



Our March meeting will be on
Thursday 10th March 2011

at 19.10 for 19.15

in the Westminster Suite, Third Floor, Civil Service Recreation Centre,
Chadwick Street, London SW1P 2EP
when our Guest Speaker will be

Lee Cable

See page 3 for Lee's biography

“Failing to prepare is preparing to fail”

The evening's agenda is likely to be:

1800 Bar and restaurant open, so why not enjoy a pre-meeting pint?

1910 Take your seats

1915 Gordon Kirby, Chairman opens evening

1930 John Cooke, Training Officers answers questions on law

queries, match incidents and hosts a short training session

2010 Lee Cable: “Failing to prepare is preparing to fail”

2110 Q&A

2120 Vote of thanks

2125 Raffle and 100 Club Plus

2130 Meeting ends



Dates For Your Diary 2011

Meeting dates **Venue**
10 March CSRC[a]

*Speaker: Lee Cable,
 FA Regional Referees Coach*

14 April Norsemen FC

*Speaker: Wes Linden,
 The Football League*

*Note: This meeting will be in conjunction with our
 colleagues at North Middlesex Referees' Association.*

12 May [AGM] CSRC[b]

*Speaker: Brian Moore,
 Former England and British & Irish Lions
 rugby union player and Daily Telegraph
 Journalist*

20 May Society Annual
 Dinner and
 Presentation Evening

**Guest Speaker: Mike Riley
 PGMOL**

Notes:

- [i] CSRC= Civil Service Recreational Centre, Chadwick Street, London, SW1 P 2EP; [a] on the third floor in the Westminster Suite, and [b] in the Greycoat Suite, Second floor.
- [ii] Old Salesians FC, Salesian College Playing Fields, Old School Lane, Ewell West, Ewell, Surrey, KT17 1TJ
- [iii] Alexandra Park FC, The Racecourse Ground, Wood Green, London N22 7ST
- [iv] Old Isleworthians FC, Memorial Ground, 22a Wood Lane, Isleworth, Middlesex, TW7 5EP
- [v] Norsemen FC, Edmonton Sports & Social Club, Church Street, Edmonton, London, N9 9HL

OUR WEBSITE

**Just a reminder to members
 that our website address is
www.afalonsar.co.uk
 Michael Hayden is doing a
 grand job keeping it up to date.
 Please visit it!**

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.

**COPY FOR
 MARCH ARGUS
MUST
 BE WITH THE EDITOR BY
 FRIDAY
 1st APRIL 2011
 OR SOONER IF POSSIBLE.**



CHANGE OF GUEST SPEAKER ON 10 MARCH 2011



We were looking forward very much to welcoming Keith Hill, Middlesex County FA Referee Development Officer as our guest speaker at the next Society evening. However, just to show that we always attract top level speakers of quality and distinction Keith cannot be with us because he has just been appointed as Senior Referee Instructor to the Japanese FA!

In his new role he will be working as a tutor, instructor, mentor and assessor with the elite list JFA match officials in partnership with the JFA and the J-League. In addition, his new role extends to the referees in the JFA Referee College as well as referees at the levels that feed up and into their top referee panels and College. He will be tasked with assisting in their development along with working on their development through their regular training workshops. In addition, he will be working as consultant on all aspects of refereeing development including tutor, instructor, assessor, coach and mentor training... developing training strategies to assist in the improvement of their workforce. Also included in the remit is the further development of the Generic Tutor Training structure across the referee training provision as well as the further development of the Referee Exchange Programme the JFA have with the PGMOL, as well as other countries including Australia and Poland.

Keith will be resident in Tokyo for a contract of two years until December 2012 with regular opportunities to return to the UK including 2 months back here in December 2011/January 2012 when hopefully he will visit us and tell us all about refereeing in Japan. He finishes with Middlesex FA as Referee Development Manager on Friday 4 March 2011 and hopes to take up his new role with the JFA in Japan during week commencing Monday 14th March 2011.

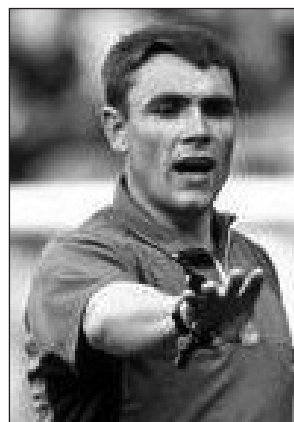
The Society takes this opportunity of wishing Keith all the very best and every success.

LEE CABLE

In Keith's place we shall instead welcome Lee Cable who began refereeing in November 1982 aged 14. He progressed through local leagues gaining class 2 in 1986 and class 1 in 1988. He made it onto the National Referee's list via the Southern League in 1989.

There then followed rapid promotion and success: National list of ARs 1991 -1998; Referees list of the Panel competitions 1993 - 1998; ARs list of the FA Premiership 1994 - 1998; National list of Referees for the Football League 1998 – 2004 Resigned.

Entering pasture new he became SCRA & FA Development Group co-ordinator 2005 - 2009; National list of Assessors for the PGMOL 2005 - current; Registered FA Assessor 2006 - current;



Registered Mentor 2007 – current; FA Regional Referees Coach 2009 at present.

Honours:

- 1995-96 Fourth Official Friendly International at Wembley England vs. Switzerland
- 1995-96 UEFA Cup matches as AR
 - Bulgaria – Slovakia; Sofia vs. Olympiakos;
 - Norway – Viking Stavanger vs. Auxerre
- 1995-96 FA Youth Cup Final 2nd Leg - Assistant Referee
- 1997-98 FA Vase Final at Wembley - Assistant Referee
- 1997-98 The Surrey Senior Cup Final - Referee
- 1999-00 Women's UEFA Cup Qualifier England vs. Switzerland - 4th official
- 2003-04 England U 21 vs. Croatia U 21 Friendly International - 4th official
- 2005-06 Assessor for the Surrey Senior Cup Final
- 2007-08 Assessor for the Surrey Senior Cup Final

Lee has been a member of Woking RA member since 1982 holding various posts including Chairman.

Lee will hold forth on "**Failing to prepare is preparing to fail.**"

So why not come along and support your Society and listen to an interesting and experienced speaker?

Gordon Kirby

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.**

One dedicated football fan. . .

A man had two tickets at the 2009 FA Cup Final at Wembley. As he sat down a man approached him and asked if anyone was sitting in the empty seat next to him.

"No", he said, "the seat is empty".

"This is incredible", said the man. "Who in their right mind would have a seat like this for the Cup Final and not use it?"

Somberly, the man says, "Well, the seat actually belongs to me. I was supposed to come here with my wife, but she passed away a week before the game. This is the first Cup Final we have not been together since we got married in 1967."

"Oh I'm sorry to hear that. That's terrible. But couldn't you find someone else – a friend or relative or even a neighbour to take the seat?"

The man shakes his head sadly. "No. They're all at the funeral."



Chairman's Comment

It's that time again. Enclosed with this edition is a consolidated application form to rejoin the Society and the Referees' Association, buy shares for next season's 100 Club Plus and indicate your wishes for the dinner and presentation evening on Friday 20 when Mike Riley will be our guest of honour. All this in one fell swoop is a tough call at any time and will be more so in this difficult economic climate. But experience has shown that you prefer dealing with these matters all at once instead of being asked to write 3 cheques and put them in 3 envelopes at different times.

Regrettably we have to ask you to dig deeper into your pockets to meet increased Society and RA fees arising from increased costs generally. We voted at last year's AGM to increase the Society element from £16 to £18 for full members.

The RA element has also increased from £11 to £12 which with the obligatory £4 accident and theft cover results in a new tariff of £16. But this year we have something new and worthwhile to offer, which while optional is in my view essential for active referees. I hope you all opt for the **physiotherapy treatment insurance** at just £5 per annum which increases the RA fee to £21. Add the increased Society fee of £18 and we have a total of £39 [or £37 if paid before 31 May]. It sounds like a lot but it is still less than the fees from refereeing 2 games. Full details of the new subscriptions are listed on the consolidated pro forma accompanying this issue.

I am sure some will ask why when we have significant investments we are asking for increased fees. The Executive Committee has a duty to run the Society in a businesslike fashion ensuring that income covers costs as far as possible. We are already using the interest from these reserves to support the Society's activities. The bank interest rate is at a record low while inflation increases prices. To dip into our capital assets would be the beginning of a steady decline in our fortunes.

Spring is in the air? Could it be true, have we really survived one of the worst winters on record and [in refereeing terms] are we advancing steadily to the sunny uplands of cup-finals bathed in April sunshine or to that overdue promotion we richly deserve? I hope so, but perhaps this winter still has something to say. After 7 months I am still waddling around Gunnersbury Park each morning. It's not got much easier and I haven't lost any weight but at least I am again enjoying the experience. The birds are singing, daffodils, crocuses and snowdrops are raising their heads and the trees are showing signs of fattening buds with the prospect of greater things to come. Have we entered the final furlong of the season?

Goodbye and Good Riddance! The February edition of Argus went to print too late to include mention of the sacking by Sky TV of Andy Gray and the resignation shortly afterwards of Richard Keys for their sexist remarks about our colleagues Wendy Toms and Sian Massey, their co-worker Charlotte Jackson and for good measure Karen Brady, vice-chair of West Ham United. The couple were tagged as *"smash it and nasty"* by Ian Burrell in The Independent on 15 February.

I am not sorry to see the back of these misogynistic dinosaurs especially Gray who carried the spirit of the 1970s dressing room into our homes in more ways than one. In spite of almost



40 years in top-level domestic and international football and in TV and radio he still hadn't worked out that the game is governed by "**laws**" and not as he always insisted "**rules**". And he ignored the fact that referees uphold these laws which are made by others. His frequent comment of "**you can tell they have never played the game**" was unnecessary and unjust when directed at a referee who had awarded a mandatory caution to a player. But the greatest unfairness was never once did I hear him offer to show viewers at full speed and from the angle the official had just judged it a contentious decision arising from an incident. That would have been too fair and too reasonable and might have shown that it takes guts, training, fitness and a lot of skill to referee at the top level. Instead he pandered to those armchair-rooted viewers who reckon refereeing is easy if you can view incidents 3 times in slow motion from different angles. Gray did a massive disservice to English refereeing.

All that said there seems to have been an unexpected bonus arising from the criticism of our colleagues with increased enquiries from females about becoming referees and assistant referees. They were unaware that females were allowed to take up the whistle or flag in men's football generally.

It's getting better: May be it's my imagination but is AFA football showing signs of good behaviour and increased respect for referees this season? I have done 8 AFA cup games so far and have completed the FA Respect Weekly Monitoring on-line exercise each time. I am pleasantly surprised to note that in each game the players and club officials conducted themselves in a sporting manner bringing praise from this official. Have you been taking part in this worthwhile exercise and what are your findings so far? Sunday football is of course a different matter but I have noticed recently the green shoots of reasonableness emerging. Perhaps this is due to many Sunday players performing on Saturdays too and the good behaviour ethic within AFA and London FA football is rubbing off. I hope so.

Some weeks ago I said that respect is a two-way street and we have to earn that. I despair as an assessor when I see a referee turning up just 30 or 40 minutes before the kick-off with dirty boots and stockings in a shocking state. Referees demand respect from players and club officials but they have to earn it. Quoting Jim de Rennes, Kingston RS: "By accepting a match fee we are by definition professionals and we should conduct ourselves with the appropriate level of commitment and responsibility throughout the proceedings."

The Great Offside Debate: Elsewhere is this issue, and on our website, you can read an account of how complicated FIFA has made Law 11 and the difficulty even good referees have in its interpretation. What you see is a learned distillation of an event during a premiership game and the view taken by two senior and excellent referees [it should on no account be held against them that they are both learned legal practitioners and Gooners.]

The point of this paragraph is to highlight that there is a division between the laws as applied in top-level football and those at grass roots. I believe this has arisen from the constant tinkering with the aspects of the law resulting in confusion in refereeing circles. Although the article shows a precise understanding and interpretation of Law 11 it is in fact the outcome of considerable disagreement between several colleagues [and one stated that he wouldn't be flagging for offside in such circumstances.]

At the end of the day [to use a Grayism] does a player standing in an offside position magically become "onside" if the ball played to him by a colleague "touches, ricochets or



rebounds” from a defender who doesn’t actually play the ball in a controlled fashion? Or, as soon as the ball is played forward by a colleague, does the player in the offside position commit an offence under Law 11? If after careful consideration and debate we can’t agree what hope have players, club officials and spectators of understanding Law 11. The resulting confusion serves only to put referees in further bad light with the public and players.

. . . **and finally, would you believe it?** Hollingsworth Juniors FC from the Manchester area fell victim to an own goal in a match with Stalybridge Celtic Colts. The Colts were leading 2-1 when 13-year-old striker Danny Worthington tried a speculative shot from 25 yards. The ball was sailing way over the bar until it hit a passing seagull on the head, spun over the Hollingsworth goalkeeper and landed in the net. Despite protests, the goal was allowed to stand. Realizing they were up against 12 men, demoralized Hollingsworth went on to lose 7-1.

Gordon Kirby, JP, Chairman

REFEREES & ASSISTANT REFEREES FEES – TIME FOR A CHANGE?

I can’t help wondering why assistant referees get a smaller fee than the referee. If, as we are led to believe, the officials make up a team and all contribute to the smooth running of a game, then they should all be paid the same fee. They all have the same expenses to get to the ground whether by car or public transport. Is it a wonder that we often hear “I’m only on the line”?

On the subject of fees as a whole, I think the leagues have to seriously look at referees fees. The cost of transport and fuel can often account for most of the fees paid. Assuming that only a referee is appointed, then I think if we based the fee on the number of players, including substitutes and manager etc, let’s say for arguments sake take 14 people per team as the average. Each person then contributes £1.50 towards the referees fee. That adds up to £21 per team, making the referees total match fee £42 per match.

What! I hear the cry, that much. But think about it. £1.50 would only buy half a pint of beer. It wouldn’t buy a cup of coffee in Starbucks or Costa. A packet of crisps is £1. Is it really too much to ask a player to contribute £1.50 to a referee who may have driven for more than an hour, sometimes 2 hours, spent 3 hours at the game and then driven another hour or more home.

If three officials are appointed, and this is only going to be to senior games, I agree that it will seem expensive. But again £4.50 per person is a pint and a half of beer, a coffee and a bag of crisps in the coffee shops.

Another idea would be a fixed fee plus mileage allowance, but I feel this can be difficult to administer.

Editor: The author of this has asked to remain anonymous, but I would like some feedback to this article from other referees, league officials, the AFA itself as to what they think.



The AFA and LONSAR Referees' Society Annual Dinner and Presentation Evening

The Annual Dinner and Presentation Evening will be held on Friday the 20th May 2011 in the St. Giles function rooms at Balls Brothers, Minster Court, Mincing Lane, London, EC3 7PP starting with drinks at the bar from 6.30pm and dinner at 7.30pm. The evening should end at about 10.30pm so there will be plenty of time to catch the last train or bus home. If you have never been before it is an event not to be missed especially with our very illustrious guest speaker in attendance.

You can finish off the season with good company, excellent food and an opportunity to see fellow colleagues honoured.

The evening is mixed company so if you wish to bring your long suffering partner or guest as a thank you for putting up with your many hours away from home on refereeing duties this is the time show your appreciation.

We are honoured to have as our guest speaker Mike Riley who was appointed as Referee Supremo in June 2009 as General Manager of The Professional Game Match Officials Limited (PGMOL) after a very distinguished domestic and International refereeing career and who I am sure will entertain you with his exploits on the FA and the International circuit and give you an insight into the workings of The FA.

With such an illustrious guest speaker it is advisable that you book your seats as early as possible to avoid disappointment.

The seating arrangements at the moment consist of 7 tables of 8 but we have made provisions for another 2 tables as we anticipate a good turnout as Mike Riley's attendance is generating a lot of interest, so if you wish to book as a party we will endeavour to seat you all at the same table. If you are booking individually and you wish to be seated at the same table as someone else all you have to do is indicate your wishes on the booking form and we will try and accommodate you.

The evening will be overseen by our MC who will try and co-ordinate the events but may end up a bit disjointed if he is plied with too much alcoholic beverage.

The tickets are reasonably priced at £35 per person which is the same as last year so it can't be bad!

If you would like any further information on the evening or wish to book early to avoid disappointment then contact Dave Cunningham Tel. 07961151427 or 0208 8421137 (Home & Fax). Email: davecunningham@tiscali.co.uk

The booking form is printed elsewhere in Argus so book now to avoid disappointment as places are limited and our guest speaker Mr. MIKE RILEY is sure to attract great interest!

David Cunningham, Vice-Chairman and Social Secretary

**AFA and London Society of Association Referees
Annual Dinner & Presentation
Friday 20th May 2011
19.00 for 19.30**



The Minster (Balls Brothers) Minster Pavement, Mincing Lane, London, EC3R 7PP

Guest Speaker **MIKE RILEY**

MENU

Carrot & Coriander Soup, Sour Cream & Croutons
The Minster's Prawn Cocktail with Roasted Red Pepper,,Lemon Dressing,Brown Bread & Butter
Half a Seasonal Melon
---000---

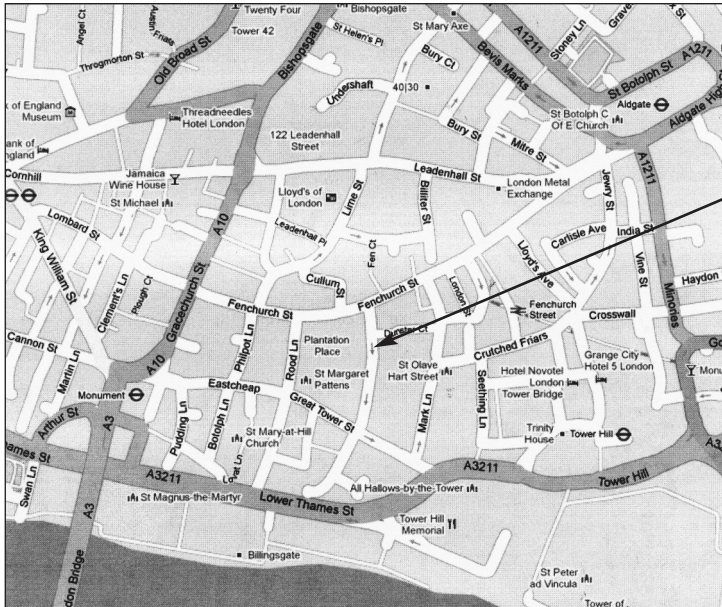
Roast Scottish Sirloin of Beef, Yorkshire Pudding, Roasted Parsnips & Watercress
South Coast Cod Fillet, Herb Crust & Braised Lemon Carrots
Roasted Beef Tomato Stuffed with Braised Spring Vegetables, Spiced Rice, Lemon & Herb Sauce
---000---

Bread & Butter Pudding, Apricot Glaze & Custard
Deep Filled Bramley Apple Pie & Clotted Cream
Orange Crème Brûlée
---000---

Filter Coffee, Tea & Chocolates

£35 including wine & water on your table

See the booking form enclosed in this months Argus



**The Minster
(Balls Brothers)
Minster Pavement,
Mincing Lane,
London, EC3R 7PP**

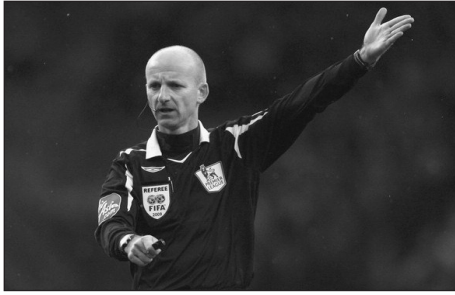


Below shows the Association fees being paid at present and what they will be for next season

	Society	RA Basic	RA Insurance Accident + Theft Obligatory	Physiotherapy Optional	TOTAL				
					Pay by 31st May No Physio	With Physio	Pay after 31st May No Physio	With Physio	
2010									
Full	16	11	4	-	31	-	29	-	-
Associate	16	-	-	-	16	-	14	-	-
Over 75s	16	11	-	-	27	-	25	-	-
Under 18s	0	5.5	4	-	9.5	-	9.5	-	-
First Year	0	11	4	-	15	-	15	-	-
2011									
Full	18	12	4	5	32	37	34	39	-
Associate	18	0	-	-	18	-	18	-	-
Over 75s	18	12	-	-	28	-	30	-	-
Under 18s	0	6	4	5	10	15	10	15	15
First Year	0	12	4	5	16	21	16	21	21

See season 2011/2012 registration forms included with this copy of Argus if relevant.





Mike Riley to visit North Middlesex Referees Society

Former Premiership Referee, Mike Riley, who is now Manager at the Professional Game Match Officials Board (PGMOL) is to visit North Middlesex Referees Society on Thursday 7 April commencing at 7:30pm

The meeting will be held at:
Holtwhites Sports and Social Club
Kirkland Drive, Enfield
Middlesex, EN2 0RN

Meeting commences at 7:30pm

ANYBODY INTERESTED? ON OFFER

A brand new Panasonic phone, answer phone, facsimile, multi-function printer.
Going at a good reasonable offer.

Phone Max Lea on
020 8954 0708

STOP PRESS!

- Happy Birthday and best wishes from us all on 4 March to Pat Morrissey, Society Life Vice-President, former Chairman and President and generally top bloke and not a bad referee.
- Happy birthday too to Gordon Kirby, Chairman on 22 February [who is none of the above].
- Both are of a certain age which shall not be disclosed however they are old enough to have had their own gas masks!
- Congratulations to all colleagues who have been appointed to county cup-finals [*see details elsewhere in this issue about AFA cup-finals*];
- Steady, steady have courage! This message is to all colleagues sweating on promotion; decision days are probably around a month away.
- **and finally:** Gordon Kirby will be in Spain charging his batteries from 12 March to 1 April inclusive. Hopefully this time he will avoid tangling with the Barbary Apes on the Rock of Gibraltar! In his absence the Society will be in the more than capable hands of David Cunningham, Vice-Chairman.





A Deal or no-Deal, You Decide

It's that time of the year when we ask you to commit to the Society and the Referees' Association for a further year. You will find in the March ARGUS a form asking you to renew your Society and RA memberships, buy shares in the 100 Club Plus and buy tickets for our annual dinner and presentation evening on Friday May 20 [when Mike Riley is our guest speaker.]

I know that this is asking you to part with rather a lot of money in one fell swoop. But experience has shown that the majority of you would rather write just one cheque and address just one envelope rather than 3. It makes sense, I

feel, to get the 3 things out of the way once.

The benefits of Society and RA membership are both tangible and intangible and I won't go into these in detail here. But as an active referee you really cannot afford to be out there in the wilderness unconnected with colleague referees from whom you can learn much and obtain comfort and advice when the times get tough.

Even if you have given up the whistle Society membership lets you to keep in touch with old friends and meet new ones at monthly meetings and via ARGUS. Our 11 Society meetings a year are well planned and attended with good speakers offering worthwhile advice and entertainment.

ARGUS remains the best independent referees' magazine in the country and provides readers with valuable advice, comment and hopefully some humour. The Society is the third biggest in the UK and certainly the biggest in the Home Counties. Do you want to be on the outside looking in?

If you join the Referees' Association you will be one of nearly 10,500 colleagues in England alone. Can you afford not to be a member? And you will be able to enjoy benefits not available to non-members: the latest kit at reduced prices, annual conference, medical-kit-personal injury insurance, representation should you need it at The Football Association or your parent county, an AGM and the soon to be introduced Optional Physiotherapy Scheme which is a must have.

Can I ring a friend?

Of course, particularly one that for one reason or another hasn't rejoined the Society. It may be that they have simply overlooked renewing their subscription or just need chivvying up a little and this is where you can help. If you know a colleague who has not renewed then please give them a ring and urge them to do so. Renewal applications are available from Executive Committee members or on our website: www.afalonsar.co.uk

Many thanks,

Gordon Kirby, JP, Chairman



CUP FINAL APPOINTMENTS 2011

<i>Competition</i>	<i>Referee</i>	<i>Assistant Referee</i>	<i>Assistant Referee</i>	<i>Fourth Official</i>
Senior	C Phillips	G Mathias	D Littler	G Dineen
Senior Semi Final	B Broadbridge	M O'Shea	J Sporrey	J Faithfull
Senior Semi Final	J Costelloe	R Baxter	D Stevenson	S O'Sullivan
Middlesex/Essex Senior	R Hanison	C Beament	D Williams	M Edwards
Surrey/Kent Senior	D Horner	S Bodell	M Barron	R Melvin
Intermediate	J Crook	L Deschamps	L Kyprianou	
Middlesex/Essex Inter	G Blackmore	A Braithwaite	M Cannon	
Surrey/Kent Inter	P Morrissey	J Doe	P Constantine	
Junior	M Afxendi	M Denney	I Breeze	
Minor	D Cunningham	M McBride	K Alexander	
Senior Novets	L Adler	N Hagger	K Allen	
Intermediate Novets	G Scoular	D Nail-Ali	L Kennedy	
Junior Novets	R Wilson	G Balsom	T Barnes	
Veterans	J Harkin	L Miltiadous	D Simpson	A Nayir
Women's	R Hanison	S Chaudhuri	P Cain	
U12 Girls	S Chaudhuri	P Acierno	P Gross	
U14 Girls	P Cain	M Denney	T Davis	
U18 Girls	M Denney	P Cain	T Davis	
Youth	To be appointed			

The Pirate

A pirate walked into a bar, and the bartender said, "I haven't seen you in a while. What happened? You look terrible."

"What do you mean?" said the pirate, "I feel fine."

"What about the wooden leg? You didn't have that before."

"Well," said the pirate, "We were in a battle, and I got hit with a cannon ball, but I'm fine now."

The bartender replied, "Well, OK, but what about that hook, What happened to your hand?"

The pirate explained, "We were in another battle. I boarded a ship and got into a sword fight. My hand was cut off. I got fitted with a hook but I'm fine, really."

"What about that eye patch?"

"Oh," said the pirate, "One day we were on a tropical island and the wind blew a grain of sand from the beach into my eye."

"You're kidding," said the bartender. "You couldn't lose an eye just from a grain of sand."

"Well, that was the first day with my new hook."



HOW NOT TO OFFICIATE IN A CUP FINAL!

(PRIDE COMES BEFORE A FALL OR A SMACK IN THE FACE)

I was feeling rather pleased with myself. After three years as a referee I was in the middle for the Surrey County Lower Junior Cup Final, having a few weeks previously been informed of my promotion to Class 1 (Level 5 in the new currency). Only my age was preventing me from making the Football League (no Premier League in those days) and the FIFA lists!

The final was played at Chertsey Town in front of the biggest crowd I'd seen up to that point: about 100! The pitch was dry, bumpy and lacked grass, and the game was full of what is politely known as "honest endeavour" (ie: no skill!)

All went well until the ball went out for a goal kick and I had my attention drawn to an injured player on the ground in the centre circle.

In those days referees were told it was good practice to run backwards to the centre circle at a goal kick, although I never had. I had always thought it more sensible to look where I was going, and also to have most of the players in view. Nowadays, we've been told to avoid backward running as far as possible because doing much of it is likely to damage the achilles tendons.

Anyway, I thought I would impress the crowd, especially the County representatives in the stand, by running backwards to check on the health of the stricken player. I was the only moving thing on the field of play and the focus of everyone's attention when I caught my heel on the bumpy surface and over I went, sprawling full length on my back, sending up a cloud of dust, and eliciting the loudest cheer of the match. There were now two of us on the ground in the centre circle requiring treatment!

Fortunately, the only damage was to my ego, and, having dusted myself down and adjusted my clothing, the game continued. . .

This was the first time I'd had the privilege of neutral linesmen (assistant referees in the new currency) and was determined to make good use of them. Therefore, even when there was only the remotest possibility of an offside I glanced across just in case there was a flag being held aloft. With club assistants I was in the habit of only looking if I thought there was a very good chance of a player being offside.

Five minutes after my fall, I was on the edge of the penalty area glancing across at my linesman when the largest, meatiest defender on the pitch belted a clearance from a distance of about two yards (at least I was close to play!) straight into my face.

I was flat on my back for the second time, having been knocked clean off my feet. To everyone's amazement, especially my own, I got up and carried on. The only problem was that, apart from the further ego damage, the blow had cut my lip, and every time I blew the whistle the blood flowed. Of course we should only blow the whistle when necessary, but



sometimes it IS necessary! Oh dear! At least I had the customary clean white handkerchief in my pocket! It can easily be imagined that these two incidents rather spoil the enjoyment of my first County Cup Final.

Apart from the specific lessons to be learned from these incidents, **the general point is that we should officiate in a Cup Final as we have previously been doing because it is on account of those performances that we have been selected for this match.** Of course, throughout our careers we must continue to learn and develop our skills, but must not make sudden changes to our practices on a particular occasion, especially an important one.

Although I have described my experience as a referee, **the principle applies equally to lining.** For example, if you are not practised in “crabbing” (moving rapidly sideways along the line) don’t start trying to do it for the first time in your Cup Final. By all means develop this valuable skill in the fullness of time, but on the Big Day concentrate on being in the right place to assist the referee with your decision making. And don’t fall over!

JUST DO WHAT COMES NATURALLY

Jim de Rennes, (Kingston Referees’ Society)

Guest Speaker Phil Crossley

Society Meeting 10th February 2011

Championship referee Phil Crossley began with the aim of raising the awareness of the factors to consider in applying the advantage clause. Good application of this law can enhance the referee’s credibility and authority with the players and coaches. He asked when there is an advantage to be played and when is there simply possession? He offered a definition of advantage: A condition or circumstance that puts one team in a favourable position. He asked what factors we consider when applying the advantage from the following points:

- Control of the ball
- Position on the FOP
- Temperature of the match
- Referees’ control
- Seriousness of the tackle involved
- State of the match
- Skill level of the players
- Conditions of the field of play
- Will a really good attacking opportunity accrue?

Phil suggested there will be a pecking order, invited members to form into groups to set out the order and provided cards to be arranged in a diamond nine. Last season 62% of premiership goals were scored from set pieces. Might this affect our decision on whether it is



an advantage to allow play to continue?

We should ask where on the field of play we would apply the advantage rule. It might be right to play the advantage to allow a goalkeeper to collect the ball in his hands. It might not be an advantage to allow an attacker the advantage just outside the penalty area. It all depends in the circumstances, about which instantaneous judgements have to be made.

He suggested that retaining control of the game as a match official is more important than applying the advantage.

He spoke of four Ps:

- Possession
- Potential
- Players
- Proximity

Without possession the other Ps do not fall to be considered. If players are not available there may be little advantage to be played. It is necessary to consider the proximity of the challenge to the defending goal.

Three groups were formed and asked to lay out their diamond nine cards to show the priority of the arrangements. The first group concluded as follows:

First Group

1st level of importance	Seriousness of the tackle
2nd level of importance	Control of the ball; Position on Field of Play
3rd level of importance	Referees' Control; Temperature of the match; State of the Match
4th level of importance	Skill Level; Conditions of the field of play
5th level of importance	Clear Communication

Second Group

This group felt the most important issue is control of the game and that skill level was the least important. Phil agreed that the most important issue is the Referees' Control.

Last in groups 1 and 3 was 'Clear communication'.

Chris Phillips (Group 2) suggested that match control was not the most important because the players will not be thinking about that issue. John Cooke queried whether referees should risk their match control simply because that is what the players want?

Questions were asked and Phil co-ordinated and offered guidance on the answers:

Q Where on the FOP would you apply the advantage clause?

A Anywhere depending on the circumstances

Q Why would you want to play the advantage?

A To keep the game going and give the benefit to the offended side

Q How do you communicate the advantage signal?

A With arms parallel to the ground for long enough to be seen and to use the voice to call advantage.

Phil admitted delaying the advantage signal, because he will see whether it accrues by going to a team mate of the player fouled. He confessed that he probably did not signal the



advantage early enough. John Cooke recommended an early signal, but acknowledged that many referees who qualified before the delayed advantage principle was established a few years ago and have found it difficult to change from the old habit of either calling advantage or not, rather than calling advantage and then bringing the ball back if the advantage does not accrue.

Phil said possession does not always provide an advantage and referred again to the four Ps. He stressed the importance of signalling and added that finally it's all about match control. When pressed he agreed that match control can be also undermined by not applying the advantage clause – it all depends on the circumstances.

Fitness

Phil said fitness tests today better suit the demands of match officials in the modern game. There are two aspects to the test he is required to take:

- 6 x 40m sprints –each in 6.2 seconds for the referee, 6 seconds for the assistant referee
- Run 150 m. in 30 seconds, then walk 50 m. in 35 seconds, then repeat this 20 times. Assistant referee are allowed 40 seconds recovery between sprints.

Phil wears a heart rate monitor in every game and downloads his data to the FA every 2 weeks. The scrutiny has never been so intense as it is today. On every championship game 'Prozone' is provided to break down the referee speed, distance and coverage.

Phil had run 12,341m during the game broken down into two halves. According to the record he reached a top speed of 10.37 m per second!

He then provided his statistics for 2 games in which he officiated 2 days apart. The physical and mental demands were considerable. The statistics show the sprints, distances, locations, percentages of positions on the field of play and comparisons between the halves. He ran 12,489 m. The following day he did a 25 minutes warm-down session and the next day covered 11,692 m. in the match. The apparently lower work rate may have been down to fatigue or other factors. All his games are assessed and he also receives club marks. He was asked whether they were fair. He said if clubs find an opportunity to slam you they will. They get assessors and club marks and merit tables. Clubs have given marks from 3 out of 100 to 96 out of 100! Assessors do not have access to the prozone figures. Phil will be retiring from the top level this July, aged 52.

Questions

Patrick Morrissey asked about the offside decision in the match Arsenal –v- Everton. PGM0 had since said if that happened again next Saturday the match officials should signal offside. David Lewis argued that the offside decision in that game was correct, but Phil replied that Saha had gained an advantage from being in that position at the moment the ball was kicked.

Chris Philips asked whether prozone changes the way referees officiate. Phil said it did not for him and it was not something to allow others to worry about!

Bart O'Toole asked about the meaning of 'gaining an advantage', querying whether the guidance in the current Laws of the Game properly reflected what is expected of match officials. Phil suggested the meaning had been redefined. Pat Ryan asked about players



being reported as swearing at match officials in the tunnels. It was noted that Everton Manager David Moyes had recently complained that Arsenal Captain Cesc Fabregas had used inappropriate language towards referee Lee Mason when returning to the dressing room in the tunnel after the Arsenal -v- Everton game- It was queried whether David Moyes had any business going public with accusations about behaviour after games off the field of play. Phil said in general referees can only report what they hear and to some extent need to look after themselves and consider the marks being awarded by the clubs. Pat Ryan also asked about one referee at a high level having an aggressive look on his face when communicating decisions. Phil said referees need to be themselves and use the words that work for them. At PGM0 conferences referees will get ripped apart by their colleagues if they have gone wrong! Grant Matthias asked whether Phil's match instructions were long and detailed or brief since he knows his fellow match officials well. Phil said his were not brief – it is important to go through full instructions. John Cooke asked about Phil's freak accident when he collided with a player at Derby in 2007 and broke nine ribs – leaving him in intensive care for 2 weeks and out of football for a whole season. Phil said he had to sleep upright for 6 months. Passing the fitness test after recovery was one of the high points of his career when he finally returned. Phil had never failed any fitness test.

David Lewis proposed a vote of thanks – it was a great honour to hear Phil speak and he thanked him passionately.

Bart O'Toole



RDO EVENTS CORNER - LONDON FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

London FA's Course Calendar is shown below. Anyone requiring more information should contact its Referee Development Officers, Adrian Shorter (adrian.shorter@londonfa.com or 020 7610 8375) or Andy Porter (andy.porter@londonfa.com or 020 7610 8362).

County Cup Final Match Officials Evening

Friday 11th March 2011 (targeted at officials appointed to London FA adult County Cup Finals to be played in 2011).

Referee Mastermind Group

Evening of Monday 14th March 2011 (targeted at officials who wish to develop their refereeing skills to the best of their potential).

Promotion Candidates In-Service Training

Evening of Thursday 31st March 2011 (targeted at all members of the London FA Promotion Scheme 2011/12).

Referee Mastermind Group

Evening of Monday 11th April 2011 (targeted at officials who wish to develop their refereeing skills to the best of their potential).



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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Guest Speaker Tim Lawrence

Old Isleworthians Meeting 3rd February 2011

Tim Lawrence, the Surrey County FA Referee Development Officer and an FA Level 4 tutor, offered warm wishes from his own Referees' Society Horsham RA where he also serves as Training Officer. He related how a football league referee on his first game at that level once arrived late. A Streaker entered the field of play at kick off; 12 minutes into the game the north bank supporters crossed the pitch – so there were pitch invasions; after 30 minutes an assistant referee was injured and Tim as fourth official had to run the line. The referee was Mark Halsey. This showed how you never know what's awaiting when on duty in the refereeing business

Recognising Challenges

Tim asked what we look for when judging challenges. Three initial answers were given

- speed of the players
- atmosphere of the game
- angle of the challenge.

Tim added three more:

- intention of the players
- body language of the players
- opportunity to play the ball.

Tim asked 6 questions relating to the 6 issues and each was discussed in turn. He said we should be thinking about all these 6 questions when assessing challenges.

What is it about the speed of the player which creates a danger?

It was suggested that higher speeds create greater dangers. Malcolm Edwards commented on the difference between the speeds of the players. You should look to see whether the player has 'red mist'. You might shout "don't foul". Mike Naylor referred to an incident when two players went in at speed then after the next phase he noticed on player with blood on his ankle. Malcolm said you can ask 'what if the player had moved slower?' Malcolm once refereed a game when a player went in for a tackle which he could not achieve. His opponent jumped over it and trod on his opponent's leg as he landed. Malcolm did not penalise the player who caught him because the player brought it upon himself. Mike said if two players go in hard a fast then the risk of damage is greater.

Atmosphere of the game:

Tim said that two minutes into a game he was assessing the referee had a public word and issued a caution. Then all was quiet until the 85th minute when a cautionable offence was committed. When a team mate of the player fouled walked away with the ball an opponent tried to wrestle it from him. A punch-up followed and two players were sent off. The atmosphere became heated. In the 27th minute of another game the referee correctly



disallowed 2 goals for offside, then had to issue 4 cautions in the next 12 minutes. There were no cautions in the second half because the referee had recognised the intensity and level of the game and brought it under control. Malcolm added that scoring a goal can change the atmosphere. The question meant to him what had happened in the last 5 minutes. Jim Hale once spoke to a player, and then cautioned six players early in the game, which then came under control. The fastest caution Tim had seen was after 40 seconds.

Angle of the challenge:

What are the problems that can be caused by differing angles of challenge? Gordon Kirby said it's rare a challenge can be made from behind which wins the ball cleanly and usually carried dangers. If the referee can see a player chasing another he needs to get wide to get the best viewing angle of the incident. Mike Naylor described the most difficult challenges as those when approaching opponents from behind. Mike felt that following through with a trailing leg indicates a degree of intention. Tim asked 'If the challenge is from the front what is the percentage of a good challenge?' The reply was 'high'. He then asked 'What if it's from behind?' It was agreed then that the answer is 'Low' – so we should be aware of this in our thought process.

Intention of the players:

This was removed from the law in 1995, but Tim asked how can you tell a player's intention and is it important to understand this aspect of play? Malcolm Edwards felt it was very important. You can look at the players' eyes and see whether he is going to do something stupid. Tim asked 'are we too hard and fast in looking at the players' eyes?' Good players can commit fouls without giving it away in their eyes. Time recently assessed a level 4 who warned a player not to foul but the player did so anyway and was cautioned. Charles Lifford attending the Society as a visitor and guest, watched a Sunday game where the referee did not appreciate the limitations of older, slower the defenders who were so slow trying to reach the ball with quick, young opponents and were harshly sent off.

What are the clues you can gain from understanding the body language of the players?

Richard Wilson said that if the body language seems to be aggressive from the outset and there is a history between the teams which suggests more hostility than there should be, that provides an important clue. Body language gives warning signs – if there is a good player who likes to 'boss' the game you may see that if things are not going their way he may react in the wrong way. Tim asked if a player thinks he's been fouled how might he react? How do we handle a manager who is trying to wind up his players, especially if there is an assessor watching the game? Gordon Kirby said when players are jumping to head the ball we should look to see if they are clenching their fists. As a referee Tim followed referee Paul Taylor's approach – at the first corner he would loudly warn players about pushing irrespective of whether they were! Gordon suggested TV shows players being held right in front of referees. Tim referred to Roy Hodgson who had said that having the extra officials in the Europa League games reduces short pulling at corners. Mike Naylor referred to players putting their arms out



before the ball is played. Tim was assessing a Combined Counties game with another assessor and a level 2 referee nearby. All saw a penalty, but the referee awarded a free kick the other way because of a prior offence by an attacker.

Opportunity to play the ball

Tim asked what does this question mean and how do you recognise it appropriately? Tim asked whether there is one thing we should be looking to or should we look to all of these things?

VIDEO CLIPS

Tim played two clips

Birmingham City –v- Portsmouth: Keeper David James was looking at the ball as he knocked a player over inside the penalty area. It was agreed it was careless and a penalty should be awarded but no caution administered.

Marseilles –v- AC Milan: 2 players went into sliding tackles, both with studs up, and they collided. The Milan player jumped in from a further distance. The Marseilles player was going for the ball and the Milan player going for his opponent. The general view was to dismiss the white player and caution the blue player, but Ray Olivier of PGMO had advised that both players are to be sent off. The blue player reached the ball first so the free kick is given against his team.

Tim thanked his audience for their feedback which he greatly enjoyed. Proposing a vote of thanks Malcolm Edwards appreciated Tim's comments and the discussion which had been valuable and enjoyable.

Bart O'Toole

RAFFLE TICKETS

If you haven't already returned the stubs please do your best to sell the tickets and return the stubs by the March meeting.

The stubs and either cash or a cheque should be returned to Mike Naylor, address on back cover. If you send a cheque it should be made out to the RA and NOT to the AFA Referees' Society.

Remember we get 50% of the proceeds handed back to our Society.





THE GREAT OFFSIDE DEBATE

Why not join in this debate by going on-line at www.afalonsar.co.uk/debate and have your say. Remember that the author is a passionate Gooner!

Onside or Offside?

Louis Saha's goal – Arsenal v Everton 1 Feb 2011 at The Emirates!

I was at the above game on Tuesday 1 February at the FABULOUS Emirates Stadium and there was a VERY interesting goal awarded. Have a look at www.planetman.co.uk/westham/saha_goal.mp4. Was Saha onside or offside?

Let's examine what Law 11 says:

A player in an offside position is only penalised if, at the moment the ball touches or is played by one of his team, he is, in the opinion of the referee, involved in active play by:

- * *interfering with play or,*
- * *interfering with an opponent or,*
- * *gaining an advantage by being in that position.*

All these conditions are met in the current circumstance. The Definitions on page 100 of the current LOTG state:

In the context of Law 11 - Offside, the following definitions apply:

- * *"nearer to his opponents' goal line" means that any part of a player's head, body or feet is nearer to his opponents' goal line than both the ball and the second-last opponent. The arms are not included in this definition;*
- * *"interfering with play" means playing or touching the ball passed or touched by a team-mate;*
- * *interfering with an opponent" means preventing an opponent from playing or being able to play the ball by clearly obstructing the opponent's line of vision or movements or making a gesture or movement which, in the opinion of the referee, deceives or distracts an opponent;*
- * *"gaining an advantage by being in that position" means playing a ball that rebounds to him off a goalpost or the crossbar having been in an offside position or playing a ball that rebounds to him off an opponent having been in an offside position.*

Rebound? Is this a case of rebound? The Arsenal defender was unable to control and play the ball correctly as it deflected off his outstretched foot. Must he be considered to have played the ball? It is arguable that if the Everton player (Louis Saha) had not been there, the Arsenal defender could have left the ball to go through to his goal keeper. However, one could take the view that he was compelled to try to play the ball as he could not be sure that the Everton player was in an offside position. This however requires a determination by a Referee/AR of the thought process of the defender and that is strictly not relevant. If the defender is ruled to have played the ball in the true sense of that term,



no matter how badly, then it would be another matter. As it happens the defender was NOT trying to play the ball back to his keeper. [Have a look at the goal scored in the Bolton v Wolves on the following night. This involved a back pass by a Wolves defender that was intercepted by a Bolton attacker.]

Does Control of the Ball Matter? Remember that 'control' has nothing to do with it save that it may be an element that influences a referee as to whether the ball has 'rebounded' or been 'played'. There's a very fine line and the AR took the view, no doubt based on the following PGMOL view, that as the Arsenal defender 'played' the ball, this negated the technical offside position, created a new phase of play and thereby rendered the goal properly scored. The word 'Rebound' definitely needs to be better defined. In my opinion, this was a case where it should have been classified as a 'rebound' and not a new phase of play. However the LOTG as drafted, I submit, do not permit this.

Another real problem with the LOTG is the definition of "*gaining an advantage by being in that position*". There are some who view the definition as exclusive. That is, the defined circumstances are the ONLY circumstances where the advantage of the position accrues. This means that although Saha is in a technically offside position when the ball is played, in accordance with Law 11, the definitions on page 100 mean that the officials CANNOT consider that he has gained an advantage from that position as the definitions restrict that interpretation to the three situations there stated.

QPR: There was a case from a few years back involving QPR where the defender felt he had to play the ball due to a striker being behind him (in an 'offside' position) but completely miskicked it and ended up slicing it back towards his own goal for the attacker to slot it past the keeper. The referee on the day allowed the goal as the defender had 'played' the ball. There were many discussions at the time at RA meetings about this but the decision that counted was from the PGMOL which agreed that the referee at the time was correct because nowhere in Law 11 does it say it has to be 'controlled' play by the defender. 'Gaining an advantage by being in that position' means playing a ball that rebounds to him off a goalpost or the crossbar having been in an offside position or playing a ball that rebounds to him off an opponent having been in an offside position.

If the defender had left the ball or it had just bounced off of him then it would have been offside but because the defender physically played the ball, no matter how badly then the attacker could not be classed as offside.

Onside or Offside? Much as I don't like it, I believe the officials got it right and the goal had to stand. 'Rebound' cannot currently be interpreted to include the circumstance where a player attempts to play a ball. The Oxford English Dictionary explains the relevant meaning of the word thus: 'bounce back through the air after hitting something hard'. The clear meaning here assumes that there is no active involvement of the 'hard' object. In the absence of further guidance from the LOTG, this was not a rebound and therefore the goal was correctly given.

PGMOL Ruling: Rumours are in circulation that at the highest top level of refereeing that professional referees have been instructed to flag for offside should similar circumstances recur.

Whilst I would prefer this to be the outcome, I do not see how this view can be properly supported by the current wording of the LOTG in the absence of clarification of the definition of the term 'rebound'. In any case, this is a great talking point for all referees!

David P. Lewis



REFEREEING ABROAD

Part I – The Experience

by Kevin Carpenter

This is the first of a two-part article about refereeing abroad based on my own personal experiences. Part I will take a look at matters of general interest covering; the background of how I came to referee abroad, the location and venues, fellow officials and the benefits. Part II is going to focus on the differences between refereeing at home and overseas, discuss the different approach taken to referee recruitment and training overseas, and developing relationships with overseas referees.

I came to referee abroad having met a former London FA referee called Matthew Day, who some of you reading this may know, and he told me that he was going to set up a website called 'Tournaments Abroad' with a colleague. The site would create ties with tournaments all around the world (very much a Ronseal website name as you can see), put up information about each and assist referees in applying to officiate. He convinced me that I should look into refereeing at one of the tournaments as he had found the experience to be unique and invaluable in developing his abilities as both a referee and assistant.

A few months later, whilst having an enforced year off my legal career due to the economy, Matthew emailed and told me the site was up and running. I logged on, registered and having considered many different tournaments and locations chose to take part in the 2010 Copa Maresme in April, which was run by an organisation called Komm-Mit based in Germany. The tournament itself would be taking place on the Spanish coast near Barcelona, and involve boys and girls teams from ages U11 to U19 from all around the world, but primarily mainland Europe. As a referee you would be provided with free transfers to and from the airport, free hotel accommodation and meals for the 4 days of the tournament, a fee for the week and sunshine! All you had to pay for were your flights and spending money, what wasn't to like?!

The venues used in the area were highly impressive. There was a 'showpiece' stadium used for the opening ceremony, opening game and the finals which belonged to the local club and a number of other venues all within 30 minutes of the hotel for the other games. Referees would be put in different groups each day and sent to a specific venue for that day, officiating between three and five forty-minute games. What surprised me the most was that all the venues used were very new with bright clean changing rooms and all had 3G Astroturf pitches rather than grass. The pitches made for quick, skilful and passing-based football, which were both a challenge and a joy to referee. Perhaps most surprising, from an English referee/football supporter perspective, was that all these shiny new venues had been paid for primarily by the local authority, rather than the Spanish FA. Clearly they know how initial investment in good clean facilities and top class (yet





Kevin, centre with his assistants Andrea (left from Italy) and Albert (right from Germany)



Coming on to the pitch for the opening game of the tournament

low maintenance) pitches encourage young footballers to get involved and develop in the right way. Bear in mind this was not in the middle of the city of Barcelona, it was a relatively quiet area on the coast.

Although I was a level 7 referee I was told at the tournament briefing for officials that all referees would be judged on performance over the week, regardless of previous involvement with the organisation or experience in your home country. Referees came from all over Europe (although I was the only English one) and there is clearly some weight and gravitas to 'The FA' brand and badge as I was the surprise choice to referee the opening game of the tournament and show what I could do! Well obviously I was chuffed, it was in a proper stadium with a decent crowd following the opening ceremony, and although I had officiated in a cup final in the past this was right up there in terms of pressure and importance. I was assisted by a young referee from Italy called Andrea and a more senior referee from Germany called Albert. It was an U15 group game between German and Egyptian teams which ended 1-1 and was highly enjoyable.



Refereeing during the opening game



Assistant for the U 17 final



Further I received positive feedback from my assistants and the tournament organisers, so a good start all round.

Between then and the finals day, 4 days later, I refereed a further 10 games of varying age groups, both boys and girls, which having not refereed much youth football prior to the tournament provided me a new experience. From actually refereeing the games the biggest challenge, and steepest learning curve, was officiating players whose language I didn't speak. Having played rugby union for some time prior to taking up the whistle 3 years ago, one of my main tools of control when refereeing at home is constant communication with the players, more so than most. However by not speaking the lingo this tool was blunted. I quickly had to adjust my style to incorporate more extravagant signalling and gesturing, playing less advantage and showing more cards. I began to appreciate why top referees in England appear to referee slightly differently, often seemingly more harshly, in European or International matches. The second area where I learned a great deal, during the breaks I had between games, was by watching the refereeing styles of officials from different countries. I will come back to this in more depth in Part II of this article.

Finals day came and I felt the 4 days had gone well professionally, despite the challenges I outlined previously, and personally with the organisers and fellow referees. Therefore I was hopeful of getting appointed to one of the finals. Thankfully my hunch was right and I took the flag for the boys U17 final, the penultimate one of the day. The game was incident free and later in the evening the closing ceremony, and a few beers, were enjoyed by all the organisers and referees. I left the next day knowing I had made important ties and friendships and had improved vastly as a referee all round (and got a nice tan in to the bargain). As I said my goodbyes and boarded the plane there was no doubt in mind that I would referee in another tournament abroad very soon. Indeed I am taking part in the Lisbon Cup in June, which includes youth teams from Liverpool, Marseille, Valencia and Vasco da Gama to name but a few.

Whatever your age and experience I hope this has sparked some enthusiasm to get your kitbag and board a plane in the near future, I guarantee you will be a better referee for it and most importantly have some great fun. Thanks for reading and I look forward to delivering Part II after Lisbon.

CRB CHECKS

Today the Government has announced the outcomes of the Vetting and Barring and Criminal Records Reviews as part of the Protection of Freedoms Bill.

The FA, like many organisations, played a full part in the Government's reviews and has lobbied hard for a proportionate and common sense approach. We are committed to continuing to balance our safeguarding responsibilities and the rights of the individual.

The Government has announced a range of headline recommendations today, for more information please visit: www.crb.homeoffice.gov.uk



We welcome a number of these changes, such as a more proportionate approach, streamlining the ISA and the CRB and the concept of portability.

However, this is the only information we have available at this stage and we need to work with the Government and the CRB to establish all of the detail and then review the practical implications of these proposals to our work in football.

The necessary legislative changes will be included in the Protection of Freedoms Bill. Subject to parliamentary approval, the Bill is expected to become law by early 2012. The new regime would be introduced as soon as possible after this.

We appreciate you may have a number of questions or comments regarding this announcement. At this early stage it is unlikely we will be in a position to provide a response.

Once we have received the full policy position from the Government and established the practical implications, we will manage any implications for our safeguarding strategy, policy and procedures in football.

Counties, Leagues and Clubs will receive FA guidance further.

In the meantime please continue with the completion of CRB checks through TMG CRB, as guided by our current policy and regulations.

The FA CRB Guidance can be found at www.thefa.com/TheFA/WhatWeDo/CRB. The FAQs section gives clear guidance on who should be checked and following these guidelines will ensure that Counties, Leagues and Clubs are operating within current Home Office guidelines. If in doubt whether a specific role is eligible, ask via e-mail FAChecks@TheFA.com or ring 0845 210 8080 to talk to a member of The FA CRB team

If you receive enquiries, please reassure clubs and leagues that The FA will provide all the necessary guidance as soon as we have further details.

Sue Law, Head of Equality and Child Protection

What is LONSAR

It has been suggested to me that I explain the meaning of LONSAR in the official title, as some members are unaware of its meaning.

The London Society of Association Referees (LONSAR) was formed in 1902 and was the largest of five London Societies. As a Lonsar member since 1976 I remember meetings that were a lot more formal than is now the case. The Council I was made up of prominent members such as Alan Nathan, Stan Lover and John Davies. Later on Andy Porter, Trevor Powell and myself (all now life vice presidents), along with Lockie Bramzell and many others. Meetings were held at various venues, including the CSRC.

Lonsar was also responsible for the Eve of Cup Final Rally also held at various venues and ending up at the Russel Hotel, where it is still held to this day. The event in the old days was a presentation with a cabaret or singer. This later changed to a guest speaker with the likes of Jack Charlton, Bob Wilson etc. Lonsar ran these events until the refurbishment of Wembley Stadium, when the event moved to Wales. On the return to the new Wembley the R.A. decided to take responsibility for the event.

In those days training referees was done by the society and candidates were automatically made members of the society. I remember as a trainee going to watch a match at Market Road Astro and then returning to discuss the merits of the officials. A great lesson in the learning



curve. When London took over the training of referees the societies lost the automatic membership. This was I feel the beginning of the demise of Lonsar. It was not helped by the loss of Andy Porter to London, as he was a very able Secretary and it was hard to fill his position without strong leadership. This was not the fault of the members, some of whom did not want the responsibility, but it led to smaller meetings and loss of membership. Thus it was decided after careful thought to merge with the AFA. Some of us had ties with AFA football and along with Trevor Powell and myself we worked out an agreeable solution, which I think has worked out very well. The only downside I can think of is the lack of ex Lonsar members joining the new society. I hope any reading this will rethink and rejoin.

Pat MacGowan

"MAKE IT EASY ON YOURSELF . . ." and THE SIN BIN

For those of you with grey hair or perhaps little hair of any colour will know this was an international hit for the Walker Brothers and Dionne Warwick and was written by Bacharach and David. And in 1962 Jerry Butler had this tune as his first hit - but has it any relevance to the various types of football?

Rugby Union has over the past years adopted several rule changes which have helped referees control games and increased spectator enjoyment and appreciation and player behaviour. These being:-

- 10 yards retreat for dissent;
- Sin Bin punishment for heat of the moment things;
- Advantage which can be played for ever, it seems . . . and then bought back.

But association football authorities continue to make it harder for referees to apply the laws while simultaneously [and perhaps unwittingly] decreasing their understanding by players and spectators alike. For example Law 11 [off-side] is a mess; and the Respect Campaign is generally ignored during top-level games. If these games are televised players' bad behaviour, bad language and general disrespect for officials is transmitted to grass roots football for us to deal with a week or two later.

Putting aside recent ructions, Sky TV has in my view made disrespect of officials by players part of their entertainment package. Certainly the recently departed duo rarely bothered to support referees' decisions often begrudgingly adding "Well, the referee got that just about right." Never once following a difficult and contentious decision by a referee did they ask viewers to judge for themselves an incident seen at full speed and from the angle and distance experienced by the referee. Sky TV has done considerable damage to refereeing and I fear that this will not change.

In an attempt to combat these ills and to introduce some common-sense into refereeing I admit to having used the unusual [and illegal] sanction of sending offending players to the SIN BIN rather than dismissing them from the FOP. While refereeing a game a forward was tripped by the (probably) last defender on the edge of the penalty area. The usual shouts for – "penalty!" and "send him off!" were heard. I blew for a free kick, just outside the penalty area. This had been a really good match. I then called over the offender and asked him to stand on the touch-line for 10 minutes. The captain of the opposing team, then rushed over to me, asking me NOT to send him off - I explained what I had done and he was happy. In fact, every-one was happy particularly the player and his captain!



The second time I took the law into my own hands [but for good common-sense reasons] was 3 years ago, at the end of a long season. The match was between two old-boys university sides. The visitors had a player who was clearly getting worked up because he was not getting much ball from his colleagues. I knew he was going to 'explode' but his reaction surprised me. He had a go at the referee - well, this happens sometimes, I guess and he walked over to me and gently said "referee, you're a cheat". No one else heard - it was his way of letting off steam at the spur of the moment stuff. So, taking a deep breath, I gave him a choice - go to the SIN BIN for 10 minutes or take a red card. He chose the Sin Bin. His skipper then ran over to me, saying I could not do that - "true", I said but I then asked the skipper if he wanted to go down to 10 men for the rest of the match or for just 10 minutes. The skipper understood my logic and after 10 minutes, I let the offender back onto the FOP and cautioned him for dissent which he accepted OK.

So here were two situations where I am sure we had a better match with players sin-binned rather than dismissed. The moral of these stories, is that the SIN BIN resolved the problem and I "made it easy on myself" and the teams involved.

So let's get the off-side law sorted out, let's give 10 yards for dissent and let's give more and longer advantage. Oh yes, let's issue less cautions for dissent and use the SIN BIN!

What will Rugby come up with next?

Malcolm Edwards

PHYSIOTHERAPY FAQ'S

WHO ARE IPRS?

IPRS ARE THE PROVIDER OF PHYSIOTHERAPY CARE. WEBSITE WWW.IPRSGROUP.COM

IS THE COVER OPEN TO ALL AGES 14 TO 75?

YES COVER IS AVAILABLE FOR ACTIVE REFEREES UP TO THE AGE OF 75. NON ACTIVE REFEREES MAY JOIN UP TO THE AGE OF 75, AND MUST BE ON REFEREEING BUSINESS IN THE EVENT OF A CLAIM.

HOW MANY CLAIMS CAN THE INSURED HAVE IN ONE YEAR?

4 SEPARATE MUSCULOSKELETAL DISORDERS IN ANY INSURANCE YEAR.

WHAT IS THE COST?

RENEWAL IS ON THE 1ST APRIL EVERY YEAR. 1ST APRIL RENEWAL £5. 1ST JAN PART YEAR FOR MEMBERS JOINING FOR THE FIRST TIME £2.50

WILL THERE BE A LOCAL PHYSIOTHERAPIST?

YES, IPRS WILL ALLOCATE ONE OF THEIR APPROVED PHYSIOTHERAPISTS WHICH ARE LOCAL TO YOUR HOME OR WORKPLACE.

IF IPRS INTERVENTION IS APPROPRIATE THEY WILL REFER YOU FOR TREATMENT INTO THEIR NETWORK OF ASSOCIATE PRACTICES, WE DO NOT HAVE LISTS OF APPROVED PRACTITIONERS.





"THANK GOODNESS FOOTBALL ISN'T
CORRUPT LIKE CRICKET, EH REF?"

100 CLUB PLUS: FEBRUARY 2011

Winners of February 100 Club was drawn on Thursday 3rd February. None of the winners were present at the meeting. Their details are:

<i>Number</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Prize</i>	<i>Bonus</i>	<i>Total</i>
59	P Kosciolek	£25	£0	£25
15	W Evans	£15	£0	£15
2	M Barnes	£10	£0	£10

Not only do you have to be in it to win it but if you are there on the night you pick up a bonus.

Gordon





THE REFEREES' ASSOCIATION

Income Tax on Match Officials' Fees and Expenses and income from other Refereeing related activities

Background

Income tax is payable on all forms of earned income which exceeds the tax free allowances which are set by the Government each year and is usually deducted at source by employers.

Referees, Assessors, Instructors, Mentors and others receiving an income from Refereeing related activities are classified as self employed. They are responsible for maintaining their own tax affairs and for declaring their income to Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs (HMRC). Tax is not deducted at source and the payment of any tax liabilities arising from the fees received for undertaking their duties is the responsibility of the individual.

Tax payers are required to submit a tax return (either paper based or on-line) to HMRC by certain deadlines and HMRC have the authority to apply fines to those who fail to comply with submission deadlines, who submit inaccurate or incomplete information. HMRC do not issue a tax return to everyone but it is the responsibility of each individual to inform HMRC of their status and to submit a tax return if tax is due.

Income from Refereeing related activities must be reported when claiming state benefits. Failure to do so may affect future benefits and may lead to a fraud investigation.

The necessity to maintain records

To be able to calculate whether tax is due or not, everyone receiving an Income from refereeing related activities should maintain a record of income and expenditure:

Income includes:

1. fees
2. expenses
3. subsistence allowance (where paid)
4. ex gratia payments

Expenditure includes:

1. Affiliation and subscription fees to ABS & County FA
2. Match day and training kit
3. Laundry expenses
4. Training publications and other expenses
5. Accountancy fees (if appropriate)
6. Insurance
7. Mileage expenses at approved mileage rates including travel for:
 - Refereeing
 - Training, including fitness tests
 - Personal hearings
 - Society meetings
 - County FA training seminars
8. Telephone, postage and stationery costs
9. Computer expenses and capital allowances for on line filing of reports
10. Anything else that is considered wholly & exclusively for the purpose of the activity in which the individual is involved.

HMRC approved allowances for the use of your own private transport are currently as follows:-

Cars and vans	40 pence per mile upto 10,000 business miles per tax year
	25 pence per mile over 10,000 business miles per tax year
Motorcycles	24 pence per mile
Bicycles	20 pence per mile

