

VOLUME XXXVI No 2

October/November 1992

EDITORIAL

Don Sarjeant, our oldest member in both senses, is 90 this week, and thinking about Don made me wonder about changes in the game.

Don was refereeing at the time of the last major revision of the Laws instigated by Stanley (later Sir Stanley) Rous, nearly 60 years ago in the mid-1930s. Minor changes have been made year after year - some totally successful like the one on the throw-in, others less so, like the many attempts to sort goalkeepers out, though this year's has made a considerable change.

The flow of the game is now so different, certainly at the highest levels, that even fit referees like John Martin and Paul Taylor are finding it difficult to be in the best position. Or is it that we haven't really adapted to the change in Law and changes in tactics which are being used as a consequence? What is even more worrying this season is the suggestion from Paul, which I think has some justification, that more punishment of technical offences inevitably appears to diminish the seriousness of the way we treat physical offences. That is too reminiscent of babies and bath-water.

We must ask Don what he thinks about it all. Tribute on p.9.

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

Unsigned items have been written by the editor

Other editors have permission to reproduce any items with appropriate acknowledgement

[Editor's address: 1 Bulmershe Ct, Earley, Reading RG6 1HX
Telephone no: (0734) 318655]

PRESIDENT'S PIECE

Is Swearing Another Form of Graffiti?

This week I celebrate a couple of anniversaries.

It is 40 years since I first took up the whistle in 1952, and 20 years later I was elected a Member of the Institute of Marketing. No connection of course between the two, but the Institute, like our own Referees' Association, has a national body and local societies which hold monthly meetings with guest speakers.

I remember some years ago Lord Montagu was the speaker and at question time someone asked him how he kept Beaulieu so clean. Not much of a marketing question I thought, but the answer was interesting. He had two employees going around picking up any rubbish that was thrown away. "And it's funny", he said, "if people don't see rubbish on the ground, they are generally much more reluctant to throw any away."

I remembered this recently when listening to a radio report about a young graduate lady who won an award for clean-liness on British Rail. She is responsible for a number of small stations in Yorkshire and, asked the reason for her success, she replied that she had a couple of guys who constantly went around tidying things up and removing graffiti. If there wasn't any graffiti, she said, then it tended to act as a deterrent in itself.

I wonder if this is the same as swearing on the football pitch. If we can stop it at the beginning, it won't get going. I have always shouted to the first player who swears "Language!" and, even if they excuse themselves that they were shouting at themselves or a team-mate, I've pointed out that it is not allowed on the football field. If I had sent off every player that swore over the years, I would have had several books full, but I found that that type of warning generally had the required effect. Don't tell me that it is street language because, quite frankly, I don't want to know. I've seen some of the punch-ups that

name-calling has started, even amongst team-mates. It should be cut out and the earlier the better.

Dick Sawdon Smith

[Reactions/comments welcome on our perennial problem. Ed]

MONTHLY MEETINGS

September

The evening opened with the Special General Meeting promised in August for the discussion of the rule change originally proposed at the AGM and referred back. It was to introduce a disciplinary sub-committee so that, if need be, the society had a procedure for dealing with a member who appeared to be acting in a manner unbecoming. The simplified proposal was carried with only two votes against.

The monthly meeting proper opened with some 70 members present. The 1991/92 disciplinary figures for the County were reported: 1423 sendings-off

4621 cautions.

It was announced that the main prize for the Grand Christmas Draw would be a Short Holiday Break for Two; the second a colour TV. All members would be given 20 books of tickets to sell. There would be a disco on December 22nd at the Rendezvous Club if members showed any interest (they did by show of hands), but no pantomime visit this year.

Members were reminded to give League reps any problems to take back to the leagues, and a changing room difficulty at Christ Church Meadow was reported (now resolved).

Requests for referees included Boys' Club games on October 10 (John Moore); Earley Eagles Under 9s (Roy Burch); Reading Schools, Friday evenings at Palmer Park (Kevin Parsons).

Stewart Mills recounted the mixed fortunes of the Whistlers 5-a-side team, but sounded (unduly?) optimistic.

Malcolm Hopson had requested a match incident/problem spot, It was agreed the old problem box would be dug out. Members were asked to make sure they bring their problems forward.

Guest Speaker was Paul Taylor, one of the youngest Football League referees (and he looked it). He was appointed in 1986 to the line.

Paul opened with a few jokes and raised some eyebrows with his (unnecessarily?) crude language. He was to talk about getting from park football to the Football League.

Commitment. In his case committed, not to football, but to his own success. Never afraid of being judged, he believes in automatic assessment for everybody. NOT club marks. The only way to improve. But don't over-react to one assessment - look for trends and take them seriously. Believes assessors should not assess "above their level" i.e. above the level they achieved as a referee. Also assessors need to have refereed very recently - this season, for example, is so different even from last. Positioning and giving advantage are really difficult.

Club linesmen. Two approaches: give instructions or say "Here's the flag. If you cheat, I'll have it back."

Club markings. If the referee ignores e.g. kicking the ball away, he gets good marks. Ditto, if he cautions for kicking. But bad marks if he cautions for dissent. And you can't earn marks in the Board Room.

Players. Paul told a number of true stories to illustrate players' tactics and ignorance of the Laws. One crafty player tried to get cautioned to miss the next game rather than a later one. Paul didn't realise and fell for it at the time. He found out and forgot to report the caution. .

Linesmen. His problem is he hasn't run a line for years. Don't ever say "It's only a line". Important and difficult. More stories of experiences on the line including the ones about Cambridge's gamesmanship: the ball boys who wipe the ball for Cambridge but roll it through a puddle for the opposition; the trick of increasing the ball's pressure after it's been tested by the referee.

Paul was interviewed at 30 for the Football League and actually asked if he was too young. Ambition now to get on the Premier League. The top 32 referees on last year's assessments were chosen. Better paid: £165 (£130) for a middle; £75 (£65) for a line. The result of the new arrangements is that ordinary League referees have too few games - 25 a season, but he's not allowed to do other leagues. Movement up and down during the season is promised - on performance as judged by the six "wise men" (who include Terry Venables).

Concerns. A major concern is that being stricter on penalizing for things like kicking the ball away might make us less harsh on fouls. More stories and one good tip: if you are cautioning the whole wall, take the numbers first.

In response to a question, Paul said the greatest influence on him as a referee was Roger Wiseman and his book "Beating the System". [It figured. Ed]

The evening ended with our Chairman making the usual presentation with our thanks to Paul for a talk that was never dull, but it possibly left a few questions in the minds of members, and not all directly about refereeing.

October

The room seemed a bit emptier than of late with 60+ present. The Chairman welcomed our visitors from the Reading Football League: John Dell (Chairman), happily recovered from his back problem, Mark Rozzier, (Deputy), Phil Lewis and Will Penny: and from the Reading Sunday League: Ted Cambridge (General Secretary), Keith Simmons and Norrie Hart.

Among the business items, the Secretary asked those wanting to go to National RA Conference (Liverpool, 18-20 June) to let him know. The Treasurer looked less unhappy than of late and announced a credit balance. The Membership Officer received congratulations on reporting membership up to 136, and he was still recruiting.

A number of pleas were made on behalf of the leagues and competitions. Would referees reply to appointments for the Challenge Cup within 7 days. Some had been giving backward the

day before the match. Sunday League referees were asked by the league to check both studs and jewellery. The Reading Football League requires referees to deal with team sheets (Senior Division and Cup competition only) as follows:

A fully completed (white) team sheet (with named subs) should be presented by each team to the match referee 10 minutes before kick-off. At the end of the game they should be sent in, by first class post, together with the match result card (on which any breach of league/ competition rules should be stated). Do ask Phil Lewis if it still isn't clear.

Ted Cambridge, wearing his County FA hat, reported that he had self-check lists for promotion candidates and marking guides for assessors. He also stated that the Reading RA could not take over referee assessment - it would remain a County responsibility. (Who had thought otherwise? Ed)

Pat Monaghan reminded members that fitness training continued at Arborfield, Tuesdays 8.0 - 9.0 p.m. Further details from Graeme McLay. Appeals for officials were made by Steve Carvell (Allied Counties) and Kevin Parsons (Reading Schoolboys).

After the break there was a forum with local league officials John Dell, Mark Rozzier, Ted Cambridge and Keith Simmons forming the panel.

A first question asked about the choice of games for promotion candidates. Will Penny, referee appointments secretary of the RFL was drafted in to help. He explained his difficulties. He gives candidates a spread of games but the choice is by Ted Cambridge who arranges the assessments, and normally at the last minute - say the Thursday before the match. Ted explained his difficulties in finding assessors. To many members this clearly sounded too ad hoc. [Why not have assessors give open dates as referees do, then planning could be done much more in advance? It would be interesting to know how other County FAs cope with the problem. Ed]

In response to a question about pitches and facilities for referees, both leagues were clearly determined to do their best to help, and quick responses to problems and some improvements were quoted.

Could leagues help referees by having common procedures and practices? Clearly a difficult area. Seemed unlikely in the short term.

Were leagues still unwilling to appoint only RA members? Emphatically "yes". "Opposed to closed shop" etc. How could the league help the RA to raise standards of all referees if some were not members? The panel had no alternatives to offer, but it was suggested from the floor that the County could help e.g. by insisting on in-service training, and the league by encouraging clubs to report poor refereeing as they are supposed to, and the league then taking action.

It continues to be worrying to many (all? of our members that the leagues persist in saying they would rather have any referee than no referee at all.

The leagues seemed generally happy with their officials though inconsistency over jewellery was mentioned again. A member's request for mid-season marks was discussed but there was an obvious disagreement about their value.

A useful evening and certainly more successful than last year's attempt.

OUR GRAND (EST) OLD (EST) MEMBER - DON SARJEANT - IS 90

Life Member and 56 years in the Society, Don reached his 90th birthday on November 17th. [And I've only just found out I've never spelt his name properly. Apologies, Don. Ed]

What a record! Don officiated right up to the Football League line (in a blazer in those days I guess) and in 1934 was a member of the committee, with his old friends the late Charley Kearse and Fred Porton, which organised the National RA Conference in Reading.

Don was always a great worker for the society, both as a committee member and for many years as one of the Hon Auditors. He also worked for the County: he was one of the group that helped to form the Oxon FA and then the Berks and Bucks FA, and he served active refereeing as an assessor.

Don, we salute you for all your past contribution to refereeing and the Reading RA, for your loyal and steadfast service, and we send you every good wish for the future. We look forward to celebrating your 100th.

THE ARTICLE THAT NEVER WAS

I was going to write a piece about Vinny Jones' latest video nonsense but decided he didn't merit the space.

GRAND CHRISTMAS DRAW

Have you returned your counterfoils and money to John Moore? If not, please do so as as soon as possible - he's worried.

OUR MAN IN TURKEY

[In our last issue Steve Goulding talked of his early experiences refereeing in Turkey. He continues the story. Great stuff, Steve. Thanks again. Ed]

What are the Differences?

I could write a book on this subject. [He nearly did. Ed]

Obviously the training. I now weigh 13 stone 9 pounds (nearly 3 stone less)! The referees are younger and fitter, but less experienced and less well trained. As a consequence they use yellow cards (yes, we have those in amateur games here) far too freely, and in particular for dissent. The red card for serious foul play/violent conduct is used at a lower level of physical aggression, and the "red card" insults are different. One is particularly interesting: the word "kufur" which means "Godless". Has anyone ever called you that after you've given a penalty?

All this means that an English referee gets a good reception. The fans love the free application of advantage, and fewer free kicks in general. The players respond really well to a reprimand in Tarzan Turkish, along with a smile, and I get very few problems of dissent in comparison to most of my colleagues.

There are some good referees here too, I hasten to add. It usually comes with age and experience but one excellent referee I know is only 27 and claims he learnt everything from watching the twice-weekly coverage of English soccer!

The money is different. There is a vast cost of living difference here and a corresponding wage difference, so direct comparisons are meaningless. My fee buys forty-five loaves of bread or, more importantly, thirteen pints of beer. Make your own comparison. For the Turkish League you can multiply that by 20 for divisions 2 or 3 and by 45 for division 1. (And that is not counting travelling expenses).

Every game gets three officials, even youth league games, although there is less football in total. Even then I sometimes get two games in a day, one line and one middle. This is two consecutive games on the same pitch, as the only pitches are at state-owned sports centres, there being no village pitches, and company sports fields usually cater for basketball and volleyball, as football pitches need precious (and expensive) water.

At amateur level, games kick off at 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m., one-after-the-other, on the same pitch. The match fees are paid by the local council (now there's a thought!) and, as a consequence, arrive three months late (forget it!). Professional clubs pay on the day.

The players are not too different. They are a little more volatile (although sympathetic refereeing suppresses this), take longer to get up[after a hard tackle, and are quicker to go down in the first place. However, the psychology is very similar. The amateur football is better on average than in England, because there are fewer clubs, so you must be good to get a game. There are no Sunday morning pub teams, and no divisions 3, 4, 5 and 6. I feel that this is Turkey's loss and England's gain. There are more professional clubs. Division

1 is national; there are three regionalised Division 2's, and nine Division 3's. The latter are somewhere between a good senior league and the Vauxhall Opel Premier. Division 2 ranges from the Vauxhall Conference to the top of the new Division 2 in England. Division 1 ranges from the new English Division 1, watched by 5,000 - 7,000 spectators, up to the average of the new Premier Division.

The top clubs are Galatasaray, Besiktas (managed by Gordon Milne) and Fenerbahce (Josef Venglos), all of which are in Istanbul, and Trabzonspor. Tranzon is 750 miles further East on the Black Sea coast. These clubs have followings of 20,000 to 30,000. Galatasaray played Werder Bremen in the quarter finals of the European Cup Winners' Cup.

The fans are different. Each pitch is a small stadium. A stand is separated from the pitch by a two-metre high fence. Every amateur game has a police guard. At first I thought this was overkill. Then, when I needed six policemen to get me safely into the changing room, I changed my mind. I was linesman in that game. The home team's winger shot from 20 yards. The ball travelled two yards before striking the unwitting hand of a defender and going wide. The referee was unsighted, looked hard at me and I gave a corner. No intent, no handball. It was obvious. The fans and players disagreed. The police restrained the fans, aided by the fence. And that was when I learnt to Turkish word for "Godless". A red card followed.

The scenes at the end were incredible. The fans reacted like it was Old Trafford or Cold Blow Lane, not Izmir & District Division 2. That's typical of the fans here - for them football is very, very important. The great Bill Shankly once said: "Football isn't a matter of life or death, it's far more important than that". I think he must have had a Turkish grandfather.

The instructions to linesmen are different - but they are the same every week. They are given at the start of the season by the refereeing director, and that is that. You stay out at corners; if the ball is in touch or there's an offside, a stationary raised flag; fouls in your quarter get a wave of the flag, but only if the referee is a long way off. Always wait and give him 'first bite'. If he doesn't know, he'll look hard

at you. Even the officials' kit is different as the socks are all black.

Before every game you inspect the players' equipment as they stand in two neat lines in one corner of the pitch. You then lead them to the middle to salute the crowd, and say 'thank you' three times to the Turkish state for providing the facilities. Imagine trying to organise that at 10.25 a.m. at Prospect Park on a Sunday morning for a Division 6 match between two pub teams, and getting them to provide linesmen!

Every match at every level gets an assessor. Now that's not just different, it seems like dreamland. You don't apply for promotion. Each year they just choose the ones who are good enough. The classification system is different too. You are a referee at amateur level when you start. If you are good you progress to Turkish league linesman, and then to Class C Turkish league referee. As a Class C you get Division 3 games only. Class Bs get Divisions 2 and 3, and Class As get Division 1 middles. Turkish League linesmen get any Division depending on experience, and Class C referees get lines as well.

The type of people who take up refereeing in Turkey is much less of a cross-section than in England. Almost without exception they fall into one of the following categories:

1. Armed forces or police
2. Well-paid professions (lawyers, managers, teachers) or
3. Ex-professional footballers.

Now category 3 is really something to think about. Of maybe eighty men (and two women) who regularly train with me in Izmir, at least seven are ex-pro footballers. One of my best refereeing friends (the English teacher who helped me through my first few matches), played in the Trabzonspor team which beat Liverpool 1-0 in the first leg of a European tie in the era of Shankly, Toshack and Keegan!

How do I feel about the whole thing?

I'm really enjoying it. Whilst I look forward to coming back to England, football in Turkey is an experience which I would not have wanted to miss. Refereeing in a foreign country only usually happens to a much more experienced and much better referee than I am. Above all I'm proud of the respect that I

get as a referee, just for being English. I'm proud of the training team in Reading who taught me enough to get by even in such alien surroundings. And I'm proud to say that i've usually left the pitch still retaining everybody's respect.

Steve Goulding

MEA CULPA - OR THE EDITOR GETS IT WRONG (AGAIN)

When I said in our last issue that Chairman Graham Stockton was only the second in the society to qualify as an FA Referee Instructor, I was only partly right. He and David Keen are indeed the only two to have qualified through the Reading RA. But Peter Pittaway has also gained the qualification (in 1985) through the Army while one of our members. Sorry Peter. It wouldn't be aso bad if I hadn't known Peter so long. . . Still, a great achievement by all three.

CAUTIONING AND SENDING OFF

Last issue I wrote about red and yellow cards and quoted an FA Council sequence for disciplining a player. I have just seen (in the Sheffield Referee - thanks Steve) the latest version, which confirms (fortunately) what I was saying:

COACHES/MENTORS

Dick Wilkins and Ivan McNelly who are running the scheme remain on the lookout for colleagues who are willing to commit themselves to looking at and helping less experienced, especially newly qualified referees. However, be warned. Completing the paper-work is a vital part of the job and so far they have had problems getting it in.