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EDITORIAL

Start of another season. Welcome back!

Have you noticed how football seems more and more to be linked with money? The £1.9 million transfer deal for Beardsley; the last minute and crucial £5 million sponsorship of the Football League by Barclays; Commodore's £1.25 million sponsorship of Chelsea; a six-figure sum for Reading FC from Courage's and a (modest) £15,000 for the Chiltonian League. And so it goes on, down to the local Under 9 team. Funny how it doesn't seem to be reflected in a flurry of generosity towards those who make it all possible - the referees.

Why not sponsorship for the national RA - to provide a building and staff, research and development, and everything else we need for a great leap forward? Obviously we would have to select our sponsor carefully - we wouldn't want to be called anything like 'The Zingtron Home Improvement, DIY and specialist Double-Glazing National Referees' Association' - but the odd £1 million from, say, a simply named security firm would be handy, neat and particularly appropriate. I'm more than half serious, even though it might well lead to professional referees in the upper echelons.

After last year's splendid increase in membership, the Reading RA can look forward to a vigorous season with plenty of new blood in the society. Remember refereeing locally and the society (and this magazine) are what we make them. Let us (the committee) know what you want, tell us when things aren't working out (and also when they are) and don't forget I positively welcome contributions for the magazine.

Have a good season!

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

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KEN IVES

We were stunned in mid-July by the totally unexpected death, at the age of only 55, of Ken Ives, Society stalwart and committee member for 15 years. Some of us had been with him at the national Conference and then at the July committee meeting where he was in good form. Within days he had had an operation and did not recover.

Ken was a real cockney sparrow. Short in stature, a cheery pug-nosed ex-boxer, always ready to have a joke even at his own expense. He had a fund of refereeing experience and stories about the famous he had met and lined to. He was a member of the Harrow Society before coming to the Reading RA some 20 years ago, and officiated on the Middlesex Border League as well as in local football, until he finally put his boots away a couple of seasons ago. I only saw him officiate once when he ran a line absolutely in character - energetic, tough and loyal.

Ken was a relatively quiet, but always supportive member of the Society and committee. Latterly he had found his niche and forte - as Supplies Officer. He really gave the job great enthusiasm and carried it out with efficiency and good humour, in spite of all the hang-ups with the suppliers.

We share the grief of his wife, Maureen, and their two sons. We shall miss him.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

Reading RA AGM 21 May 1987

Our first AGM in the new venue and very well attended. President George Mills in the chair for this occasion which was even more special than usual. The newly designated Bert Newman trophy was presented to Ken Dunford, manager/captain of Davis Street by Bert's widow, Mrs Sybil Newman. The Fred Porton Award was presented to the most promising Class 3 referee, Malcolm Mackenzie, by Fred's son, Alan. George Mills presented the Major Sainsbury Award to Paul Hopes. Other awards made were the Linesman's Awards to Steven Dell, Alan Farmiloe and Barry Shearing's sub.

The Secretary's report described a varied and successful year, including the second highest membership ever - 146 - at a time when membership nationally is on the decline. A credit to all who have

put in the effort, especially the training team and membership officer. The Treasurer's comprehensive accounts went by more or less on the nod. Even the proposal to raise the subscription to £9 didn't prove too controversial.

Two long-serving members received special recognition: Maurice Baker was elected a Life Member and Terry Gibbs made a Vice-President.

There were changes too among the officers and committee. After many years of excellent and selfless devotion to training and to the society generally, including the last three years as chairman, John Lambden was standing down. The best testimony to John's contribution to the Reading RA is the number of us he trained, and the reputation the society enjoys for the quality of its referees when they start and the support they go on getting from John as adviser, coach, friend and assessor.

New Chairman is Bernie Young, and Dick Wilkins moves from Assistant Secretary to Vice-Chairman; Ben Gater from former committee member to Assistant Secretary, and Gus Higgins to Senior Training Officer. Sort of musical chairs without the music. Paul Willis had resigned from the committee and the vacancies resulting from all the moves have been filled by Peter Hitt, Ivan McNelly and Pat Monaghan. Welcome to them.

The proposed changes to rule this year really were minor: one rewording for clarity and the addition of social activities to our list of objectives. And everyone will get an updated copy in their new handbook. The triumph of modern technology.

To round off the evening, more bangers and beans, and a suitable conclusion to our first year at the Trades Union Club.

County RA AGM 22 June 1987

Not quite the shortest on record, and a few important decisions. We have a new Treasurer - Ian Bogart of High Wycombe - and there is no increase in fees. The other officers were re-elected. Our own member Steve Green is the new Public Relations Officer. The Reading RA was formally thanked for hosting the County 5-a-side. The County Quiz may be dropped for lack of support (and in spite of the magnificent trophy, in memory of George Rumsey, we gave to the County).

AUGUST MEETING

The first meeting of the new season opened sadly with a generous tribute to Ken Ives by President George Mills.

Considering the number of members on holiday, it was a good turn-out of nearly 50. After the brief official business, David Keen and John Lambden gave an explanation of this year's changes of Law (of which, for once, we had all had good notice from the Berks & Bucks). Nothing too complicated.

John and David then went on to do a double act based on the word "REFEREES". They took each letter in turn and related it to a key feature of refereeing: **R**eliability; **E**xercise; **F**lexibility; **E**quipment; **R**eaction; **E**vidence; **E**njoyment; **S**ignals. One could add a further **E**: **E**nlightening, especially for our newer colleagues who were well represented.

NATIONAL RA CONFERENCE, Winter Gardens, Blackpool, 27 June 1987

The first conference for 20 years without George Mills. Although George was recovering well from his recent operation, he was persuaded finally he wasn't recovered enough to suffer the 5-hour journey to Blackpool and the rigours of a hard talking, eating and drinking weekend with all his old friends. They missed him and sent him a card as well as best wishes.

The Friday evening was a bit of a let-down after the Civic receptions at Swansea last year and Newcastle before that. The Spanish Hall in the Winter Gardens with an unpretentious snack on paper plates isn't quite the same . . .

This year the business promised to be interesting and, because of the length of the agenda, there was to be no speaker. The mayor opened the proceedings and then the President, Peter Willis, went off at a cracking pace and even got past the annual report without any points being raised. We reached the Life Members item by 9.55 - to his embarrassment because wives and friends had been invited to be available for the ceremony from 10-15. Ken Ridden, FA Referees' Training Officer, filled the gap with an interesting account of the changes of Law for next season.

As always, the presentations about the proposed Life Members created a deep impression. Ken Burns, Immediate Past President, served for 10 years as President, then stepped in for a further year when Fred Lightfoot resigned unexpectedly. The service of Bill (?) Morris has been different and includes 32 years as County secretary; Doug Jones has been a member for over 50 years, society secretary for 30 years and treasurer for 20 years, and is a key figure in the Isle of Man.

Of the 22 members to receive Meritorious Service Awards, the 12 present, including our old friend Gordon Isaacs from Harrow, received a standing ovation.

A welcome feature of Conference this year was the brevity and relevance of the speeches of the invited guests. We learned amongst other things that Reg Paine, FA Referees' Appointments Secretary, and well known to the Reading society, is retiring early next year.

Then to the business. The proposed change of annual subscription from £2 to £3 was carried by more than the 2-1 majority, as was the establishment of a post of Public Relations Officer. Yet another move to allow 'no longer registered referees' to opt out of the insurance scheme was defeated (in spite of our support). How can you justify former referees' subsidizing those of us who are active and receiving fees as well as the possible benefits? And it was claimed it was the former referees who were being selfish!

The motions this year raised some important issues and I thought led to the best debate for some years. We agreed by a very large majority to authorise Council to buy premises to house the RA Head Office. The President assured us that members would be kept in touch with developments and no commitments would be entered into without proper consultation.

The second motion from the Harrow Society was of great interest to us and John Lambden was to second it. For years we have been frustrated by the way the annual report has been handled. Open discussion of a controversial topic could be avoided by simply omitting reference to it in the report.

Gordon Isaacs' speech as proposer was a bit long; John's supporting statement clear and short. To our surprise the President then intervened and said Council would not oppose! We really felt we had made progress. And the result of the ballot was overwhelmingly in favour - 11693 votes to 1466.

The rest had to be an anticlimax, but it wasn't. The Liverpool Sunday RA have been proposing motions for several years and never seem to get it right. In spite of an unimpressive proposal about issuing separate Conference balance sheets, they were only just defeated. Their more important proposal was about a report on assaults on members 'mandated by the 1985 Conference'. What happened next was unusual to say the least, and probably improper. After the opening speeches a point of order was raised as to whether the proposal was in order, because the 1985 Conference motion did not actually mandate anyone to do anything. So far so good. But then the President asked the meeting to decide whether the proposal was in order **as, he said, he had planned to do.** The

meeting decided, not surprisingly, that the motion was out of order and the President then made a statement as to why the question of assaults had not been pursued as expected. The Liverpool Sunday RA members were humiliated and apparently walked out.

On a previous occasion we have had to challenge the way the officers deal with proposals submitted. If the proposal was not acceptable in the form in which it was submitted, it should not have been accepted. It should never have appeared on the order paper. Then, if the Association is genuinely interested in allowing debate - and surely there are few topics more important for active referees than assaults - then the Liverpool Sunday Society should have been helped to frame an acceptable proposal that would have allowed debate, not merely a statement by the President.

Poor Gerry Taylor, our old friend from High Wycombe was on next to propose the abolition of the requirement to quote 'actual foul words' on disciplinary reports. Unfortunately the message came over as if he and the High Wycombe Society were taking an unrealistic moral stance. Most members didn't seem to understand what the fuss was about. Gerry went on doggedly to finish his script. His poor seconder couldn't even get to the microphone for the rush of opponents and the proposal was doomed. The majority against was the biggest I could remember - 759 votes in favour and 12477 against.

Evening back in the Winter Gardens. A pleasant evening during which the young Slough member sitting with us won three prizes on the tombola - a box of Quality Street, then a bottle of whiskey and finally a colour TV! Not bad for £2. Couldn't have happened to a nicer lad. The national lottery? The car? We saw it and rather fancied it. It went to someone in Lancashire appropriately enough, in Leigh. And the second prize to - Alan Robinson! Nearest prize to us was Ascot. A watch. There's always another year he says, yet again.

Sunday and on the road for home. Coventry next year.

FAREWELL TO THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Only two seasons (and a bit) ago, the Reading RA boasted three Football League officials. And now there are none. Tommy Bune was retired, Peter Pittaway went to Germany, and at the end of last season David Keen, our remaining League linesman, reached the (un)magic age. We will need to encourage our up-and-coming colleagues all the more

David Keen, Football League Linesman

1971 Passed referee's qualifying examination in Reading
 1974 Promoted to Class 2 1976 to Class 1

- 1977 Middlesex Border and Hellenic Leagues referee
- 1978 Isthmian League linesman
- 1979 Isthmian League referee
Linesman: FA Vase Final
Berks & Bucks Final
- 1980 Football League line
- 1981 Linesman: Hitachi Cup Final (Isthmian League)
FA Licensed Referee Instructor
- 1982 Referee: Berks & Bucks Cup Final
Isthmian Charity Shield Final
- 1983 Alliance referee
Linesman: UEFA Cup (Women) - England v. Rep. of Ireland
- 1984 Referee: Isthmian Charity Shield
Reserve referee: Hitachi Cup Final
Linesman: FA Challenge Cup
- 1986 Linesman: UEFA Cup - Moscow Spartak v. FC Nantes
(in Tbilisi, Soviet Union)
- 1987 Linesman: Littlewoods Cup Final

Also, in 1985, David achieved instant fame when he took over the middle from an injured Alan Robinson in the televised match between West Ham and Manchester United.

This season, as well as refereeing on the Isthmian, he will be joining the 'other side'- as an assessor. If you can't beat them, join them. He won't be officiating on the field at Football League matches, but he'll be doing the next best thing from the stand. Goalkeepers are said to be mad, referees are said to be madder, assessors are said to be . . . all sorts of things! Hope it goes well David. Don't forget what it was like to be out there yourself.

TEN THINGS I HAVE LEARNT ABOUT REFEREEING

The above title is my way of trying to put into words what I have learnt from fifteen years of refereeing at different levels (though I must say it in no way seems that long since I passed the examination and started refereeing).

Knowledge of the Laws of the Game

This is the most essential of all the things I have learnt. You can't advance in refereeing if, every time you blow the whistle, you have to stop and think what decision you are going to give. We all have to when we start, but it must become second nature and without hesitation. The same has to apply when we caution a player: we must know under which of the headings we are cautioning him, and tell him. In this area I am sure that my involvement in training new referees has helped and made me constantly refresh my knowledge of the laws of the game.

Dedication

This quality should naturally become part of your make up when you start refereeing. It is important that you apply dedication both on and off the field. It must show up in all sides of your game, especially in the areas where we may not be on public display i.e. to train when we don't feel like it and no-one will know whether we did or not. This is when we will know, if we are honest with ourselves, whether we are dedicated or not.

Determination

We must always abide by the laws of the game. This is not the easiest thing to do but with determination you can. We must always be determined to do our best both on and off the field.

Commitment

If you are fortunate enough, as I was, to progress to senior levels of football, then your commitment must become total. The league will require you to give open or closed dates which you must then adhere to. If the date is open, you are available, even at the last moment. For example I was open to the Football League one Boxing Day. The day arrived and at 9.45 a.m. when I was getting ready to go out with the family, the phone rang. It was the Football League to say I was appointed to line at Brighton that afternoon. I therefore had to inform my family that I would have to disrupt our arrangements and would see them later that evening. I had not closed the date, so I was committed to go on request. This should apply at all levels.

Honesty

This again applies both on and off the field. At work I always explained to my boss exactly what the situation was. On some occasions I would need to leave early; on others I would require to take half a day's leave although it would not always be convenient. This may have affected my career but at least I could always tell the truth and not be afraid of being caught out. I certainly know there are referees who say they are going out on business and who go to football. I know of one colleague who had an accident in his car on his way to a match. He was worrying before, during and after the game about how he was going to explain to his company why he had been where he should not have been. It is never worth the worry or the risk of getting the sack.

Honesty must also apply on the field of play. The decisions we give may not always be right but they must always be honest. Many times I have said to players that I may not be right, but it was my honest opinion from what I saw at the time.

Positioning

This is something we must constantly work on to try and get ourselves into the best position so that we can give a correct decision. Positioning requires a lot of consideration and when we know we have missed something, we need to consider why we missed it. Was it because we didn't read how the game was flowing? Or was it because we couldn't be bothered to put in the extra effort to get to where we know we should have been?

Respect

As referees we must strive to gain respect. Being popular is not possible, as the only time we come into the game is when two players are in conflict e.g. about whether one was fouled by the other or not. When the play is going on and no-one is tackling, we are not required. At the end of the match, as long as we have done our best and given honest decisions, we will gain the players' respect.

Self-analysis

We must learn to carry out an honest self-analysis of what we have done. When we are fortunate enough to have neutral linesmen, they can help to point out areas which, in their opinion, could have been better. If we do ask their opinion, then we must be prepared to carefully and openly consider what they say, even if it is not what we hoped to hear.

Enjoyment

This is one area of refereeing that in my opinion gave me the most satisfaction. There have certainly been a lot more games that I have thoroughly enjoyed than those I haven't. I personally consider it a necessity that a referee enjoys what he does. Before you say you can't enjoy every game, I would agree - the players will determine how much we can enjoy. But they also pick up whether we want to enjoy the game or not. On more than one occasion I have told an individual player that the rest of us were enjoying the match and that if he wasn't, he might like to think about going off by his own choice, as he was spoiling it for the rest of us. No player has yet gone off but it has usually made them stop and think, and for me has generally solved the problem.

Friendship

During my career I have made so many good and true friends. When I look round my friends I must admit that the largest percentage of them have been met through my refereeing career, either on or off the field. You soon find out, once you start refereeing, that you are never alone. There are always people who are willing to help you, and the situations that you think are unique to you, have usually been met by other referees who are more than willing to tell you how they coped with the situation. No-one is there to put you down; everyone tries to help you along the right lines.

Family

Although I have left this item till last, it is not because it is the least important - just the opposite, it is the most. Do we realize how much they have to give up so that we can pursue our hobby? It is very easy to totally ignore their feelings and needs as we become more obsessed with our involvement. I willingly admit I could not have got as far as I did without my wife's support. Your refereeing also has an effect on your children. This is one reason why when I reached senior football, which meant that I was away from home for long periods on Saturdays, I felt that I owed it to my family to always be at home on Sundays. I was very fortunate in the fact that, not only would my wife always understand my commitment to the game, but she would also give me a tiny nudge when I ignored their needs. For this I will always be grateful. One thing I am looking forward to this year is Boxing Day at home - for the first time in eight years.

Finally, may I leave you with one thought? In my opinion it is vital to remember that a referee cannot make a good game, **but** he can easily spoil one. If at the end of your time you have received half of the enjoyment that I have, then it will all have been more than worthwhile. If I could have my time again, I personally would have an action reply. I have now completed my time on the Football League and the Panel leagues as an active official having reached the age limit. My involvement now will be as a Football League Assessor. I look forward to this new challenge of trying to help my Football League colleagues. I hope I may be of some assistance to them, as others have been of assistance to me.

David Keen

THE YOUTH LEAGUE NEEDS YOUR HELP

As you may be aware, the Reading & District Sunday League has been trying hard to re-build its Youth League. As this article goes to press, we are hoping we will start the season with U10, U16 and U17 sections.

So I will come straight to the point. We will need about a dozen referees each Sunday. It doesn't sound many, but when you consider we had only four regulars last season, you can see why we are appealing for your help. It doesn't necessarily mean committing yourself for every Sunday. In fact, we would welcome 1 in 2, 1 in 3, 1 in 4, even 1 in 5 or 6.

It is generally felt amongst managers that at the upper age levels - U16 and U17 - a qualified referee is a must, especially as games become more competitive and players become stronger physically. Already some of the players will be playing in Saturday men's teams. With the U10 age group, it is a case of players learning the game. And what better guidance than a qualified referee helping them to learn and understand the laws of the game?

At this stage some of you may be thinking about problems with parents on the line. We will be making it clear to all clubs that this league will take a dim view of any club whose spectators or officials abuse the respect of the referee. We would ask you to speak to the manager first and then report it to us should the situation continue.

We feel there is much pleasure and enjoyment to be gained from refereeing youth matches - try it and see. If you are interested, please contact the Sunday Referees' Secretary, Des Askins (address in your RA Handbook).

Thank you for your time in reading this article - and may I finally wish you all a very successful season.

Mel Brant
Youth Registration Secretary

UEFA

UEFA Information Sheets are not always the most fascinating reading, but you sometimes pick up bits of news you may not have noticed in our press. For instance, at the end of last season, the fact that in the 5th Under 16 Competition final Italy beat the USSR, with both to represent Europe in the FIFA World Tournament in Canada. But drama was to follow. Italy confessed to having played an over-age player by mistake. UEFA ruled that Italy forfeited the competition - so far so good - but declared that there would be no winner. Also Italy would nevertheless represent Europe in Canada alongside the USSR and France. Scotland and Northern Ireland had teams in the last 16 but England did not.

In the 2nd UEFA Competition for National Women's teams, England came 4th behind, Norway, Sweden and Italy.

The **Bulletin Officiel de l'UEFA** is a reminder that the working language of UEFA as of FIFA is French - however hard that is for the inventors of the game to accept, though the fact that it has English and German sections as well is helpful for those who don't know the Gallic tongue. Sometimes the English isn't quite native - 'Also definitively worked out is a concept for the technical production of radio and television coverage . . ' but you know what it means (especially if you look at the French).

COUNTY 5-a-SIDE TOURNAMENT Sunday 7 June, Arborfield

Although it now seems a long time ago, the Reading RA hosted a very successful 5-a-side tournament on behalf of the County. John Lambden was largely responsible for the parts that went well. Thanks to our all members who assisted and to our ladies who provided excellent refreshments.

FROM THE MIDDLE

A further sample of the short articles I have written for the Reading FC programme:

The Indirect Free Kick

[first published in the Reading FC programme 16/3/85]

Cause of much confusion, especially if the referee has to disallow the 'goal' when the ball goes straight into the net. Of course it should be clear - has the referee got his arm raised vertically? (He should also keep it there until the ball is played a second time so there can be no room for doubt.)

Why 'indirect' and 'direct'? There are a number of ways of re-starting play which give more or less advantage to one of the teams. (How many can you remember?) The most neutral is the 'drop-ball'; the most advantageous (if it's for you) the penalty. The indirect free kick represents a less serious punishment (or advantage) than a direct free kick. It is often awarded for the technical offence of offside as well as for the five offences under Law 12, which can be described briefly as: dangerous play; fair charging off the ball; obstruction; charging the goalkeeper in certain circumstances; goalkeeper's steps and timewasting.

Probably the least well understood (and for good reason) is the first of the five. For something as serious as endangering a player, why only a 'less serious' punishment? As in many of the laws, it is a question of **intent**. If a player tries honestly to kick a high ball and **unintentionally** causes danger to a nearby opponent, an **indirect** free kick is awarded. But if, for example,

he 'charges an opponent in a violent or dangerous manner' i.e. **intentionally**, a **direct** free kick must be given.

NEW SUPPLIES OFFICER

Kevin Parsons has taken over the important job of Supplies Officer. Although his appointment was too late for the handbook, his address is on page 7 (because of his connection with Schools' Football). **The secretary has his new phone no.**

NEW REFEREES

The next training course starts on October 6. Full details will be in the press. Please publicise it.

THE PLUM TREE (second crop)

I am destined to miss someone out, but this year's total of three (I know of) is a record. Blame the suppliers!

Apologies to: Malcolm Mackenzie, promoted from 3 to 2 (he would live in Oxfordshire); Paul Hopes, who refereed the Ted Cambridge Cup final; Peter Hitt, linesman for the County Under-15 Minor Cup final.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

- September 17** Guest speaker: Mike James, Football League referee from Sussex
- October 15** Colin Downey, Football League referee from Hounslow (one of the select four kept on exceptionally this year)
- November 19** Training evening

SOCIAL EVENTS

- Skittles evening** Miller's Arms Caversham. Tickets £3-50
Saturday, 14 November (including buffet)
- Date for the diary** Dinner & Dance (and cabaret)
Friday, 4 March Wokingham Town FC (details later)

NO COMMENT

'Scarborough did not have to wait long to discover the delights of the Football League. From the moment the first phalanx of Midlands misfits, several hundred strong, lurched along Seamer Road at one o'clock, the gruesome braggadocio of soccer yobdom was in full bloom. Scarborough's day, year, was spoiled utterly.

. Man of the match, however, was referee Joe Worrall who displayed Hemingway's definition of courage: Grace under pressure.

The Guardian, 17/8/87

**CONGRATULATIONS BERNIE AND JILL ON YOUR SILVER WEDDING ANNIVERSARY
AND EVERY GOOD WISH FOR THE FUTURE**