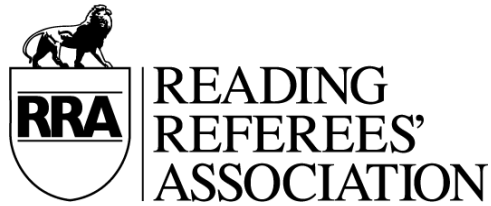


The Reading Referee





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READING
REFEREES'
ASSOCIATION

The Reading Referee

The Magazine of the Reading Referees' Association December 2013/January 2014 Vol 56 No 3

EDITORIAL

Young Referees

I am sure that I am not alone amongst older referees in being full of admiration for the young people now becoming referees. At the beginning of the season we had 18 year old Will Finnie, already a Level 4 referee and a Referee Tutor who ran workshop for us on communicating with players. In November we had the pleasure of a presentation from Lucy May, a young woman referee, (you never ask a lady her age), who has already officiated at a national FA Cup Final and experienced international football. A report of the evening appears on Page three.

An often neglected topic

Lucy's topic was one which is often ignored: Improving relationships with managers. To some extent for those of us involved in local football this can be taken to mean coaches, club secretaries or any officials that we are most likely to come in contact with. From our initial contact by phone or e-mail we have an opportunity to create a favourable relationship. To tell them that you are looking forward to the game, shows that you too are in football for the enjoyment. Remember the hours that they dedicate to getting their team on the field, so always request rather than demand. The results can be a better atmosphere, a better game and perhaps, better marks.

Are you up to date with law changes?

Having praised young referees let me mention that two of our younger members promised me articles for the magazine but so far have failed to deliver. So at short notice I have filled Page 2 with one of my columns from the Reading Post on last year's law change to the dropped ball. This is prompted by the comment on the web after it appeared. *Reading RA also has to admit to missing this one. Only checked after Maidenhead scored that way against Newbury in my game.* This is then by way of penitence.

ARE YOU UP TO DATE WITH THE LAWS?

Would you know what to give if the ball was kicked direct into goal at a dropped ball? It can happen. All is revealed on Page 2.

COMMUNICATION WITH MANAGERS

How would you go about improving your relationships with managers? Some tips on Page 3 from Lucy May.

MEETINGS WORTH ATTENDING

Details of future speakers are on Page 5

ARE YOU A WINNER?

A list of prize winners in our Christmas Draw on Page 6

COULD YOU BE ON OUR QUIZ TEAM?

Test yourself on Page 7

AND FINALLY..

What would you do about hidden jewellery? See Page 8

DID LLORIS NEED TO SCRAMBLE TO SAVE GOAL FROM A DROP BALL?

The League Cup seems to be well down the pecking order when it comes to clubs' priorities and for television companies these days. In its present metamorphosis as the Capital One Cup, for most viewers it only warrants a late night highlights programme. That being the case, I'm sure that not a lot of viewers watched the Tottenham quarter final against West Ham and therefore missed an intriguing incident that happened after the referee stopped the game for an injury to a player. Quite correctly he restarted with a drop ball where the ball was when he stopped play, which happened to be about half way inside the West Ham half. As I've said before we seldom see a contested drop ball these days, instead one team or the other decide to kick the ball back to the opposition goalkeeper or at least in his direction. In this case it was a West Ham player, James Collison, who elected to kick the ball back to Hugo Lloris, the Spurs keeper. Remember that the kick was well inside the West Ham half so it had to be some kick and it was. Possibly a better kick than Collison intended for it seemed to be floating over the head of Lloris who had come a little way off his goal line. Realising that ball was likely to go into the goal, he scrambled back and managed to knock the ball out with his hand. The television commentator was screaming with excitement.

The question for everyone to consider is what would have happened if the goalkeeper had missed the ball and it had gone into the goal direct from the kick at the drop ball? How would the referee have restarted the game? A kick off (after a goal is awarded), a goal kick or make the drop ball be retaken? The answer is that it would have restarted with a goal kick. As the Law now stands, a goal cannot be scored direct from a drop ball. The change to the Law took place at the beginning of last season but judging from the hasty retreating and frantic handling by the Spurs goalkeeper, it would seem that he was of the opinion that if he didn't prevent the ball going in the goal it would have resulted in a goal being awarded. The excited clamour of the commentator would also suggest that he thought the same thing.

If he had realised it, the safest action Lloris could have taken was to have leave the ball alone. Had it gone in the goal then he had lost little, he would have a goal kick to take. If however he had knocked it in the goal instead of away from the goal then a goal would have been awarded as it was no longer direct. The referee, Neil Swarbrick, would of course have known this for as a Premier League referee he would have attended a seminar before the season started at which all the season's changes to the Laws were explained. However, I was a little surprised when talking to certain local referees that they weren't sure what they should have done if such a situation had happened to them. This I find can be a problem when there are minor changes to the Laws of the Game, which of course receive no publicity in the sports pages. Once upon a time all referees received in the post a letter outlining all changes for the coming season and nothing else. Now, the FA seems to rely instead on the changes appearing in the magazine *Refereeing* which is sent out to all registered referees but do they all read it? These minor changes sometimes take a few years to percolate down to local football.

Dick Sawdon Smith

MONTHLY MEETINGS

November – What our speaker said

Lucy May – Improving relationships with Managers

Our guest speaker in November possibly travelled the furthest of any speaker we have had the pleasure in hosting when she came down from Northumberland. Lucy May, formerly of Portsmouth, where she started refereeing at the suggestion of her dad after running the line for her brother's team, is now the Referee Development Officer of Northumberland FA. She made the long trip especially to make her presentation to us on a rather neglected subject. Lucy is a Level three referee and was chosen as one of the twelve FA's Women Ambassadors in 2010, which was the year she ran the line at the Women's FA Cup Final. She has since had international refereeing appointments, which has seen her travel to South America, America and Japan, so perhaps her journey to our meeting was no great deal after all.

Lucy's topic was 'Improving relationships with managers'. To do this, Lucy said, we need to develop our management communication skills. Relationships can be tense but we both share a love of the game and so we should have some empathy with managers. Lucy then split the meeting into groups to discuss amongst themselves and report back on such topics as, how do you deal with managers, do you only ever talk to them when there is a problem. Identify ways in which you may talk before, during or after the game. The discussions suggested taking a positive approach to both managers when you arrive. Having looked up their record for the season so far, questions can be asked like 'How are you doing etc' which show an interest. During the game it not usually possible to say anything. After the game don't shun any hospitality, even if things have not gone too well. By that time the managers and players will have had time to calm down.

Lucy then gave the groups a list of what she called eight top tips on separate cards and asked each group to place them in the order they considered from the most to the least important. All in each group had to agree and be prepared to justify their choices. Each group then visited the others seeing how they all compared. Let's look at Lucy's Top Tips and see which order you would place them.

KEEP CALM – No matter how upset a manager may be it is essential to keep your cool. If you get wound up it WILL get out of control.

ENFORCE BOUNDARIES – You don't have to take screaming abuse. Calmly set your boundaries and enforce them. This may mean moving away or asking the manager to leave the changing room if things are not working out.

SHOW RESPECT – managers have put a lot of time, effort and resources into their teams: they want to succeed, never ever put up 'Referee Vs Manager' walls. This includes never ever using the immortal phrase '*You're not a referee*'.

LISTEN BEFORE RESPONDING – The manager may be completely wrong but you must listen to what they have to say. You need to understand where they are coming from as there may be a misunderstanding which can easily be resolved.

EXPLAIN YOURSELF – Interpretation and your views of events are really important in these types of conflicts. Managers will be more understanding if they know why something was done – It doesn't mean they will agree though.

YOU MAY BE WRONG – Never start with the presumption that you are right and the manager is wrong. We are not infallible. We can sometime learn and benefit from observations of those outside the refereeing fraternity.

IT MAY NOT WORK OUT – You may have to 'agree to disagree'. You can't win 'em all! It is important to recognise when there is no point in discussing things any further because you won't agree.

BE FIRST – If you anticipate issues with a manager, why wait for them to come to you? Some of the best results can be achieved by going to them before the grumbling turns to anger. It shows you care.

We all have our own way of managing, said Lucy, do what works for you. Effective communication and man management can create good working relationships which in turn will lead to more enjoyable game for all.

Our grateful thanks to Lucy and we hope she found it worthwhile travelling all that way to be with us, because we certainly did.

DECEMBER – QUIZ – CHRISTMAS RAFFLE – BUFFET

Our December meeting was quite definitely a social affair. Starting with a quiz. The quiz was in fact in three parts. First of all, Mark Roberts who led our team in the County section of the National RA Quiz brought with him some of the questions that the team had to face. These were on the laws but as you will see, were all concerned with numbers. We have produced these questions on Page 7, not only for those who weren't there on the evening to take part but also for those who did as a little refresher.

For the second part of the quiz, Brian Wratten played some of the videos used in the exam for the basic referees' courses. These show incidents during games and the candidates have to decide firstly whether a foul has been committed and if so would the punishment of a free kick be sufficient or did it also warrant a caution or perhaps a sending off. It is often thought that some of the tackles are a little ambiguous, that there is a fine line sometimes between decisions and that even established referees might have different opinions and so it proved.

Brian then went on with the third part which was a mixture of football and general knowledge. Our thanks to Brian and the Mark for putting these together for us.

This trio of quizzes was followed by the main event of the evening the drawing of the Christmas Raffle. A list of winners appears on Page 6 and our thanks to all who helped to compile the draw, and conduct the draw on the evening and to Jamie Barnett for organising it with a special mention to Dave Fisher for his generous donation of a week holiday at his villa in Cyprus as our first prize.

The members were then able to help themselves to the free buffet and discuss matters with their colleagues over a drink.

SPEAKERS YET TO COME

Thursday 19th December

Ian Blanchard –Senior National Game Referee Manager

The Football Association's Referees Department has two main responsibilities, the National Game which is often referred to as 'grass roots football' and the Professional Game which covers football from Supply Leagues to the Football Conference. The Premier League and Football League are of course managed by the PGMOL.

Ian is therefore responsible for the part of football that most of us are engaged in. He is also a referee of many years' experience including the Premier League before taking up his present position.

Tuesday 18th February (to be confirmed)

Nigel Adkins – Manager of Reading FC

Nigel Adkins is an experienced and successful football club manager having taken Scunthorpe to the Championship before moving to Southampton where he gained successive promotions. He is also someone who is keen to foster relationships with local referees which he has done wherever he has been. Stephen Green who is a Southampton supporter (no shame there) heard him when he spoke to Eastleigh Referee Association where he provided an entertaining evening,

Note. Because of Nigel's commitments there will be a switch of day for this meeting only. To be confirmed.

Thursday 20th March

Roger Vaughan – FA Referee Manager, Referee Development

Roger has worked for the Football Association for over 12 years. 7 years as Regional Manager for the South West and now National Referee Manager for referee development. He has long experience previously in training and development with Axa and Nat West Bank as well as being an FA Coach, Licensed Referee Tutor. He has also been Chairman of Weston Super Mare Referees Society.

He has refereed for over 20 years up to Level 2 panel referee and National List Assistant referee. He is now a National List assessor.

Don't forget that our meetings are now at the comfortable venue of Earley Home Guard Social Club, Pitts Lane, Earley RG6 1BT and we commence at 7.45pm.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE

MISCONDUCT REPORTS ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

There have been some difficulties experienced with misconduct reports sent online getting through to Berks & Bucks FA. If you have not had an acknowledgement within 24 hours, you are asked to send again,

CHRISTMAS PRIZE DRAW WINNERS 2013

Prize	Winning Tkt No	Winner
1 week in a villa in Cyprus	499	Martin Shearn
£100 M&S Voucher	37	Terry Gibbs
12 Bottles of Stella Artois	917	Jim Clark
Umbro Training Jacket	326	Mike Baker
Alex Ferguson Autobiography	971	Stephen Saunders
12 Cans of Carlsberg	595	Elliot Jewell
Bottle of Whiskey	956	Matthew O'Riordan
Celebrations Chocolates	375	Maz Slater
6 Bottles of Lucozade	890	Bet Awbery
Bottle of Smirnoff	371	Maz Slater
Bottle of Bacardi	810	Carlene McMahon
Jigsaw Book	771	Marc Surtees
Quality Street Chocolates	364	Aimee Higgs
Box of Fox's Biscuits	279	Kevin Belcher
Jigsaw Puzzle	805	Audrey Dew
Cuddly Toy	583	Beth Jewell
Cuddly Toy	168	Juliette Forgham
Pen & Pencil Set	916	Jim Clark
Set of Recipe Cards	967	Stephen Saunders
2 Bottles of Wine	848	Brian Wratten
Cadbury's Biscuits	254	Keith Davies
Refereeing Stories Book	374	Maz Slater
Refereeing Stories Book	280	Kevin Belcher
2 Bottles of Wine	912	Ken Clark
FA Wallet	564	Mark Roberts
Pink Referee's Whistle	915	Ken Clark
Crunchie Cracker	209	Stephen Green
Pair of Earrings	390	Gary Connolly
Tube of Rowntree Randoms	653	Aaron Baker
Pack of Ladies Handkerchiefs	986	Jamie Barnett
Maltesers Xmas Cracker	170	Juliette Forgham
2 Bottles of Wine	12	John Lambden
Jigsaw Puzzle	874	Mrs J Reigate
6 Bottles of Lucozade	793	Steve McMahon
Bottle of Cava	602	Ray Hancock
Bottle of Cava	657	Aaron Baker
Pair of Earrings	914	Ken Clark
2 Bottles of Wine	325	Sally Baker
Box of Fox's Biscuits	650	Malcolm Hillen
12 Cans of Coke	596	David Jewell

SECOND PLACE IN THE COUNTY QUIZ

The annual County RA Quiz on the Laws of the Game was held on November 27th at Amersham. Four teams representing Aylesbury, Bracknell, Chiltern and District and Reading societies took part, with a place in the National Quiz to be held after the National Conference up for grabs.

Reading's team consisted of Mark Roberts, Stephen Saunders and Derek Reigate and despite the late withdrawal of our fourth member, Matt O'Riordan, due to work commitments, we managed to equal last year's second place finish.

The rounds this year mixed our decision making and application of Law in some very carefully worded scenarios, with our Achilles' heel, the numbers round. This draws on some very obscure trivia drawn from the depths of the Laws of the Game. Perhaps next time we'll learn our lesson and do some proper revision beforehand. (Try the numbers quiz yourself below)

Our thanks (and congratulations) go to Chiltern and District for their hospitality, as well as for winning again, which means we are again exempt from hosting duties next time around.

Following the Quiz, there was plenty of opportunity to catch up with colleagues from around the county at the bar and during the buffet, which Stephen was pleased to report that both were excellent.

Mark Roberts

TEST YOURSELF ON THE LAWS OF THE GAME – NUMBERS

1. What is the minimum number of players with which a team can start a match?
2. In an International Friendly match, how many substitutes are permitted?
3. How many cautionable offences are mentioned in Law 12?
4. Which Law describes the Powers and Duties of the Referee?
5. What is the minimum width of the field of play (in yards)?
6. What is the minimum circumference of the ball (in centimetres)?
7. What is the minimum height (in metres) of the corner flag post?
8. How many individual items are listed in Law 4, a player's basic compulsory equipment?
9. Under Law 10, how many methods are permissible for deciding a match which ends in a draw after 90 minutes?
10. What should be the distance (in feet and inches) between the ground and the top edge of the crossbar, assuming that the crossbar is of the maximum permitted width/depth?

ANSWERS (no cheating now)

- 1) **7** 2) **6** 3) **7** 4) **5** 5) **100** 6) **68** 7) **1.5**
8) **8** (A shirt, shorts, two socks, two shinguards, two boots)
9) **3** (Extra time, Kicks from the Penalty Mark, Away goals) 10. **8 ft, 5 ins**

MORE CASH TO AID ADULT PARTICIPATION IN FOOTBALL

For those members who were refereeing a few years ago one of the unfathomable changes in the game is the rapid decline in adult football. In Reading there were two thriving Saturday Leagues and the Reading Sunday League was one of the largest in the land. In this magazine one of our members created a little bit of a stir when he wrote that it was wrong to talk of a shortage of referee, although there certainly wasn't enough to cover all the games being played. The problem he said was that there was too much football. The thought of regularly using some referees as assistants in the higher divisions would have been strongly opposed by all those clubs who be left to referee their own games.

Reading of course is not the only area where this decline in participation by adults has occurred, it is a national phenomenon and in some areas long established competitions have disappeared completely. It comes at a time when football has never been more popular, you only have to look at the vast sums that television companies like Sky and now BT are prepared to lash out to secure viewing rights. Youth football and small aside leagues have proliferated of course but the FA is still keen to promote adult eleven-a-side football. There have been a number of initiatives such as inviting non-players to turn up for ad-hoc games but nothing seems to have stemmed the decline.

The FA and the Premier League have now announced a 'Grow the Game' fund of £1.5 million to aid this development over this year. The plan is to finance grants to clubs who start new teams. £1,500 of funding is available for each new team that a club creates, which will go towards the cost of league entry, referees' fees, first aid kits, FA coaching course and football strips. Any clubs can apply but there is a particular emphasis placed on increasing the numbers from under 15 and above. This is where it is thought that the fall out begins as young people leave school and college. There is also another key focus on growing the number of girls, women's and disability teams.

HIDDEN JEWELS

Before each match we all check that players are not wearing any jewellery in accordance with Law 4. But presumably we only check that which we can see, we don't probe under players' clothing to ensure that they have not had any body piercing. What would you do however, if during the course of the game a player has some otherwise hidden jewellery, uncovered?

This happened to a referee in Australia when a player had the ball smack him right in his private parts with some force. He went down in agony but probably unknown to anyone else, he had had his penis pierced and a ring inserted. As he lay on the ground he pulled aside his shorts, he thought discretely, to check whether any damage had been caused by his unusual appendage to his main body member. The problem was that the referee was standing over him and saw his hitherto hidden jewellery. .

The referee ordered him from the field of play to remove the ring. When the player came back, the referee asked to check that it had in fact been removed, only to discover that it was still in place. The player said he had been unable to remove it. The referee then refused to allow the player to return.

The whole episode was covered in the local press and apparently the player's greatest concern was that his mother had found out about his secret jewellery.