



Our next meeting will be held on  
**Thursday 14 October 2010**

at 1900 for 1915 in the Greycoat Suite, Second Floor, Civil Service  
Recreational Centre, Chadwick Street,  
London, SW1P 2EP

[Note change of venue and a prompt start]

Our guest Speaker will be  
**Alan Poulain**

**Chairman, The Referees' Association**

STILL refereeing (some may not agree) but retiring this year due to injury; Vice-Chair of Huntingdon RA; formerly Secretary (14 years) until May 2010; RA Board Member (7 Years); RA responsibilities for website, supplies, publications, commercial; Committee Member F&GP, EAC Conference & Eve Of Final rally; Licensed FA Instructor; Supply League Assessor; Referee mentor. Paid employment: Football Development Manager, Hunts FA; County Respect Lead Officer; Charter Standard Lead Officer, previously employed for 18 years with Bosch Siemens as Sales Director.

Topic

**"Why bother to be a member of the Referees' Association, what's in it for me?"**

The evening's agenda will be:

- 1800 Bar and restaurant open on first floor;
- 1905 Sign-in, buy raffle tickets and take your seats;
- 1915 Chairman opens evening
- 1920 Len Randall, Middlesex County RA Secretary and Treasurer will present an award to Chris Evans;
- 1925 Chairman continues with routine business;

- 1945 John Cooke, Society Training Officer and AFA RDO with match incidents, law queries and general questions on refereeing followed by a short training presentation;
- 2015 Alan Poulain, Chairman, the Referees' Association;
- 2105 Q&A;
- 2120 Vote of Thanks, raffle and 100 Club draw
- 2130 Meeting ends.



# Alan Poulain

## Our Guest Speaker



## Dates For Your Diary 2010/11

Meeting dates 2010	Venue
14 October	CSRC[b]
04 November	Old Salesians FC
18 November	Alexandra Park FC
9 December	CSRC[a]

### 2011

13 January	CSRC[a]
3 February	Old Isleworthians FC
10 February	CSRC[a]
10 March	CSRC[a]
14 April	Norsemen FC

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

12 May [AGM]	CSRC[b]
20 May	Society Annual Dinner and Presentation Evening

#### 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](http://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  
SEPTEMBER ARGUS  
MUST  
BE WITH THE EDITOR BY  
FRIDAY  
22nd OCTOBER 2010  
OR SOONER IF POSSIBLE.**



# Chairman's Comment

**Refereeing with a Freedom Pass:** Isn't it great to be back in the middle now that the season is well and truly underway? Good weather, firm grassy pitches and with the wind in my hair [well those tufts still remaining] speeding down the field of play [actually panting around the centre-circle] it is a joy to be back refereeing. And is it my imagination or are the players in general being more considerate and well-behaved? Perhaps the FA's Respect Programme has had some positive effect; your views please.

But surely it is the kindness and support we referees receive from players, supporters and managers that makes refereeing such a joy and so worthwhile. While cycling to a Sunday morning fixture in Chiswick last week the trainer of a well-known AFA side who is a neighbour of mine was retrieving his Sunday newspaper from a dustbin where the paper-boy had thoughtfully hidden it; spying me racing past he called after me *"and whose weekend are you going to spoil this morning you blind x@%^&\*?"* What joy!

My wonky knee seems to be fully recovered and although I refuse to return to a regime of 4 games a week I believe I am well enough to at least do one game a weekend. Add to this a modest training-regime [yes, I actually go running—well, panting around Gunnersbury Park 3 or 4 mornings a week]. I mention all this as a possible inspiration to those of you who perhaps like me are ever so slightly past their sell-by dates and are considering hanging up their jock-straps. Please don't as refereeing needs you either as an active referee, assistant referee to a younger less-experienced colleague, mentor or assessor. You could go on forever!

**Welcome and Congratulations:** These should be extended to colleague **Chris Evans** and visiting dignitary **Len Randall**, Secretary and Treasurer of Middlesex County RA who will be with us at our meeting on 14 October. I am sure you will give them both a warm welcome. I must not forget **Alan Poulain, Chairman, Referees Association** who is our guest speaker. If you want to get something off your chest about the RA then here is your chance.

**Up and coming:** Suddenly, at the top level of refereeing has arrived a group of new, young, referees. I know they have been around for a little while: the referee apprenticeship is probably the longest and most exacting of any profession. But they were relatively unknown two years ago and now they are on our TV screens almost every week. I am thinking particularly of **Lee Probert** who on 21 September exhibited supreme courage and correctness when he awarded Arsenal not one, but two penalties in a third round Carling Cup game against Spurs at White Hart Lane. Within the space of 4 minutes his decisions swung the game in the Gunners' favour. In front of nearly 36,000 it takes some guts to award one penalty but two! Lee was first appointed to the Select Group Referees list in 2007. Well done Lee.

Another relative newcomer who has attracted some criticism from the hard-of-understanding element of football, particularly managers and the media is **Stuart Attwell**. Stuart has been fast-tracked through the refereeing system, having started in 1998 and promoted to the National List of Referees in 2007. He spent one season as a Contributory League referee and one season on the list of Panel Referees. He refereed the FA County Youth Cup Final in 2007 and became the youngest person to referee in the Premier League in August 2008, at 25-years-old, and was confirmed as England's youngest international Referee when he was named on the FIFA list in December 2008. Whatever we may think of fast-track promotions



you have to admire those that have the faith in the individuals and to those who actually are promoted.

Stuart was in charge of the Liverpool-Sunderland game on 25 September when [as you probably know by now] Michael Turner, Sunderland having been told a free-kick was to be awarded to his team very casually and half-heartedly passed the ball back to Simon Mignolet, his goal-keeper. But the ball only got half-way; Fernando Torres obeying the natural instincts of a top goal-scorer nipped in and squared the ball for Dirk Kuyt to score. Having watched the game and the innumerable video replays one feels some sympathy for the Sunderland players. But top marks to Liverpool for seizing an opportunity. But what of the referee? He appears to have had his back to the ball [having given the free-kick he naturally wanted to make up some ground further up field] and was moving away. Seemingly, the roar from the crowd signaling something was happening caused Stuart to turn and see Torres *et al* racing towards the Sunderland goal. What would you have done in such circumstances? In spite of managerial protests and criticism in the press I believe he got this right. Law 13 is very clear: *"the kick is taken from the place where the infringement occurred or from the position of the ball when the infringement occurred"* and *"the ball is in play when it is kicked and moves."* If these conditions were met then the referee was correct in allowing the goal. But of course the tabloid press, armchair refereeing experts and managers all disagree. *"The lad was only passing the ball to his keeper for 'im to take the kick! It's obvious init?"* Well of course it isn't and we support the referee for getting the decision right. However, it might be sound practice to always keep an eye on the ball in case a player who doesn't understand the Laws [and there are a few] does something as equally silly as this. Let's ask John Cooke for his views.

**FA National Football Centre:** In my World Cup Report in the ARGUS September issue I speculated that England's abject failure in the competition might be resolved in the longer-term by the recruitment and training of thousands of coaches who perhaps one day would graduate from the long-promised FA National Football Centre, St George's Park which is situated near **Burton-upon-Trent, Staffordshire**. The NFC is due to be completed in 2012 and the site is currently used as the training ground for **Burton Albion**.

I think we all agree that if the following figures reflect the true position then England's prospects in major international competitions will be forever zero unless this idea is implemented. Figures for qualified coaches released in June suggest that Germany had nearly 35,000, Italy 29,400, Spain almost 30,000 and France 17,600 while England had 2,800. So the case is made I believe for a new up-to date NFC as soon as possible as the results may take 5 years to filter down to pitch level. But having spent around £757 million on the new Wembley Stadium the FA is strapped for cash; in fact it is short by some £10 million. Repayments on the outstanding loans for the Wembley build are said to be running at £25 million per annum. Now here is a problem: to help Wembley to break-even it needs to be used as often as possible with as many bums on seats as possible and for as many differing events as possible. But in doing so the playing surface suffers and needs renewing constantly [is it eleven times now at £90,000 a time?] Until the NFC is built and functioning we will remain desperately short of first-class coaches and the performance of our national team is unlikely to improve while that of our rivals such as Germany, France, Spain and Italy moves on.

All of this begs the question I believe "Should we have built the new-Wembley in the first



place when instead England could have continued to play home games in front of enthusiastic fans at Old Trafford, St James's Park, the Emirates Stadium, Stamford Bridge, Stadium of Light, Anfield etc thus bringing the international game to many fans who rarely visit the capital?"

**FUTSAL:** The Society has three-shrinking violets as members [there are probably more] but here I am thinking of our trio of top-class National-Group Futsal referees: **Chris Evans, Peter Georgiou and Chris Phillips**. Try as I might I just cannot get this shy trio to let us have details and photographs of their numerous triumphs in this sphere of football. However Mike Brown, AFA CEO attended the FA Futsal Cup Finals, Sheffield, 10-12 September representing the county which administers the FA Futsal League South and also as a member of the FA Small-Sided Committee which oversees Futsal. What follows is a précis of his report augmented by material from other sources:

"It was pleasing to see that the final was contested by two teams from our own FA Futsal League South which was won in extra time by Helveccia, who once again completed the league and cup double. Our own trio of top referees **Chris Evans, Chris Phillips and Peter Georgiou** officiated. All three survived the Saturday night cut – each referee was assessed on every game and 16 out of 32 survived for finals day on the Sunday. All three were appointed to a men's main competition semi-final. **Chris Phillips and Peter Georgiou** were first and second referee on the third and fourth place men's final while **Chris Evans** was third referee for the men's plate final. Congratulations are due to all.

The next England Futsal International will be in November against Andorra at Loughborough University. It is likely that our own FIFA Futsal Referee, **Aleks Sliva**, may be involved at some stage together with one of our trio. Aleks is currently officiating in Bratislava, Slovakia, on the UEFA Futsal Cup Main Round, Group 1.

For those of you unfamiliar with FUTSAL it is tremendously exciting game of speed and skill with very little in common with the traditional and more agricultural "5 a-side". Refereeing it is very rewarding and there are opportunities to get involved which include training and coaching and progress quickly. Let us hope we can persuade our terrific trio to let us know a little more.

In the meantime should you wish to learn more about Futsal please contact Mike Brown or John Cooke at the AFA.

More details on Futsal competitions can be found at  
[www.thefa.com/Leagues/Futsal%20Leagues](http://www.thefa.com/Leagues/Futsal%20Leagues)  
[www.thefa.com/TheFACup/FACompetitions/TheFAFutsalCup](http://www.thefa.com/TheFACup/FACompetitions/TheFAFutsalCup)  
[www.uefa.com/futsalcup/index.html](http://www.uefa.com/futsalcup/index.html)

**'Enry 'iggins eat your 'eart out:** The distinguished actress Emma Thompson has attracted some criticism of late for her derision of teenagers' use of slang in particular "init" "like" and "well", [as in "well good."] As usual the press has rounded on her as they do on anyone foolish and courageous enough to criticise sloppy use of language or anti-social behaviour labelling them as "toffee-nosed" or "elitist." Now I happen to agree with the lovely Ms Thompson: not that I mind the use of slang in an informal context but I can't stand its use by those who are paid to inform us or whose example influences the masses.

Listening to football correspondents on TV and radio are cases in point and similarly BBC's Match of the Day. We hear endless examples of "*we done*", "*we was*" and puerile phrases such as "*he's got pace*" [for what used to be known as speed] and "*it took a deflection*" when



"it was deflected" would do nicely. Add to this the almost incessant use of "basically" when opening a sentence plus a few "at this moment in time" instead of "now". Similarly, every referee who rules on something the commentator disagrees with is labelled a "Muppet" or is "out of order".

But it is not just those in the sporting world who let down the side. No-one "reports" anything anymore but rather "makes a report", no-one "decides" anymore but "makes a decision" and things are "raised up" and "reduced down". Weather forecasts include such nonsense as "in Scotland it will be cold today and more cold tomorrow and more wet on Saturday" what happened to colder, foggier and wetter?

It is remarkable to listen to the majority of foreign players who when asked on TV or radio for their views on a game reply in near-perfect but accented grammatical English. It is little wonder that the lingua franca of the Arsenal dressing room is French.

I must go now as I appear to have lost my "Grumpy Old Man" badge and I am well upset!

**Beware Ambulance-Chasers:** Let me warn you all not to get involved with ambulance-chasing legal firms. An example might be that during your recent game a player involved in a tackle suffered a broken leg. It was a tragic accident but no-one can be blamed. Enter the ambulance-chasers! They may contact you and try to persuade you to admit that the incident in some way transgressed the LOTG, there was a guilty party and you might just perhaps have penalised him. Should you admit this then you could be dragged into an expensive claim for damages. I believe that official advice may issue in due course however in the meantime should such a thing happen to you then do not commit yourself either way to any third party [in fact tell them to get lost] and refer them to the county FA responsible. You might then sensibly report the matter to that body without delay.

**. . . and finally:** In the September issue my Chairman's Comment posed a question asked during a BBC Radio 5 Live quiz on 23 June 2010 regarding why the kick-off of the 1966 World Cup Final was delayed for 20 minutes. In response to the thousands of enquiries here is the answer: In actual fact the question relates to England's opening game of the 1966 competition on 11 July against Uruguay at Wembley when Istvan Zsolt the Hungarian referee refused to allow England to take the field without first producing their FIFA identity cards issued to meet this contingency. While 87,148 unsuspecting fans and millions of TV viewers waited the late Harold Shepperdson MBE [Alf Ramsey's long-term assistant] with police escort went to the Hendon Hall Hotel to retrieve the passes. So there you are simples!

*Gordon Kirby, Chairman*

## Sex and Football

In the sports section of the Sun Newspaper they've carried out a survey which says most men would rather watch football on TV than have sex.

Why do we have to choose?

That's what half-time is for.

See you about.

*Trevor Weaver*



# **Welcome to**

# **“100 CLUB PLUS”**

## **With Bigger CASH prizes**

The new 100 CLUB PLUS prizes are designed to give more to Society members and to encourage you to attend Society meetings.

Cash prizes will be: £25, £15 and £10 for each draw, but if the winning member is at the meeting when the draw is made prizes will increase:

**From £25 to £40    From £15 to £30    From £10 to £25**

**The cost of each 100 club share is now £12,  
and you can buy as many you like!**

***If you were to attend all the meetings and win the top prize,  
you could come away with £400!!***

**This is the last opportunity to get 100 club shares.**

**The draws will start at the November meeting, where three draws will take place.**

**Shares cost just £12 each and single win will return your money and potentially repay your Society membership.**

**Simply send a cheque made out to: AFA & LONSAR**

**Send, your cheque made out for the number of shares you want to: Errol Walker, the Hon Secretary, whose address is on the back of the ARGUS.**

**Simple maths will let me know how many shares you want!**



# 100 Club, 2010/11

<i>Surname</i>	<i>First Name</i>	<i>No. of Shares</i>	<i>Share Number</i>
Adeoye	Kehinde	1	1
Baxter	Robert	1	2
Berriman	Ian	1	3
Brathwaite	Andrew	1	4
Carney	David	1	5
Carrigan	Mike	1	6
Chapman	Dave	1	7
Cook	Phil	1	8
Cooke	John	1	9
Costelloe	John	1	10
Cunningham	David	1	11
Edwards	Malcolm	1	12
Emery	Terry	1	13
Faithfull	John	1	14
Ferris	Colin	1	15
Gil	Gerard	1	16
Gilchrist	David	1	17
Green	Rodney	1	18
Hemmings	Tony	1	19
Kennedy	Lawrence	1	20
Kerr	Ian	1	21
King	Peter	1	22
Lence	Geoff	1	23
MacGowan	Patrick	1	24
Mariani	Francis	1	25
Maskell	John	1	26
Morrissey	Patrick	1	27
Naylor	Michael	1	28
O'Sullivan	Stephen	1	29
Radford	Graham	1	30
Saunders	Del	1	31
Stemp	Ian	1	32
Taylor	William	1	33
Thomas	John	1	34
Weaver	Trevor	1	35
Beament	Christopher	2	36, 37
Campbell	Ian	2	38, 39
Earls	Derek	2	40, 41
Evans	William	2	42, 43
Evans	Christopher	2	44, 45
Foulston	Michael	2	46, 47
Georgiou	Peter	2	48, 49
Hagger	Neil	2	50, 51
Hale	James	2	52, 53
Hayden	Michael	2	54, 55
Kosciolek	Peter	2	56, 57
Lazarus	David	2	58, 59
Little	David	2	60, 61
O'Toole	Bartholomew	2	62, 63
Skelton	Ken	2	64, 65
Sturges	John	2	66, 67
Walker	Errol	2	68, 69
Wilson	Richard	2	70, 71
Kirby JP	Gordon	5	72, 73, 74, 75, 76
MacRae	Andrew	5	77, 78, 79, 80, 81



# Whistleblower's Opinion

## Modern referees need to understand modern coaching

Much has been written about the World Cup, but the following article by Howard Wilkinson in the latest issue of 'The League Manager' is a good summary of tactical formations in the modern game. Some of it is fairly obvious, but there is no harm in reading what the professionals are saying to each other.

**Why should referees be interested?** Primarily because an understanding of team formations and the resulting patterns of play should determine the referee's positional play, and how the referee interprets events during the game. As an additional benefit, it helps the referee to talk to managers, coaches and players in their own language, and helps break down 'the them and us' syndrome.

**The key learning points for referees** in this article relate to the emphasis modern coaches are placing on fast counter-attacking play. The modern referee needs to understand that teams plan to break from their defensive third. So the old referee instructors' mantra of "Don't play advantage in the defensive third" should be consigned to the dustbin. We should play advantage wherever on the field the team in possession can benefit from that advantage. Further, we need to recognise fouls and blocking (again in whatever position on the field) that are designed to stop the fast break and penalise them as the cynical professional foul that they are.

And we need to have enough officials on each game, fit enough to get into the right positions to match the increasing pace of the game. We all have an individual responsibility to be fit for the game, but the Leagues and County also have a responsibility to players, clubs and referees to ensure that Senior games have the required three officials. While the professional game has moved to 6 match officials at the top level, many of us are on our own on a Saturday. The current situation in the top Division of the Southern Amateur League, where most early season games have been played without appointed linesmen, is causing much frustration amongst players, managers and referees. If the Premier Division of the Amateur Football Combination can provide 3 officials, why can't the SAL do the same? With the faster game being played even at this level, even a super fit referee without assistants cannot hope to get all his offsidess/touchline decisions correct. This causes unnecessary disputes and dissent, and diminishes the reputation of both the League and its referees.

*Patrick Morrissey*

### "How the modern coach might choose and implement a formation"

*Howard Wilkinson - Chairman, League Manager's Association*

THE WORLD CUP in South Africa has generated the usual torrent of post-event discussion, much of it focusing on formations and systems, particularly England's alleged 'rigid adherence to an outmoded 4-4-2'.

The fact is, though, that there is no perfect formation; a system of play should be like a bespoke suit, tailored to the qualities of the players and the demands posed by the



competition. It should provide an organisational structure and framework that will give the team its best chance of winning or (for some) not losing.

Above all, the system must enable a team to be effective in the 'business areas' of the pitch, the attacking and defending thirds.

Possession is important, but goals are critical and we need to know where and how they are scored. Video and statistical analysis of games at the highest level give us the ability to accurately determine:

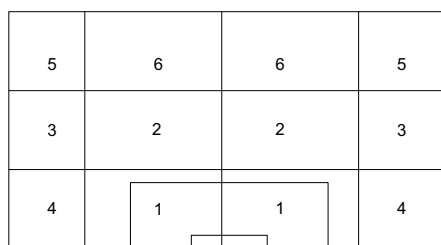
- a) Where and how most goals are scored
- b) Where assists occur
- c) How goals are created
- d) Where turnovers and regains occur
- e) The physical demands on each position
- f) Patterns of passing sequences
- g) Strengths and weaknesses of influential players.

**Law Changes** It's often overlooked, but changes and modifications to the laws of the game – particularly since the 1992/93 season – have played a huge part in the evolution of systems and have had an enormous impact on the way the game is played. The process started with the change to the backpass law, followed by the abolition of taking throw-ins to the goalkeepers' hands and the crackdown on goalkeeper time-wasting. Then came amendments to the offside laws and an increasing awareness of the need to protect and encourage skill by (quite rightly) outlawing the tackle from behind, and cracking down on the professional foul and reckless and violent play. In the five years leading to the World Cup in 1998 the game's profile changed enormously, just as it did when the offside rule was changed in 1925.

The result is a game that has become more stretched (with greater space between the lines of players) and features longer periods of uninterrupted play, as it has become more difficult for defenders to compress space and unfairly stop the game without incurring serious action from the referee. Winning the ball back now requires more clinical judgement and much greater skill. **Consequently, counter-attacking from the middle and defending thirds has become the norm as players have to exercise more patience in terms of winning the ball.**

Ongoing analysis of World Cups, European Championships, the Champions League and Europe's five elite domestic leagues since 1998 has enabled us to identify the critical areas of the pitch that any system needs to address. This analysis shows us the following (see Figure 1 for explanation of area numbers):

**Figure 1: the pitch as numbered areas**



- a) More than 80 per cent of goals are scored in Area 1
- b) Goal assists come mainly from Area 2, Area 3 and, to a lesser degree, Area 4 (assists from Area 2, 'the hole', are now on a par with assists from crosses)
- c) regains in the opponent's half no longer dominate turnovers.

**Counter-attacking from the defending third and Areas 5 and 6 is now a major feature**

- d) distances covered by outfield players (centre-halves apart) have increased significantly.

When you consider these facts, the questions concerning the positional spread of players and the qualities required are, in part, answered for us:

**Defending**

- a) At least two players are needed to defend Area 1
- b) At least one player is needed to deal with assists and strikes from Area 2
- c) Assists from Areas 3 and 4 require a minimum of one player on each side (more probably two).

**Attacking**

- a) At least one player is needed to play and occupy Areas 1 and 2
- b) At least one player is needed to play between the lines and provide a link between striker, midfield and defence. All of which limits our options - we've already used seven players. In this case two options are:
  - (i) a 3-5-2 system

This leaves a team defensively vulnerable in wide areas and makes enormous physical demands on full-backs attacking in wide areas.

or - (ii) a 3-4-3 system

Operating with three centre-backs, no matter how you deploy the rest of the team, will always place enormous pressure on two or three players – attacking and defending – and lead to imbalance in midfield, as Germany eventually realised after their rethink in 2000.

Looking at how the best coaches are operating, it's clear that the spatial priorities of the modern game (in attack and defence) are best served by occupying four at the back, with slight adjustments to the positions in front of them. All the World Cup semi-finalists operated on this basis. This allowed them to:

- a) Attack and defend the critical spaces in numbers
- b) Get numbers up, down and across the pitch very quickly as a flexible unit
- c) Cope with the stretched space between front and back players, by passing, running or dribbling between and through the lines. Having no space behind the back fours demands you play through the opposition, something which Spain showed great mastery of
- d) use 'holding' midfielders to allow full-backs to get forward, while providing security against 'hole' players .

The flexibility and variation of the 21st-century game demands:

- a) Players in all positions comfortable on the ball
- b) Intelligence and technical ability. Thinking/ playing in straight lines doesn't work
- c) Strikers who can operate as 'lone rangers' and, when necessary, rotate with midfielders
- d) Physical preparation to deal with the longer distances and greater intensity of the modern game (especially for midfielders and modern, attacking full-backs). "





## A NEW SEASON - KEEP YOUR MEMBERSHIP UP

A new season is upon us and the Argus has once again dropped on your doorstep.

If you have renewed your membership to the Society you will continue to get Argus, each month, bringing you debate and commentary on the world of football from the perspective of the referee.

For those of you unable to attend our monthly meetings, Argus keeps you up to date with what is happening in the Society and in your local football.

If you have not yet renewed your membership, this copy of Argus is being sent to you as a reminder to rejoin us. Pass this magazine on to a colleague.

If the October Argus does not come to you personally and your membership has been renewed then this will also be a prompt to get in touch to find out what has happened.

To renew your membership, send a cheque, made out to AFALONSAR, for £31 to Errol Walker at the address on the back of the Argus. If you have some other problem with your membership, then contact Errol.

We value your continued membership of the Society and we hope to see you at Society meetings.

***Errol Walker, Hon. Secretary***

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## The Jabulani World Cup ball - was it a problem?

By Stanley Lover

During the 2010 FIFA World Cup the media reported complaints from players about the official tournament ball – the Jabulani.

FA President Sepp Blatter kindly sent me a match ball and I can see why some players call it a 'beach ball'. It is handsome, with a plasticky feel despite tiny surface ribs - like Morse Code dashes or long goose-pimples - added to a completely smooth skin to provide 'grip'.

It appears lighter but it has to be within official weight limits to bear the FIFA Approved quality logo.

It continues the trend of using synthetic casings in place of leather. The manufacturers Adidas say the ball is as near perfection as man can devise 'to suit the modern fast game and give the players a ball that is as precise as they are'. Also, 'It is perfectly spherical, aerodynamically-tested, with unparalleled accuracy and consistency.'





Each of the eight panels are spherically moulded and thermally bonded, so eliminating the slight stretch flexibility of sewn models.

Therein lies the 'problem'. To maintain its shape it needs high pressure, at or near the maximum of 1.1atmos.

'Too hard' say some, particularly when used on hard surfaces. True. Players cannot produce their skills properly with a high bouncing ball.

So many matches ruined by hard balls on hard grounds.

When football is played on pitches varying from sticky mud to reinforced concrete it is not rocket science to advise referees to match the ball pressure to the pitch surface. That helps players show their proper skills.

The 2010 pitches were mainly loose sods laid on a firm base which tended to 'roll-up' or dislodge large divots when players made sliding tackles. Excessive bounce was rarely a factor in problems of ball control.

The 'perfect' ball needs perfect striking from 'perfect' players. The short answer to critics is that the players did not adapt to the characteristics of the hyper-active ball. Although available for months before the tournament it seems that coaches did not insist on serious practice to make the most of its unique qualities.

In South Africa, at dozens of important free kicks taken from scoring positions around the penalty areas, the ball was blasted over the large goal target by high profile players who had not learned to be more subtle with their striking technique.

Slow-motion replays showed the ball in back-spin mode, indicating contact below the centre of gravity which imparted a soaring trajectory over the bar. Very few players managed a top-spin shot to dip behind defensive walls and within the goal target frame. They did, at least, prove that it could be done.

An even more important observation was that long passes and crosses were frequently overweighted, putting target players out of the game and ruining



potential goal chances. In just three matches I noted a total of 56 – yes, 56! – such occasions.

A few goalkeepers claimed the ball was unfair because ‘it wobbles in the air’. But, observations of many slow motion replays of shots on goal did not provide evidence to support that claim. It is probable that the circular rings marked on the ball give an illusion of wobble when spinning from off-centre contact.

Ironically, goalkeepers should have been happy, given the wild shooting attributed to the mysterious ways of the Jabulani ball.

Some players mastered its qualities but most had too little time to adapt in the tournament. Complaints about ball behaviour served only as a smokescreen for imperfect technique.

In conclusion, the thought occurs that players at world level, paid fortunes, ought to be better at their job instead of blaming their tools.

The Jabulani did not disappear after the tournament; it can be seen in some of the current European Championship games where Adidas balls are provided. Judge for yourself its reaction on firm to hard surfaces and whether the players know how to weigh their long passes and shots on goal.

Greetings to all AFALonsar members.

*Stanley*

## **THE FREE KICK – IS IT REALLY FREE**

Once again we have very controversial Sunday/Monday articles in the national press, regarding free kicks.

I am aware, mainly from reading the Argus, and Society meetings, that it is not necessary for the referee to "blow" for a free kick to be taken.

However what authority has a referee to stop the attacking team from taking a free kick, by indicating, eg touching his whistle, I have even seen cautions issued when this has happened.

The term "free kick" as I would interpret the phrase, means that the offended team are "free" to take the kick when ever they wish, and the referee is to ensure that he is in the correct visual position to maintain control in whatever situation results from the kick. (One would of course exclude injury to players etc.)

It seems that many referees are now following actions of referees at senior level, who have "invented" the above, mainly to ensure that they have time to see incidents near to the goal, and gain an advantage to which they are not entitled.

I have done no research on this matter, but it may stir someone to give a valued reply.

*Peter Tadman, Long since retired*



# UK Refereeing Issues

I am delighted to have had the opportunity to officiate in London during the second half of the past season and it has been quite an 'eye-opener'. During this time I asked to be assigned to a variety of levels within the AFA and SAL and therefore controlled matches from local Premier League down to Division 5.

Over recent years I have officiated mostly in Australia in a local Premier League in the Eastern Suburbs FA. That league boasts prize money and is therefore what one might call 'semi professional'. I have also officiated in some international tournaments in Australia and Cambodia.

I have produced a comprehensive report and sent this to several FAs in an attempt to stimulate debate and improve recruitment and retention. Below is a small selection of some of my observations.

## 1. Isolation

I must say that the most striking aspect of my refereeing in London has been the almost total isolation from other referees. In Australia not only do we have vibrant monthly branch meetings that host male and female referees aged from 14-60, more importantly we officiate in teams every weekend.

By this I mean that multiple matches are played each Saturday and Sunday on multiple pitches in the one area. This means that we can deploy senior and junior referees together thereby delivering a team experience for our referees. This adds significantly to the enjoyment of our role whilst providing the added benefit of 'on the job' instruction for our junior referees.

Match scheduling in the AFA and SAL competitions seems to concentrate on single matches per pitch. Given the scarcity of referees this makes it impossible to send a team of three officials to one match.

We referees are human too and it is always better to officiate with ARs not only to deliver a better service to the players but also to add to our fun in a social pursuit.

Loneliness for referees, or perhaps better put, the absence of a team experience, reduces the enjoyment and will, I submit, be yet another reason for our numbers to decrease.

## 2. Segregation of Junior referees

The effective segregation of junior from senior referees increases the pressures on the young referees and reduces information exchange. Most importantly it isolates referees and this in itself is a principal catalyst for abuse of officials in that it reduces the role of the official and makes accurate rulings harder.

I am used to the deployment of quality junior referees, aged 15-18, as ARs with senior referees as mentors in senior matches.

Scheduling matches sequentially, that is KOs at say 1pm and 3pm (or 12 and 2pm in the middle of winter) would allow three officials to be sent to these matches – two senior referees and a junior. The two seniors each control one centre whilst the junior runs the line in both matches.



Rescheduling of match times would deliver the following obvious benefits:

- 2.1 Full compliment of officials delivering better decision-making;
- 2.2 Reduction of abuse as a result of more accurate offside decisions and field coverage;
- 2.3 Mentoring and 'on the job' instruction for the junior referee by two seniors;
- 2.4 Improved enjoyment for Referees as they return to a TEAM experience.

Many will argue that it has always been the case that matches are played at 3pm on a Saturday or that fields cannot cope with sequential matches in winter and will become unplayable.

Contra, if no changes are made referee numbers and enjoyment will continue to fall and secondly there are many fields that boast multiple pitches and, if necessary, different pitches could be used for each match. More games opportunity will bring out more officials particularly when travel is required.

### 3. Abuse of Match Officials

The main cause of abuse of match officials stems from a lack of Respect of authority in society today. The isolation of referees in grass roots football under current policies exacerbates the potential for abuse.

I have found that the dissent in the London leagues is some of the worst I have experienced anywhere in the world. Some of it is subtle however it is relentless and clearly targeted at gaining an advantage.

Just as any sports team derives 'strength' from its unity, so do match officials. By completely isolating referees from each other not only does this undermine confidence, it also significantly reduces the fun element.

Let's be honest, teams generally do not want to mix with the single match official at the end of the game as there is generally one team that will harbour at least minor grievances against that official for his/her decision-making. This means that the official has very limited opportunity to socialise within this football experience and without this element one does question why we give our time to such a pursuit.

By allowing referees to attend matches as a 'Team" this will increase both the confidence and performance of officials and significantly increase the enjoyment factor. It will have the added benefit of providing the best training course for young referees by pairing them with experienced seniors.

### 4. Recommendations

- 4.1 Integrate junior & senior referee organisations to allow relationship building and mentoring.
- 4.2 Revise match scheduling to 1pm and 3pm KOs on a single ground/location so as to allow a team of three officials at as many matches as possible.
- 4.3 Build image of Referees and make it a 'cool' pursuit.

**David P. Lewis**

*Chair, ESFA Referees 2009, Chair, ESFA Judiciary Committee 2005-2008  
Chair FNSW Appeals Committee 2007-09, Email: david@scgroup.biz*



# OFFSIDE – HOCKEY'S SOLUTION

Earlier this year, it was reported that Sepp Blatter, President of FIFA, was in talks with the President of the International Hockey Federation about its decision in 1998 to scrap offside. Now Sepp often wakes up in the morning with a bright idea such as tight shorts for women players and larger goals to increase goalscoring. [His latest brainwave, the idea of not allowing draws in the group stages of the World Cup finals in order to overcome defensive play beggars belief]. However, having heard that the abolition of offside has improved the game of hockey, I felt it was worth further investigation.

Of all sports, hockey is probably the easiest to understand for football people. It has the same number of players, they occupy roughly the same positions and the pattern of play is similar. Although my own experience is limited to having played just once and watching on television every four years during the Olympic Games I feel that I can understand the game to a certain extent.

The history of the offside rule in hockey also has parallels with football: in 1876, when the rules were first published, an attacking player was offside if the ball was behind him and there were fewer than three defenders between him and the goal he was attacking – this rule applied to anywhere on the pitch. In 1886 an amendment was made so that a player could only be offside in the opponent's half. It was not until 1972 that offside was changed from three to two defenders [1925 in football]. 1987 brought a further change in that an attacking player could only be offside if less than 25 yards from the opponent's the goal line. 'No offside' was introduced as an experiment in 1996 and finally adopted two years later. The purpose was described as follows:

- To transfer the balance of power towards attacking play
- To create more space around the circle and mid-field
- To help the flow of play, more goals and less whistle
- To make the game more exciting and appealing to spectators.

If the above criteria were applied to football then it would appear that the game would become more open and interesting.

However, such a view overlooks a most salient point. In hockey, the ball remains mostly on the ground and is certainly very difficult to pass and control when in the air. This has meant that the chances of passing accurately to 'goal-hangers' are minimal and, in effect, such players do not exist in hockey. Attacking players are therefore free to exploit space without the risk of being caught offside and, my research has shown, that the game has become more open and exciting.

I would contend though that if such freedom were allowed to attacking players in football then tall, physical players would be stationed in front of the opponent's goal and a continuous succession of long balls would be played to them. An example of attacking play without offside is a Rory Delap throw-in and, with due respect to the clubs' followers, matches would be like watching Stoke City against any team managed by Sam Allardyce. Lost forever would be the art of creating space, the defence splitting pass and the well timed run.

The present offside Law in football comes under frequent criticism [or rather the different interpretations]. I do believe that as it stands now it is an improvement on anything that has gone before. Just a little more thought maybe about what 'involved in active play' means and, in this respect, a slightly less liberal view by match officials at the highest level, and the case for its retention is made.

*Old Highburian*



## WHY BOTHER TO REGISTER? [PART 23]

*The following has been received from a colleague referee:*

“I wish to make further comment on the “Why Bother to Register” debate that has been included in your last two editions. My background is that I qualified as an AFA referee in 1998, shortly after sustaining a serious footballing injury at the age of 38, having played for an SAL club for the previous ten years. I felt it was time to hang up the playing boots and genuinely give something back to the game. After my first season I decided that I no longer wished to do the circuit, and confined myself to be a club referee at the aforementioned SAL club, where I have been actively refereeing ever since.

I maintained my registration with the AFA until a few seasons ago when the CRB and Child Protection legislation was applied. On a personal level, I felt that these new checks were way over the top for someone who never referees children’s football, and I had no wish to partake in this exercise in political correctness. So I eventually became ineligible for registration, as I believe many others did. I continue to referee at a club level, generally picking up lower XI SAL games.

Having read John Cooke’s comments, it appears that I:

- Am a rogue referee
- Give referees a bad name
- Am liable to be charged with misconduct
- Am prostituting my body and am a parasite on the game

And all this happened overnight, as my application for registration was welcomed previously! I also don’t recall ever seeing anyone in your magazine prior to this legislation calling for it to be introduced. Perhaps someone has some stats on what these CRB checks have actually achieved? I might also add that I used to be a full member of the AFARS (as was) and switched to magazine subscription only after the change.

Whilst I can understand some of John’s more sensible points, he knows that if his (and the FA’s) efforts to drive out unregistered referees were to succeed, then the logical conclusion would be that the lower leagues of (e.g.) the SAL would not survive – as there would be no-one to officiate. Another nail in the coffin of grass roots football (but what did the FA ever know about that?).

However, I now know where I stand within your Society. I found John’s views to be particularly offensive, and regret that I will not renew my subscription next season.”

***John Johnson***

### ***Gordon Kirby replies***

I shall writing to John shortly along the following lines:

“This debate has attracted a good deal of interest which I hope all our members are following and may offer a view. The Society is always interested in members opinions on a wide range of topics raised in the ARGUS. This one is of particular interest.

I am very grateful to John for his e-mail. His argument is lucid and cogent. For entirely personal reasons he decided to let his referee registration lapse; I believe he has



overlooked some important points in the argument. In his contribution in the last issue John Cooke, RDO, AFA set out clearly the disadvantages of not registering. These were set out in bullet-points on page 30 and are repeated below and need no further comment.

I was recently in a crowded dressing-room with around 10 referees who, like me, had either just finished an early kick-off, or were about to referee later games. Among us was an aged colleague wearing the oldest-looking kit I had ever seen with a county badge [which I shall not identify.] I sensed there was something odd when he asked whether there had been any changes “in the rules.” A conversation ensued with another colleague during which he opined that he didn’t go along with “this new offside rule” and admitted that he had forgotten for which offences indirect free-kicks were awarded under the “rules” so didn’t award any.

There is a fair chance that this referee had let his registration lapse some time ago [the state of his kit, lack of up-to-date knowledge of the Law changes, reference to “rules” and a general unawareness of the Laws] or had never qualified. But someone had appointed him to a game. I didn’t hang around to see how he performed, I hope he did well, but if my suspicions are justified what was he hiding? And apart from him not knowing the Laws [and as a result he could not have performed well thus damaging all our reputations] he would not have been covered by third-party liability. If he had been assaulted he would not have been supported or covered by the county FA.

I have reservations about the CRB system particularly if the referee concerned does not do junior football. Why I wonder didn’t The FA ask referees to declare whether they wished to do junior football and if so they would be CRB-checked? If they passed muster they would be issued with a special referees’ badge [perhaps the usual County Badge with a distinguishing additional mark] but something to single them out as referees qualified to do junior games. The rest of us, the majority in fact, would continue doing adult football and be unchecked thus saving millions of pounds, thousands of hours of wasted time and hundreds of good referees who have taken the line John has and left the RA and their local referees’ society.

The Independent Safeguarding Authority which manages a CRB data-base of some 11 million people [including referees, scout-masters, school-teachers, swimming instructors, even magistrates] is rumoured to have spent around £1,000 million in setting up this Orwellian watch-dog. With some 30,000 referees under the microscope are the cost and the hassle worth the risk and the offence caused to so many for so few offenders? How many good and decent colleagues have taken the stand John has not that they have anything to hide but simply because they felt CRB was too intrusive and completely unnecessary?

There are opposing schools of thought on CRB-checking, among them: “those with nothing to hide have nothing to fear” and “this is a massive intrusion into my private affairs, it smacks of Big Brother and is a waste of money.” I agree that it is largely a waste of money and could have been done in another far cheaper way. I sympathise with John and all other club referees in his position. But I am afraid we will have to put up with the status quo until such time as the legislation is changed [and there is a move to do this I believe.] Perhaps commonsense will come to bear in the end?



For club referees, who don't register with a county FA, don't keep up with the changes in the laws of the game and who are uninsured then perhaps it would be fairer that their match fee is standardized at say a maximum of £20, so that there is recognition of lesser qualification, registration and administration costs compared to the registered referee, and an ongoing incentive for unregistered referees to become registered. I do not doubt the honourable intentions of club referees without whom the lower echelons of grass roots football would collapse. But shouldn't we all be looking to raise standards of refereeing and not participate in their decline?

believe that club referees should be encouraged to take a basic referees training course and the examination, to register or re-register with a county, the RA and local referee's society. We would all be winners by having these colleagues back in the refereeing community and particularly by an improvement in the standard of refereeing. And this fine band of unofficial-referees might enjoy the feeling of personal pride in doing a job not only well but better and certainly up to the required minimum standard.

So, why not register, it costs around just one match fee? So why not take, or in John's case, retake the referees' basic training course for a net cost of two match fees?

I hope John sees the dilemma county FAs, cup competitions and the RA face in respect of non-registered referees and decent honest club referees. And I hope he continues with his Society membership and renews his county registration.

*Gordon Kirby, Chairman*

### ***Just to remind you John Cooke's points were:***

- If you don't, you become an unregistered referee, and after two years a lapsed referee who ceases to be a qualified referee who would then have to retake the exam as a minimum in order to re-register. Any reluctance to submit to a CRB check should start alarm bells ringing;
- As well as not receiving any Law amendments and falling behind on up-to-date interpretations, you would not be covered by public liability insurance and would lay yourself open to being sued personally in the event of an injury occurring to a player through either a lack of duty of care or even an assault by another player;
- In the event that you are assaulted you would not have the support of the county FA or be covered by insurance;
- The best games will always be covered by registered referees, so you would limit the quality of your appointments;
- If a registered referee becomes available then you may get bounced off a fixture you have been appointed at late notice and not be able to find a replacement game;
- If match fees are not paid then the appointing club may be the only avenue for restitution;
- The opportunity for in-service training is no longer available, neither the route for glory in county cup appointments;
- And you lay yourself open to the assertion that you are prostituting your body only for money and are parasites "on the game" - in both senses of the word.



# THE WISDOM OF STEVE BENNETT

(Kingston Referees' Society Sept 2010)

With just a handful of video clips Steve stimulated group and plenary discussion which helped all of us clarify our thinking about dealing with particular match play situations. The whole session was both thoroughly entertaining, enjoyable and constructive.

## The Management of Penalty Kicks

- The first requirement is to deal with the goalkeeper, moving him back to his line.
- Then the identification of the kicker and the placement of the ball can be dealt with.
- Lastly, before signalling for the kick to be taken, a check can be made that all players are outside the penalty area and behind the ball.
- It is important that no players are behind the referee at the taking of the kick.

## The Playing of Advantage

- Possession is not advantage. Will there be an advantage for the team, not just for the player with the ball?
- In the attacking third a free kick in the middle of the pitch is probably better than possession on the wing.
- There can never be an advantage in the defending third.
- Never play advantage on a red card offence unless the ball is about to be tapped into the goal.
- Some teams (perhaps with big attackers) would always rather have free kicks than advantages.
- In general, if players don't complain about the way you are playing advantage, you must be getting it right.

## Corner Kicks

- Require the referee's presence, his voice and his proactive management of the situation.
- Intervention before the kick can help avoid problems as the ball arrives.
- Changing position before and as the kick is taken can improve the viewing position.
- An initial position around the "D" looking in is best.
- Attacker in front of Goalkeeper needs to be monitored.

## In General

- Expect the unexpected.
- Only give major decisions if you are certain.
- Take immediate and clear control of attacking free kicks around the edge of the penalty area.
- Be strong.
- Be Brave.

*Jim de Rennes (Kingston RS)*



## 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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# **MINUTES OF THE SOCIETY MEETING ON THURSDAY 9 SEPTEMBER 2010**

The meeting began at 7:15 with Chairman Gordon noting apologies from John Cooke, Robert Hanison and David Cunningham. He welcomed members to the first meeting of the season and confirmed whether all members received copies of ARGUS, offering spares if needed, and he reminded members to renew their Society subscriptions if we not already. Any who had subscribed but not received membership cards or ARGUS should notify the Hon Secretary Errol Walker. Gordon asked members meeting refereeing colleagues who had not renewed to persuade them to do so.

Guest speaker Ray Olivier had regrettably had to withdraw to attend a farewell party at the FA, having just been recruited to the PGMO commencing the following Monday. Gordon hoped he would be with us later in the season. At short notice Peter Georgiou, Deputy Society Training Officer had agreed to step in, but as a senior Futsal referee, he and Society members Chris Phillips and Chris Evans, were all currently engaged in The FA Futsal Cup in Sheffield, for which Gordon had wished them every success on behalf of the Society. Errol Walker had kindly stepped in as Speaker and had chosen the topic of referee and assistant referee co-operation.

There were special welcomes to four new friends and members:

Louise Pantelli, registered with Hertfordshire FA who officiates in midweek football, the FA Premier Academy and women's football

Tony Lord from New Zealand, who trained in London in 1982

Tunde Yokosiumumu from Nigeria who came to UK 2003. He has played football, qualified as a referee and joined the Society

Derek Earls – a long standing Society member currently engaged as director of security for a major US professional basketball team in Dallas Texas.

Gordon invited those with RA-FA logbooks to ask a Committee member to initial their entries for tonight. We have no kit and supplies officer there and so there were no RA supplies on sale. Gordon asked members to consider whether they could help with this, perhaps in conjunction with a fellow member. If 2 members shared the task it would involve attending only 5 meetings each throughout the season.

Gordon asked whether members had received an e-mail trigger message about tonight's meeting. Less than half had received it. He asked whether Argus was appreciated. Peter King said it was outstanding and he respected the efforts of those who written put articles for it. Gordon said it was a bumper edition with much written about the World Cup. An article headed "Why Bother To Register?" took up 3 pages of interesting debate and Gordon initiated by Denis Breeding. Gordon thanked John Cooke for his views as RDO for the AFA and finally FA Head of refereeing Ian Blanchard for his the words from on high.

Finally Gordon took the opportunity to renew a message about ARGUS's editorial policy. Essentially, if an article is football-related, engaging, non-racial, non-sexist, not insulting or offensive and is interesting in itself [rather than parroting something read



elsewhere] then we will print it, relying heavily on the decency and common-sense of our members.

Concern was expressed at the number of unregistered referees performing in AFA affiliated football matches. Bart O'Toole said AFA football depended heavily in these people to cover lower level league games where the competitions had no referees and they provided an invaluable service, although registered referees were always to be preferred. The competitions were not allowed to appoint unregistered referees to games, and so having appointed all the referees on their list for any day they would tell their clubs to find 'club' referees for their lower games. The clubs would then appoint friends, supporters or former referees who are no longer registered. Patrick Morrissey said our level of AFA football could not survive without the club referees.

Gordon confirmed that he was not suggesting that club referees should never officiate, but warned of the risk of clubs appointing a tiny minority of persons whose backgrounds had not been checked. Errol Walker said it was for the clubs to ensure referees are CRB checked if dealing with children. Patrick said it is not contravening the laws of the game or competition rules to appoint them. He asked whether are we able to verify the accuracy of the article by Denis Breadding claiming that the competition in question had appointed unregistered referees? Gordon said it was likely that they had not been appointed by the league. Ian Blanchard had written to say leagues should not appoint non-qualified referees.

Gordon asked what we thought of the World Cup. Bart O'Toole said for him one of the main highlights was to have team of 3 English match officials in the final, whom he felt had outstanding tournaments including the final itself which was such a difficult game, but they had controlled it with great success. There was general agreement on how well Howard and his team had performed and how poorly the Dutch team had behaved in the final. Pat McGowan felt the overall standard of officiating was quite good but Holland's performance in the Final was disappointing. Peter Kosciolk asked whether we had asked Howard to come again as our Guest Speaker. Gordon referred to his report in Argus. The RA is now accepting applications for Guest Speakers refereeing at the top level, acting as a filter for PGMO. Gordon had asked for Howard, Mike Mullarky or Darren Cann. He was applying now for Speakers from January onwards.

There was much criticism of the new RA logo. It was described as aggressive rather than calming, which would have been more appropriate for match officials. Bart explained that it was designed by a well-established professional who chaired another large Referees' Society and had spent many hours unpaid on the final design which was approved by the Board, and he himself had voted in support.

Steve Tate asked about RA-FA and what it would be doing now that it had replaced FAMOA. Discussion on this matter was postponed until later, time permitting.

### **Guest Speaker Errol Walker**

Gordon then introduced Guest Speaker Errol Walker - Society Secretary, level 4 referee for 3 years and FA Licensed Instructor.

Errol split the meeting into 2 groups of assistants and Referees and gave them each refereeing and lining scenarios to considered, with 10 minutes discussion time, then asked for



feedback

### ***Scenario 1***

The assistant referee sees an incident in the 5th minute of the game and flags for a penalty when the referee had not awarded a penalty. Errol asked:-

- Who would want the assistant referee to flag for the penalty?
- Who saw the incident [answer - the assistant referee]
- Who reacted [answer- the player fouled]
- Was the referee glaring at the assistant [answer - no]
- How do you think the defending team will react to your flag? [poorly]

Errol said this makes it difficult for the assistant referee. It showed the referee trusts his assistant and that the same action will have to be taken for any similar incident. He asked: What's going to happen to that referee for the next 85 minutes? John Costelloe emphasised the fact that nobody else saw it. Errol asked: Is it an assistant referee's job to spot things like is that no-one else is ever going to see?

### ***Scenario 2***

An incident occurs in the view of the assistant referee who believes the referee spun around and did not see it. Should he signal the referee?

It was suggested that the assistant referee should raise his flag, and speak to the referee and be clear about what he saw. If it's a reckless challenge or one involving excessive force the benches will be up in arms. Errol asked: 'Does the referee want the flag?' He suggested 'Yes because the referee's missed it and wants the assistant referee to flag about what's happened'. If the assistant referee does not assist, what does it do to your match control? Will there be retaliation, will the bench go ballistic? Will the referee have lost control? It will also depend on the pre-match instructions.

### ***Scenario 3***

Strong language is used towards the assistant referee who then reports it to the referee.

It was suggested that if the referee is satisfied it is offensive abusive or insulting the player should be sent off. Errol asked 'If the assistant referee tells the referee he wants to get rid of the manager what does the referee say?' It was suggested that you find out what the manager actually said. Tony Lord said the assistant referee has to give the facts to the referee and he then decides what to do. Errol asked: Who do people expect to take the decision? [Answer - the referee]. As the referee do you expect them to calm down?

Errol then discussed team work, asking 'when does it start' and suggesting it begins with the pre-match instructions. He asked 'What does it do', suggesting it sets standards, tolerance, establishes trust and communication. It sets roles and responsibilities and expectations as to what's going to happen in the event of an incident. Errol asked 'what does the assistant referee have to take from it?' He should accept his role as an assistant referee. When you first start assisting – everything you've done till then is to be the referee. But as an assistant referee you have to take a different position as subordinate to another person. If there is a little tug on a forward in the penalty area and you're the only person who sees it and



no-one reacts and you give a penalty, all hell breaks loose! It's not about what you see it's about what's credible and what can be sold.

Patrick Morrissey suggested if you instruct people to do that you are denying your role as an instructor. Errol said the decision has to be one which can be sold. The pre-briefing would be say to 'give decisions 20m in front of you within your zone of credibility. If I'm waving you away I don't want to see it. If you're the only one who's seen it o surprise I don't want you coming ... no surprises'

The key point is credibility. The question is 'should we bend the law for the sake of credibility?' Errol suggested we have 3 separate games: (1) grass roots; (2) semi-pro; (3) professional. But people watch TV and assume the same laws apply. Richard Wilson suggested Errol was taking pragmatism too far and this would move too far away from the laws of the game. Errol said he had changed his opinions since moving to level 4. The assistant referee really has credibility only with the challenges in front of the bench and in his zone up to 20m away from his position.

Bart O'Toole referred to a recent Contributory game where believed that a foul was committed inside the penalty area for which the attacking team appealed for a penalty kick, but the referee was placed slightly closer to it than him and signalled that it was not a penalty. The referee later claimed to have looked across to Bart briefly for a signal but that was not at all apparent to him, and he did not signal penalty as he felt it would have undermined the referee. After the game both teams, the referee assessor and coach commented that it should have been a penalty. Should Bart have signalled the penalty to the referee even going against his signal? Would that have left the team more credible or less? Errol agreed it would have undermined the referee, whether or not it should have been a penalty, although it would also depend on his instructions.

When lining Errol once saw a dive which the referee gave a free kick but he as assistant referee did not flag. The referee would not have wanted him to give that flag. Briefings will often say "If I'm going to hang myself, let me hang myself", but referees don't want their assistant referees to hang them. We need to understand what the team's roles are and to accept them.

In one game Errol gave a decision the right way but against his assistant referee, but he undermined his assistant referee. Trust is important because the referee knows what to expect – as was evident in the World Cup. Errol went out with the same referee for much of last season. "It's about teamwork and it seems a massive mindset change for me" he said. "There are lots of assistants that don't accept that role. It's about making it work."

Thanking Errol for his talk Gordon said it was thought provoking and again said thanks for stepping in as Speaker for the evening. The presentation was clear and well thought out. His convictions were very definite indeed. Patrick Morrissey joked 'If you hold to that you will be convicted!'

Gordon added that this illustrates the vast difference between what level 4s do and the rest of us!

The raffle was drawn and Gordon confirmed that we are back at Chadwick Street for our next meeting on Thursday 14 October when our guest speaker will be Referees' Association Chairman Alan Poulain.

***Bart O'Toole***





## With apologies to all blonds . . .

Three blondes were all applying for the last available position on the Texas Highway Patrol. The detective conducting the interview looked at the three of them and said, "So y'all want to be cops, huh?" The blondes all nodded.

The detective got up, opened a file drawer, and pulled out a folder. Sitting back down, he opened it, pulled out a picture, and said, "To be a detective, you have to be able to detect. You must be able to notice things such as distinguishing features and oddities like scars and so forth."

So saying, he stuck the photo in the face of the first blonde and withdrew it after about two seconds. "Now," he said, "did you notice any distinguishing features about this man?" The blonde immediately said, "Yes, I did. He has only one eye!" The

detective shook his head and said, "Of course he has only one eye in this picture! It's a profile of his face! You're dismissed!" The first blonde hung her head and walked out of the office.

The detective then turned to the second blonde, stuck the photo in her face for two seconds, pulled it back, and said, "What about you? Notice anything unusual or Outstanding about this man?" "Yes! He only has one ear!" The detective put his head in his hands and exclaimed, "Didn't you hear what I just told the other lady? This is a profile of the man's face! Of course you can only see one ear! You're excused too!" The second blonde sheepishly walked out of the office.

The detective turned his attention to the third and last blonde and said, "This is probably a waste of time, but...." He flashed the photo in her face for a couple of seconds and withdrew it, saying, "All right, did you notice anything distinguishing or unusual about this man?" The blonde said, "I sure did. This man wears contact lenses." The detective frowned, took another look at the picture, and began looking at some of the papers in the folder. He looked up at the blonde with a puzzled expression and said, "You're absolutely right! His bio says he wears contacts! How in the world could you tell that by looking at his picture?"

The blonde rolled her eyes and said, "Well, with only one eye and one ear, he certainly can't wear glasses."

