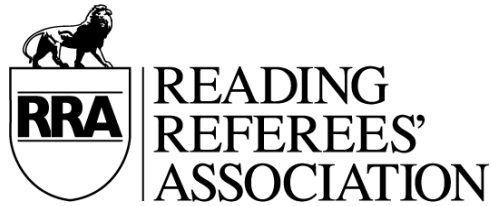


The Reading Referee





President	Brian Wratten
Immediate Past President	Derek Reigate
Life Members	M. D. Baker J. Lambden B. G. Palmer D. H. G. Reigate R. W. Sawdon Smith B. J. Wratten
Vice Presidents	T. G. R. J. Gibbs R. Weedon

OFFICERS & COMMITTEE 2014/15

Chairman	Mike Baker
Vice Chairman	Stephen Saunders
Secretary	Matthew O’Riordan
Treasurer	Mark Roberts
Recruitment & Retention Officer	Aaron Baker
Committee	Stuart Marsh Derek Reigate Stephen Saunders Tony Smith Sam Baldock
Magazine Editor (ex officio)	Dick Sawdon Smith
Mentorship Coordinator	Stuart Marsh
Web Master	Rob Maidment

The opinions expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of Reading RA or the Editor. Other editors have permission to reproduce any items with appropriate acknowledgements.

Editor: Dick Sawdon Smith, 46, Henley Wood Road, Earley, Reading Berks RG6 7EE

Reading Referees’ Association website: www.readingrefs.org.uk



READING
REFEREES'
ASSOCIATION

The Reading Referee

The Magazine of the Reading Referees' Association

August 2014 Vol 56 No 5

EDITORIAL

Modern technology brings changes to The Reading Referee

The Reading Referee, which has been keeping members and others informed since 1958, will be changing format to better reach today's readership. Instead of a bi-monthly review of what's happened and notice of things to come, news and events will be sent out on a monthly basis direct to members e-mail accounts. The story of the magazine over the years can be found on Page 3, as well as a review of some of the *Page Two* articles from its early years on page 2.

Pre-match instructions and the demise of the club assistants' awards

Many years ago Charles Kearse, who was a Football League referee, was asked what his pre-match instructions to his linesmen were. Simple he said, 'run the line for me as you would like me to run the line for you'.

Fuller suggested instructions for both club and neutral assistant referees can be found on page 5. Charles great idea for club assistants, which he put forward in 1933, has taken a knock this year. The reasons why on page 6.

Mini RA-FA training evening at monthly meeting

Our monthly meeting in April was something out of the ordinary. Instead of a guest speaker we had what is called a mini-RA-FA training meeting. This is all part of the link up between the RA and the FA and was one of a number that has been held throughout Berks & Bucks this season open to all referees. Holding it on one of our normal meeting nights seemed to make a lot of sense as it was written and run by four of our own FA Licensed Tutors. All is revealed on pages 4 & 5 along with a report on the visit of Roger Vaughan.

Dick Sawdon Smith

Were our Page Two contributors ahead of their time?

Judge for yourself on Page 2 of course

What is the story of the Reading Referee?

A short history of our magazine on Page 3

Tackling and leadership, all at our monthly meetings

Read what not only what our speakers have said but also what our members have thought on Pages 4 and 5

How law changes are trialed

Most ideas for changes that are suggested are trialed somewhere in the world. Three of them are explained on Page 6

Fair Play Award and club assistant awards.

What happened this year on page 7 plus a quick look at what this year's Law changes mean.

National Conference

A review of this year's conference is on page 8.

SOME REMINISCENCES OF PAGE TWO ARTICLES FROM EARLY DAYS

Over the years one of the features of the *Reading Referee* has been a *page two article*, written by many people both inside and outside the Reading Referees Association. With the planned changes to meet modern day needs it is perhaps opportune to look at some of the comments made in the magazine's early years.

Right from the start the editors encouraged contributions and in 1959, Roy Peskett, who older members might remember was the football correspondent of the Daily Mail wrote an exclusive article on his likes and dislikes of referees such as 'a good referee is always inconspicuous, unless of course he has to make a decision, which displeases the crowd,' and 'a showy official usually gets on everybody's nerves also undue whistling, wagging finger and threatening attitude when a player is being censured.' And more.

Some of the articles upset people such as the one in 1962 by Dick Sawdon Smith that blamed women for the shortage of referees, which upset the lady who used to type the magazine. She was Peter Farrow's secretary and Peter himself then penned an article which upset some of our local league officials. There was no shortage of referees he said, just too much local football. Interesting today to see how the decline in adult 11-a-side football has enabled the Reading Saturday league to have neutral assistants something that couldn't have been contemplated then.

Another article exclusively for the *Reading Referee* in 1963 was by Alan Wade, the FA Director of Coaching, successor to the famed Walter Winterbottom. Called 'Where do we go from here', it was far reaching, looking, amongst other things, at the possibility of 'devises incorporating the photo-electric cell' (GLT?), professional referees and pyramid system of leagues.

In 1964, Bert Newman our then Chairman and a Football League Linesman, was appointed to an Inter-Cities Cup tie, Utrecht v Luik Liege. Asked to write about his experience of the match he came back instead with a glowing report of the progressive Dutch training facilities and their centre paid for by the football pools, which was also used for referee training. They may only be a minor footballing nation now, he said, but they could spring a surprise in the future. We only have to think of how many World Cup Finals Holland has appeared in since then, to see the truth of his forecast. And we have only just built St George's Park.

In 1966, Peter Jefferis made a case for a change of name for linesman more in keeping with their duties, as he felt linesmen were belittled because of their title. We actually offered a prize for the best suggestion. No one came up with 'assistant referee'.

In 1967 Bunny Walters called for referees locally to give some Saturdays to youth football in the town They never had qualified officials although there were only two leagues of one division each, the Reading Minor League (under 18s) and the Reading League (under 16). Think of the size of youth leagues in the area now and young referees who take their games.

Also in 1967, Ken Jones sports columnist of the Daily Mirror, who I nearly sent off in a charity match, wrote an exclusive article for us. He complained about British referees in the World Cup allowing too many wild tackles (he should talk) and called for a complete overhaul of both refereeing technique and appointment. This years World Cup referees were told to stop 'wild' tackles and protect skilful players.

In 1971, Mike Reeves, then a new referee, called for an introductory period of six matches where new referees could be allocated to youth matches rather than 'thrown in' to the lower divisions of the local leagues. This he felt with less control needed it would give the beginner valuable self confidence in applying the laws from theory into practice. Not perhaps too far away from the six games new referees must now officiate before becoming a qualified referee.

Ray Emmans in 1972, called for quicker advancement in refereeing to be possible, particularly for those taking up refereeing late. If people are good enough, he said, they should not be held back but be able to progress quickly. Now of course we have accelerated promotion.

This is just a few of the contributors to the magazine, some that have perhaps looked to the future although it may not have turned out the way they expected. There have been many, many more over the last 55 years, both inside the Reading RA and outside, too many to mention all their names. We also culled some articles from other referee magazines and the pity is that many of those have also disappeared and with the loss of the *Football Referee*, the RA's own magazine, there is now nowhere that referees can have their say, or can put forward their ideas for improvement, for the future.

THE STORY OF THE READING REFEREE

The *Reading Referee* came into being in 1958, when three committee members, Peter Jefferis, Bert Newman and Len Forbes decided that there was need for a form of communication with members, whether they attended the monthly meetings or not. In December 1961, Bert Newman resigned as an editor on his appointment as secretary of the Reading Institute Football League, one of the two men's Saturday leagues in the town. Dick Sawdon Smith took over as editor with Peter Jefferis and Len Forbes took over the task of distribution, which is years to come was carried out by a number of other members.

Dick continued as editor until 1983 assisted at various times by Barry Angel and Alan Porton as assistant editors with regular contributions from Peter. During all this time it was a four page newsheet, except for two notable occasions. The less that was said, the more likely to be read, was the policy. Initially it was typed and photocopied by the secretary of member Peter Farrow at Pulsometer Pumps but when in 1978 Malcolm Foster joined as assistant editor it was given a hard cover and printed by the company Malcolm worked for, Lamport and Gilbert Printers but remained at four pages.

When Brian Palmer took over in 1983 he quickly turned it into a professional magazine with many more pages, which sometimes included his refereeing jokes (see, *Football Referees – you must be joking*, on Amazon). Brian kept on improving it until he relinquished the post of Editor in 2000. No replacement was found at the time and Dick produced an A4 newsletter for a year before John Coombs took over as editor and produced an excellent magazine, sponsored and printed by Fericon Printers for three years. As no one came forward to replace him, Dick again took over editorship for the last nine years. During this time, to save money it was decided to also produce an e-version. Previous preference to retain a 'paper' copy has now evaporated, so the committee, endorsed at the special general meeting, decided that the *Reading Referee* is no longer needed in its present form. Instead, it will continue its life online and delivered monthly by e-mail to accommodate today's readership.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

What our speakers have said

March - Roger Vaughan – Recognising Fouls

Roger has worked for the Football Association for over twelve years, firstly seven years as Regional Referees Manager for the South West and is now the National Referees Manager for Referee Development. He was previously involved in Training and Development with AXA and Nat West as well as being an FA coach, Licensed Referee Tutor and Chairman of Western Super Mare Referees' Society. He has been referee in for over twenty years. He was a Level 2 Panel League referee for four years and seven as referee as a National List assistant referee and previously he was a referee on the contributory system for eight years. Roger is now an assessor on the National List.

Roger's topic was Recognising Fouls and he said this was something that was relevant to every level of refereeing. Get them right and everything else will be easy but get them wrong and everything else will be wrong. However, everything is not always as it seems and for better understanding there are a number of points that you have to bear in mind.

- Speed of the players
- Intention of the players
- Aggression of the opponent
- Angle of the challenge
- Opportunity to play the ball
- Atmosphere

Roger then showed a series of video clips showing tackles and members were asked to indicate whether they were legitimate, just a foul or requiring yellow or red cards. As usual these created a great deal of discussion as well as a fair amount of agreement.

Thanks to Roger for an evening, which as he said, was relevant wherever we referee.

April – Mini-RA-FA evening – Teamwork and Communication

This was one of a number of mini-RA-FA training evenings that have been held a various RA branches throughout Berks and Bucks. All have been different and all referees in the allied counties have been informed and could have attended. This one again open to all Berks & Bucks referees was written and performed by members of our training team, Stephen green, Ken Clark, Dick Sawdon Smith and Brian Wratten all of whom are FA licensed tutors.

The session was introduced by Stephen giving the objectives for the evening which was teamwork and communication. Ken then took over with the question, 'How many teams? Who do I need to work with? The list compiled by the participants consisted of 1. teams and players. 2 assistant referees, 4th official where applicable, 3 home and away secretary, 4 managers/club officials 5. Police/stewards (When in senior football), 6 captains, 7. groundsman, 8 spectators, 9. substitutes, 10. assessor, 11. mentor/coach where applicable.

The session was then handed over to Dick who looked at what makes a good leader. He reminded participants of Ian Blanchard's parting quote when visiting Reading, 'Remember we are leaders', as referees we are leaders. He then asked the meeting to suggest qualities that they felt a good leader should have. The list included, knowledge, authority, confidence, ability to listen, appearance, influence, courage, responsibility,

calmness, judgement. The problem with qualities, apart for being hard to teach, Dick said, was that not everyone agreed what they meant, so he wanted to look at leadership in action. The meeting was split onto pairs who had to tell one another experiences they had had, firstly one which had created satisfaction or motivation for them and then something that had made them dissatisfied. Experiences for both fell into the same headings, which were, appreciation, recognition, achievement, growth, the job itself, responsibility. In other words to receive appreciation or given responsibility created satisfaction but the lack of it made people felt dissatisfied. Dick concluded by saying it would be useful to bear these actions in mind for the subject of the continuing sessions.

The next session was in fact 'Working with club assistants,' and taken by Brian. He split the meeting into groups and asked them to list not only the content of the instructions they would give but also how they would delivery them. The general consensus was that the assistants would be asked flag for ball out of play, throw-ins, corners, goal kicks with clear signals. Also for offside, which meant staying with the second last defender and then only if the offside player, played or challenged for the ball. They would not be required to flag for fouls or misconduct but to call the referee over if experiencing any problems. Today with use of substitutes taking the line, they should be asked to let the referee know if they were changing and only do it at a break in play. As for delivery, it was recommended that it should be concise and done with a smile and thanks for helping and saying that decisions will be acknowledged. There was also a feeling that captains should be present when the briefing is done so they know what is expected of the assistants. In his summing up Brian also thought that consideration should be given demonstrating what was required.

From club assistant to neutral assistants, which was another session taken by Dick. Again the meeting was split into groups, but some were asked to look what difference they would make to the instructions and the others to say where, when and how they would give their briefings. The briefing would be extended to include, pre-match duties, boots, jewellery, tape etc, nets, toss plus half time. Who was senior for replacement if need be, match record keeping, technical areas, time-keeping, substitutions (who to check them), positioning, offsides, fouls, positioning for penalties, 10 yard management, mass confrontation – positioning, eye contact, hand signals, end of game meet. Where it should be done was either on the pitch (perhaps with pitch inspection) or changing room depending on the weather, important thing was that there were no interruptions or other distractions. For 'when' opinions differed slightly from one to three-quarters of an hour before kick-off with a recap 10 minutes before , to half an hour with minimum of 10 to 15 minutes. Suggested methods of how to carry out the briefing were to engage not dictate but with plenty of eye contact, not rushed, not while changing and to focus on the game in hand.

The final session of the evening by Stephen and Ken was the one that created the most merriment for it looked at communication with players including some of the problem personalities that we encounter in our games as indicated by the members present. The list compiled was, the 'challenging captain', the 'insistent assistant', the 'second' ref, the one with a 'chip on shoulder attitude', the 'parrot', the 'know-all', the 'bent assistant', the 'Oscar' and the 'loose cannon'. Groups were then asked to select one of these and say how they would deal them.

An evening of practical solutions to a variety of important refereeing subjects.

FAIR PLAY AWARD

Last season's winner of our Fair Play Award was Woodley Town Reserves of the Reading Football League, Premier Division. It is hoped that the handsome Bert Newman trophy will be presented to the club at our first meeting of the new season in August.

This award is made for fair play and sporting conduct on the field in the two men's leagues in the town. Up until this year it was based on marks given by members only. However due to the lack of someone to run the scheme, it has been done in conjunction with the leagues' own markings.

It would be good if this award which has been running since 1966 could be put back on a members' marking only basis, which will need someone to come forward to run it. This entails making sure that all members officiating on those two leagues have marking forms to complete and then collating the results at the end of the season. Not an arduous task but a volunteer is needed.

CLUB ASSISTANTS' AWARDS

In 1933, Charles Kears, one of our most memorable members ever, stood up at a monthly meeting and proposed that the Society awarded a certificate to the best club linesman in the local leagues each season. This was unanimously agreed and the award has been running for the last 80 years. Originally, members had to write to the Secretary with a recommendation of any club linesman who had given them particularly good service. However, when the Fair Play Award was introduced it was put on a more equal and formal basis when members were asked to mark the club linesmen (now assistants) out of ten on the combined forms provided and the three highest marked, to receive an award.

Sadly, it has not proved possible to make these awards this year due to three contributing factors. One is the lack of someone to run the scheme, the second is that so many clubs now use substitutes to run the line so often there could be a number of people taking the flag. Thirdly, the number of clubs needing to provide an assistant has gone down, now that Senior clubs in the Reading Football League have neutral assistant referees appointed to their matches.

CHANGES TO THE LAWS OF THE GAME

All members will have received the details of this season's changes to the Laws of the Game. Some are a little confused about the accompanying photographs. So to clarify, the turban type headwear shown are not allowed as they have protruding elements.

When it comes to the undergarments that show political, religious, personal slogans statements or images, the wearer should not be cautioned but the offence should be reported only to competition concerned. On the other hand if the player lifts his shirt above his head to reveal the image, then this will continue to be a cautioned and shown the yellow card.

For assistant referees when communicating to the referee that a defender's foul was in the penalty area, the custom has been to put the flag across the chest. FIFA say this is not one of the approved signals that appear in the Laws of the Game booklet and in future to indicate that in his opinion the foul should be punished with a penalty, the assistant should flag for a free kick to the attacking team and then make a definite movement towards the goal line.

THE TRIALS OF FOOTBALL

Experiments that could change the shape of the game.

Very often, when a problem presents itself or suggestions to change aspects of the Laws of the Game are put forward, the action of the International Football Association Board is to ask for pilots or trails to be carried out in some part of the game. This has been going on for years. Older members may remember the Watney Cup, a pre-season competition where a line was extended across the pitch from the edge of the penalty area and offside could only be given beyond that line. That and many other 'experiments' have failed to get support but one at the last meeting of the International Board will be passed into the laws.

A couple of years ago there were two uncomfortable incidents for FIFA. One featured a 15 year referee in Canada who was prevented from refereeing in her hijab as Canadian footballing authorities felt this contravened FIFA ruling on making religious statements. Then the Iran Women's football team was banned from the FIFA Women's World Cup not because their headgear was seen to be religious but dangerous and therefore in breach of Law 4. Trials have been carried out over the past two years and the conclusion has been drawn that there is no reason why players should not wear head covers as they call them, providing they meet the requirements of Law 4 and this will be incorporated in the Laws from the new season. Although this whole trial was based on women wearing 'head covers', the Sikh community of Canada asked that it incorporate the wearing of turbans, which are a religious requirement for Sikh men and this has been agreed. There are various types of turbans and those that have protruding elements will still not be permitted. This could be quite relevant locally as there is a large Sikh community in Reading.

One trial that is taking place locally is that of repeatable substitutes in what is increasingly being termed 'recreational' football. Certain competitions in the area have signed up for what is erroneously called 'roll on – roll off' substitutes, even by some members of the International FA Board. This experiment was called for by the Football Association in an attempt to stall the decline in eleven-a-side men's football. The theory is that if a team can have more substitutes and that players who are substituted can go back on to the field later in the game, more people will get to play and more people will want to play. So how is it going? Well reports at the half way stage seem to be upbeat. Clubs and competitions have had to keep records and it is claimed that some teams and competitions which would have disbanded have kept going. Seventy per cent of coaches in the trials report that they have increased their squads and there is said to be an overall increase of eighteen per cent of people taking part in the game.

The other pilot taking place in Scotland is the use of the sin-bin. This is also only being carried out in 'recreational' football and this is mainly because this is where it is seen there could be difficulty in its application. The reports have not been so positive. The referee on his/her own, having to cope with the timings of the suspensions and apparently the nature of the game has changed during the periods of the suspensions. The trial still has another year to go so it will be interesting to see what the final decision will be.

THE NATIONAL RA CONFERENCE

The National RA Conference was held again at the Hinckley Island Hotel, Leicestershire on 12th July. The theme for this year was '*Getting the Big Decisions Right*'. David Elleray, President of the RA and Chairman of the FA Referees' Committee in introducing the day, said that there were 500 members at the Conference which was the total membership of the Referees Association or the Referees' Union as it was then called, 100 years ago in July 1914. Fifty per cent of the membership went to fight in the war of which twenty per cent never returned.

RA-FA YOUTH COUNCIL EVENTS

David mentioned that the day before conference, as well as the AGM of the RA, there was a practical Development Day for young referees at the FA Training Centre at St Georges Park, which was based on Education – Development – Learning, where amongst other things they were put through their fitness paces by Simon Brevitt the Sports Scientist of the PGM. This was followed by a social event in the evening back at Hinckley which had a Brazilian theme in honour of the FIFA World Cup.

IMPORTANCE OF THE BIG DECISIONS

The First Keynote Presentation was by Premier League referee John Moss who said 'we are judged above all else by the big decisions we make. We will never get them all right but we have to analyse them to think how could have been prevented. There are however practical decisions and theoretical decisions. Everything is not always black and white and we have to ask ourselves 'what would football expect?' Being John Moss of course, the presentation, aided by some of his Premier League officials, was animated and humorous. 'Good decision making,' he said, 'is about compressing the information load by decoding the meaning of patterns derived from experience. This cannot be taught in a classroom. It must be lived and learned. To put it another way, it must be energised through practice.'

PRACTICAL WORKSHOPS

Members then split into the various workshops of which there were seven – Controlling the penalty area, Getting fit to be in position for those big decisions, Mass confrontation, Mental strength to cope with the big decisions, Offside, When does a challenge become serious foul play ?and When is handball really handball? All were run by the country's top male and female referees or members of the FA Referees Department.

CHANGES TO THE LAWS AND IFAB

Neale Barry, former Premier League referee and now the FA's representative on the IFAB's Technical Committee told the meeting of this year's (minimal) changes to the Laws of the Game and to the IFAB. As well as the Technical Committee a new committee has been formed which will be looking at the definition of words used in the Laws to ensure they mean the same through the world. For instance what does the word 'direct' mean? Also under consideration will be sin bins, handball, the so called triple punishment for DAGSO, electronic tracking for players health and video replays.

CHANGES FOR NEXT YEARS CONFERENCE

In 2015 the Conference will be a week earlier on 4th July with a new venue, at a London Hotel.