



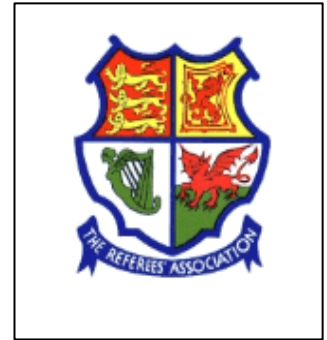
The Brighton Referee

The Official Newsletter of the Brighton Society of the Referees Association

Season 2007/08

Issue 2

October 2007



The next meeting will take place on....

Monday 8th October 2007
At the FMT Club, Franklin Road, Portslade
Starting at 7.45pm

...where we welcome **Malcolm Stuart** the Physio of Brighton and Hove Albion, who will be talking about 30 years with the club. Please come armed with question for which should be an entertaining and informative evening.

To get the most out of Malcolm, there will be a new running order to Octobers Meeting.

7.45 = Prompt start with Introduction, Apologies of Absence, Delegates Report and Match Incidents.

8.00 = Malcolm Stuart talking on 30 years with BHA

9.30 = Treasurers Report, Secretarys Report, Correspondence, Any other Business and Raffle.

Chairman's Notes September 2007

I am pleased to report that our opening meeting of the new season was deemed to be a success.

Gary Willard facilitated a thoughtful discussion on what we as match Officials should consider in order to aid our performances in the new season...

Our former secretary, Gerry O'Hare was presented with a Commemorative Rose Bowl by our President David King by way of thanking him for his outstanding service to our Association. He will be missed by our Committee. Paul Saunders introduced us to the Law changes in place for the new season and, importantly, explained exactly what a "metal cup hook" looks like. These are now banned and games must not take place where they are used to secure goal nets.

Equally of import was the presentation by Gary Willard of Certificates to our newly qualified officials. It is important that as a Society we encourage and support new referees at a time when there is a severe shortage of officials and many games in our local leagues are uncovered. We have in place a mentoring scheme run by Marc Samuels and I hope that our more experienced colleagues are able to give up their time to observe matches and give support to those newly qualified. The Sussex County FA have a recruitment campaign in the local press and it was pleasing to see articles in the local papers encouraging people to take up the whistle.

In the wider football world it is looking likely that England Ladies will progress to the Quarter-finals of the Women's World Cup in China. This is a burgeoning area of our game and regrettably the number of active female officials does not reflect this.

Our October meeting will be addressed by Malcolm Stuart, the Brighton and Hove Albion physiotherapist. Malcolm has been with the Albion for many years and has many a tale to tell about what happens behind the scenes of the most senior team in Sussex. I would urge you all to attend.

Finally, I look forward to seeing you all next month to give support to your local Society.

David Bull



Dave King presenting a memento to our former secretary Gerry O'Hare for all his hard work over the past years during the September meeting



Gary Willard presenting certificates to newly qualified referees during the September meeting

A few dates for your diary:

- Annual Quiz – 26th November 2007
- Sussex/Surrey 5-a-side – 6th Jan 2008
- RA Centenary Conference – 5th July 2008

For further details please ask Phil Wilkes

At the September meeting a question was asked:

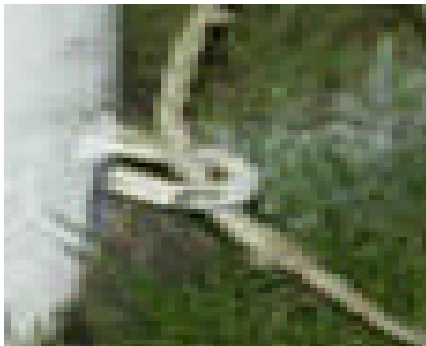
May an injured player be excused from taking part in kicks from the penalty mark to determine the result of a match or home-and-away tie?

The question related to the Steven Taylor incident during the U'21 European Championship where he was made to take a penalty after protests from the Dutch Manager.

The answer is YES he may but he cannot be replaced by another player.

Goal-Net Fixings

The FA states: *The use of metal cup hooks on goals will be banned from the commencement of season 2007/08 and match officials will be instructed **not to commence matches** where such net fixings are evident for safety reasons. Nets should only be secured by plastic hooks or tape and not by metal cup hooks. Any metal cup hooks should be removed and replaced. New goalposts should be purchased if they include metal cup hooks.*



This is a picture of a Metal Cup Hook, these are **ILLEGAL**

Plastic Tie Clips



Plastic Arrow Heads



Plastic Tie Clips & Plastic Arrow Heads are **LEGAL**

A SUMMERS DAY/S

On a bright warm and sunny Sunday in June 3rd (when you may ask!) a gathering of young football teams were arriving to compete in one of the two annual Mid Sussex Youth and Minor Football League Tournaments at Burgess Hill.

Gazebo's were being erected all around the area (not to keep the rain off) but to shelter from the SUN, anticipation of the teams for a good day and the buzz around the pitches to get the ball rolling.

Out stepped the band of warrior Referee's to adjudicate and officiate for the rest of the day, to placate managers and parents more often than the young footballers who were only interested in playing the game.

This first Sunday of a two part tournament with different age groups we were represented by the following under U10s, U12s, U14s & U16s on 18 pitches (oops one had to be closed due to a manhole cover partway on to the pitch) which had been inspected by one of our Referee's, total teams playing amounted to 86.

In total we had 31 Fully Qualified Referee's which fulfilled their allotted games with great distinction.

As the sun reach its zenith we were refreshed by copious amounts of refreshments provided by the committee ably organised by Sarah and crew.

Also we assembled a recruitment gazebo manned by Brian Brigden & myself this was the first occasion we had set this up so a learning curve had to be adjusted as we had only the stands to demonstrate information on Referee participation and a number of inquiries.

On the second tournament which was still sunny on June 17th we found the intervening Sunday wet and windy, once again we had a good turn out of Referee's totalling 37 with teams in the age group U7s, U8s, U9s, U11s U13s U15s, the day passed very quickly and our new gazebo was erected eventually as Brian found the directions difficult to read (don't mention his eye sight) we now had a Generator and TV with a video show going all day, we had less callers than the previous fortnight but we still generated some interest. The difficulty is we do need volunteers to man the show and next season to distribute leaflets to all the parents explaining what a referee needs to know to join our ranks, most feel that they are not prepared to give every weekend to officiate and we need to explain that this is not the case.

The tournament was once again run with precision and Sarah once again at the helm, the refreshments were superb and plentiful with an abundance of fresh fruit, anyone invited to these tournaments will experience an enjoyable day without being abandoned to one pitch throughout the day, as some venues have been known to do. Everything is shared out and most pitches had two officials rotating the duties at their convenience.

If you are lucky to be asked or apply and be accepted a great day with friendly committee members and Referee's await

Thanks to Arthur Gray for above article.



Why have you got this flyer?

Your Sports Club or Association are constantly looking to raise funds to offset the constantly rising costs of providing facilities for you to compete in your chosen sport to the highest level you can. I have started a company to help raise funds for Sports Clubs by asking members not only to use our company themselves but to refer family or friends to buy their cars from us as well. In return, I will pay a significant fee to your Club or Association. This will in turn improve the facilities at your disposal and potentially reduce the fees you have to pay.

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We only deal with clients who have been recommended to us, therefore please remember to Quote your Unique Introducer Code in any contact.

REF001

Thanks to Phil Wilkes

What exactly is Careless, Reckless or using Excessive Force?"

Careless is when a player attempting to challenge for the ball which is in close proximity to an opponent, puts a great deal of honest effort into the challenge, but wildly mistime's it, and in doing so fouls the opponent.

This includes when a player challenging for the ball has not exercised proper care or has misjudged his play, or when a player has miscalculated the strength required to challenge fairly or has overstretched his leg when making the challenge. This type of foul is common, and should be penalised with an award of a direct free kick (or penalty if occurring in the players own penalty area) - and a 'quiet verbal warning' by the Referee. A careless tackle does not necessarily warrant a caution, depending on the severity or the number of persistent offences committed previously by the perpetrator. A quiet word usually suffices in normal circumstances.

The word careless can also mean, absent-minded, hasty, heedless, inconsiderate, negligent, regardless, thoughtless, unconcerned, and sloppy. The Referee must also learn to differentiate between an act carried out against a minor, and a similar act carried out against a senior player - what is an excessive push on a minor, might not even be noticed in a professional match involving senior players, where body contact is more prevalent and readily accepted as part of the game.

Reckless is when a player makes a challenge in a manner where there is a clear risk of endangering an opponent, but pays no regard to the possible consequences and the safety and/or welfare of his opponent.

This includes when a player has made a challenge for the ball, and it is done in such way that it clearly intimidates (or distracts) an opponent, regardless of any potential danger to that opponent. The challenger himself does not have to make contact with the opponent (many opponents are adept at 'riding' challenges by jumping up to prevent contact being made) the intimidation alone is enough to warrant the tackling player being penalised. For example, a reckless sliding tackle may be executed with the sole aim to intimidate an opponent, or distract him from shooting towards goal. The punishment for a reckless challenge is a direct free kick to the opposing team (or penalty if occurring in the perpetrator's own penalty area) and usually a caution for unsporting behaviour if the reckless challenge was outside the sporting bounds expected in normal play. A strong verbal warning by the Referee is also recommended.

The word reckless can also mean, daredevil, devil-may-care, foolhardy, harebrained, hasty, headlong, heedless, imprudent, inattentive, irresponsible, madcap, mindless, negligent, over venturesome, rash, regardless, thoughtless and wild.

The word 'harebrained', sums up what a reckless challenge is all about!

Excessive force is when a player makes a challenge, which may be malicious or brutal and may be designed to hurt or maim an opponent.

These are the worst types of tackles where a player has placed an opponent in considerable danger of being injured by the use of unnecessary force when making a challenge for the ball. If the challenge involves excessive force far outside the bounds excepted in normal play, this is 'serious foul play', and the Referee must send the player off, and award the direct free kick to the opposing team (or penalty if occurring in the perpetrator's own penalty area). The use of excessive force should at the very least warrant a caution against the perpetrator (and a very strong verbal warning by the Referee). Winning the ball first, is not an excuse for a challenge of this nature to be deemed legal. Players who plead their innocence because they have 'won the ball' just before breaking an opponents leg in a tackle using excessive force, should be strongly, immediately and properly dealt with by despatching with a Red card.

Respect referees or lose out in the end.

Park Life is urging players to give players more respect. We have launched a campaign to stop the abuse of the men in black in an attempt to stem the declining numbers of officials in Sussex grassroots football. Every year the amount of referees hanging up their whistle is growing as they become tired of taking foul-mouthed flak from players. There are now nowhere near enough referees to cover all the games throughout the leagues each week. About a quarter of the 39 Sussex Sunday League games today (Sunday) do not have a referee assigned to them, while almost a third of the 30 matches involving Brighton League did not have an official. The worrying trend leaves teams having to referee games themselves, which can lead to impartiality. Our campaign called "Don't abuse them or you'll lose them" aims to change that. We want players, managers and referees to expose teams who have dished out abuse and we will name and shame them in these pages. Hopefully, that will make players think twice before opening their mouths and will go some way to stopping the ref-bashing. Brighton League fixtures secretary Ernie Coleman said "There are about five to eight games not covered this week and we never have all the games covered. The situation has come about because of the hassle and aggravation the referees get in matches which is uncalled for. Then you get teams moaning that some joker has had to referee the game because they haven't got an official." The Worthing and Horsham League is also struggling. Fixtures and referees secretary Lloyd Rendell has told teams "There is a referee shortage at present and I am working tirelessly to fill games but demand is greater than supply. Please could clubs who get referees, treat them with respect as I would like to keep the ones who do officiate with us". The Brighton League have taken their own steps to help cut down the amount of abuse referees have to endure. Every player has a photo ID which helps the officials in their reports to the league. Coleman said "The referees now know who has done what and can report the player. We have a zero tolerance policy and that player is then banned, subject to confirmation from the Sussex FA. It gives the referees a backup and, hopefully, encourages more people to become officials. Each team has to check the cards before a game and tell the referee otherwise they get fined."

Article published in Sports Argus Sat 15th Sept

Minutes of the Brighton Referees Association meeting held at the FMT Club, Portslade on Mon 10th Sep 2007

Apologies for Absence

Simon Beckman, Kim Etherington, Peter Moran, Darren Eaton, Mark & Natalie Lidbetter, Clive Penton, Martin Bodenham, Ray Welch, Gerald & Jacob Miles, Dave Jackson, Joss Goodman.

Matters Arising

Thanks were given to Kim & Simon for the effort they had put in to the new newsletter. Other no other matters were arising.

Secretary's Report

Secretary attended the Brighton & Hove Football League AGM to present an award sponsored by the RA. Winners were CCK. President of the league Ivor Caplin MP passed his thanks to the Brighton RA and referees for all their efforts over the year.

Correspondence

Disciplinary reports from 4th May to 26th July received Sussex County FA council papers for April and June received. Details from grand draw at the National AGM received, (no winners in Sussex).

Letter from the RA re metal cup hooks on goals Paul to follow this with a session this evening. AGM minutes from the RA of England received. Notice received re sudden death of Ben Stepple. (chairman led minute silence.)

Treasurers Report

Membership 54

Bank £1608.84

Cash £157.39

Stock £ 247.57

May raffle raised £18. Thank you for tonight's raffle prize donations received from Dave Bull, Denny Brain, and Colin Fines.

Donations received from David King and Ron Pavey with thanks.

Delegates Report

County executive – Colin Fines will report next month in full, dates for the county quiz TBC, but in November.

5 a side date to be confirmed, Jan 2008.

Reported that if Referees are not CRB checked next season this would be deemed a criminal offence. At this point this is unconfirmed and will need sanctioning by legislation and FA before this is considered to be moved forward.(Further details will be issued)

There have been 3 recorded assaults on referees over the summer.

Brighton League – Phil Wilks reported season has only just started with only a few games not covered to date. Brighton League very proactive in dealing with players sent off for foul and abusive language to match officials and a 2 strike and out policy is in place.

Training Report

Basic course starts 11th October, there is a new format for this season with a DVD and written exam at the end of the course. If you have anyone interested please phone Paul or the County FA. Last training course there were 10 successful candidates 3 were present at the meeting and were presented with their certificates by Gary Willard.

The fees for the new course will be a Max of £82.

Match Incidents

Questions were raised re a player possibly being excused from taking a penalty if injured , the example given in the UEFA under 21 European championship where an England Player was injured at the end of extra time and requested not to take a penalty to the referee. After a protest by the Dutch Manager the player concerned was asked to take the penalty. It was decided after a few minutes of debate that the committee would take this up further to seek clarification.

Any Other Business

There is a vacant position to assist the referees' secretary in the Sussex Sunday League. Anyone interested please liaise with Marc Samuels.

Paul then did a presentation regarding the metal cup hooks with an explanation of examples of illegal and legal hooks. This was backed up by "graphic "pictures of finger injuries.

This was followed by an update of the law amendments for the coming season.

Arthur Gray provided information about the County FA recruitment and retention policy, with actions taken to date. This has included presentations at summer tournaments, welcome packs for new referees, contacting previously registered referees. Road shows are planned for later in the year and if you are able to offer any help please contact Arthur.

Anyone with outstanding CRB check forms can get them verified by Paul Saunders or John Burns at the RA meetings.

The John Woodland award (for SCFA academy) has been awarded to Ashley Slaughter.

As many members were not present at the AGM the award given to Gerry O'Hare in recognition to his work for the RA was represented by David King.

Guest Speaker Gary Willard was introduced by the chairman with the topic being 'The New Season'.

Members before the meeting started were asked to answer 3 questions:-

1. What are they looking forward to this season?
2. What do they feel they want to improve on?
3. What concerns do they have?

Garys' talk focused around the responses to the questions

What are we looking forward to?

Excitement or trying to improve.

Enjoyment of the game

Concerns for the season

The following were brought up and the advice listed.

Dealing with players who openly dispute decisions (dissent)

Is it a problem

Try and manage it as early in the game as you can

Don't let it escalate

Have a quiet word, public word, caution/send off.

Playing advantage

Not always possible to talk to offended/offending players

Use of signal & voice - use word 'ADVANTAGE'

When to play advantage, look at area of play, why play advantage in a defensive area?

Continued possession does not equate to advantage.

Lining

Club assistance - don't rely on club assistants

Get both assistants together – consistency of advice, check level of knowledge

- Just because they raise the flag, you may not always accept their decision

- Active and Inactive play, give yourself a couple of seconds before raising the flag.

- Be level with the second rear most defender to make a credible decision,

- Position to be accurate

- Maintain concentration

- Keep moving; keep focused on what's happening

Don't take anything for granted.

Always thank your assistants. Support them throughout.

Thanks was proposed by the chairman, and the membership responded in the usual positive manner

Raffle Drawn and meeting closed at 10:00pm

Brighton Referees Association

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Committee Members: Simon Beckman, Dennis Brain, Colin Fines, Marc Samuels, Dave Warden

