



OUR FIRST MEETING OF THE NEW YEAR WILL BE ON  
**THURSDAY 14 JANUARY 2010**

AT CIVIL SERVICE RECREATIONAL CENTRE  
CHADWICK STREET, LONDON SW1P 2EP

At 1900 for 1915

*Our guest speaker will be*

## **Janie Frampton**

**FA National Referee Manager [Education & training]**



[One of 3 national managers, responsible for 21 RDOs, active referee for 21 years, National List of Contributory League and Women's National Premier League, qualified UEFA coach, involved in Active Sports and Women's Centre of Excellence coaching and development, Licensed Instructor, Tutor Mentor for Safeguarding Children and Equality, operates on a range of National and International Instructors Courses, One of only 7 female FIFA Instructors in the world.]

“Janie will discuss a wide range of topics covering Women's football at domestic and international levels, her own experiences in the middle and her new position with The FA as Referee Manager and how she sees refereeing developing.”



***The running order for the evening will be:***

- 1800: Bar and restaurant opens;
- 1905: Take your seats;
- 1915: Chairman opens with routine Society business, announcements and Officers' reports;
- 1930: John Cooke, Society Vice-Chairman and Training Officer and AFA RDO: law queries, match incidents and a training session;

- 2015: Jamie Frampton;
- 2105: Q&A;
- 2115: Presentation of AFA Continuous Service Awards to Peter King for 30 years service and to Steve Tate and David Littler for 15 years service;
- 2130: Vote of thanks, 100 Club, raffle, announcements;
- 2135: The meeting ends.

*\*This order may change due to the wishes of the AFA Representative presenting the awards or the recipients.*

***Gordon Kirby, JP***

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**FIFA GIVE PERMISSION FOR FRANCE-IRELAND REPLAY!!**

FIFA have granted their permission for a replay of the last half of the extra time section of their recent game to take place in the Stade du France.

Ireland will be playing right to left.



## Dates For Your Diary 2010

I should be grateful if you would take note these dates and venues for the forthcoming season. The recruitment of speakers is currently ongoing but we have at least 6 "in the bag" at present with several others pending.

6. January 14: CSRC [This will be held in an alternative room perhaps the Belgravia.]
7. February 4: Norsemen FC
8. February 11: Old Isleworthians FC
9. March 11: CSRC
10. April 8: CSRC: [Easter Holiday 2-5]
11. May 13 (AGM): CSRC
12. May 21 [Annual Dinner at the same venue as 2009]

CSRC = The Westminster Room, Civil Service Recreational Centre, 1 Chadwick Street, London, SW1P 2EP

## NEWS OF MEMBERS

Do you have news of members - including yourself?

Would it interest other members?

If so, please let the Editor know by post, phone call or e-mail and it will be published in the next Argus.

Anything in good taste is acceptable - e.g. news of awards, promotion, appointments, injuries or return after injury.

## REFEREEING ACADEMY AT SOCIETY MEETINGS

Training Officer and AFA Referee Development Officer John Cooke will be pleased to receive any problems of members at monthly meetings, and also to analyse and debate recent incidents recorded from the professional game on video. Members with video recorded incidents are always welcome to bring them to meetings and they will be examined, time permitting. If possible, please telephone John in advance.

## OUR WEBSITE

Just a reminder to members that our website address is [www.afalonsar.co.uk](http://www.afalonsar.co.uk) Michael Hayden is doing a grand job keeping it up to date. Please visit it!

## COPY FOR FEBRUARY

## ARGUS MUST

BE WITH THE EDITOR BY  
FRIDAY

22nd JANUARY 2010  
OR SOONER IF POSSIBLE.



# Chairman's Comment

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

I trust this finds you in a pleasant and positive frame of mind following an excellent holiday. Perhaps the waistlines have suffered a little and the eyesight and balance too. But we have lots to be positive about as we enter a New Year which hopefully will include promotion and plum appointments.

## WORLD CUP RSA 2010

What a great spectacle this promises to be as an African nation hosts the world's greatest sporting event for the first time. The RSA government and the SAFA have worked wonders in preparing nine splendid stadia throughout the country. Although we may think that football is something new in RSA it can be traced back to the late 19th century and the first recognized club was formed as early as 1879, as Pietermaritzburg County. The team initially played against occupying British troops, and came solely from the European immigrant population. The Natal Football Association was formed in 1882 and with a league comprising Pietermaritzburg County, Natal Wasps, Durban Alpha and Umgeni Stars. By the following year, the league had grown to ten clubs. The game spread to the coastal city of Port Elizabeth, where a Scotsman by the surname of Dickson, his first name having faded from the annals of history, attempted to establish a league, but with little success. Two Englishman founded a club called Pioneers FC in Cape Town in 1890, and they immediately challenged the dominance of the British military teams for competition honours. In Johannesburg, the Transvaal FA was formed in 1889 by the Dutch immigrants who settled in the area, and their main competition was the Transvaal Challenge Cup. The early winners were Wanderers Wasps in 1889, Rangers in 1890, 1892 to 1894 and 1896. The Rangers club existed for more than a hundred years, winning the First Division in 1986. The World Cup finals in RSA will bring excitement and freshness to the game and we wish them good luck in all their games.

## ENGLAND'S BIG CHANCE?

England fans are already working out who we will play in the quarter-finals after having disposed of USA, Algeria and Slovenia. With the greatest respect to these nations none are football giants however the USA team will be well drilled, splendidly fit and know almost as much about their England opponents as we do. Alarmingly, among the US exiles playing in the UK two great American goalkeepers are in cracking form saving every penalty fired their way. And let us not forget Bel Horizonte in the 1950 World Cup finals in when the US beat England 1-0 when our squad included such legends as: Alf Ramsay, Jimmy Dickenson, Roy Bentley, Jackie Milburn, Bill Nicholson, William Watson, Henry Cockburn, Laurie Scott, Bill Eckersley, Ted Ditchburn, Laurie Hughes, Wilf Mannion, Ted Bailey, John Aston, Tom Finney, Bert Williams, Jim Taylor, Stan Mortensen, Billy Wright, Jimmy Mullen and Stanley Matthews and Walter Winterbottom was the Coach. The Algerians playing on their own continent will be inspired and Slovenia will be no pushovers. But our chances are better than in recent finals with the weather on our side for once and with the prospect of facing Australia in the next round



advancement looks good. But have you ever met an Aussie you thought was a foregone conclusion? They again will be superbly fit, tough, determined, well drilled, know all about our players and tactics and be inspired by the prospect of beating the "Poms" at yet another sport invented in the UK. If anyone is actually going to the finals please get in touch as an appointment as the ARGUS' international sports reporter to the World Cup RSA2010 is in the offing. Best of luck to all the competing nations and particularly to the competition's hosts the Republic of South Africa.

## SOCIETY MEETINGS

Last month's speaker Gary Lewin was excellent and I know from your many comments just how much you enjoyed his presentation. In thanking him the next day I invited him to speak to us again in October 2010 when hopefully he will have tales of England's World Cup success but unfortunately he is unable to commit himself at this long range.

In February we have as usual two meetings on Thursday 4th and 11th. The first will be at Norsemen FC and the second at Chelsea FC at Stoke D'Abernon. Please make a note in your diaries and try to attend and watch out for details of how to get there

## ASSAULT ON A REFEREE

Sadly, I have to report another attack during a game involving an unregistered "ringer" brought in for the day and guess what; no-one knows his name! This is the second such incident since September. I know the referee well having trained and mentored him and he can look after himself. He told me he cautioned a player who then shouted abuse, took off his shirt and threw it to the ground and without warning punched the referee in the face. The referee is a large, tough and resourceful man and no doubt made his displeasure clear to the player who ran off towards the changing rooms which were locked. After the game the referee was confronted at the changing rooms by the player [who had waited to retrieve his clothes] and threatened with a broken bottle. Sensibly the referee backed off but rang the police. The player was then whisked away by a team colleague in a car. The police I understand have yet to apprehend him. Seemingly the team said they were unaware of the player's identity as he was brought in for the day by one of the players [the driver of the car perhaps.] To say the least this is disgraceful and very serious and the club concerned should face the severest sanctions until the criminal's identity is revealed. Someone must know who he is!

## HALT WHO GOES THERE?

Such regrettable incidents cause me to ask whether it is time to reconsider the suggestion that all registered players must have a signed and laminated photo-ID card bearing the county emblem as proof of their right to play. Many in football will reject this on the grounds of cost and others will claim it unnecessary and running contrary to the Corinthian spirit of amateur football. But something has to be done to identify the players who are entitled to play and those who are not [from among whose ranks perpetrators of such acts of violence generally come.] This latest incident happened on Saturday 5 December and the other on Saturday 26 September [see Chairman's Comment, November 2009 issue]. Has the player involved in the September attack been identified and if not what pressure has been brought to bear on the



club? Ringers are a fact of life in junior football and some opine that it would be a pity if they were banned from playing by an administrative measure. But if such incidents as these occur then stronger measures must be taken to protect referees who not surprisingly are diminishing in number.

## RESPECT, WHAT RESPECT?

I have made no secret of my dismay at The FA's initiative to try improving player, team officials' and supporters' behaviour at games particularly their attitude and behaviour towards referees. The FA's definition or mission statement is: Respect is The FA's programme to address unacceptable behaviour in football – on and off the pitch. In theory this is very commendable however I feel the problem is not at the grass roots end of football but rather at the top! Expensive videos and films and seminars are unlikely to influence positively the players, supporters and club officials at park football level [particularly children and their parents] when the top stars [and here I embrace players and managers] misbehave regularly and disgracefully both on and off the FOP. In recent weeks I have spoken about premiership managers' poor attitudes towards referees and their disgraceful comments in post-game press conferences. Additionally, tales of poor behaviour on the FOP and in night clubs, supermarkets and on holiday about star players are legend. It is this behaviour that young and impressionable players and spectators will follow, as after all this is deemed as acceptable by their stars and heroes. What is shown on television in a premiership game is generally aped at the lower level of football within a week or two. For example, when did diving first appear in amateur football? Answer, shortly after it became contagious in the professional game and was highlighted on television. There have always been cases of referee abuse in amateur and lower league football but has it been as bad as it is today?

Soon, if you have attended a Respect Workshop or bought a brand new referees' kit [even though you haven't attended a Respect Workshop] you will be given a Respect iron-on badge to be worn on the shoulder of your uniform. Some mischievous among us might consider ironing on this living proof of the FA's campaign in an upside-down position indicating that The FA has got their priorities up-side down.

At this time of the year one can easily lapse into a reflective mood and look longingly back on the days when first division managers [as they were then] were real characters and wore camel-hair coats with fur collars and sported a white fedora and smoked Cuban cigars; had ridiculous haircuts and kipper ties; spoke with strange Northern accents; were photographed in the team's bath with Page 3 girls and occasionally ran off with their trainer's wives. Ahh, those were the good old days.

## A NEW YEAR RESOLUTION

That a Sky television commentator will have the courage to announce on air during game: "Now let's look at the incident again from the only angle the referee could have seen it from and at full speed and only once. Now do you think the referee got it wrong?" Shush, do I hear pigs flying?



## REFEREES' ASSOCIATION NEWS

In the forthcoming issues of the ARGUS you will see extracts from the bimonthly Referees' Association News Digest which are intended to keep you up to speed with important developments from RAHQ. I hope you find these interesting, please note the following important dates:

- Eve of Final Rally, Russell Hotel, London, Friday 14 May 2009: Guest Speaker: George Courtney;
- RA Conference and AGM, St John's Hotel, Solihull, Friday and Saturday 4 and 5 June 2010.

## RA RAFFLE TICKETS

If you are a full Society member you will find one book of RA Grand Draw Raffle Tickets of 5 tickets each costing a £1 per ticket with your January ARGUS. Please either buy these yourself or sell them [top prize is £5,000, second prize £1,000, third prize £500, fourth prize £250, fifth prize £100 and 50 other prizes of £50 each.] If you do this and bearing in mind 50% of the proceeds of the sales go to your Society we will benefit to the tune of £450. So ticket-stubs and cheques to Robert Hanison on the date show please.

## ... AND FINALLY

In the mid-1990s a female entertainer decided to settle in the UK and become as she described it "a typical British working girl." Fifteen years later she is unemployed, divorced and has three children each from a different father. Job done you might say.

Best wishes to you all for 2010.

*Gordon Kirby*

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*Peter Kirkup was to be our speaker at the AP meeting on 12 November 2009 but World Cup duties intervened. He very kindly took some photographs [included in our December issue] and wrote an article [which was not.]*

*Here they are again with sincere thanks the complete story. Thank you Peter: we look forward to hosting you as a speaker in the not too distant future.*

*Gordon*

## World Cup Play Off, 1st Leg, Portugal V Bosnia 14th November 2009

A very welcome call arrived 2 weeks ago from The FA advising of my appointment to this vital play off match with Martin Atkinson as our Referee, Phil Sharp and Andre Marriner making up the team. It also meant that I unfortunately had to cancel my appearance at your monthly RA meeting as I was flying out the next morning so needed to prepare for the trip.

We flew direct to Lisbon and were taken to our very nice hotel in the City, the hotel had been changed late on due to the fact the original choice had a large contingent of Bosnian fans booked in so we had to move for security reasons. The morning of the game saw us attend the usual organisational meeting at the Stadium, the match being played at Benfica's



impressive new 65,000 stadium. As expected everything was in perfect order and Martin delivered a clear briefing to both team's representatives of what was required and expected from them on many matters affecting the game.

We were then able to take some brief sightseeing of Lisbon before having a nice pasta based lunch at a restaurant overlooking the river. We then returned to our hotel and retired for a customary afternoon siesta which is a real luxury in the build up to a massive match.

At 6.30pm we met up in the hotel for coffee and cakes when Martin ran through a few expectations for the game and we discussed tactics of how we would control the game, it is fortunate that we all work together regularly so its general matters that we talk about rather than specific decision making. We then boarded our people carrier for one of the highlights of any trip, the high speed Police escort through traffic to the Stadium, we never grow tired of enjoying these!

Final preparations for the game were then made, a massage was available for us and then it was out in the tunnel to lead the players out. The crowd were enthusiastic and greeted the National Anthems with complete respect, and then it was game on. An early caution for Deco for pulling back an opponent was quickly followed by an away forward following him into the book for a reckless challenge but these 2 cards settled everything down and Portugal took the lead late in the half.

Half time came and Martin was really pleased with how the game was going, players were responding well to his management so we needed to continue this in the second half. Another early caution to a Bosnian saw tight control maintained, and the game continued in a very orderly manner, although a lone trumpeter tried to raise the atmosphere as Portugal ran out of ideas. Bosnia nearly stole a late equaliser hitting the woodwork twice in the 90th minute. But the game finished 1-0 and everyone left the field happy and offering handshakes to all the Match Officials.



Back in the dressing room we were highly delighted with our performance and how the game had gone, Martin had been excellent in the biggest appointment of his career and the teamwork had been faultless all night. It was an especially happy dressing room as we were then able to celebrate this being Phil's last ever 'A' International match as his 13 year FIFA career entered its final month, Martin cracked open the champagne and we toasted his huge achievement.

We then returned to our hotel for a midnight meal which was followed by a de-brief from our Norwegian referee observer, he was delighted with Martin's performance and complimented the whole team on a successful match. We then returned to one of our rooms, for a wind down and general chat into the small hours.

We headed home happy the next day knowing we had delivered such an important match to a safe and fair conclusion, there had been virtually no dispute over any decisions and Martin had further enhanced his growing reputation as an Elite referee abroad. These trips are always a great experience particularly when we work so closely with real friends and represent our country with pride.

If anyone had said to me 20 years ago when my career started that I would be travelling the world officiating huge matches I would have laughed, but it is a real possibility that can be attained by any younger referees, so work hard at your game, enjoy each one and hopefully your dedication might take you to experience the rewards that can be achieved. Good Luck.

*Peter Kirkup*

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## REWARD £5,000

If you are a full Society member you will find one book of RA Grand Draw Raffle Tickets of 5 tickets each costing a £1 with your January ARGUS.

Please either buy these yourself or sell them to colleagues, relatives or family. The top prize is £5,000, second prize £1,000, third prize £500, fourth prize £250, fifth prize £100 and 50 other prizes of £50 each. "You have got to be in it to win it!"

If you do this. and with 50% of the proceeds of the sales going to your Society, we will benefit to the tune of £450 and you may well hit the jackpot prize; someone has to!

Please send ticket-stubs and cheques

**MADE PAYABLE TO THE REFEREES ASSOCIATION to**

**Robert Hanison, 20 Folkington Corner,**

**Woodside Park, London N12 7BH**

**please by 15th February 2010** at the very latest.

*Best wishes Gordon*



# Whistleblower's Opinion

## The Laws - tipping the balance against defensive skills?

As we enter a World Cup year, the opportunity is often taken by IFAB/FIFA to significantly shift the Interpretation of the Laws to improve the spectacle of this showpiece occasion, and to move the World game forward. The modern game of football has developed from rigid formations and fixed positions into more versatile and fluid movement of players. This welcome development has increased skill levels, made the game faster, and more enjoyable for players and spectators. And the Laws need to keep pace with these tactical, skill and pace changes.

### Maintaining the balance

But an essential part of any competitive team sport is creating and maintaining the balance between attacking and defensive tactics and skills. And here the Laws and their Interpretation play a critical role. If the Laws are being changed or interpreted to give attackers the advantage over defenders, then in the long run the game will suffer.

Young players must learn both attacking and defensive skills. When in possession, everyone is a potential attacker. When possession is lost, everyone is a potential defender. If the Laws, in a bid to make the professional game more attractive to spectators (i.e. by encouraging more goals), go past the tipping point, then we will see not just the loss of the competitive essence of the game, but also players resorting to more unfair and extreme tactics outside the Law to retain the balance.

### Mass Misconduct

For example, we are seeing 'mass misconduct' at free kicks and corners, where a number of simultaneous fouls are being committed in the certain knowledge that the match officials cannot pick them all up. At Premiership level, the FA may use video evidence to subsequently charge teams. But what happens at our level?

### The Sliding Tackle

Matthew Upson's tackle on Daniel Surridge in the penalty area in the recent West Ham-Chelsea game highlighted the problem about the sliding tackle - a vital (albeit last ditch) element in defensive play.

The sliding tackle has always invited controversy, since it is extremely difficult to implement without making some contact with the opponent either before, during or after any contact with the ball. And once off the feet in the slide, there is a loss of control. Sepp Blatter, the President of FIFA has been quoted as saying he wants "to ban all sliding". But when performed well, usually when both players are running in the same direction, and sweeping the ball cleanly away, it is both effective and safe. Or better still, when sliding,



trapping the ball and using the momentum to rise to a standing position in possession of the ball (as most famously practised by Bobby Moore) we see the very best of defensive play.

However, there is a sliding tackle that should in my opinion be banned - where two players slide into each other from opposite directions with one or two legs outstretched. Even if contact is made with the ball, their momentum invariably carries their boots into the opponent and there is serious risk of injury. Any such challenge should be regarded as a least "reckless".

But was the Upson tackle legal or not? The media pundits seemed to think it was legal. The Assistant Referee, and eventually the Referee, decided it was not. Upson may have made contact with the ball but he also caught Sturridge's back foot and brought him down. So a penalty was given. But we are left with a grey area about a tackle in which contact is made with the ball first and the opponent after. Not too long ago, that would not have been considered an offence, unless judged as a deliberate attempt to stop the opponent gaining an advantage, or if considered reckless or with undue force. Now we are not so sure.

## Contact before touching the ball when tackling

Another area where defensive play is being compromised is in the uncertainty about prior physical contact between the player in possession and someone seeking to dispossess him. In the 2007/8 Laws, a direct free kick was to be awarded to the opposing team if a player "tackles an opponent to gain possession of the ball, making contact with the opponent before touching the ball". That made the position clear.

However in the 2008/9 Laws this clause was removed without any comment or explanation. So is contact now allowed?

In addition, *'tackles an opponent'* is listed as one of the direct free kick offences. Like the other offences (*kicks, trips, jumps at, charges, strikes, pushes*) it is only to be penalised if *"considered by the referee to be careless, reckless or using excessive force"*. But the significant change here is that *"tackling"* now joins the other penal offences, as opposed to being an important positive skill and technique in the game. Have the lawmakers signalled that tackling is to be phased out of the game?

## Shielding and Charging

The lawmakers have created the same confusion with *"shielding"* and *"charging"*, causing uncertainty about what is a fair challenge. In *"shielding"* the Interpretation says the player in possession cannot hold off an opponent with the arms or *body* (my italics). Surely by interposing himself between an opponent and the ball within playing distance, the player is using his body. And then "the player may be fairly charged by an opponent". What does this mean? There is no longer mention of the shoulder, so presumably a player can use **any** part of the body apart from arms and elbows to *"challenge for space within playing distance of the ball"*. So you can make contact with an opponent before touching the ball? And can you challenge from behind?



## The Interpretation of the Offside Law

A further area of defensive uncertainty is the current Interpretation of the Offside Law. Why should the attacker get the benefit of any doubt? I have argued before that the Interpretation is unnecessarily complex, and therefore causes more errors even by our top match officials. It is impossible for an Assistant to judge whether *any part* of an attacker's body (other than the arms) is in front of the 2nd last defender at the critical moment. And the uncertainty of defenders causes them to play deeper and thus we get less goals rather than more.

## Failure to deal with Diving

And finally defensive play is being prejudiced by the failure to deal with simulation in the professional game. The majority of offenders in this form of cheating are players in attacking positions seeking unwarranted free kicks/penalties. Referees seem hesitant to take action - so for the professional, and for an increasing number of grassroots players, it is still worth trying.

## Seizing the World Cup Year Opportunity

The Lawmakers and FIFA have the opportunity in 2010 to both clarify the Interpretation of aspects of the Law which have grown hazy, and to tighten up the practical implementation of the Laws for their showpiece occasion in South Africa.

It would be wonderful if they included a statement on the importance of the 'Spirit of the Game' on the first page of the Laws. This would give a clear signal to all participants, and particularly the 99.99% of the game which is not paid to play, that the Laws are not being manipulated just for the professional game.

And some thought on how current Law Interpretations are dangerously tipping the balance between attacking and defensive play might help those practising the less glamorous and much-maligned art of defending to enjoy their game more.

*Patrick Morrissey*

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## The AFA and London Society of Association Referees Society Meeting

**December 3, 2009, CSSC, Chadwick Street, London**

**Introduction:** Gordon Kirby, welcomed members and guest speaker Gary Lewin.

**Argus:** Compliments were received from the London FA on Gordon Kirby's article in the December Argus, and Jock Henderson, of the AFA, wanted to reproduce the article by Steve Redfern. Reports had been received that the RA was critical of some articles from some ASBs which were bordering on the discourteous and impolite. Discussion opined that while articles written in bad taste were to be discouraged the feeling was that articles which encourage debate should be encouraged and were good for refereeing generally. Gordon requested members to contribute articles that reflected their experiences or thoughts on issues affecting referees or them personally as referees. The vibrancy of the society depended on its members.



**AFA Senior XI vs. Sussex FA – AFA officials:** Compliments were received about the officials at the game vs. Sussex FA at which AFA & LONSAR members were involved: Referee Steve Bodell, assistants: Michael Barron and Robert Hanison; and Fourth Official Sandip Chaudhuri.

**Reports from EC members:** No reports were forthcoming from officers.

**John Cooke – training academy:** The penalising of Eduardo for dangerous play in the Arsenal v Celtic game when challenging the goalkeeper, even though he made contact with the ball. The discussion centred on the following points:

- Was the ball in the goalkeeper's control?
- At what point is the goal keeper considered to have the ball under his control?
- The position of the player's foot and its height.

It was noted that the goalkeeper is considered to be in control of the ball when he has hands or hand on the ball. Where a player challenges with his boot, it is considered dangerous due to the potential for injury, as the goalkeeper is not in a position to defend himself. A clip was showed of John Terry's foul on Jo in the Man City vs. Chelsea game where Terry was sent off for serious foul play (SFP). Discussion took place on whether the sending off should be for SFP or denying an obvious goal scoring opportunity (DOGSO). Some felt that Terry's action was SFP because the action was so premeditated, and against the spirit of the game that the foul should have been consider SFP, and so warrant a red card. In terms of DOGSO, the tackle being near the half-way line and with the possibility of covering defenders that it could not be DOGSO. The FA overturned the sending off because it did not meet the FA's criteria for SFP – essentially, it was not 'malicious' [FA's word] nor consist of 'excessive force'. It was noted that the FA were misusing the word malicious to only mean violent.

**Guest speaker: Gary Lewin, England Physiotherapist, on 'England's preparation for 2010':** Gary's discussion on England's preparation for the 2010 World Cup would largely draw on the experiences of the 2006 World Cup. Preparation very much starts at qualification. With England's early qualification that preparation started before the draw with the backroom team being able to go out to South Africa and reconnoitre the training and playing facilities. Gary's team include: doctors, masseurs, an orthopaedic surgeon, osteopath and physiotherapists. These tournaments are the only occasions at which an international team can develop a club atmosphere. The players are together for 24/7, for seven weeks, for security reasons they are unable to leave the training camp and hotel outside of organised events and games. At each venue – hotel or training facilities – the backroom team set up treatment areas. When the team are training this is done by the training pitch so that any injuries can be treated immediately. All aspects of the players' game preparation are observed. Professional player recovery is faster than for others because treatment starts within the first minute of the injury and can continue 24/7 until recovery. Part of watching players so closely during practice or games is to know the cause or injury as this aids diagnosis and treatment. Players' preparation is carefully controlled and monitored with the use of heart rate monitors (HRM) and pro-zone. Individual players also have their own preparation routines e.g. David James has a weight training programme as part



of his preparation. Gary informed the meeting that there is some conflict between club and country with regards to injuries. However, the country has the final say.

As the England physio, Gary is guided by his professional ethics to act in the player's best interest. As a full time physio, the potential for conflict between Gary and individual clubs is removed. This has already aided his team's preparation for dealing with players by being provided with their medical histories. This was not the case when Gary was also the Arsenal physio. The question was asked about Rooney's broken toe in 2006. Gary reported that from a medical point of view Rooney was fully recovered, and that it was match preparation that was missing. If England had progressed (and Rooney not been sent off) he would have peaked for the later rounds. The risk was taken with Rooney because he was the sort of player that could change a game. The medical team took the lessons from Portugal 2004 – this ranged from training methods to boots. In Portugal 2004 players suffered massively from blisters due to plastic boots which induced sweating. In Germany 2006, players did not wear plastic boots. To reduce friction, a contributor to blisters, all socks were washed 10 to 15 times before being worn. Between 23 players there were over 400 pairs of boots. In many cases players had boots that were specially embroidered for individual games. Medical thinking has already changed between Germany and the current preparations. For example, Ice-baths – doubt has now been thrown on whether they aid post match recovery. They are still considered to have benefit for trauma injury recovery. The stats showed that most training injuries happened on the post match game – the players who'd played the game had not fully recovered and the players that had not played wanted to 'prove' themselves. So now, those players who have not taken part in the game are taken out for a 30 to 40 minutes hard work.

So, now the day after the game a recovery regime is in place - of twenty minutes each of bike, pool and stretching followed by a massage. Hydration is a big problem and will be so in South Africa. Players lose 10 to 12 pounds per game. Each 2lb loss leads to 10 per cent loss in muscle efficiency – hence why most mistakes and goals come late in the game. Players need education and are being educated by clubs. Any liquid works, but the more sweat the better the electrolyte drinks. It is better to drink slowly to rehydrate – the faster you drink the more you pee. Rehydration is normally completed within two hours after a game. Players are expected to rehydrate at half time. However, the core body temperature stays high, which leads to faster dehydration. Gary stated that international referees often suffered under FIFA. They are prohibited from taking drinks from teams – so as not to show favouritism. The idea has been put forward for a water 'time out' but this has not been taken up. Monitoring player performance is key in preparation. Players' physical conditioning is monitored almost 24/7 during a tournament. Movement is monitored with a GPS system, Prozone and heart rate monitors. This all feeds into training and preparation.

Boredom is a big problem for a lot of English players. The WAGS was to be a strategy to combat this in Germany 2006, but it back-fired. A whole range of strategies and entertainment is put on for players from pool tables and computer games to a cinema club. Players' kit forms a logistical problem in getting kit to each game. This will be problematic with the distance between games and headquarters. Each player's kit is individually made. They are not supplied free, but within a kit budget allocated by the FA. Gary considered that modern boots offered less protection for players feet and hence the increase in foot injuries. The FA uses a podiatrist



to advise players on their boot – most players now use orthotics to ensure the fit of their boots. Players, particularly in hot weather, wear blister socks. The FA will take two chefs with them to the tournament. It is important that the players not only have a variety of food but the right food nutritionally as athletes. Player mentality is important. Gary was able during Portugal 2004 to look at other countries. Countries like Italy, Germany and Brazil have a business like and very professional approach to tournaments. The England players have still to buy into this ‘tournament mentality’ but with [Mr Fabio] Capello [England Manager] this may start to change. He has brought a different way of thinking and organisation to the England set up e.g. the full time physiotherapist was his requirement. While there is a team preparation, each player also has their own routine – some like Ashley Cole, zone out, others are more relaxed. Part of the backroom team’s role is to understand how each player prepares, and facilitate this, to get the best out of themselves.

Michael Hayden, offered the Society’s thanks to Gary for his insight into England’s preparation. Those who attended the evening will watch the tournament with an insider’s perspective.

The meeting ended at 2130.

*Errol Walker, Hon Secretary*

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## **STEVE BENNETT at KINGSTON RS**

We were delighted to have an audience of over 40 for the visit of Steve Bennett to Imber Court in November.

Here are some of the conclusions we reached as the result of discussions with Steve after watching video clips of crucial match play situations, several times, from different angles and at different speeds. Above all, we learned how difficult decision making can be!

- A wide viewing angle is sometimes necessary to judge a challenge. Sometimes we need to sacrifice distance in order to make an angle
- A challenge with the studs showing is potentially dangerous, especially if the leg is also straight
- The first caution sets the bench mark for the game
- Co-operation with assistants is essential to getting decisions right and to selling them
- Never play advantage in the penalty area, except when an attacker is a yard out about to put the ball in the net
- Never play advantage if you’re going to send a player off
- In deciding whether to play advantage try to anticipate what the team offended against would like. For example, some teams like to hit long high balls to strong attackers in the penalty area and will therefore prefer free kicks to advantages in most circumstances
- Don’t take risks. By, for example, not issuing the first caution, or by letting careless challenges go unpenalised
- Consider to what extent player reaction should influence decision making, always remembering that players are not to be trusted!
- Do the simple things right
- Expect the unexpected

*Jim de Rennes*



## RA NEWS IN BRIEF

**CHANGE OF NAME: THE BADGE REMAINS:** On 12 September, the RAE Board decided that when the new constitution takes effect on 1st April 2010, it will retain the familiar RA crest thus ensuring we maintain our identity and independence. This decision was made following feedback from members who were almost unanimous in their desire to retain the traditional crest which is recognised throughout the football world. By announcing this decision now, it will help those who use the crest on clothing, stationary etc., to make their future plans. It will also enable the Board to progress in a similar way and also with the production of badges for service awards etc.

**SUPPLIES UNDER PRESSURE:** The supplies operation has been under severe pressure recently due to the large number of orders coming in for our new kit. The demand outstripped our manufacturer's original estimate for our requirements and this has led to slight delays in order fulfillment, as we do not ship until an order is complete. With increasing deliveries now arriving from the manufacturer we are catching up. We apologise for any delays and thank you for your patience whilst we clear our back orders. A new and up to date brochure has just arrived and is available on request from the Head Office. This features some new products, including a new buzzer flag set. Why not go to [www.rashop.co.uk](http://www.rashop.co.uk) or ask for a copy of the new brochure now?

**MEMBERSHIP UPDATE:** It is pleasing to note that the number of members at the end of September was 9,114 which exceeds that at the same stage last season, albeit by just

32. A number of ABSs have shown significant increases compared to last season but rather worryingly many others show large decreases. Since the start of the new membership year (i April 2009), 637 vouchers have been issued to newly-qualified referees who have joined. However, this means that 2,420 (over 22%) of those in membership at the end of last season have not yet re-joined and therefore are not covered by insurance. Over 1,200 newly-qualified referees have joined the RAE and received a supplies voucher since this recruitment initiative was introduced in April 2008. In order to measure the success of this, a review is currently being undertaken to ascertain how many of those who received a voucher during the last membership year have re-joined this season. Results of this will be included in the next Digest.

At the end of September the number of referees registered at the FA (levels 1-8) had increased to 22,973. Ian Blanchard, FA Senior National Game Referee Manager says: "I am really pleased with the latest referee figures which give an indication of the great work that Referee Development Officers are doing in the Counties. Once again recruitment tends not to be the problem and clearly judging by the number of trainee referees the task has to be supporting them through their first 6 games and then offering them friendly, supportive leagues in which to develop their skills. We are heading in the right direction and with the help of the RA we will continue to move forward positively". Currently, less than 40% of these registered referees are members of the RA which provides us all with an ongoing challenge.

The immediate aim of all us should be to get this figure up to 50%, a level which many counties have easily maintained for some time. Have all your members from last season



been contacted in order to collect their subscriptions? We all have a part to play in recruiting new members and reminding non-members of the benefits of being part of the Association. All it needs is a telephone call.

**SOCIAL NETWORKING WEBSITES:** A number of match officials have been suspended for up to six months for posting inappropriate comments about refereeing colleagues on Social Networking Websites. It is accepted that such sites have now become a part of everyday life and are accessed by many people from all walks of life; an individual has the right to use such sites as they wish, within the bounds of the law and the rules of the FA. As Match Officials we

have a responsibility to conduct ourselves in the proper manner, both on and off the field of play. Inappropriate use of these websites may leave a Match Official open to criticism, comment or ridicule, including where the matter is of a personal nature and may bring embarrassment upon ourselves and leave it open to the FA to take action. Please therefore pause and think carefully before posting any material on such sites. The FA and RA would not wish you to jeopardise your position as a Match Official by making inappropriate or ill-founded social comment or use of such sites. If you are unsure, please refer to a senior member of your ABS before posting any comments.

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## NEWS FROM THE RHONDDA

Just to let you know that like Phil Newman there are other older people still refereeing. In my particular case, the Rhondda and District League in South Wales.

On the 28 November 2009 I was refereeing a local derby game between Pontygwaith and Llwynypia at Tylorstown Recreation Ground. The final score, as it happens was 1-4. This information maybe of little interest except to those readers who know the area.

With 2 minutes of stoppage time at the end of the game still to play, a police car arrived. A policeman ran on to the pitch and asked me to stop the game at once. The reason for us all to see was an air ambulance hovering overhead. I stopped the game and we hurriedly cleared the pitch of players. The helicopter landed on the field in order to ferry a seriously ill resident from the village. Whilst this was happening I briefly spoke to both team managers who agreed that when I stopped the game the result should stand.

Now, before all you purists start writing in, this was my dilemma:

- Should I have abandoned the game?
- Should I have waited to see if we could restart the game after the air ambulance had left the area? (No estimated departure time was known at that point).
- Should I have ended the game at that point as we were in 'time added on'?

Option 3 was in fact the action I took with the agreement of both managers.

The reason for my decision was that I used Law 18 – yes, common sense. As I had received no adverse comments, only agreement, I felt I did the right thing, others may disagree. I write this article to encourage discussion and comment.

*John Thomas - Rhondda Referees Society*



## AFA PRESENTATIONS

The following three people will be presented with Service Awards at our meeting on 14th January.

### PROFILE OF PETER KING, LEVEL 6

Peter qualified as a referee in 1976 after attending a course run by the late Dennis Whitehall at Fulham Compton OB Clubhouse on Putney Common. This came about after volunteering one Sunday morning at Wormwood Scrubs to officiate a match when the referee failed to show. He immediately got the bug and after passing the examination on the above course he decided to give up playing for Carshalton in the SAL and started to referee.

Over the years, Peter has officiated in all the leagues under the AFA flag. At the moment he is with the Arthurian League in addition to being an assistant on the Southern Youth League on midweek evenings. His career highlight [so far] is refereeing the AFA Junior Cup Final. He has run the referees' training night every Wednesday at HSBC for many years, which is why he is still fit enough to continue at his age.

Congratulations to Peter for his award in recognition of 30 years excellent refereeing service in AFA football.

### PROFILE OF STEVE TAIT, LEVEL 4



*Steve (centre) flanked by John Willett (left) and Brian Broadbridge (right) about to officiate the Old Esthamians v SAL XI at a game to make OE's centenary year at end of 2008/09 season.*

At our January 2010 meeting Steve Tate will be presented belatedly with an AFA 15 year Long Service Award having started his refereeing in 1988 turning from a Referees Secretary with Old Esthameians into a referee. After passing the basic course under the watchful eyes of Trevor Syms and Jim Hale, Steve received his badge from Jim and asked candidly, "Will I ever get on the telly?" Jim nearly choked and politely said "No." Now aged 56, Steve is still serving as an AFA referee whilst enjoying the game at contributory level as a Level 4 and

always looks forward to officiating in senior cup competitions and other AFA affiliated leagues whenever the opportunity arises.

Like many referees he has had high and lows in his career. Two highs he recalls well: refereeing a boisterous senior cup final between Winchmore Hill and Old Bromleians and the other when as a reserve official at Colchester Utd when he ran the second half as an Assistant Referee after the referee became injured. The low was being extremely verbally abused both on

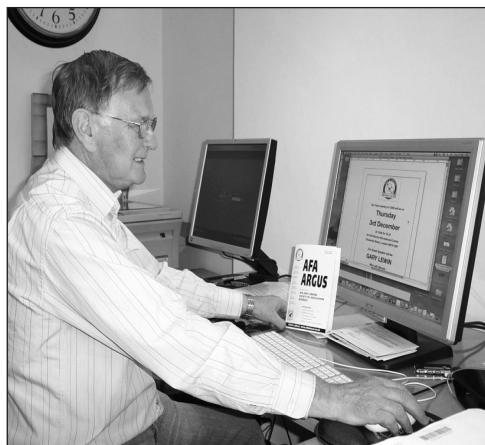


the FOP and - by the same player - in the communal changing room after the game. Not a nice experience. This he claims was when he grew his thick skin. His assessment that day was a glowing one but was earned in a bitter sweet manner.

But on the whole, Steve admits, it has been a great and enjoyable part of his social life. Even more so, when he explains to his students, as an FA Licensed Instructor, it has extended his footballing career in a way he could never have imagined. His only regret - and I'm sure this is echoed by most of us - he wishes he had started sooner.

Congratulations from us all!

## PROFILE OF DAVID LITTLER, ARGUS EDITOR



I ventured down to the leafy suburbs of Surrey in December to call on the Editor of the ARGUS at his business premises in Stoneleigh, Epsom. David inhabits a rather nice office in splendidly modern premises just 25 yards from the station, opposite a church, next door to an Indian curry house, adjacent to a pub and with a fish and chip shop within sniffing distance. Clearly a well planned location!

If you are into PCs and Macs, giant flat screens, expensive machines with flashing lights and modern IT then David's office is an Aladdin's cave and I found him hard at work gathering in articles for the January 2010 edition of the ARGUS. He has been the editor

of the "Yellow Peril" for around 20 years [he is not sure exactly when he began] but it was shortly after he became a referee in 1989/90. On passing his basic referee's examination [in those halcyon days handled by the Society in the shape of Peter Stacey, Max Lea and Jim Hale] he was bullied into taking on the role of editor by diminutive Max Lea. [Can you imagine being bullied by Max?]

Max's wonderful account of those days was reproduced in the May 2009 edition of the ARGUS [No. 233] in which he remembers the ARGUS was then a one sheet affair. David not only took on the role of printer but also that of Editor. A great deal of behind-the-scenes of this work is done by David's wife Lyn to whom our thanks must go. Under his editorship he has overseen the issue of 237 copies of the magazine.

Although working near Epsom David makes a daily round trip from his home in West Sussex and appears used to long road trips as he tells me he often accepts AFA refereeing appointments requiring a 160 mile round trip; for example he will be in my neck of the woods on Saturday at Polytechnic. He started his football career in the 1968 playing in goal for South Bank Cuaco FC when it was simply Borough Polytechnic FC. However, he realised that he was getting kicked too much and too often and in 1986 decided to become a referee. He remembers well his very first game which involved Polytechnic IIIs at Chiswick and being



terrified! He entered the printing world in 1957 when he began a 6 year apprenticeship in the then mighty Fleet Street and progressed until eventually he owned his own company.

In January 2010 David will receive an AFA Continuous Long Service Award for 15 years service to AFA refereeing. He has elected to have this presented to him at the Society meeting on 14 January 2010 [at the same time as a similar award will be presented to Steve Tate] and I hope you will all come along to mark this event.

Let us hope David continues to enjoy his refereeing and editorship of the best independent referees' magazine in the world!

Sincere congratulations from all of us on your award.

*Gordon Kirby*

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## Fate and Football

I don't know about you guys but sometimes I've gone for two, or even three, consecutive games without having to show a card – not often, but sometimes.

And other times I've had a run of five or six consecutive games, with each game requiring multiple cards to be shown, which happens quite often.

I must say I enjoy those games where no cards, or perhaps just an occasional card, are shown, because generally speaking it means that both sides are attempting to play football within the Laws, and I am almost superfluous, just needing to indicate which way a throw in is to go, or whether it was a goal kick or a corner, and of course it's always nice to have little or no post match admin to attend to.

And then there are other games where you can tell from the first tackle, or from the first yelled challenge disputing a decision you have made, that this is unlikely to be one of those nice quiet games.

I had one of those games recently. The Reds and the Whites had played each other the previous week in a league game that had ended with the Reds winning 3-2 with apparently the last kick of the match, so they were obviously fairly evenly matched.

This week I had the pleasure of their company in a cup match where I was assisted by two very competent referees as my assistants.

In the first minute of the game a fierce tackle from the side was put in by a White midfielder on a Red forward. Sure he made some contact with the ball but only by first of all making contact with the forward's leg

In my opinion it was a borderline reckless challenge, and maybe I'm getting soft, but given that it was just about the first tackle in the first minute of the game I blasted loudly on my whistle (to show that it wasn't just a 'normal' foul), called him over, asked him to turn round so that I could see his number (and so that others could see I was making a note of him) and said "you make another challenge like that in the next 89 minutes and you're going to be looking at a yellow card, at least", and waved him away.

Looking back after the game I wondered, if I had shown a yellow card at that stage it might, conceivably, have dampened down any further such challenges from either side; or it may have lead to a world record number of cards being shown because any similar challenges would have required at least the same yellow card treatment, or would escalate to numerous



red cards needing to be shown if yellow cards were having no effect and both sides remained in 'battle warrior' mode.

Cutting a long story short, the score was 3-3 after 90 minutes (the Reds coming back from 3-1 down to get the equaliser in the 89th minute) and it was 4-4 after extra time (the Reds again coming back from 4-3 down).

It was eventually won by the Reds 9-8 on penalties with both teams having to retake penalties during the course of the shoot out because the goalkeepers (from both sides) repeatedly kept coming off of their line despite very clear instructions not to do so - "but they do it and get away with it every week in the Premiership" as one of the goalkeepers said to me, says it all.

The final card 'score' was 8 yellow cards in all, 5 against the Reds, and 3 against the Whites, all for Unsporting Behaviour or Dissent, so we managed to avoid any dismissals although it was touch and go at one stage when a foul on a goalkeeper led to a 20 player pushing, shoving, nose to nose, forehead to forehead contest of who could be the most macho without actually committing physical violence.

The White's manager, whose team had lost to the Reds for the second consecutive week with, literally, the last kick of the match, was gracious enough to say "no complaints about the refereeing, or the cards Steve, I'm just pxxxxx off we threw it away at 3-1 and then at 4-3"

In the dressing room after the game I asked the assistant who was nearest to the first foul tackle, would he have yellow carded it and he replied "it was marginal as to whether it was a yellow card or not, I think I'd have done what you did, in fact I agree with all the yellow cards you showed, I thought you handled a tough game very well"

Now nice as it is to hear a colleague offer such a comment (no, he's not my brother or my best friend, and he had absolutely no reason at all to brown nose me) I still wonder if there would have been more, or less, cards shown if I had acted differently and had shown a yellow card in the first minute.

Unfortunately a football match isn't like that film (Sliding Doors ?) where someone gets the chance to go back to a critical decision they took in their recent past in order to see how life would have panned out differently if they had acted differently

I KNOW I don't set out to referee a match with a predetermined view as to whether I am going to show any cards or not, or how many I intend to show, and whilst I don't believe either that teams set out determined to pick up a certain number of cards, I do believe that teams set out with a certain 'mindset' as to how they are going to play against certain opponents ("remember the last time we played them, don't let them bully us this time")

I also BELIEVE that some teams, or certainly their captains, seem set on going to war as much with the referee as with their opponents, from the outset, by haranguing or harassing him as soon as he doesn't give decisions in accordance with their views, and that they intend to act this way regardless of any pre match, or even during the match, advice or warnings I have given them.

In other words, unlike Sliding Doors, even if I had acted differently and had shown a yellow card in the first minute of the game, we would still have ended up with 8 yellow cards, it was pre ordained and no action or inaction I took would have changed the outcome.

Spooky or what?

**Steve Redfern**



# MICK'S MAGICAL EVENING



A great evening was had by one and all on Monday the 14th of December when members and guests of the **North Middlesex Referees' Society** together with numerous dignitaries, turned up at the

Holtwhites Sports Centre, Enfield, Middlesex to celebrate the awarding of a Long and Meritorious Service Award to **Mick Osborn**. As befitted the occasion there were celebrated Refereeing guests from the Counties of Middlesex, Hertfordshire, London and the AFA, especially the last named as Mick had always been affiliated to the AFA having played football within their compass.

The Master of Ceremonies for this stellar evening was the "old smoothy" himself the veritable and now venerable Peter Dace, able within a twinkling to embarrass and amuse those on whom his wit and wisdom both maligned and alighted. All as the late Kenny Everett might have put it "in the best possible taste". After the "round-allay" Peter Molineux belying his 86 years gave a remarkable speech paying tribute to the North Middlesex Society and some of its individual older members, linking in "all our yesterdays" before turning firstly to both acknowledge and pay tribute to Mick Osborn, for all the work he has done for the North Middlesex Society in particular and Refereeing in general; and secondly to present him with his Award.

As would be expected Mick gave a very modest reply in which he stated, that unlike Ryan Giggs who had surprisingly won the Sports Personality of the Year Award for 2009 and had not known that this would happen and consequently had not prepared a speech, he Mick, had known that he was to receive his Award and had prepared for it. After some words of thanks to the various people in football who had featured large in his football life Mick ended with a tribute to his wife Grace and a close personal friend Ben Robins who had been unable to attend through illness. There was then a further presentation by our President Terry Wilson to Mick for his work for the Society especially as Social Secretary and his help with the Training Centre, whilst Terry also presented a bouquet of flowers to Grace Osborn.

There was a good turn-out of members of the Society for the evening, particularly from the older generation and in particular from the Life Vice Presidents who included – George Basten, Terry Hayne, Peter Dace, Robin Jagot, Tony Ward and your Editor. However the younger generation were not forgotten as two new recruits Rob McDougal and Calum Burgess were presented by Mick Osborn with their Famao Badge and folder of documents.

Tributes must also go to the organisation of Robin Jagot and the brilliant spread of food affected by Janice, Denise and Gary Cobden. Certainly a night to remember not only for Mick and Grace but also for all those present.

*The above is reproduced with the kind permission of the Editor of the NMRA magazine "THE NORMIDIAN" Michael Goodwin. Bart O'Toole, John Cooke and myself attended from the Society as did Trevor and Vivienne Syms, Jim Hale and Charles Linford.*

**Gordon Kirby**



# JUST A LINE . . .

By Observer

How many times do we hear a colleague, when asked if he has a game, replies "Yes, but I only doing a line or I am only a linesman". Is the word Assistant Referee ever mentioned?

The person running a line must have the correct attitude; combined with a good know how of how to do the job but at the same time being able to enjoy oneself. After all, every referee at some time in his or her career has to run a line. So why not make an effort to do it properly.

What does the word LINESMAN mean?

## L stands for LEARNING

Learn to be adaptable, remember that not so long ago linesmen always came round onto the goal line for corners. This limited their effectiveness, because their judgement was limited to ball in and out of play. The referee would have to look for the offside decision until the Linesman came back to the touchline position. Alternative positions are now used which assist with the overall control of the game.

Another position that has changed in the same period is for penalty kicks. The referee now gives himself a choice of having the linesman come onto the field of play to judge encroachment and the taking of the kick. Whilst he takes control of the more important parts, premature movement of the goalkeeper and the ball crossing the goal line.

Alternately, he can revert back to the linesman acting solely as goal judge and for him to view encroachment and the movement of the goalkeeper and kicker.

- Learn how to present yourself in the best way possible, both in appearance and in manner.
- Learn how to treat Club Officials, groundsmen, colleagues and players, before, during and after the game.
- Learn how to deal with "benches" and whether or not to turn a deaf ear.
- Learn how to deal with comments, both abusive ones and complimentary ones, try not to show any reactions, just smile and look as if you are enjoying yourself, whatever the circumstances.
- Learn to listen to referees comments and to follow his pre match instructions, even if they are at variance with your own opinions.

## I stands for INSURANCE

- Insure yourself against being caught out by a late appointment by having a complete set of kit standing by for such an occasion.
- Insure against getting lost on the way to a match or arriving late, by getting the facts right with regard to the location of the ground, the route to take to get there and the time of kick-off.



- Insure against looking uninformed or incompetent by checking the rules of the competition in which you are officiating.

## **N stands for NEUTRALITY**

You should always appear to be Neutral to both clubs involved in your match. Often you will find that over the course of a few seasons, you come across the same clubs on several occasions, and you may get onto first name terms with their officials and players. If you are using first names with one set of players but not the other, you will be leaving yourself open to comments about bias and lack of Neutrality. Therefore, be wary of using first names or nicknames; be courteous but not overfriendly; show respect but demonstrate firmness.

## **E stands for EFFORT**

- Effort which you should put into every game.
- Effort will often reap its own rewards.
- Assessors on senior leagues now assess the linesmen as well as the referees. Referees also give their linesmen ratings. It is done to improving standards.
- Make an Effort to maintain your body in a fit state.
- Make an Effort to ensure your signals are clear, precise and not ambiguous.
- Effort is also needed to maintain concentration during the game.
- Effort is needed to deal with correspondence efficiently, before, during and after the match.

## **S stands for SENSE**

- Sense, Common is your best asset, so use it wisely.
- Sense, Sixth is something you are not born with, but must develop with your practical knowledge of the game. This can tell you when trouble might be imminent, or when to glance over your shoulder, or when to keep an eye on a player after the ball has been played away.
- Sense Beware of an air of innocence from a player, it will probably mean he has just got away with something, or he is about to try something he would rather you did not see!
- Sense, Positional is important, not only your own, but an awareness of the present and immediate future positions of the referee and the players.

## **M stands for MANAGEMENT**

- Management the most important part is to consider is the Management of yourself.
- How you Manage yourself will reflect on your ability to Manage others.
- Man Management is needed at all times and there are many ways in which this can be enhanced, such as being firm, friendly and stern when required.
- You may even con players into thinking every one of your decisions is right if you are quick, positive and decisive - but remember that players have long memories.



## A stands for ASSESSMENTS

These came in three categories, **The Good, The Bad and the Ugly.**

Taken in reverse order.

Assessments (Ugly) luckily, there are very few assessors who send in Ugly ones, but they do exist. They are pedantic, usually given from the view they have of the game. Instead of making allowances for the view available to the officials and do not tolerate individual interpretation because only their way is right!

Assessments (Bad) these are the ones you do not like, they usually hurt because they contain true criticism. These are the ones that mean you must make an effort to correct all the bad habits that you probably know you have, but hope no one else has spotted.

Assessments (Good) these are the best ones, which tell us how well you have performed. Don't just gloat over the points for which you have been praised though, even the good ones contain gems of information on how to improve your performance even further.

*Finally*

## N stands for NIGGLES

- Niggles this covers all the personal things that can upset you at any time, your own pet hate section.
- Niggles the club secretaries who do not confirm fixtures, or if they do, do so at the last moment.
- Niggles you phone a club, you have not heard from, only to be told by the secretary, I was just going to ring you.
- Niggles the official(s) who cannot be bothered to dress smartly for the match.
- Niggles the match officials who know each so well they leave you out in the cold before and after the match.
- Niggles. The groundsmen who take no action and allow a heavily worn strip along the edges of the field of play which you are to patrol.
- Niggles. There may be many more that you can add to this list but it is most important that you must get them out of your system before you go out on to the field of play.

If you read and digest the information in this article. It is hoped that in the future you will be able to say with pride "Yes, I do have an appointment I am a Linesman or I am doing a line".

## 100 CLUB

**The December 100 club draw was made. The winning prizes were:**

**£25 – Michael Hayden**

**£15 – Michael Barnes**

**£10 – Errol Walker**

**Payment was made on the night or cheques dispatched. If you haven't received your cheque yet please get in touch with Errol Walker.**



## **The following have all appeared in Church Magazines so let us thank God for Church Ladies with dyslexic typewriters**

**(Reproduced from the Guildford Referee)**

- Next weekends Fasting & Prayer Conference in Whitby includes all meals.
- Sunday morning sermon – Jesus walks on water.  
Sunday evening sermon – Searching for Jesus.
- Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.
- Don't let worry kill you off – let the Church help.
- Miss Charlene Mason sang "I will not pass this way again" giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.
- For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.
- Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.
- Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on 24 October in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their schooldays.
- At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What the Hell?" Come early and listen to our choir practice.
- The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hospitality.
- Potluck supper Sunday 5pm – prayer and medication to follow.
- The ladies of the church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.
- This evening at 7pm there will be hymn singing in the park across from the church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.
- The Pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.
- The Low Self Esteem Group will meet on Thursday at 7pm. Please use the back door.
- Weight Watchers meeting will be at 7pm at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use the large double doors at the side.
- The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new campaign slogan last Sunday: "I Upped My Pledge. Up Yours!"

## **A TRIP TO THE GYM**

*Determined to loose those extra pounds I've put on over the festive season I have renew my membership at the local gym.*

*I immediately notice that a brand new machine has been installed, but after using it for half an hour I had to stop as it was beginning to make me feel sick.*

*Mind you this machine did have everything, Mars Bars, Crisps, Coca Cola, Peanuts . . . See you about*

*Trevor Weaver*



I am sure that you are aware that as a referee registered with the AFA, you are covered with Public Liability Insurance for all forms of refereeing that you are involved in. The policy provides you with Public Liability protection and cover for incidents or unforeseen accidents that may occur whilst you are officiating in AFA football.

However, it is essential for you to be aware that this Public Liability Insurance is only valid in football that is appropriately sanctioned and affiliated with the AFA or The Football Association. If you referee in any form of football that is not affiliated either to us, another County Association or The FA and an incident arises you will not be covered by our Public Liability Insurance and we will not be able to support you through disciplinary action against players and clubs.

As your Association, we feel that we have a responsibility to ensure that you are aware of the risks that you face through refereeing unaffiliated football. It is important to realise that in recent times there are a growing number of leagues and teams that are unaffiliated in all formats of the game, including both 11-a-side and 5-a-side football.

I should also mention that Rule 9(a) of The FA Regulations for the Registration and Control of Referees states that:

***“Registered Referees shall not officiate in any Competition which is not sanctioned or Match in which unaffiliated clubs compete.”***

We advise you to check with competitions to ensure that they are affiliated and sanctioned with either The FA or the AFA or another County FA by asking the competition secretary for their affiliation number. If you have any concerns or queries on the affiliation of a competition then please contact the AFA and we will be happy to verify the status of competitions.



## REFEREES' TALKBACK

Ever wanted to talk through an incident with another referee after a game but found no other colleagues available? A number of highly-experienced referees within the Society invariably return to their club houses on Saturday evenings and will be pleased to meet and greet you. If you're in their area, just call in after about 6.00 p.m. This scheme provides a network of AFA club locations around London where referees can expect a warm reception and a friendly chat after receiving club hospitality. The following clubs are currently available:

### **NORTH**

Latymer Old Boys  
 Botany Bay Cricket Club  
 East Lodge Lane  
 Enfield  
 Middlesex

Tel: 020 8363 4482

#### *Referees:*

Trevor Syms, Ian Kerr  
 Tony Hemmings,  
 John Cooke, John Faithfull,

### **NORTH**

Old Finchleians  
 Southover  
 Woodside Park  
 Finchley  
 London N12

Tel: 020 8445 7406

#### *Referees:*

Robert Hanison  
 Society Friend:  
 Danny McConnell

### **SOUTH WEST**

Old Salesians FC  
 Salesian College Playing Fields  
 Old School Lane  
 Ewell West  
 Surrey

Tel: 020 8393 9820

#### *Referees:*

Pat Morrissey, Peter Kosciolk  
 Peter Georgiou, Brian Mallins  
 Phil Cook, Treavor Weaver  
 Stephen O'Sullivan, Chris Phillips  
 Bart O'Toole

### **NORTH EAST**

Old Parkonians, Oakfield Playing Fields, Forest Road, Fairlop, Ilford, Essex IG6 3HD  
*Referees:* Bill Taylor, Peter Robbins, Clive Last, John Dixon

### **West**

Polytechnic FC, Chiswick Sports Centre, Cavendish Road, Chiswick, London W4 3UJ  
*Referees:* John Keane, Terry Hillier, Gordon Kirby

Can you add your club's name to the list? If so call Gordon Kirby 020 8995 7529.

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