

# The Reading Referee





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# The Reading Referee

The Magazine of the Reading Referees' Association

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## EDITORIAL

### **Another outstanding opportunity for young referees**

In the last issue of this magazine I asked if there was ever a better time to be a young referee. Now we hear of another wonderful opportunity for young referees to take place on the Friday afternoon prior to the national RA Conference. They can take part in a practical training session with Select Group and FIFA referees, Howard Webb and Martin Atkinson. This is followed at 7pm with a RA-FA Youth council event at the Hinckley Island Hotel which includes a buffet dinner, question time with high profile guest speakers and ending with music and socialising.

It does of course mean extra cost. The two events will only cost £13 or £10 for the evening event on its own but the real extra cost will be overnight accommodation before the national conference on the Saturday. There is bound to be a high demand and there are limited spaces so early booking is needed. If there is any young member who wishes to attend and hasn't received the information, contact me and I will e-mail a booking form.

### **Don't forget the National Conference.**

This is promised to be a little special this year as it will be celebrating the 150<sup>th</sup> celebration of the formation of the Football Association. It is completely free for RA members of all ages (except for lunch) and will feature as always a series of workshops with the top referees in the country. We will endeavour as usual to provide transport and we hope that Berks & Bucks FA will again sponsor a number of places for young referees for who it could be a great day without any cost. Further details on page 8.

### **When did you last check your laws of the game?**

A few seasons ago, I was refereeing at Berkshire County Sports and when emptying my hold-all prior to getting changed, I also pulled out my copy of the Laws of the Game. The referee I was sharing the dressing room with, picked it up. 'I used to have one of these,' he said. How long is it since you consulted the Laws of the Game? On page two, I put forward an idea to keep us looking at the laws.

**Dick Sawdon Smith**

## **A QUIZ TO SHARPEN THE MIND**

### **A suggestion to start our meetings from Dick Sawdon Smith**

Many years ago, before many of our members today were even born, I used to write a weekly refereeing column for the Basingstoke Gazette. Basingstoke RA, who hadn't a clue who I was, wrote to me via the newspaper asking if I would be the guest speaker at one of their monthly meetings. In those days, most guest speakers told of their exploits on the field of play rather than conducted any form of training. This left me with a little quandary as I was not perhaps the top class referee they were expecting. However, I had collected a series of unusual incidents so I put together a quiz called 'Unusual but it Happens'. I had a multiple choice answer sheet for everyone there, a crowded meeting as I remember. I read out the questions and at the end, collected in

the sheets in two halves before switching them to the other half of the room, so that no one marked their own paper, preventing anyone's embarrassment if their answer was wrong. I then asked for a show of hands for each possible answer to each question I wrote up the numbers for each alternative on a portable blackboard that I had pre-prepared. As I recall, none of the questions got a unanimous answer. I then revealed, reading from the Laws of the Game the correct answers which created a great deal of, at times, heated discussion. This was such an unusual format for that time the word spread and I was asked to take it around RAs throughout Southern counties'.

Members, usually new ones often ring me with a law query but recently one of our established members related an incident that had occurred in one of his games and the decision he made. I assured him that it was the correct one but he explained the reason he sought confirmation was that after the match, one of his assistants told him he had made a mistake. This was based on information previously given to him from one of our leading referees in the town. Now of course, I don't know whether the information given was wrong or whether the assistant had misunderstood it, but it just showed how once something is imprinted in one's memory it is difficult to move it. I play a little golf and it is surprising the number of infringements that have been pointed out to me that I had never heard of before but I'm told are fact or the infringements that players commit not knowing they are in breach of the rules. My plan whenever this happens is to consult the Rule Book to check the correct answer otherwise I could take incorrect rules with me for ever. It is obviously worth us as referees taking the same action when we are given advice that we are not clear about.

Before his great presentation, Deal or No Deal, at our January meeting, Ray Olivier conducted the same quiz that he had used at the Select Referees meeting earlier that week. Their fortnightly get-togethers have always started with a quiz on the Laws of the Game and Ray said that he considered this sharpened and focussed the mind. It made me wonder if we should start our meetings with a short quiz in perhaps the same way as my Unusual but it Happens so everyone takes part but no one is embarrassed. Of course we like to get our speakers on first so they can get away, but the questions can be limited to just three or four, which can be repeated in this magazine for those who don't get to the meetings. It might be something the new committee would like to ponder on for next year.

**Dick Sawdon Smith**

## **MONTHLY MEETINGS**

### **What our speakers have said**

#### **January**

##### **Ray Olivier – Deal or No Deal**

We were pleased to welcome to our January meeting, Ray Olivier who is Training and Development Manager for the PMGOL, which of course is responsible for the Select list of referees on the Premier League. It was pity that the heavy snowfall on the day had deterred some members and we had one of the smallest attendances since moving to our new venue.

Ray was previously with the FA as the Referee Regional Manager for the Midlands and National Manager for Instructor Training. He has been an FA Tutor since 1989 and has delivered training extensively throughout Europe, Africa, South America and Asia, such places as Bermuda, Trinidad and Tobago, Mali, Ethiopia, Denmark, Belgium, Qatar, Kuala Lumpur, Venezuela, Peru, Brazil, Columbia, Ecuador, Fiji, Uganda and South Korea. No doubt they were all treated to the same infectiousness and enthusiasm of Ray's, that we were, which makes his training sessions easy and fun to take part in.

As most of us are probably aware, the Premier League referees have a fortnightly get together, but perhaps not everyone realises that they always start their two days together with a quiz on the Laws of the Game. It so happened that they had met earlier in the week and Ray brought along the quiz that they had had for us to take part in. Ray said that he thought a quiz on the laws to start was a good way of sharpening the brain. Some of the questions are printed elsewhere in the magazine along with the answers.

After the quiz Ray turned to his main presentation of the evening based on Channel 4s late afternoon programme Deal or No Deal but without the possibility of large cash rewards. The meeting was split up into groups. The red numbered boxes were all shown on the screen and then each group was asked to pick a number. Each box then revealed a clip from a match. The group that picked the box discussed the incident and then gave their answer, which was then open to the rest of the meeting. Amongst these was the one that many members may have seen on YouTube. At the taking of a kick from the penalty mark the ball hits the cross bar and rebounds. The goalkeeper charges out to the edge of the penalty area, celebrating with his arms aloft but on hitting the ground the ball spins back and goes in the goal. The official answer is that the goal should be allowed to stand despite many referees thinking the kick is completed when the ball stops its forward movement although Ray did put in the proviso that the law says the referee decides when the kick is completed. Other videos showed included attackers backing into goalkeepers on the goal line, goalkeepers handling the ball outside the penalty area, rebounds at offside, substitutes coming on without informing the referee, and the player receiving two yellow cards without being sent off.

Thanks Ray for another fun presentation but with a lot of learning included.

## MONTHLY MEETINGS

### What our speakers have said.

#### February – Jeff Pettit – Achieving greatness with simple steps

We were pleased to welcome back Jeff Pettit who has always provided us with an entertaining but fruitful evening on our quest to be better referees. Jeff was a Premier League assistant referee for many years before quitting to concentrate on his referees supplies business, A& H International. However he has not lost his passion for refereeing and is involved in developing up and coming referees and has been the Referee Academy Director at Charlton Football Club since 1999.

Jeff started by saying how pleased he was to see such a good turnout at a referees meeting. Four RAs in London had resisted all suggestions that they should amalgamate but now they had disappeared completely. He was also pleased to see that at the top level they were now giving club markings as much weight as the assessors report, which could have an effect on those referees who 'refereed for the assessor'.

If asked what the number one word was for referees, Jeff said he would have to say **enthusiasm**. This would be followed by the word **bold**. For example, too many referees don't blow their whistles hard enough, as if they don't want to offend anyone. Boldness he said, goes with **self belief**. Always believe in what you are doing and make everything you do, believable. Many referees he said, believe that success is something magical and mysterious but it is not. Refereeing is the same for those at the top level as it is for those plying their trade on the local parks. It is all down to committed application of basic fundamental tasks. For example, crisp signals at every decision, a whistle that can be heard. A few simple disciplines that can be practiced every day.

Jeff then split the meeting up into four groups, and gave them the task of agreeing amongst themselves the top five fundamentals for referees and placing them in order of preference. After the groups had had time to discuss their options, he asked each group for what they considered their number one, which he then wrote on the flip chart. A spokesperson from each group then explained the thinking behind their selection. Seemingly strangely, each group came up with a different heading, something Jeff said that he had never experienced before. These were, Communication, Attitude, Preparation and Knowledge. However, as the spokesman for each group explained the reasons behind their choices, it was clear that they were all thinking along the same lines but had given the process a different name.

For example under Knowledge, they weren't just talking about knowledge of the Laws of the Game but also knowledge of the competition rules and how and who they should be communicating with when conducting in their pre-match preparation. This all involved the attitude with which the referee approached the game and communicated with his colleagues when applicable as well as the clubs and players.

Our thanks to Jeff once again not only for a bold and enthusiastic presentation full of self belief but for taking the time to put it together for our development.

## **SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING**

### **No Raise in Subs for the coming year**

Prior to our February meeting we held a Special General Meeting that we are obliged to do, to set our subscription for the coming year. Our Treasurer, Jamie Barnett presented the income and expenditure for the present year, which showed a loss. This he said was due mainly to a drop in membership and the fact that we had no Christmas Draw. However, he felt that with lower meeting costs following our move from the Madesjski Stadium, this would mean there was no need to raise subscriptions for the coming year, a proposition that was carried by the meeting.

## **MONTHLY MEETINGS YET TO COME**

### **March 21st**

We will have the pleasure of welcoming for the first time **Mark Ives** who is the Discipline Manager of the FA. Mark has been at the FA for 12 years and was formerly CEO of a County FA. He has been a referee for 27 years and was level 2 with nine years and a National List assistant referee but now referees every weekend on his local leagues. Prior to refereeing he was a player on the Isthmian League. He was responsible for the multi-caution form (which we all love) and the introduction of match based system across all levels at County level. It can be seen that Mark has experienced the game from all angles so his presentation 'Discipline and the way forward' has got to be worth listening to and seeing as he promises some relevant videos

### **April 18th**

One of Corin Readett's ideas before he left for pastures new was to have a series of roadshows that were put together by various FA Tutors in the Allied Counties, and which could be taken around RA meetings for training and discussion. This month should have been our turn for the topic 'Crossing the Line', identifying and dealing with external influences which could impact on your game. Unfortunately, the Tutor delegated to make the presentation has possible work commitments so a substitute programme will be arranged for the evening.

### **May 16th**

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Presentation of Fair Play and Club Assistants Awards**

**Presentation of Major Sainsbury Award, Fred Porton Award and Richard Fisher Award**

# **WANTED**

When our AGM comes up in May we are seeking nominations  
for places on the committee.

There are several vacancies that need filling such as  
Committee members and above all a Chairman.

**YOUR RA NEEDS YOU**

## **FAIR PLAY AND CLUB ASSISTANT REFEREES AWARDS**



This is the handsome Bert Newman Trophy that clubs in the Reading Football League and Reading Sunday League compete for based on the markings of our members. So if you are refereeing in either of these leagues please make sure that you get your markings in to Jim McDougall by the end of April to give Jim time to collate the markings prior to the AGM.

Also on those forms is space for the club assistant referee markings. Those who undertake this sometimes thankless task need some form of recognition from us and this one way we can do it. If you need more forms then pick them up at the monthly meeting or contact Jim; [jim-mcdougal@hotmail.com](mailto:jim-mcdougal@hotmail.com) or 9835603

These awards should not be confused with any that are awarded by the leagues

## **BERKS & BUCKS RA QUIZ ON THE LAWS OF THE GAME**

The annual quiz on the Laws was hosted by Chiltern RA and our thanks to Brian Richards for making the arrangements. The quiz followed the usual format of numbers such as field of play dimensions, ball size, pressure etc, restarts of play and disciplinary action. The contest was won once again by Chiltern RA who go forward to represent the county in the National Finals on the weekend of the National conference. We managed a credible second with our team of Stephen Williams, Shane Lorriman, Derek Reigate and Mark Roberts. If you would like to get involved next year, then mention it to Mark who would be pleased to get new recruits and perhaps even a practice evening can be arranged.

## **PROBLEMS AT THE RA**

You may have read of some difficulties at the Board of the RA with two members resigning after a dispute about expenses. Now, Arthur Smith who was elected to the Board after retiring from the position of RA General Secretary has now decided that it was perhaps too soon and should have waited for a couple more years. There are a total of 12 candidates standing for election at this year's AGM.

## **THE PREMIER REFEREES QUIZ ON THE LAWS**

Amongst the questions in the quiz from the elite referees meeting that Ray Olivier started our January meeting with were the following;

At a throw-in the ball hits the referee after it rebounds from the goal post and goes in the opposing goal. How would you restart?

The referee is hit in the face and is incapacitated and the ball goes the goal. Can you give a goal?

After taking a goal kick, the goalkeeper sees an opponent likely to get to the ball so he rushes out and picks it up before the opposing player can get to it. What action would you take?

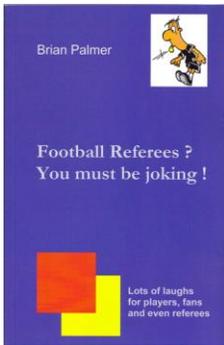
What are the basic requirements for a foul?

During the Kicks from the Penalty Mark, the goal becomes defective. Can you switch to the other goal?

**(Answers on page 7)**

## CAN YOU TAKE A JOKE?

Brian Palmer has produced a book of laughs about referees



Older members will remember that Brian Palmer edited this magazine for seventeen years and that he was responsible for founding our website, which he produced until he relinquished the position of webmaster in 2011. Brian used to include on the website a whole section of jokes about referees and refereeing. He came across them earlier this year and thought why waste them, so he put them all in a book, entitled Football Referee? You must be joking!

If you would like to obtain a copy, they are available on Amazon at a mere £4.99

## REFEREES' ASSOCIATION GRAND PRIZE DRAW

### You can win a new car



Tickets for the annual Referees' Association grand prize draw are available now from Heather Wellington. First prize is a brand new Hyundai i10 or £5,000. Second prize is £1,000, third prize £500 and twenty five consolation prizes of £100. Make sure that the money for any purchased tickets are given to Heather or our treasurer Jamie Barnett and not direct to the RA as we keep half of the proceeds. The draw will be made at the RA Conference on 6<sup>th</sup> July.

## ANSWERS TO THE PREMIER REFEREES' QUIZ

1. You should restart with a goal kick as the ball must be touched by another **player** for a goal to be scored from a throw-in
2. If you have a neutral qualified assistant referee who saw everything that happened then it would be quite in order to allow the goal. If you have a club assistant and didn't see what happened, it would be best to restart with a dropped ball.
3. It depends whether the ball has come outside the penalty area or not. If not the kick is retaken as it is not in play. If it is outside the penalty area a direct free kick for handball would be given.
4. It must be committed by a player. It must occur on the field of play. It must occur while the ball is in play.
5. Yes. The referee alone chooses at which goal the kicks are taken

## PROBLEMS WITH RA WEBSITE

If you have been trying to view the RA website, it's not functioning at present. This is due we are told to an administrative problem with the domain name hosting company. However, you can still purchase goods from the RA at [www.rashop.co.uk](http://www.rashop.co.uk) Don't forget we have a supply of RA items on sale at all monthly meetings.

# THE NATIONAL RA CONFERENCE



**SATURDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> JULY**  
**Barceló Hinckley Island Hotel**  
**Leicestershire**

This year's theme  
**HONOURING THE PAST – BUILDING THE FUTURE**  
**A Celebration of Refereeing**

**2013 is the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of the**  
**FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION**  
**This will be one of their major celebrations**

This is a great development day, not only for younger referees, in company with and working with, not only the top referees in this country but also this year some senior refereeing figures from abroad

The Conference is free for all full members of the RA (except for lunch)  
We hope that Berks & Bucks FA will again provide support for young referees making it completely free

It is planned that transport will again be arranged by the Society

## **All the events that weekend**

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July

**Afternoon Outdoor Practical Training Session**  
**for young referees with Howard Webb and Martin Atkinson**  
**RA-FA Youth Council Evening Event**

**The Annual General Meeting of the Referees Association**

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July

**National RA Conference**

**Conference Dinner**

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July

**Finals of the National RA Quiz**