



**IN NOVEMBER 2009 WE HAVE TWO REGIONAL MEETINGS**

**Thursday 5 November 2009**

**at 19.30**

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

**Our speaker will be**

**Jeff Pettitt**

**“Using Advantage to your  
Advantage”**



Jeff is an all-round action man: marathon runner, charity fund raiser, since 1993 has run the world’s most successful refereeing kit company “A&H International”, produces the “Renegade Ref” newsletter, progressed through the Conference League as a Level 2, and onto the Premiership line via the Spartan and Isthmian Leagues, an FA Licensed Instructor, he has run the Charlton Referee Academy for 10 years and has produced one Level 1, two Level 3s and numerous Level 4s and 5s, he coaches Charlton U18 youth side, he has “mind coached” 4 golfers onto the European Tour. His motto is “Don’t moan about it, do something about it!”



**Thursday 12 November 2009**

at 1930

**Alexandra Park FC, The Racecourse Ground,  
Wood green, London, N22 7ST**

Our speaker will be

**Peter Kirkup**

**“Offsides: techniques for  
key decision making”**

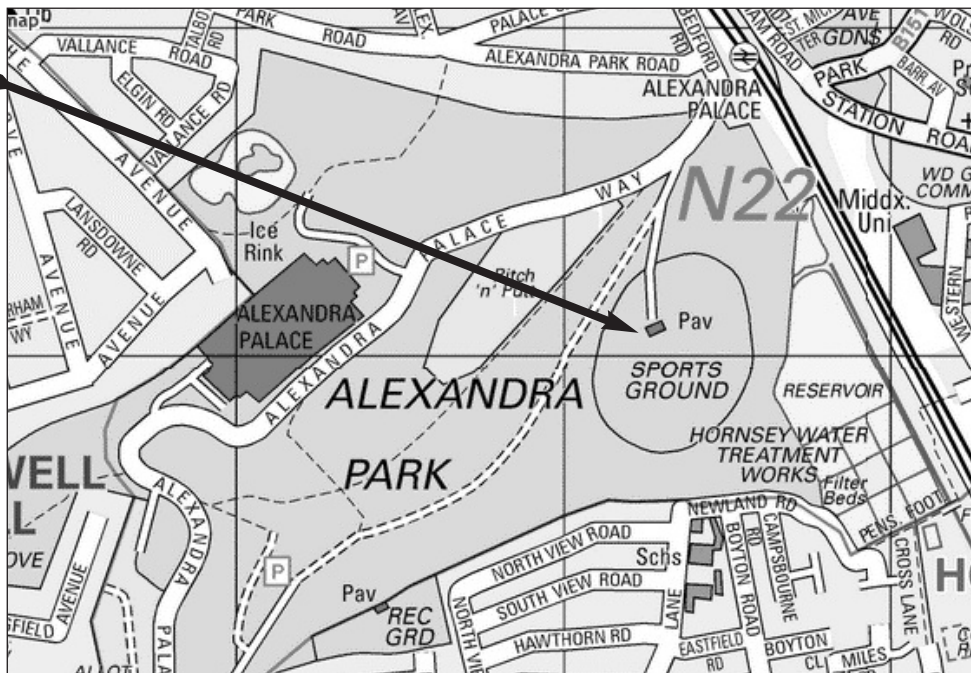
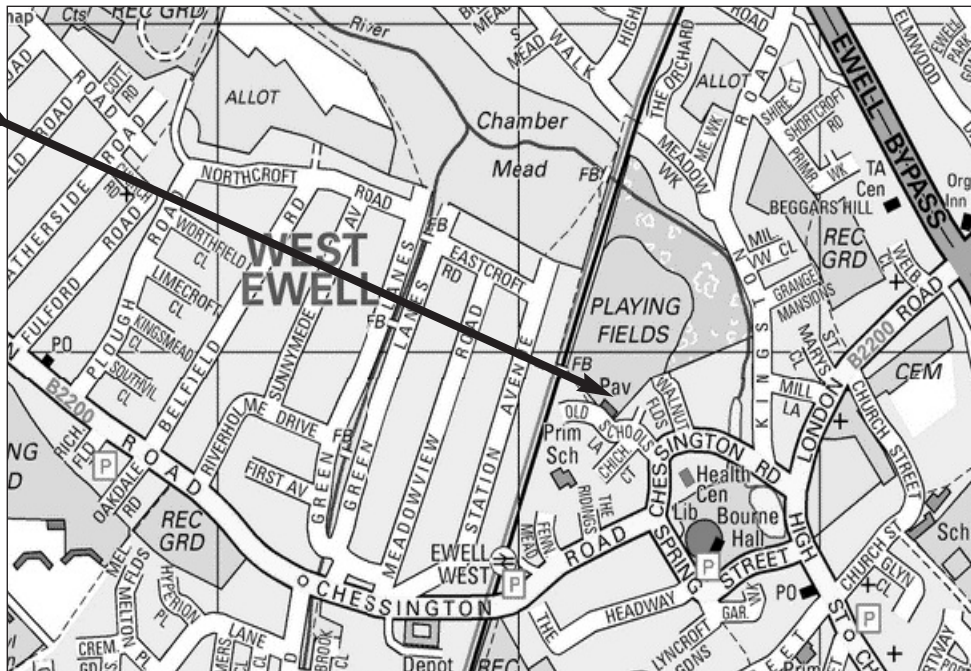
Peter has served as a FIFA Assistant Referee since 2006 was appointed as an Assistant Referee to the 2007 FA Challenge Cup Final and in 2005 was appointed to both the Football League Championship Play-Off Final and the FA Community Shield



**On both evenings the bars open at 1830. There will be excellent mega-sandwiches at Old Salesians [the home club of so many esteemed Society colleagues] and there will be a delicious hot dinner at Alexandra Park. So why not come along and enjoy yourself while learning something. You may win a raffle prize!**

*Gordon Kirby, Chairman*





## **Dates For Your Diary 2009/10**

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.

3. November 5: Old Salesians FC
4. November 12: Alexandra Park FC
5. December 3: CSRC
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

## **OUR WEBSITE**

Just a reminder to members that our new 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!

## **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.

### **COPY FOR DECEMBER**

### **ARGUS**

### **MUST**

### **BE WITH THE EDITOR BY**

### **FRIDAY**

### **20th NOVEMBER 2009**

### **OR SOONER IF POSSIBLE.**



# Chairman's Comment

## Assaults on Colleagues

Sadly, the past month has seen at least two assaults on referees in our domain [there were probably others we haven't heard of]. One was on a referee during a game played under the AFA aegis, but the referee was not an RA or Society member. The other, involved a Society member but not I believe involved in an AFA sponsored game. The first incident, [according to an eye witness] was a "disgraceful and violent attack on the referee" whereby a player dismissed from the FOP re-entered the arena, jumped onto the referee with his hands around his throat and brought him to the ground. It is further alleged that he then kicked him twice about the head and face. The miscreant, clearly a brave man, then fled the scene. I am unsighted as to whether he has since been identified and apprehended. I understand that the referee had the maturity and common sense to call the police and the emergency services and after pitch-side treatment was able to make his own way home. I believe he was available for appointments the following week. We shall watch the outcome of this appalling case closely as although the referee was not a Society member he is a member of the refereeing community and his welfare is, as with the welfare of all referees, our legitimate concern.

The second incident concerned a young referee who having dismissed a player from the FOP saw the game descend into a mass confrontation; he had no option but to abandon the match. He was then subjected to serious verbal threats from players to an extent that he feared for his safety. English is not his first language, he has been refereeing for a short time, he is just 21 years old and he didn't call the police. Such was his ordeal that he decided to give up refereeing. The Society jumped into action immediately and offered support, sympathy and counsel [as did his CFA] and thankfully, I have heard in the past 48 hours that he feels confident enough to resume refereeing.

I mention these incidents to illustrate the kind of behaviour [which I believe] is becoming commoner in grass roots football as the game reflects our violent society [or is it the other way round] and disrespect for authority generally. Perhaps the situation requires a revision of the punishments available? But firstly, let me put this into context: thankfully, physical assaults on referees are still rare although verbal assaults and threats of violence are not. Under the Laws of the Game both offences are sanctioned by dismissals. In common law both are crimes worthy of arrest. With a referee, as with any person going about their legitimate business who is so abused or threatened, this is an aggravating factor the courts must take them into account.



## Disciplinary Hearings

How many offensive, insulting and abusive language and or gesture offences are successfully challenged on appeal by the perpetrators who either get away with it or have their sentences lessened following a personal hearing? “Bad language”, as my mother would have recognized it, has become more acceptable in the newspapers, films, TV and on the playing field. Discipline tribunals are therefore having to making judgements in a constantly changing climate and are I believe more likely to judge that a foul tirade coupled with threats was “in the heat of the moment.” Let’s look at what disciplinary tribunals are about: they provide an opportunity for the accused to appeal against the dismissal. He may call as witnesses his manager, his captain, the club linesman and the substitute who was standing nearby when the incident occurred. The referee is called to attend as a witness but with the weight of evidence on offer, a referee might well be forgiven for feeling that he is the one in the dock. Nor can the referee call a witness [how can a witness call a witness?] is the answer trotted out. Several of you have complained to me about this. And unless the chairman of the tribunal is particularly good the referee within this illustration is at a 5-1 disadvantage.

Of course it doesn’t help matters if the referee’s report is poorly drafted with serious errors and omissions and, perhaps more importantly, is wrong in Law. The principal objective of a County tribunal hearing must be “to ensure that the appellant receives a fair hearing and that the Commission has the best opportunity to make a fair and correct finding”. The referee’s report triggers the initial action taken by the CFA and it is vitally important that it is clear, accurate and concise. Match officials must convey exactly what happened in simple factual terms. The referee’s written and/or verbal evidence is vital to the smooth running of any disciplinary hearing. There is no point in referees moaning about players’ behaviour if they fail to report cautions and dismissals or produce reports which are of limited use to the disciplinary process. Recently I spoke to a Level 7 referee of several years standing following a game and he told me he never forwards details of cautions administered during the game because he brandishes yellow cards to get players to stop moaning!

A referee not submitting reports of his disciplinary action may face suspension by his or her County. In spite of the excellent booklet “FA’s Discipline Handbook” and the August edition of “Refereeing”, both which I recommend as a essential reads, referees still get their reporting wrong and this often contributes to justice not being done. Hopefully, these worthy documents will help to lift some of the mystery surrounding the discipline tribunal process. I congratulate the AFA’s forward thinking in this matter for agreeing in January 2007 to attend a Society sponsored “Mock Disciplinary Hearing” for which our collective thanks must go to Mike Brown, Ray Holmes and colleagues who performed well on the night and gave up yet another evening .



## Personal experiences

Here I jump to the AFA's defence based on the two tribunals I have attended over 15 years of refereeing. I got plenty of notice and was welcomed on arrival and made to feel at ease. When called into the tribunal I was asked to sit down and was treated with complete courtesy. Once I had given my evidence [having written a good report there was no need to add anything] and answered questions posed by the appellant via the chairman I was free to go. Painless [or "simples" as my Meerkat friend says]. However, on the third occasion [not with the AFA] the appellant and his 4 witnesses were permitted to interrupt me and scoff at my evidence while it was being delivered. This was not a happy occasion and mercifully I remain unaware of the punishment, if any, handed down. It is perhaps therefore understandable that some referees when summoned to attend such tribunals refuse to do so based on past similar experiences. I would point out that the Regulations for the Registration and Control of Referees, 9(b) state, inter alia, "Referees must attend Personal Hearings when required to do so". This takes precedence over any refereeing appointments below contributory level, and on receipt of notification of a personal hearing referees must close the date with all appropriate competitions.

They also serve those who only stand and whistle: The disciplinary process is an integral part of the good governance of football and we as referees should be satisfied that it is open and completely transparent. The latest handbooks go a long way towards achieving this. But I feel that the process would be enhanced by serving referees sitting on CFA disciplinary tribunals as long as the hearing doesn't involve a league on which the referee has officiated. They will bring to the table up-to-date-knowledge of the laws of the game and contemporaneous experiences. Several CFAs permit this and indeed welcome referees for the benefits their expertise and experience bring. But certain CFAs resist this development citing "conflicts of interest" and quoting that "policeman, judges etc cannot serve on juries so how can referees serve on disciplinary tribunals?" This is clearly nonsense and as police officers, lawyers, judges and clergy were ineligible to serve on juries until around the year 2000 when the law was radically revised to reflect modern public opinion, and there is no reason why they should be ineligible. They are now all frequently called upon to serve on juries. But police officers must not serve on a jury hearing cases investigated by colleagues at their own police stations. In other words he must have no familiarity with the investigation. Of course members of disciplinary commissions will be familiar with the clubs concerned, but they will usually not know the players. The equivalent principle for referees would be that they should not hear cases where they have a direct interest, such as where they have a connection with the club or player charged or where they have in recent years had some significant or unusual conflict with them in their capacity as referees. That apart I see no reason why serving



referees ought not to be eligible to serve on disciplinary commissions. They can often bring much value to commissions in other CFAs, [and do after retirement in the AFA as long as they are Council members.]

The negative policy of certain CFA's on this matter is curious and one wonders at the motives behind this. Some referees of an overly sensitive and delicate nature might see this as a slur on their integrity and an insult to their honesty and impartiality. Based on this "conflict of interest" argument one might theoretically question the impartiality of anyone sitting on a disciplinary tribunal who is a member of a club which is in direct competition with another where its star player is appearing before a disciplinary hearing 2 weeks before a cup-final. It is of course ridiculous to suggest that there is a conflict of interests but no more so than to suggest that referees are incapable of making unbiased decisions in similar situations. And here I apologise to my fellow AFA Council members on disciplinary tribunals for any implied offence or criticism. They serve unselfishly without fear or favour always for the greater good of football.

I believe the AFA has a great deal to gain from opening up membership of disciplinary tribunals to a number of active referees [whether Council Members or not] to serve on disciplinary tribunals. My proposal is not some Trojan horse aimed at undermining the AFA, but a suggestion aimed at furthering co-operation and spreading the increasing workload. I believe that although AFA disciplinary tribunals do a great job, they like magistrates and judges, need to be especially aware that where there is a glut of certain offences, they need to tighten the punishments [not of course the judgements which must be based solely on evidence]. This is something both referees and CFAs must work together on as we need each other.

I shall be seeking the views of various CFAs and The FA as to their policies on this issue in due course. In the meantime I await the outcome of this point I raised at a Council meeting recently with a hopeful heart. We are all in this together for the betterment of grass roots football. I believe strongly that a number of serving referees should be permitted to serve on AFA disciplinary tribunals and I volunteer.

***Gordon Kirby***

## **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.



**AFA & LONDON SOCIETY OF  
ASSOCIATION REFEREES**

**Monthly Meeting**

**Thursday 8 October 2009**

**MINUTES**

**EGM:** GK [in chair] opened the meeting by welcoming members and guests adding that the evening would open with a short EGM to consider the audited accounts for FY 2008/09. These had been accepted at the May 2009 AGM subject to auditors' scrutiny. He thanked LVP Robert Hanison for pulling the accounts together; he would present them and answer any questions. Following a short exchange GK asked for a proposer and seconder and following these the meeting voted unanimously to accept the accounts

**ROUTINE BUSINESS:** Turning to normal business, GK ran through the routine of raffle tickets [on sale via Baresh Kebar], kit and supplies [David Cunningham standing in for Martyn Cannon who would arrive later] and urged all to sign the attendance register. In spite of the postal problems the ARGUS had arrived to the majority of members in good time. He had several spare copies. As usual it was a good read although this month ominously several articles focused on the lack of honesty and integrity now well-entrenched in the game under the misnomers of "gamesmanship" or "simulation." Why he asked didn't FIFA, and here The FA might lead by example, change this to "cheating" because that what it is. He thanked the usual contributors and urged all members to consider writing short pieces. For example: members who had refereed overseas, all instructors, the County RDO and anyone who had experienced a funny or unusual happening in their refereeing.

**RECRUITMENT, RETENTION & TRAINING:** He had been busy of late attending various IST evenings and other referee gatherings either as a CRB document verifier or as an FA Instructor. He had used the occasions to lobby hard for referees to join either the Society, or at least the RA or another Society. To drive this message home he had handed over new whistles, a personalized letters of welcome extolling the value of RA membership, a copies of the ARGUS and an application forms. All at the end of a 15 minute crusade plus viewing the RA promotional DVD. It was difficult to measure successes however it is important that we try, and here he welcomed anyone willing to assist—especially instructors—as inevitably we were all a year older and nearer retirement. For example, both he and Pat Morrissey were currently hors de combat with knee injuries and it is questionable whether they would ever grace the FOP again. However, in spite of



his injury, which was getting better after a summer of swimming and cycling, he had embarked on a scheme with his Sunday league whereby he ran the line to the league's new/junior referees. He met them an hour before the game, walked the FOP together running through the sequence of pre-match checks. During the game he acted as an assistant thus lifting some of the pressure off the referee. At half-time and then fulltime he gave the referee a brief assessment which he followed a few days later with a fuller written assessment. Reactions and responses so far had been positive. This was an expansion on the Mentorship Scheme which he felt had more practical value for the mentee. He urged county FAs to consider trying this.

**ASSAULTS ON REFEREES:** Sadly, the past month had seen two assaults on referees that had come to our notice [there were probably more]. One was a savage physical assault in a game under the AFA aegis but to a non-member. He had thankfully recovered and seemed content to continue refereeing. However, whether a Society member or not such attacks are increasing in frequency and must be a concern to all in football. He would be looking out for the actions and punishments handed down by County FAs to the individual player. Soft punishments handed down by discipline tribunals send the wrong kind of message to both referees and players alike particularly at a time when recruitment and retention are under severe pressure in spite of the AFA's efforts [about which we would hear more later from John Cook.]

The other referee attack was mercifully non-physical but involved a young referee member who has decided to give up the whistle in just his 21st year. We are talking to him and offering appropriate support and shall look out for the punishment handed down in this case too plus the role of the league concerned.

**GUEST SPEAKER:** GK then introduced the evening's guest speaker, John Cook, Society Vice-Chairman and Training Officer and AFA RDO who would discuss "The State of AFA Refereeing" (an account of John's presentation appears elsewhere in this magazine.)

GK thanked John Cook for his most interesting presentation which had been packed with detail and data. He called upon Milan Bunja to offer a vote of thanks and colleagues closed with a hearty round of applause.

**RAFFLE:** In the absence of the 100 Club draw, GK conducted the raffle and awarded the prizes. In closing GK reminded members that we are due to gather twice in November, the 5th at Old Salesians FC when our speaker will be Jeff Pettitt and 12th at Alexandra Park where our speaker will be Peter Kirkup.

The meeting closed at 2130

*Gordon Kirby*



# 100 CLUB

Thanks to a lot of hard work by Errol and the generosity of our members we now have a final list of 100 Club subscribers which includes several last-minute subscriptions. I attach the amended list.

The final count of subscribers' shares is 102 at £10 each amounting to a gross income of £1020. Of this £510 is income for the Society and £510 will be distributed as prizes between September 2009 and the Annual Dinner in May 2010 [in lieu of the Society AGM May meeting].

We therefore have 8 Society meetings at which draws are due take place [Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec, Jan, Feb., Mar and Apr.] @ £50 [£10, £15, £25] amounting to £400; and at the annual dinner we can offer prizes amounting to £110 [£50, £35 and £25].

The first draw [for September] will be made at Old Salesians on 5 November, the second [for October] at Alexandra Park [on 12 November] and on 3 December at Chadwick Street [for December]. We shall then be up to date.

Baxter Robert	Morris Douglas	Hale James
Berriman Ian	Morrissey Patrick	Hayden Michael
Blackmore Geoffrey	Naylor Michael	Hemmings Tony
Brathwaite Andrew	O'Sullivan Stephen	Kennedy Lawrence
Carney David	Phillips Chris	Kosciolek Peter
Costelloe John	Radford Graham	Lazarus David
Cunningham David	Sainsbury Mike	Littler David
Doe John	Saunders Del	Monk John
Edwards Malcolm	Stemp Ian	O'Toole Bartholomew
Emery Terry	Thompson Girvan	Skelton Ken
Ferris Colin	Tyler Stephen	Sturges John
Green Rodney	Woolman Robin	Walker Errol
Hanison Robert	Worth Rob	Weaver Trevor
Hayes John	Barnes Michael	Wilson Richard
Hiller Roger	Beament Christopher	Courtenay Julian
Hillier Terry	Campbell Ian	Kirby Gordon
Kerr Ian	Cook Phil	Mathias Grant
King Peter	Earls Derek	Georgiou Peter
Lence Geoff	Evans William	MacRae Andrew
MacGowan Patrick	Evans Christopher	MacRae Andrew
Mariani Francis	Foulston Michael	Cooke John
Maskell John	Hagger Neil	Taylor Bill



# Whistleblower's Opinion

## Are you a 'Defensive' or a 'Preventive' Referee?

We all have different ways of refereeing a game related to our personality, training and experience. But as we develop our careers through the various Levels, we develop a particular 'style', a set of characteristics that determines how we referee, and in turn how players, managers, and assessors perceive we manage our games.

### Signals of Defensive Refereeing

'Refereeing for the Assessor' is a phrase you may have heard from colleagues on the promotion ladder or on the System. This is an illustration of a 'defensive' mindset - a negative and cynical approach to refereeing based on fear of accountability for mistakes in judgement or Law. And it leads to a form of mental paralysis and robotic refereeing.

Other signs of defensive refereeing are concern for keeping 'distance' from players, and a preoccupation with discipline; for example, evaluating a game on how many cards were given out.

I hear some referees say they feel no butterflies or nerves before a game. Every referee needs an adrenalin boost to produce their best, and if there are no nerves before the game, it is a defensive signal, or a zonked-out reaction to stress.

Another sign of defensive refereeing is the concept of "selling decisions" - even when they are wrong. The word 'selling' has connotations in our society of misleading or even 'conning' people. The players, managers and the assessor will quickly see through the con man. We should be talking about positioning, decision making and confident communication with signals and voice - not "selling".

### Preventive Refereeing

The positive alternative to defensive refereeing is 'Preventive Refereeing' - giving 100% mental and physical commitment to both preparing yourself, your colleagues, the players and manager before the game, and to managing the game itself in the best interests of football.

It is about motivation, preparation, anticipation and presence.



## **Difference In Motivation**

An essential difference between the preventive referee and the defensive referee is that one is outward looking, unselfishly giving himself to the game, and the other is an inward looking protection of 'self'. The Preventive Referee wants to do the right thing for the game. The Defensive Referee wants to do the best thing for himself, and part of his concentration is diverted to the assessor in the stand rather than focusing entirely on the game.

## **Difference in Preparation**

Mental preparation for a game starts with the first advice of the appointment. As we approach the game our subconscious will be working on it even if we are not consciously aware. The Preventive Referee will research the teams, recall previous positive events and handling, and visualise key decisions that might occur in the game. He must be ready to give a penalty or a card in the first minute. He would think through the likely moments of heightened tension in the game; for example the first and last 10 minutes of each half, after a goal is scored, after a bad foul, yellow or red cards, all confrontations, and irresponsible behaviour from the technical area. (If thinking about these situations before the game does not kick-start your adrenalin flow, you are in the wrong occupation.)

An essential part of match preparation for the Preventive Referee is mentally engaging and focusing all the active participants (assistants, players, managers) before the game. There are many external pressures on all involved, and it is up to the referee to grab their attention for long enough to get across the importance of playing to the Laws and Spirit of the Law, and his role in helping the players enjoy their game. Engaging players in a pre-match briefing helps break down the 'them and us' barrier that is so destructive both to the referee's match management and ultimately to referee recruitment.

## **Difference in Anticipation (Red Beach Ball) and Presence**

A key quality of Preventive Refereeing is sensing where the action is now and where it is going to be next. For instance, Preventive Refereeing would have anticipated the potential problems of a red beach ball in the Liverpool penalty area in a recent Premiership game - and proper preparation would have known the Law in the event of outside interference. The ignorance of the Law by all involved made this an incident that was bad both for refereeing and for the critics of refereeing.



Anticipating the action areas is of little use unless we have a refereeing 'Presence' close to the action. This requires a level of fitness relevant to the speed of the game. Presence obviously helps improve accuracy of decisions. But this presence around the field also acts both as a real deterrent to misconduct, and gives the opportunity to communicate informally with players - recognising skilful play, informal warnings and even a little good-natured banter.

## **A Downside to Preventive Refereeing**

There is a downside to Preventive Refereeing - assessors may not recognise it. How often have you seen assessors reports with phrases like "an undemanding game", "the referee was not stretched", followed by an average or low mark? An apparently undemanding game could have been due to the Preventive Referee's activities before and during the game - ensuring that players appreciated his approach and just concentrated on playing football. Recognising a referee's 'whole game positives' rather than focusing on minor errors requires an appreciation of many aspects of man management, psychology, speed, flow and patterns of play, tactics, player skills as well as the more obvious refereeing duties.

This is one reason why I believe we should be giving more emphasis to referee coaching rather than having more assessors. The key to developing people is to catch people doing things right and accentuate the positive.

## **Referee enjoyment**

There is no doubt that some referees successfully progress their career using defensive refereeing techniques - but they are not the best referees. And eventually they will recognise that they are not enjoying their refereeing.

In contrast, the Preventive Referee's wholehearted commitment to every game will guarantee his enjoyment of his career. And as a bonus, he might find that his approach and efforts are appreciated by players and those assessors who really understand the game.

**Patrick Morrissey**

*Two parrots sat on a perch. One parrot turns to the other and says "can you smell fish".*

**Weaver again**



## ON BEING AN “OLD SCHOOL” REFEREE

*Author’s Note:* To qualify for the soubriquet “Old School” you had to have commenced refereeing when the match uniform hosiery fashion included back socks with white double-length long turnover tops – which gave the appearance of white socks with about two inches of black between the bottom edge of the turnover and ankletop of one’s boots.

In turn it was “*di rigueur*” that footwear was of highly polished black leather, or synthetic equivalent, with *always* brilliant white broad laces positioned around the ankle bone, thence vertically down/around the arch of the foot. The high sided boots, of that era, accommodated this lacing placement with ease.

Any departure from this high standard was looked upon with much disdain – the writer wryly adds that, until the so-called “Swinging Sixties”, male footwear generally was invariably well polished and much pride was attached to having shinningly clean footwear, indeed where are the “shoe-shine boys” with their chair and footstools who would have their regular pitch, most often at main-line railway terminals? In railway parlance G.W.R. – Gone With Regret!

After all that padding (of this text) – what patience you have, gentle reader – the writer just wanted to set out two salient points for your consideration, the first a confession (as I digest humble-pie!): Being a silly-old-fool of yesteryear, or somewhat prior – but mighty proud of it – one tends to apply one’s own version of “speed-reading” that, progressively more chunky, book entitled “Laws of the Game”.

Familiarity therefore does breed contempt.

It was in this mode that this time-worn correspondent’s glance alighted on the “guidelines for referees” section of the laws book, pertaining to Law Five.

Beneath the sub-heading “Use of whistle” one noted that: “The whistle *is* needed to start play (1st half, 2nd half), after a goal.”

Oh dear, so much for one’s habit of a lifetime, designed to contribute towards reducing the amount of whistle . . . when one has simply given a hand flourish and shouted “go” at centre-spot restarts?

Revision point: do you always whistle, in these instances, fellow Match Controller?

My second salient point for you is just to remind those of you who have courteously read this far – what loyal students of the game you are – that, per the 2009/10 law-book, Law 16 (Goal Kick) still does not (repeat NOT!) decree that, when that re-start kick is taken, it needs to be stationary!

This “old sweat” has always allowed a “moving ball” in these instances as it is not a place-kick or free-kick.

More people could benefit from knowing this . . . but you, patient reader, do? “PLAY-ON!”

*Phil Newman*



# KEEP SMILING – THE BATHTUB TEST

During a visit to a Mental Asylum I asked the Director how they determined whether or not a patient should be institutionalised?

“Well,” said the Director, “we fill a bathtub with water, then we offer a teaspoon, a teacup and a bucket to the patient and ask them to empty the bathtub.”

“Which would you choose”? asked the Director.

“Oh, I understand,” I said. “An ordinary person would use the bucket because it’s bigger than the spoon or the cup.”

“No”, said the Director, “an ordinary person would pull the plug . . . do you want a bed near the window?”

“Are you going to pass this on, or do you want the bed next to mine?”



THE TRANSYLVANIAN OFFICIAL  
WOULD ONLY REFEREE MATCHES  
WITH EVENING KICK-OFFS .



# Forget Respect, let's try Honesty

## Last Year

The Champions League semi final between Chelsea and Barcelona last season is ancient history now, but the reverberations from that game still linger on. You may remember that Chelsea players, beaten by a 93rd minute goal, surrounded the referee on the pitch and, allegedly, abused and threatened him in the tunnel due to the fact that he had refused them 4 penalty 'shouts.'

They were angry, disappointed, frustrated and felt that they had been cheated from their due rewards, as do players and managers up and down the country every week because the referee has awarded decision(s) against their team, or not awarded decision(s) in their favour, which they feel have cost them the match.

And of course when a referee does take such actions, thus demolishing a dream, or stopping the achievement of an ambition, who else are you going to blame – the manager is not going to admit he selected the wrong players, the forwards are not going to admit they missed open goals, and defenders are not going to admit to missed or inept clearances which allowed the opposition to score, so the referee is the perfect scapegoat.

It also has to be said that the referee, like the taxman or the funeral director is never going to be a figure that is loved; the best he or she can hope for, if they perform adequately, or even perfectly, is that they are tolerated, accepted as a necessary requirement and, if they are lucky, thanked for performing a role on which the most common comment is 'I don't know how you do it, I could never do your job.'

So the poor Norwegian referee had to be smuggled out of the country amongst accusations of thieving, cheating, and not wanting Chelsea to reach their second final (even though he had reduced Barcelona to ten men).The bottom line is that pictures of a wild eyed, foul mouthed Drogba, an arm windmilling Ballack, and an angry Terry (England's captain no less) confronting and abusing the referee showed exactly what Premiership players felt about showing respect to officials, be they English or foreign, if decisions did not go in their favour.

## This Year

And coming right up to date we have the latest example of what Sir Alex Ferguson thinks of the Respect programme, with his accusations that referee Alex Wiley was unfit to referee a game that Man U drew 2-2 with Sunderland, an accusation proven totally wrong by PROZONE statistics, followed (7 days later) by the classic 'non apology' (a statement apologizing for any personal embarrassment his remarks may have caused Wiley, and for having accused him publicly, without ever withdrawing his original statement or accepting that he was, provably, wrong).

Ferguson stated that he had 'never accused Wiley of being a bad referee, in any way biased,



that his general decision making was poor, or that he missed any key incident' - No Sir Alex, but then no one is accusing you of having made those statements; what you are accused of is stating that Wiley was unfit as a referee, casting doubt over Wiley's ability to referee in the Premiership, fitness being absolutely central to that role.

Step forward Alan Leighton (who is he?), national secretary of Prospect (who are they?), the professional referee's union. I've been a referee a long time so why have I never previously heard of Leighton or Prospect, given the amount of abuse that professional referees have had to tolerate from managers and players over the past few years in particular?

Be that as it may, Leighton came out and said what clearly needed saying: "By calling Wiley unfit and extrapolating it to being an issue about referees in general he (Ferguson) has brought the game into disrepute . . . a fine or a touchline ban would be 'water off a duck's back', and that a full blown suspension might be more appropriate."

## Previous Form

And of course Ferguson has previous form with publicly criticizing Premiership Referees, a LOT of form. His hit list includes Martin Atkinson, Mark Clattenburg, Mike Dean, Chris Foy, Phil Dowd and now Alan Wiley to name but a few.

According to former Premiership referee Jeff Winter, Ferguson systematically intimidates referees by targeting them for abuse during and after games "You'd see Sir Alex storming down the tunnel at half time or full time and for sure he'd be waiting there for you with a volley of foul-mouthed abuse. The language is very, very colourful and . . . he presents a very intimidating figure".

This is clearly a situation that has existed for years and I don't believe Sir Alex would appreciate it, at all, if he was spoken to the way he addresses officials, so why should he believe he can behave like that with impunity, except of course for the fact that the authorities allow him to (apart from two match touchline bans and 'water off a duck's back' fines).

I also wonder at Manchester United, the football club. I accept that Ferguson is the most successful manager the English game has seen, bar none, but they were a successful and admired club prior to Ferguson's arrival (in the Matt Busby era) and they may well continue to be successful and admired after his departure. I also happen to believe (or maybe hope) that there are individuals on the board or in senior positions within the club who privately find his behaviour appalling given the way it reflects on the club, but who are apparently willing to support him and tolerate it while he continues to remain successful.

Given Ferguson's own behaviour towards officials does anyone seriously believe that he has instructed his players to adhere to the Respect program in their attitude towards officials? And does he accept any responsibility for the fact that across the land every weekend there are thousands of mini-Fergusons who follow his lead in violently abusing and disrespecting officials because they have seen him do it, and get away with it, and who are led to believe that such behaviour is the best way to motivate their team and/or become successful managers.

Unless the FA takes swingeing action against Ferguson and others like him our top referees are going to believe that Ferguson appears to have intimidated the authorities too, and is unassailable, and that any referee standing up to Ferguson might have reason to fear it would have a negative effect on their career, thus perpetuating the torrent of abuse and unwarranted



personal criticism directed at officials.

There have to be, and there are, ways and means for managers, within the system, to be able to privately criticize the behaviour or performance of referees. Ferguson appears to believe that such avenues do not apply to him, and unless he is forced to accept that his behaviour is unacceptable then he will have put the final nail in the coffin of the Respect program - like the late lamented parrot from the Monty Python sketch, it can now officially be declared 'dead, defunct, deceased, departed.' Not that the powers that be will ever agree with that of course, but let's just consider what we might replace it with.

## Next Year?

I know it's an old fashioned notion but how about a program for HONESTY. Now that's an awkward concept to come to terms with, after all most of us consider ourselves honest, at least to some degree, even never lived in, second home expense claiming MP's do, but then most of us don't have our honesty held up to public display in front of 60,000 spectators, or in front of 10 million TV viewers, let alone dissected in slow motion to prove exactly how dishonest we were by claiming we were fouled when actually we weren't, or by claiming we made contact with the ball when actually we didn't.

Now there are always going to be grey areas, such as most calls for 'handball', where the referee has to make a judgment call as to whether it was ball to hand, or hand to ball and where even with the benefit of slow motion replay (assuming it was to be made available to the referee) 50% would still give it one way and 50% the other.

But even so, I feel there would potentially be a huge benefit if FIFA, UEFA, The FA and every other footballing authority made their next 'programme' one that promoted Honesty, which most people would feel is something to welcome and aspire to, rather than Respect, which many people feel is a condition that has to be earned by one's performance (rather than simply because of one's position).

A cynic would probably argue that pigs might fly; that honesty, like respect, is a condition that is flexible, depending on the pressure of one's circumstances, and that to expect total honesty, especially from professional footballers whose careers are at stake, is totally unrealistic. And that, sadly, may be true. But then, 99% of the people who play sports are not professionals. We certainly expect referees to be totally honest, (even if fans also assume they will be incompetent, unfit, illegitimate, biased, one-eyed, colour blind etc), whilst we remain totally tolerant of player dishonesty.

Most of us are appalled whenever (all too often) a politician, who should be a role model, is caught acting dishonestly, or uses weasel words to justify an action that is morally dishonest even if just borderline the right side of being dishonest, but professional footballers are undoubtedly role models for millions of young kids too, and should be encouraged to set a good example, rather than appealing for everything, and seeing how much they can get away with. I don't see what the footballing authorities could lose if they campaigned vigorously for more honesty to be shown by all participants, at all levels of the game.

All it would take would be for three or four well publicized displays of honesty from top professionals for there to start to be a swing towards more honesty at all levels of the game (given that behaviour, good or bad, filters down from the top to the bottom.) The truth is, if a



young person goes to a game or tunes into a football match being shown on television nowadays they won't find too many examples of genuine sportsmanship or honesty from the participants, because successful professional sport is solely concerned with winning at all costs. Words like 'loyalty', and 'honour', and 'honesty' have unfortunately become aligned with having an amateur approach that is only relevant to 'losers'.

We should be encouraging a game that applauds players who don't appeal for every throw in or corner or free kick, especially when they know it should go to the opposition; let's encourage forwards not to throw themselves to the ground at the merest hint of a challenge, let's encourage defenders who know that they fouled an opponent (especially in the penalty area) to admit to the fact honestly rather than ferociously denying it before abusing the referee.

An award for the Best Display of Honesty by a manager and a player would not go amiss either, alongside the current Manager of the year or Player of the year award.

Ok, one can but dream, but wouldn't it make the life of a referee so much easier if player honesty was the norm rather than the very rare exception, and wouldn't it be better for the game at large if the expression were to become "that's just not football" (rather than cricket) when referring to examples of law bending or inappropriate behaviour. So there you have it.

Let football's next program be "HONESTY wins you Respect". "HONESTY pays. Play Honestly". "HONESTY is for winners".

**Steve Redfern**

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## ***Lawyer for the defence . . .***

*Scene: A court room in London where a person is on trial for murder. There is strong evidence indicating guilt; however, there is no corpse.*

*In the defence's closing statement the lawyer, (well known in AFA refereeing) knowing that his client is guilty and that it looks like he'll probably be convicted, resorts to a clever trick.*

*"Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, I have a surprise for you all" the lawyer says as he looks at his watch. "Within one minute, the person presumed dead in this case will walk into this courtroom" he says and he looks toward the courtroom door. The jury, somewhat stunned, all look on eagerly. A minute passes . . . Nothing happens.*

*Finally the lawyer says: "Actually, I made up the previous statement. But you all looked on with anticipation . I, therefore, put it to you that there is reasonable doubt in this case as to whether anyone was killed and insist that you return a verdict of not guilty".*

*The jury, clearly confused, retires to deliberate.*

*A very few minutes later, the jury returns and the foreman pronounces a verdict of guilty.*

*"But how"? inquires the lawyer. "You must have had some doubt: I saw all of you stare at the door".*

*Answers the foreman: "Oh we did look. But your client didn't".*

*See you about.*

**Trevor Weaver**



# HISTORY OF THE AFA SOCIETY

BY ROBERT HANISON

1967

1967 has a good football memory for me as I attended my first FA Cup Final which saw Spurs beat Chelsea 2-1. It was the first FA Cup Final when substitutes were named.

The Society held their first monthly meeting on Friday 6th January 1967 at The Princes Hotel in London and 27 people were present to listen to Ken Aston who was the leading FIFA referee of his day. Amongst those present for this meeting were current AFA Council Members Bill Evans, Max Lea and Mike Hutchings.

The Chairman, Tony Jones opened the meeting by stating that we are now off to a start with this first monthly meeting, and more importantly with training. He reported that at a meeting of the AFA referees committee and himself and the Secretary the AFA had agreed to co-opt three members of our society on to their referees committee.

The Meeting continued with the Secretary's report who stated that the London County RA Committee had agreed to alter their rules to allow us to become members of the RA and that our membership would be valid providing we submit at least 10 full memberships by January 21st.

Ron Hounsell gave the Training Report and stated that we would include the Business Houses in our training scheme and hoped that they would help us to with accommodation to run the training. Mr Nicolson of the AFA thanked Ron Hounsell for his training efforts and said that the "AFA are pleased about the formation of the Society and would co-operate with us to their fullest extent, and wished us every success."

The Minutes state "We then arrived at the main spot of the evening Ken Aston who spoke for 90 minutes, and his talk was so interesting that time flew by."

## Second Meeting

The next meeting of the Society was held at The Brown Bear in Holborn, London, WC2. Mr G. Eldridge was in the Chair and opened the meeting at 6.55pm with 21 present. It was reported that we now had 28 Full and 13 Associate members. Messrs Hounsell, Smalley and Lancaster has been co-opted on to AFA Referees Committee.

A discussion then took place about a regular meeting room. It was felt that The Brown Bear would be better than The Princes Hotel as it was more central although it was more expensive at 1 guinea. The Princes Hotel was only 12/6!

The guest Speaker was Reg Paine who gave a very interesting talk on his personal experiences on the Football League, and this sparked off many interesting questions.

The Meeting closed at 8.44pm with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.



### Third Meeting

The third Society meeting was held at The Brown Bear on the 10th March commencing at 6.57pm with 18 in attendance.

Under the Secretary's report a discussion took place about our application to join the London County RA. It was reported that only LONSAR had objected to our application but that it was likely that we would be accepted.

The Treasurer reported that we had opened a Bank Account and to date we had £6-1-4.

A vote then took place to decide on our regular meeting venue for next season. The Brown Bear received 12 votes and the Princes Hotel 4 votes.

We then came to Ted Gale who gave a very interesting talk especially concerning his own workings in the RA where he was considered a rebel.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.08pm.

The final meeting of the season was held at The Brown Bear on Friday 14th April When 20 people were in attendance to our guest speaker Jack Wilson who gave a most informative and instructive talk about the World Cup which included a film of the Final between England and West Germany.

The Treasurer reported that we now had 27 Full and 19 Associate members with the bank balance being in credit by £9-12-6! Mr Griffin and Mr Hutchings had volunteered their services as Auditors and this was agreed by the members. The AGM was arranged for Friday 5th May 2009.

Ron Hounsell reported on the difficulties of finding venues for the training courses. One of our members had offered to pay for the Brown Bear for 6 evenings and this would allow us to run a summer training class. This proposal was put put to the meeting who accepted this generous offer with many thanks.

The first AGM of the Society was held on Friday 5th May at The Brown Bear with 22 in attendance. The Chairman reported that we had been in existence for 6 months and had made a good start and had now started training referees. We had good support from the AFA and had a membership of 47(28 Full & 19 Associate).

The Secretary reported that the RA had accepted us as a Society but that the London County RA had not yet accepted us. Ron Hounsell stated that we would be accepted but it was agreed that our long term aim would be to directly affiliated to the RA. He further reported that we had 20 trainees on our first course and thanked the anonymous donor for paying for the venue. A venue for future courses had been obtained by Treasurer who had persuaded his company to provide us with premises. The election of Officers then took place with Mr Jones being elected as Chairman, Mr Eldridge as Vice-Chairman, Mr Berry as Secretary, Mr Smalley as Treasurer, Mr Hounsell as Training Superintendent, Mr Sweetman as Emergency Appointment Bureau Secretary with Messrs, Loveland, Lancaster and Lancaster as committee members. Messrs Griffin and Hutchings were confirmed as Auditors. There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.37pm after a vote of thanks was passed to the Chairman and committee for their work.



## PLUM APPOINTMENT

I'm sure you will want to send congratulations to John Costelloe who has been appointed Assistant Referee to Adrian Quelch at Bath City v AFC Totton in the FA Cup Fourth Qualifying Round on 24 October. This is a real plum appointment. AFA officials rarely get such late round appointments, so John must be having a really good season. May we wish you all the best on the day. We trust the ball runs smoothly for you. Well done.



### **IMPORTANT – PLEASE NOTE**

The Editor, David Littler has a change of details.

The new Argus email for articles etc is

**[argus@sovereignprinters.com](mailto:argus@sovereignprinters.com)**

and the new telephone number is **020 8393 2299**

Mobile and home numbers remain unchanged.



## 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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