So, the attacker throws the ball at him, collects the rebound, controls the ball, races away and scores. What would you do?

**A3.** If the throw wasn't unduly hard, the attacker hasn't committed any offence; so, award the goal. The defender didn't cause any delay, so he avoids a caution, but the Laws require him to be at least 2 metre from the point at which the ball is thrown.

### Question 4.

A sprinting winger loses his footing and it looks as if he will tumble out of play, until, that is, he crashes into your assistant. As your colleague is sent flying, the winger regains his balance and whips over a cross to a Red striker who looks suspiciously offside. He heads it into the goal. What would you do?

**A4.** You and your colleagues are considered part of the FoP, so any collision is considered as "play on" - especially when it is accidental. Offside? You can only give what you or your colleagues see and can make an honest decision.

### Question 5.

A Red player has left the FoP (with your permission) to change his boots during a stoppage. While he is still off the FoP, play restarts and his team mount a promising attack. Even as a cross is about to be played into the area, one of the Blue defenders is pointing back down field and screaming at you that the Red player has re-entered without permission and the game should be stopped. A quick glance shows the Red player is indeed back on the field and, although a fair distance away, is making every effort to run forward and get involved in the attack. What would you do?



**A5.** (Law 3). As the Red player is not yet interfering with play allow play to continue. If he gets involved in play before the ball next goes out of play, stop the game immediately (unless there is a clear advantage to the other side). At the next stoppage, caution the player. If you have stopped the game because of the player's involvement, restart with a direct free kick, otherwise restart depending on the cause of the stoppage. If, for whatever reason, you stop play even though he has not yet interfered, restart with an indirect free kick.

### What Would You Do

**Question 1.** A Red home forward is breaking towards goal with just one defender and the goalkeeper to beat. Even as the defender is about to make a challenge, a loud whistle is blown from the crowd. The Blue defender stops but the Red forward continues past him and bears down on goal. What would you do?

**Question 2.** You are refereeing an end-of-season final with neutral assistants. Late in the game, with the score at 1-1 the keeper punches a cross clear. Another defender drops back onto the goal-line but all the other defenders push up to the edge of the area, leaving the attacking forwards in the box. A cross is played in. It seems clear to you that the forward who then heads it into the net was goal-side of the keeper when the cross was struck - but your AR keeps his flag down, ignoring the appeals of the defence. You run across to ensure the defenders control themselves at which point your AR explains that the keeper had reached back just before the cross was played and had therefore played the forward onside with his arm, possible because keepers can use their arms to play the ball. What would you do?

**Question 3.** You are an AR on an end-of-season final. The game enters the final minute with Reds leading 2-1. Blues mount one final attack and, as the forward jinks round the defender, the defender puts in his challenge. The ball flies out of play and the forward hits the turf. The referee is in a good position and 'cuts the grass' to deny the shouts for a penalty, shouting "Good tackle". However, you have an even better view and are certain that the challenge was late and that the defender actually caught the player's leg. What would you do?

**Question 4.** In a one-on-one challenge the keeper drags down a Red striker. You blow your whistle and point to the spot, only to see the ball carry on rolling and end up in the net. What would you do?

**Question 5.** A Red player goes down in stoppage time. The opposition captain, upset by the constant time-wasting, reacts by carry him off the field of play against his will. His physio screams abuse. What would you do?

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

# WARBLER REFERENCE GUIDE

THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION www.TheFA.com	Wembley Stadium, Wembley, London HA9 0WS 0800 169 1863
FA Refereeing Department National Managers "name"@theFA.com	Neale Barry ; Head of Senior Referee Development
Surrey County Football Association www.surreyfa.com  Referee Development Officer	Meadowbank Football Ground, Mill Lane, Dorking Surrey, RH4 1DX 01372 384190  Tim Lawrence 01372 387094
The Referees' Association www.the-ra.org contact@the-ra.org Tel 024 7642 0360	1c Bagshaw Close Ryton on Dunsmore Warwickshire CV8 3EX
Surrey County Referees Association Honorary Secretary	Brian Reader 01483 480651 ramblingref@gmail.com
Guildford & Woking Alliance League Referees' Secretary	Adrian Freeman 01483 894351 / 07814 516911 A.freeman@homecall.co.uk
Surrey County Intermediate League (Western) Referees' Secretary	Adrian Freeman 01483 894351 / 07814 516911 A.freeman@homecall.co.uk
Suburban League Assistant Referees' Secretary	Dave Goater dave.gosubrefs@outlook.com
Combined Counties League Assistant Referees' Secretary	Philip Nash 07951 415046 assistantreferees@combinrdcountiesleague.co.uk
Southern Youth League Assistant Referees' Secretary	Nick Clark
Camberley & District Sunday League Referees' Secretary	Richard Harris 07708 813978 (m), <a href="mailto:richard@harris-net.co.uk">richard@harris-net.co.uk</a>
Surrey & Hants Border Sunday League Referees' Secretary	Bob Dick 07803 007233 bobmdick@btinternet..com
Farnham & District Sunday League Referees' Secretary	Colin Barnett 01252 328953 cbarnett5978184@aol.com
Surrey Elite Intermediate Football League Referees' Secretary	Richard Brum 07956 185602 <a href="mailto:richard.brum@sky.com">richard.brum@sky.com</a>
Surrey Youth League Referees' Secretary	www.wsyl.org.uk Alan Wiggins 01932 789376 alan.wiggins@wsyl.org.uk
Surrey Primary League Referees Secretary	Tim Wilson / Mo Sher referees@surreyprimaryleague.com
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