

Reading Referees' Association

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READING REFEREE

Editor - Brian Palmer

December 1998/January 1999

Assistant Editor - John Moore

Volume XLII No 3

Editorial

Well, I hope you enjoyed all the festivities and you are not too much bigger round the waistline to get your shorts on.

This is the period of resolutions and I usually avoid making them for the obvious reason. I do however have a few relevant hopes for the New Year.

My first is that the Reading RA website will actually appear. The delay has been 'for reasons outside our control' but it is coming.

My next is that National RA will actually look at itself critically and realise that you can't ask the people who at present have the power and control to think creatively about reforms which might take their privileges away from them. And having looked and seen, that they will actually do something about it.

My third and last is that the FA will do the same. The scandal and subsequent departure of Graham Kelly are a heaven-sent opportunity to tackle the structural dinosaur that governs our footballing lives. Imagine an FA in partnership with the RA, full of initiatives for improving the lot of referees, with referees backed up to the hilt, cherished and financially rewarded. And then wake up.

All the best for 1999.

Opinions expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the Reading RA
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MONTHLY MEETINGS

November

Second meeting at Madejski and around 50 members in attendance. The Secretary had listed correspondence on the agenda and attention was drawn to the resignation of Vice Chairman Cliff Watkins owing to the pressure of other commitments. A letter of thanks had been sent but the Chairman added further personal thanks to Cliff for his contribution.

It was reported that the Reading Football League was investigating the problems at Clayfield Copse. Hurst had been instructed to get a water supply installed or they would have to be excluded from the league. Martin Shearn reported faulty pitch markings at Pangbourne. He also queried the numbering of substitute goalkeepers (the league rules expect subs to be numbered 12 or above).

Peter Pittaway reported from the Sunday League that the problems of Christchurch and King's Meadow were being pursued with the Council. Referees were still not sending in reports. Women's Football was being supported to the tune of £14,000 (£7,000 each from the FA and CFA). Members were encouraged to try their hand (at refereeing women's games). Peter also reported an on-going problem with Dee Road who were way behind with the payment of dues and might have to be suspended. He hoped not. A member related the conclusion to a League Disciplinary Hearing. He had reported a club linesman for using bad language at him. As there was no corroboration, the League has just issued a warning. Members emphasised that the correct procedure is to inform the CFA who might have taken different action.

Committee member Karl Wilson announced the formation of a Junior Section he would be convening for younger referees (up to age 19 or 20) whose needs it was felt might well be different from those of older members. He was looking to the younger members themselves for input as to how the section should function.

In answer to a member's question it was reported that our request for an increase in CFA fees was with the County RA, which had been gathering information about other fees in the B & B to help make the case. The request would be made to County FA at the next joint meeting.

Ken Clarke reminded members of the 1 December meeting of mentors with the candidates completing the present course. He needed more mentors given the size of the group and asked for volunteers. (of any class and some experience).

Malcolm Garstang drew attention to his colourful stock of Fox whistles at bargain prices.

Problem Spot

More like advice from Ken Clark on the general problem of judging a pitch fit or unfit in wet weather. Main points were get there early; use a ball if you can and certainly wear appropriate footwear; check out the whole pitch (you have to for safety anyway); see the lines are adequate to play the game (consensus was that the pitch area lines plus the centre line and penalty boxes would be enough at a pinch).

The second half was a forum of managers and the MD of a Nationwide (ex-Premiership) club. Terry Brown (Hayes), Nicky Collier (ex-Bracknell Town) and Phil Alexander, MD of Crystal Palace. Tommy Burns had had to decline as he was down the corridor at a Sportsmen's Dinner.

The panellists were asked a number of questions about football and refereeing. They were very frank in response and even when critical (a lot of the time) they were tolerant and good humoured. Although, naturally enough, they did not always agree with each other, there was consensus on some key issues. They thought, on balance, that referees made a pretty good job of a thankless task. Although Nicky actually said the standard of refereeing was 'woeful', from what he said later it seemed to have been facetious. He laid the blame for problems firmly at the door of the managers.

All were agreed that TV in particular had increased pressure on referees because of the detailed scrutiny and constant analysis. They thought it unhelpful to the game and they certainly did not favour big-screen playbacks. Particularly at Premiership level, referees were forced to act according to the letter rather than the spirit of the Law. They wanted referees to have more scope to use their common sense at all levels.

Other dislikes included: referees influenced by pressure from the crowd or the players; referees who are too lenient with serious foul play e.g. the yellow rather

than the red card for pulling a player down; referees who do not insist on ten yards (“if they can’t judge it, issue them with an electronic measurer”).

On balance Terry and Phil were in favour of full-time professional referees. Phil thought they would have more time to analyse and understand the laws, to reflect on their performance and to get themselves fitter. Terry saw career structure as a way to get refereeing prestige and to get youngsters committed. The serious downside would be the assessor in the stand for every game. This would make referees keep even more to the letter of the Law which he deplored. Phil did not believe professional referees would make any difference.

A number of innovations were proposed which seemed to find favour with members: the 10-yard sanction for dissent as in rugby; an electronic aid for judging the ball across the goal line; greater use of the fourth official when one was available; removal of the responsibility for timekeeping from the referee and, for everyone’s benefit where possible, a clock displaying time elapsed/remaining; and, the most radical, abolition of the indirect free kick.

On the future of football there was divergence. Phil was markedly upbeat. Lots of good things happening: football would be more European but the worst pressures would be resisted; ditto with plans for a reduced Premiership; and our referees compare very well. Nick disagreed about Europe which he thought was less interesting than our domestic game. Football had a very healthy future. Terry was concerned about the talk of Super Leagues as he considered the biggest clubs already too big and the danger of a tiny elite was too real. One way to improve matters would be to have more access to the Nationwide from the Conference by having three up and three down. Although Terry was critical of ‘homers’ and referees who officiated strictly according to the book, he thought all our referees were honest and tried to be impartial.

An excellent evening enjoyed by both ‘sides’ though there was a good deal more agreement than might have been forecast. Chairman Derek Reigate presented the panellists each with a bottle of wine and members joined in expressing warm appreciation.

December

Some fifty members turned up for the annual spectacle of seeing the editor fail to win a prize in the Grand Christmas Draw – and he duly obliged.

There was little formal business:

Malcolm Hutt of Bracknell had been appointed the County RA Recruitment and Retention Officer

So many referees are failing to accept County FA appointments that the B & B will discipline any referee found officiating at another game having turned the County down. A member commented on the level of fees as a factor.

NRA insurance policy benefits have been raised from £10,000 to £20,000.

Individual referees will no longer be informed of the result of Disciplinary Hearings. Society secretaries will be sent the information.

A team and officials were sought for the annual Charity Match on 27 December at Victoria Rec – Reading RA v. Tilehurst Vets.

Reading RA membership has closed at 140 (including 2 associate members)

League Reports

Sunday League –
inquorate meeting.

Reading Football League –
Hurst FC were going to borrow the cricket club's changing facilities for 18 months to resolve the problem with their own.

Referees were reminded to put a stamp on their match card.

It was reported that, as a result of the recent training courses, 46 candidates had qualified: RRA course 28; Sunday League course 12; Ryeish Green School 6. The training team were congratulated and thanked for all their sterling efforts.

Details were given of the forthcoming election of a Vice-Chairman and a paper and letter on Vice-Presidents and Life Members had been circulated.

President Terry Gibbs congratulated the Quiz Team on their success (details on page 12).

Keith Simmonds announced that he had resigned from the Sunday League on a matter of principle. He thanked the RA for its co-operation in developing the relationship with the league. He would continue to attend as a member but

would no longer be the official representative. Keith was thanked warmly in return for all his work.

Ted Cambridge reported that the FA and County FAs are in touch with insurers about liabilities, but are keeping the matter low-key at the moment. We just need to do our job. He was to meet with Peter Pittaway, Malcolm Garstang and Stuart Gentle with a view to streamlining training and examination procedures. In future no candidates would be accepted under the age of 14.

Brian Wratten brought good wishes from Mo Baker.

Problem Spot

Andy Awbery presented a problem reported by an RFL referee. In a one-to-one 40 yds from goal, the attacker gets past and is hauled down by the defender. Referee sees a winger catching up and going to get the ball. Referee gave advantage. The winger went through – and missed.

Without advantage, sending off (obvious goal scoring opportunity)? With advantage?

Unexpectedly lively discussion. Andy admitted he was not sure of the nature of the contact – it might have been ‘held back’. The consensus seemed to be that the nature of the foul was important. If it was itself ‘serious foul play’, then red card anyway. If not, then examine the ‘goal scoring opportunity’. Andy reported that the referee actually cautioned and the decision was well received by both sides, though probably wrong.

Second half and the Grand Christmas Draw. A vast array of prizes it seemed and dozens of winners (listed on page 16). Organiser Brian Wratten announced a provisional return of ‘only £600+’ He was thanked for all his work and congratulated on an excellent result.

As a final bonus, Brian Palmer conducted a free raffle for pairs of tickets for Reading FC’s next five home games, and the Chairman closed the meeting by wishing all members seasonal greetings.

THE THUNDERER THUNDERS FOR US

Robert Elms of *The Times* (14/11/98) offers support

Time for players to play by the book

FOR once, I agree with that nice Mr Shearer; Apparently, the England captain has called for referees to be equipped with electronic aids to help them to do their job.

The men in black should be armed with cattle prods and stun guns, night sights and X-ray specs. Electronic organisers should be mandatory to keep a list of all the players they have to caution and dismiss.

For recurrent offenders, those bleeping devices, which are usually strapped to the legs of miscreants who have robbed too many off- licences in the East Midlands, would be useful, too.

I am sorry, but footballers claiming that all they really want to do is assist referees is like hardened criminals helping the police with their inquiries. The biggest help that players could give referees would be to stop cheating, stop harassing, stop whingeing, stop swearing and stop believing that they are always right.

They could start by behaving with a little dignity and trying to remember that **it** is a game played to a set of rules that are there for everybody. You play to the whistle and you respect the decisions of the man blowing it. That is the rule of footballing law.

Start interfering with

that and that way madness lies. I have little love of that silly, staccato game played.

with a misshapen ball by difficulty abiding by the decisions of their arbiters. So how come footballers are like petulant, paranoid prima donnas by comparison? The game is not, as Shearer argued, more important just because there is more money involved.

It is players who are much more grandiose and much less gracious. It is pundits analysing every freeze-frame. It is managers 'sticking up for their shameless sheep. Would video cameras or infra-red sensors stop Paul Ince arguing? Would they stop Dennis Bergkamp diving, Dennis Wise scrapping or Alex Ferguson moaning? No, of course not. But they would stop football being the free-flowing, elegant, spontaneous sport that we still like to think of as the greatest game on earth

OBSTRUCTION

‘Are the Laws standing in our way?’ asks Dick Sawdon Smith

It is always a good thing I feel to take the opportunity of looking at someone else’s point of view. Someone who is involved in the same enterprise as yours but from a different direction. This was certainly the case with our guest speakers at the November meeting. A non-league manager, a former non-league manager and a Nationwide League club Managing Director..

Amongst the comment they made, one of the trio said that he couldn’t understand why referees allowed players to obstruct opponents when they wanted to let the ball run out of play. ‘You see it’, he said, ‘constantly on television, and the player always gets away with it.’ Many members quickly took up the point and gave him the answer. It is not an offence to shield the ball from an opponent *providing the player remains within playing distance of the ball*.

One of the most vociferous in putting our guests right was a member who confided in me after my presentation in September, that he doesn’t see the need to lash out £2 –50 every year on a new Laws Of The Game (LOAF). He prefers to alter his old copy each year with any changes that might be made. Well, unless he is still using a pre-1997/98 copy, I challenge him and everyone else to tell me where in LOAF it states that a player does not offend if the ball remains within playing distance.

I mention season 1997/98 because prior to that date there was indeed an International Board decision on obstructing an opponent which read: ‘If a player covers up the ball without touching it in an endeavour not to have it played by an opponent, he obstructs but does not infringe *Law XII para 3*, because he is already in possession of the ball and covers it for tactical reasons *whilst the ball remains within playing distance*. In fact, he is actually playing the ball and does not commit an infringement.

In the re-write of the Laws in 1997 that International Board decision has been swept away. It no longer appears in LOAF. Law 12 now says simply: ‘An indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team if a player, in the opinion of the referee, *impedes the progress of an opponent*’. So what are we to think? Does *the ball within playing distance* still count? If so, why has it been taken out of the book? If not, how now do we judge ‘impeding’? Or is it another case of a mess up in re-writing the Laws (see my article in January’s *Football Referee*).

Let's look at another way. Put yourself in the football boots of our newly qualified referees who have never seen a pre-1997/98 LOAF. How are they supposed to interpret 'impeding'? They will know nothing about the former International Board decision and playing distance. Or, how would you prove it to our guest speaker when you say that obstruction is not an infringement if the ball remains within playing distance? You certainly can't show it to him in the Laws of the Game.

THE JERSEY EXPERIMENT – Is it missing the point?

Having long felt that we could learn from rugby and benefit from the '10 yard rule', my joy at seeing Jim de Rennes' article in the last *Reading Referee* was soon turned to dismay. As I read on, what spoiled it for me was the statement that the advancement of the ball MUST be accompanied by a caution. Surely they are missing the point here - why the need for the caution?

Maybe I should wait and see the results of the experiment but, to me, the key to the effectiveness of the 10 yard rule/law is its speed of implementation and the immediacy of the punishment. In rugby, anyone not retreating or showing dissent is immediately penalised because a much greater advantage is given to the opposition. This has two direct benefits: blame is directed by teammates towards the player rather than the referee, and a clear advantage is given to the team infringed against.

Referees are already empowered to caution for any of the infringements listed in the Jersey Experiment but this isn't working. Referees generally don't like cautioning for such offences, and with the number of 'technical' cautions continuing to rise, this mandate is only going to increase the chances of players being sent off for relatively trivial offences.

I know there are those of you out there who will say that it is the players' fault, which is true, but surely what we really need are the correct powers to control the game. To me those should be the awarding of free-kicks, the advancement of those kicks for delaying tactics or dissent, cautions for offences as appropriate, and sendings-off for serious offences - in that order.

Stephen Green

OUR INTREPID TEAM SCORES A HAT-TRICK

No, not at football; not *the Whistlers*. At refereeing, or at least on the Laws of the Game.

In the annual County RA Quiz, our team of Malcolm Garstang (captain), Neil Haddock, Dave Osborne and Peter Pittaway ran out clear winners, with 80 points against runners-up Slough with 72 (and that after 2 points were mysteriously added after Alan Tate (of Slough) had checked the scorer's addition. We believe you Alan). High Wycombe and N.Berks were joint third on 68. For Reading this was the third victory in a row and the fourth in total for Peter. The team now goes on to the Divisional Finals and, if successful, the Nationals.

Admittedly we were playing at home – the successful team is punished (I think they actually said 'rewarded') by having to host the event the following year – but there is no ground advantage as the question-master was from Herts.

Congratulations to our team who did really well (I heard the questions) and especially Neil who topped our scores this year.

FOUL PRETENCE TO BE PUNISHED?

Among the items for discussion at the International FA Board's next meeting (Cardiff in February) will be a proposed change to Law 12. "If a player pretends to have been fouled, the referee should interrupt the game, award an indirect free kick to the opposing team and caution the guilty player."

{from the FIFA website, November)

GEORGE GETS ANOTHER AWARD

Father of the Society, George Mills, has just had his 50 years membership of the Referees' Association formally acknowledged. **The presentation will be made by National RA President Peter Willis at our April meeting. Get the date (15 April) firmly in your next year's diary now.**

AN ELECTRIFYING EXPERIENCE

A freak incident occurred in Letchworth's recent 4-1 win at neighbour's Shillington. A corner by the visiting side's Mark Lamptey hit some overhead wires and was diverted into the net.

This snippet was accompanied by a photo about which the writer Gordon Whittington said: 'This photo AMPly illustrates the CURRENT problem at Shillington's OHMly ground. SOCKET high, PYLON the pressure – a reVOLTING tactic, eh WATT.'

[Thanks to Ray Brown who spotted this in *Team Talk*]

TIPS FOR TYROS

When you start refereeing it's like driving a car for the first time. There are so many different things to remember and do, you don't know how you'll fit it all together. Yet over the first weeks and months you build up little ways of doing your job better and also making it easier, ways to check things, to remember things. I hope to publish a few each issue but only if you experienced colleagues supply them. A few from me to start us off.

- Use a 50p piece for the toss-up – much easier to see on muddy ground than a 1p or 2p.
- And if it is really muddy, catch the coin rather than let it fall. Apart from getting muddy, it can actually land on its edge. (I know, I learnt the hard way!)
- Know how far 1.5m (5ft) comes up on you, so you can check a short-looking flagpost by standing beside it. (On me it's a particular shirt button – could be your mouth or nose if you are shorter).
- Check the length of your stride so you can pace 10yds (9.15m) pretty accurately if you need to, every time.

MORE ON FITNESS AND FEMALE COLLEAGUES

I read with some interest and also some disappointment the article by our editor in the last issue of the magazine concerning the premature end of the career of a female Class 1 referee.

While feeling some sympathy for her, I do not necessarily agree with the whole tone of the article which appeared to be trying to lay the blame on the fitness (Cooper) test without considering the individual concerned. Maybe we could all find reasons or excuses to criticise the fitness test - most often because we or someone we know has failed.

However, whatever the perceived rights or wrongs, the fitness test has been by most referees for many years to be a fair test, testing sprinting, recovery time and moderate endurance. One does not need to be a professional athlete to pass. Indeed, any reasonably fit person should pass. It cannot be so hard when committed officials of 50 years of age and over can still pass.

If, as was suggested, we consider change, then change would still need to be seen to be fair. While accepting that male and female are physically different, and athletic capability differences are there for all to see, we would need to be wary of lowering standards. Remember, unless changes are carefully researched and implemented, a lower standard may have to apply to male as well as female (equal opportunities, age concession etc). I believe our most senior female official, Wendy Toms, may be right when she advocates women not being treated differently and, like many of us, looks to changes in our training schedules, diet and even our general life-style in order to achieve success.

I believe that with a focused attitude and commitment our female colleagues can achieve as much as any male. I would be seriously impressed if our 'retired' female colleague were to return and prove me right.

Barry Ford

[Thanks for responding, Barry. It's great to know there are people out there reading and reacting to the magazine. It is true I started from the case of a particular colleague and I agree with Barry about the dangers of special pleading and hard cases etc. Also I know Barry has assessed the colleague concerned and has observed her standard of fitness. It was actually the

implications of the case I was more interested in. Incidentally, Barry argues for the same standards for all referees, but seems to accept the Cooper test allowance for *age*.

In my short piece I didn't have the space to support my arguments with research findings. However, in 1981 Dr Brodie of Liverpool University published his 'Movement Analysis of Association Football Referees'. One of his key recommendations was to stop any differentiation on grounds of age. He also recommended dropping the 400 metre run as inappropriate (and it was dropped) and changing the then 50 metre sprints to 8 x 30 metres.

One of his fascinating findings was that we sprint for less than 1% (yes, less than one per cent) of the time. About endurance testing Dr Brodie says: 'The basis of endurance testing is that the longer the run, the better the prediction of endurance capacity and the more closely will the oxygen energy system be represented.' However, he limited his actual recommendation to increasing from the then existing 10 minute FA/FL test to the 12 minute FIFA test. A run (or equivalent) closer to his mean of 5656 yds for Football League matches would seem to be justified by his evidence and might serve our female colleagues better. Ed]

FEMALE OFFICIALS ONLY

FIFA has announced (FIFA website, November 1998) that only female officials will be appointed for the 1999 Women's World Cup in the USA. (15 referees and 16 assistants). One has to wonder why. This seems to run counter to all the efforts being made to give women officials equal opportunities with their male colleagues and will in effect 'ghettoise' them. It is to be hoped it is some sort of idiosyncratic Sepp Blatter one-off gesture never to be repeated.

1998 CHRISTMAS DRAW -PRIZE WINNERS

PRIZE	TICKET NO.	WINNER
14" REMOTE CONTROL COLOUR TV	02116	TED CAMBRIDGE
PORTABLE STEREO RADIO CD CASSETTE	09835	KEN SIMMONDS
TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS BASKET	05129	J. ASHBY
BOTTLE OF WHISKY	11118	J.WATKINS
BOTTLE OF CROFTS SHERRY	00009	CLIFF ADNITT
BOTTLE OF CROFTS SHERRY	03974	Mrs. JULIE FISHER
WHITBREAD BITTER (12-PACK)	02147	TED CAMBRIDGE
CARLSBERG LAGER (15-PACK)	04800	HAYLEY GARSTANG
2 BOTTLES OF WINE	04691	C. RIDLEY
2 BOTTLES OF WINE	04656	J. HARRIS
CHRISTMAS PUDDING + BOTTLE OF BUCKS FIZZ	06051	ALAN LIDDAMENT
ICED CHRISTMAS CAKE + BOTTLE OF BUCKS FIZZ	01882	PAT FONTAINE
TIN OF JACOBS FAMILY CIRCLE BISCUITS	07925	LESLIE NAISH
TIN OF SAINSBURY'S ASSORTED BISCUITS	04607	R. POTTLE
JAR OF QUAUTY STREET	03430	D. ADAMS
JAR OF ROSES CHOCOLATES	03814	J. HORSNELL
BODUM CAFETIERE	05457	PHIL TAYLOR
6 VENICE WINE GOBLETS	01138	DARREN HOWARD
EXPANDING BRIEF CASE	02787	Miss M. PERRY
OREGON PERSONAL DATABANK	06248	NEIL ISHAM
SHARP SCIENTIFIC CALCULATOR	01846	PAT FONTAINE
CASIO WRIST WATCH	02521	Mr. & Mrs. K. J. CLARK
BUSH CLOCK RADIO	07654	JAMES & DIANE PINCHES
MULTI COLOUR GOLF UMBRELLA	07672	EDWARDS
PENFOLD 'COMMANDO PLUS' GOLF BALLS (12)	10022	DAN PRATLEY
ADIDAS 'WORLD CUP REPLICA' FOOTBALL (SIZE 5)	11193	C. R. WATKINS
CHEEKY BEAR	01248	R. DURDEN
3 x 180 BLANK VIDEO TAPES	01132	DARREN HOWARD
3 x 180 BLANK VIDEO TAPES	07730	PAT MONAGHAN
3 x 180 BLANK VIDEO TAPES	00613	TIM BIGLEY
BOTTLE OF WINE	11175	G.WATKINS
BOTTLE OF WINE	10316	JEFF WILLIAMS
BOTTLE OF WINE	00111	D.DRAY

GRAND CHRISTMAS DRAW

And yet again it was. A wonderful array of prizes and a disappointing profit for our Treasurer – nearly £3 less than last year's record – *only* £702 this year!

We send our warmest thanks and congratulations to Brian Wratten who master-minded it all again and put in a huge amount of sheer graft to get tickets sold and money and counterfoils in. In his turn, he generously thanks all who sold tickets, donated prizes and helped in many ways, not forgetting his wife Jean who folded thousands of tickets and those who helped on the night to make it all run smoothly, especially Cliff Watkins, Ken Clarke, Martin Albury and Colin Pike.

SO NOW YOU KNOW!

LEAGUE MANAGERS ASSOCIATION

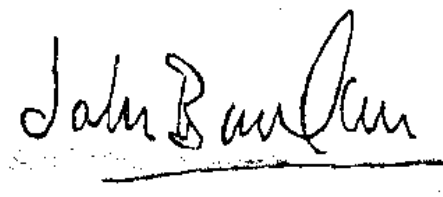
1a Chapel Court Holly Walk Leamington Spa CV32 4YS

14.8.98

JEWELLERY WORN ON THE PITCH

Rather than Referees examining players before matches it has been agreed with the Director of Referees that Managers will ensure removal of all jewellery before a game. If not removed, then certainly covered or securely fastened down.

If players continue to wear jewellery, rather than being asked to leave the pitch to remove it, **they will run the risk of an AUTOMATIC YELLOW CARD being given during play.**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Barnwell". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

John Barnwell

MORE FROM THE PAST

1963-64

On 12 October Tottenham Hotspur lost a record seven players on international duty: three played for England, three for Scotland, one for Wales.

Welsh Cup holders, Borough United, became the first Welsh team to win a European tie when they beat the Maltese team Sliema Wanderers in the Cup Winners' Cup. They lost to Slovan Bratislava 4-0 in the next round.

In November England beat Northern Ireland 8-3 under floodlights at Wembley - the first time an international had been played fully under lights.

On Boxing Day just two First Division games produced 21 goals: Fulham beat Ipswich 10-1 and Blackburn beat West Ham 8-2.

England under Alf Ramsey had lost one game all season and beaten the USA 10-0 when they met Pele's Brazil in the 'Little World Cup'. England were outclassed and flattered by the 1-5 score-line.

Rangers did the Scottish treble for the second time – they were the first to achieve it in 1949. In the League Cup they trounced Morton 5-0, took the League title by six points from Kilmarnock and completed the treble with two goals in the last minute of the Scottish Cup against Dundee.

Jimmy Dickinson retired after making a record 764 Football League appearances, all for Portsmouth. Dickinson, who played 48 times for England, was nicknamed 'Gentleman Jim' – during his long career he was never cautioned or sent off or, reputedly, even spoken to by a referee.

1964-65

At the age of 15 years 165 days, Derek Forster, the Sunderland goalkeeper, was the youngest person to play in the Football League.

Dave Mackay, the Spurs veteran mid-fielder who returned after missing a season with a broken leg, broke it again in his first game back.

Shrewsbury player-manager Arthur Rowley retired in February having score a record 434 League goals.

Stanley Matthews finally played his last League match in February at the age of 50 years and five days. Already a CBE he had been knighted in the New Year's Honours list, the first footballer to receive the honour.

Northampton were promoted to the First Division having risen from the Fourth in only five seasons.

After a disappointing season the year before the World Cup, Alf Ramsey's England beat the highly regarded West Germans 1-0 in May.

Leeds United missed both halves of the Double by the slenderest of margins: they lost the FA Cup to Liverpool in extra time and were runners-up to Manchester United on goal average, a difference of 0.686.

WHAT'S ON FOR THE REST OF THIS SEASON

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 21 January | Training session with Frank Groves of the County Training Team. |
| 18 February | Guest Speaker: Keith Cooper. The Welsh one. Ex-Premiership referee and raconteur |
| 18 March | Guest Speaker: Ray Payne, FA Advisor |
| 15 April | Peter Willis, President of National RA will be Guest Speaker and make the presentation of his 50 Years' Membership Award to Life Member, George Mills. |
| 20 May | Annual General Meeting |

TAILPIECE

(from Dickie Diamond's column in the *Daily Star* via Andy Awbery who says he got it from a friend)

“A kiss led to a red card for soccer coach Ramon Moya who exploded with joy after Hospitalitat, of the Spanish Second Division, scored the winning goal against Santos in injury time. Moya leapt from the bench and placed the smacker on the linesman’s cheek.

Moya was dismissed for an ‘inappropriate act’. He said: ‘Sometimes it’s not possible to control my emotions – but a kiss is much better than throwing stones or insulting the officials.’”