



The 'R' Factor

The Northern New South Wales State League Football Referees Association newsletter



February 2017

No 112

SPECIAL EDITION

This is a special edition of the 'R' Factor, the reason for which will become obvious later.

But first....

SOME DATES TO REMEMBER.

Competitions start:

NNSW Heritage Cup

NPL, League 1, WPL & NPL Youth
FFA Cup – Southern Pool (Zone Clubs)
Zone Competitions

Friday 3rd to Sunday 5th March
Friday night, all day Saturday, Grand Final at 10.00 a.m. Sunday
10th to 12th March
18th & 19th March
1st & 2nd April

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

Referee Courses:

Level 3 Referee Course:	Sunday 5 th March	8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Level 4 Referee Course	Saturday 11 March	8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Level 3 Assessor Course	Sunday 19 March	8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Level 3 Instructor Course	Sunday 26 th March	8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

All courses held at Lake Macquarie Regional Football Facility

Registrations for these courses are now open at My Football Club.

For further information, refer Mr Brad Carlin, Premier Competition Match Coordinator at Northern New South Wales Football Federation (email: bcarlin@nothernnswfootball.com.au)

Other

NNSW Match Official Conference (must be booked in advance)	Sunday 5 th March	3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Corporate Suite at McDonald Jones Stadium		
Followed by the Newcastle Jets v Brisbane Roar 'A'-League game		
NPL AND NEW-FM Referees Coaching Night (for invited members)		6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Lake Macquarie Regional Football Facility		
Youth Referees Coaching Night	Wednesday 15th March	6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Lake Macquarie Regional Football Facility		

EDITORIAL

One reason that football is the beautiful, world game is that it has been kept simple by the Laws, which have rarely been changed. However, after several years' consideration by the IFAB, FIFA, lawmakers, football coaches and players, they been extensively rewritten this year. You would expect that after all this they would reflect the views of everyone involved in the game. **So why can't we enforce them?**

I am a firm believer that if a Law is bad or unworkable, it should be cancelled or changed. If not, it should be enforced.

In fact, the first, and main, duty for a referee under Law 5 is to enforce the Laws of the Game. And yet we continually see a player taking a kick-off standing almost a metre inside his opponent's half of the field before taking the kick – in direct contravention of Law 8, which states "*all players must be in their own half of the field of play*". **Why is this allowed?** Well, the explanation received was that it is immaterial. **Immaterial!** If we can ignore a law because we consider it immaterial, why do we penalise a player for being offside when his nose or toe is in an offside position?

Obviously, players have to be in their own half of the field for a kick-off and I'm quite sure that the people writing the laws could have qualified the law by adding "*except for the player taking the kick*" to the words.

So I repeat, why aren't we enforcing the law? **Is it immateriality or is it lack of intestinal fortitude?**

Rather than the usual format, this month I have reproduced some articles from the previous eleven years' publications that I had some feedback on. I hope you find them as interesting now as you did then.

A SPORT FOR EVERYONE

Amputees.

Although Wrexham are said to have fielded two one-armed players against Chester (1890), the real pioneer was a one-legged goalkeeper called Gyngell (Maidenhead Norfolkians) in the 1900s. Berkshire & Buckinghamshire FA referred the matter to higher authority, and it was decided there was no objection provided the player with the wooden leg did not play in a manner considered dangerous to his opponents. (FA, 1907). The following season, Hart (Folkestone) played with a wooden leg.

Fifty years later the FIFA judgement was different. The All-India Football Federation asked for a ruling on a goalkeeper who had played for four years with an artificial leg. Although the keeper had not caused injury to any other player, it could be argued that opponents were staying clear of him. FIFA ruled that an artificial leg was not part of standard equipment, so the player was banned.

More recently a dedicated form of amputee soccer has evolved. One account suggests that the game began in the late 1970s in El Salvador, where war victims were unable to get artificial legs. Using lightweight crutches to cover the ground, these disabled players found they were able to kick a foothill with their one good leg.

The professional eleven-a-side game has produced some excellent one-armed models. Hector Castro (Uruguay) played in the 1930 FIFA World Cup Final; Tony Ward (Arlesley Town) appeared as a substitute in the 1995 FA Vase Final, and Chris Ferrior played for Walsall and Kidderminster Harriers in the late 1990s.

There have been a number of one-armed referees, including Alf Bond (Middlesex); who took charge of the 1956 FA Cup Final. In a North Regional League match in the 1960s, a player was sent off for abusing a one-armed linesman. "You're badly handicapped," the player said. "Only one arm and can't see either."

Deafness.

Teams of deaf players have occupied a special place in British football since the earliest days. Glasgow Deaf FC was formed in 1871, and 'deaf and dumb' internationals were played in 1892.

When England Deaf & Dumb beat Wales Deaf & Dumb 3-0 at Southampton, it was described as 'the quietest international ever' (September 1925). The 500 spectators clapped at times but refrained from cheering. The referee used a flag instead of a whistle. In matches involving deaf and hearing players, referees have used a whistle *and* a flag.

When Stockport County centre-forward Ray Drake lined up to kick off in the 1950s, he had to rely on a colleague tugging on his shorts at the sound of the referee's whistle. Drake was deaf. This, and other stories, are documented in a book by Martin Atherton et al. called *Deaf United: A History of Football in the British Deaf Community* (2000).

Jimmy Case (Brighton), who had a hearing deficiency, was sent off for a second caution (time-wasting) when his team led Leicester 1-0 in the final minute of a cup-tie (September 1994). Case claimed that he hadn't heard the referee's whistle to restart the game. It is the player's responsibility to inform the referee of any hearing impediment, and the team's responsibility to facilitate smooth communication between the referee and the hearing-impaired player.

While deaf players like Case and Drake have appeared in teams of hearing players, other deaf players have their own version of the sport, with special FIFA tournaments. Interpretation of the rules may be slightly different. The deaf player's equivalent of the professional foul is to stop momentarily as if seeing a flag and then continue playing.

There have a number of deaf referees. Some would say that's an asset.

(from "Ward's Soccerpedia" by Andrew Ward)

WHY DO YOU REFEREE?

The following article appeared in Jeffrey Kaminski's book. "*The Referee's Survival Guide*", and is reproduced here with his kind permission.

The comments are worth considering. (*The emphasised sections have been done by me – editor.*)

“For more than a century, football has captured the affection and imagination of the world. Simple to understand and inexpensive to play, it has grown from its roots in ancient times to a modern game with standardised rules and organised leagues.

While informal games need only a ball and players, formal competitions also require a neutral decision-maker, in order to settle the unavoidable disagreements that come during the course of an athletic competition. By officiating you advance the growth and understanding of this wonderful sport. The level of play in any part of the world is often determined by the skill of the officials, and without skilled and dedicated referees, players cannot hope to compete with the best the world has to offer.

Taking a referee class and passing an examination just gives you a badge and a whistle, and lets you get paid for running about the football field. The task of becoming a referee will last as long as you officiate, for **no matter how good you become, you will always be learning, constantly improving your understanding of the game and the people around you, and continually refining your skills. The moment you stop learning, you will stop growing as an official.** And the moment you stop growing, whatever skills you have developed will begin to fade.

One question each referee needs to ask is “why do I want to be a referee?” The answers can be many and varied:

- Some – particularly younger officials, for refereeing may be their first job – are mainly interested in earning some extra spending money.
- Some want to officiate because they love football, others because they want some exercise.
- Some referee other sports as well and want to add football to their schedule.
- Some want to help their local club, or be there to help their son or daughter to officiate.
- Others may like the thought of controlling events – or simply enjoy bossing other people about.

Whatever the reason, you can succeed as a referee with effort and dedication. But **honest self-assessment is something every official needs**, and your motivation for a career as a paid referee may give you clues about possible strengths you have as an official, as well as some weaknesses you may need to address.

For Love or Money?

Players and spectators will not care why we are officials – what motivates us, what drives us to become better, or what our particular circumstances might be. They want only a well-trained, competent, and impartial referee to keep the match safe, enjoyable, and fair. For our part, however, realising what motivates us can help us understand what drives us to succeed, and what will sustain us through the challenges that lie ahead.

Success as an individual will come from dedication and a sense of professional pride. Without both, the best intentions in the world will not help. Whatever our personal motive is for becoming a referee, any one of us can excel. One official's willingness to work hard to earn the extra money that comes from working top-level matches can drive him toward excellence every bit as much as another's simple affection for the game her father taught her when she was young. What matters is not what brings us on to the pitch, but what keeps us there. In most cases, successful referees simply enjoy the job, enjoy the pride of a job well-done, and enjoy being of service to others. If we start with this, then we only need to apply ourselves and start developing the skills necessary to succeed.

Whatever you think of Jeffrey's comments, one thing is clear. As referees, we are considered to know the Laws and assumed to be capable of applying them in a consistent and fair manner so that the match is played in the right spirit and with the players' safety being paramount. We are also expected to be honest – and that means to ourselves as well as to the sport. We must always give our best – anything less reflects on us more than anything else.

The Qualities of a Good Referee

Consistency

True consistency results from applying a uniform interpretation to each competitive action. No two situations are exactly alike, but a uniform interpretation is and should be expected. Therefore in recent years, the referee's interpretation of intent has been removed to encourage a more "black or white" approach. The interesting effect was the reaction of coaches and commentators who now plead for referees to use their discretion, especially when their players are in trouble. The difficulties caused by inconsistency are threefold:

- a) Players do not know what is allowed and what is not,
- b) Coaches become frustrated and suspect officials competency, and
- c) There is a human tendency for referees to try "even-up" decisions. This, as any experienced official will tell you, is a recipe for disaster.

At the very least, it should be possible to be reasonably consistent within the duration of the game.

Man Management.

The best referees quickly establish a good rapport with players and officials. This is not trying to win a popularity contest, but neither is it going out of your way to make enemies. If you treat players and coaches with the courtesy and respect that you would expect to get yourself, you will not go far wrong.

However bear in mind that you still have to keep a certain distance in order to show your impartiality. This is particularly important when you might be more personally familiar with one side over the other. Remember you are dealing with a minimum of twenty-two different personalities out on the field of play. So it is therefore also important that you be yourself and use whatever gifts you have in order to establish your authority.

Decisiveness

Make your decision as near simultaneously as possible to the incident, as hesitation only encourages dissent and controversy. You can sell your decision, even if it is wrong, by your manner, impression and proximity to the incident.

Poise

"If you can keep your head while all around are losing theirs", the chances are you are the referee. (*not to be confused with the "Thought for the Month – Editor*)Your self-control during moments of tension and crisis can assert leadership and help prevent a bad situation from becoming worse.

Integrity

You can only give what you see, so position, fitness and movement around the field of play becomes even more important. It should go without saying that you must be unbiased and honest in your decisions.

Judgement

This comes from a thorough knowledge of the Laws of the Game and the competition regulations. However, the best teacher of this section is experience. The more games you have under your belt, the better your judgement especially in those crucial decisions that change the course of the game.

Self Confidence

Do not worry about feeling nervous before a game. It would be far more concerning if you felt nothing, and the chances are that you would not be sharp and alert during the match. The good official can stay in control and not let his nerves control him. Again, experience helps us towards that goal, so always avail yourself of the opportunity to work with more experienced colleagues.

Enjoyment

Hard work, dedication and practice stem from a high level of enjoyment or motivation. Remember, refereeing for 99% of us is a hobby. If you are not enjoying it, it will show in your attitude and refereeing. That is not to say that you should give up if you happen to have a bad match. We all have our off-days. The secret is to accept them as one of those things and learn from them. Was this due to a lack of preparation, lack of fitness, outside difficulties? In fact, you can sometimes learn more from such a match. The answer is an honest self-appraisal.

OWNING UP TO MISTAKES, AND LEARNING FROM THEM

Wisdom can result in the exercise of good judgement in trying circumstances. Of course, good judgement comes from experience – and, unfortunately, experience often comes from the exercise of bad judgement.

While nobody ever tries to blunder, football is a game designed and run by fallible human beings, meaning mistakes are inevitable. With millions of players participating in thousands of games across the country, it is unrealistic to expect everyone to be perfect, and the occasional blunder is simply an occupational hazard. When something does go wrong, you should keep in mind the following:

- Most mistakes are avoidable. Learn from them, and try not to make the same mistake twice.
- Veteran officials did not start out with experience. Most likely it came the hard way, from making the same blunders that others have made. If you can get them to share their misadventures, you can learn from their mistakes as well.
- When you do make a mistake, the right thing to do is acknowledge the error and take whatever steps you can to correct it. If correcting a serious mistake on the field is impossible – if, for example, an intervening restart prevents you from disallowing a goal or changing a poor decision on a misconduct – you may need to include a full report of the problem to the relevant authorities, so letting them take whatever remedial steps are appropriate.
- Consulting a trusted mentor may help give you a perspective on any errors you have made, as well as giving you ideas on how to avoid similar problems in the future.

Common Mistakes and Pitfalls.

While there are an unlimited number of mistakes that you can make, there are an equal number that you can try to avoid ... including the following:

- Blowing the whistle upon seeing a deliberate hand-to-ball contact in the penalty area ... only to discover when bodies part that it was the goalkeeper who was trying to block the ball from entering the net.
- Raising the flag to summon the referee's attention for an off-ball incident involving rough pushes and shoves by opposing players ... only to discover that you cannot remember the numbers of either player.
- Confidently pointing the direction for a free kick ... only to discover that, this being the second half, you pointed in the wrong direction and the wrong team has just taken a quick free kick.
- Correcting your wrong directional signal ... only to have the right team take a quick kick and score against the now out-of-position defenders.
- Confidently snapping an offside signal ... only to see the ball caught by the wind and never make it to the offside player.
- Briskly sprinting up field as an assistant referee to confirm a goal that caused the net to billow, only to see the defenders set up and take a goal kick ... without protest by the other team.
- Loudly blowing the whistle to call a foul for a late hit following a cross ... only to see, a split-second after play is stopped, a spectacular bicycle kick directing the ball into the upper corner of the net for the most memorable non-goal you have ever seen.

This was an extract from Jeffrey Caminsky's excellent book – "The Referee's Survival Guide". It points out that we all make mistakes some time or other – what we have to do is recognise them, acknowledge them and learn from them. How? ...

1. Do a self-assessment after each game and do it realistically and genuinely looking for what you could have done differently and better.
2. Listen to you assessor and read your assessment reports, looking for ways you can improve.
3. Discuss your games and any problems with colleagues.
4. And use the off-season to go through your reports from this year, looking for things that you can examine with a view to changing and improving next season.

ATTITUDES OF THE SUCCESSFUL REFEREE.

There is a thin line between confidence and arrogance. All the positive body language in the world will not help the referee who offends people through an air of superiority or indifference. Most successful referees take pains to avoid insulting people needlessly, or conveying the impression that they are doing everyone a favour just by showing up at the field. Though we need confidence and a healthy ego to succeed on the pitch, arrogant or self-centred officials often succeed in doing nothing but digging holes for themselves, and dragging everyone else at the field down with them.

By contrast, most successful referees understand the benefits of a healthy ego as well as the pitfalls of being egotistical, and manage to avoid displays of arrogance or officiousness. They do this by

cultivating a healthy perspective about themselves and their duties as officials, and by keeping their focus precisely on what they want the players to concentrate on as well – the game.

Most successful referees have adopted similar sentiments about the game:

Successful referees recognise that the game is not about the officials. It is about playing football.

Successful referees approach the game and their duties with an attitude of cooperation. They always try to nurture the three elements match: safety, equality and enjoyment for all participants.

Successful referees have and project an attitude of respect for the game, and for the players.

Successful referees avoid taking actions designed to make themselves feel important, preferring to take whatever steps are needed to ensure that the players play fairly.

Successful referees are willing to set aside their own egos for the duration of the match.

Successful referees display patience as well as firmness in dealing with problems that arise during the game

Successful referees share an appreciation for skill, as well as a determination not to let foul play succeed.

Successful referees hold and project a sense of trust in their own judgement, as well as that of their colleagues.

SOME HUMOUR!

A referee was very nervous about being appointed to a match with a team that he had experienced severe problems with a few weeks earlier. They were renowned for being violent and uncooperative. When the referee arrived at the ground, he was pleasantly surprised to see a welcome card addressed to him in the dressing room, containing a strange coded message:

'370HSSV-0773H'

When he got home after the game, his anxious wife asked him how he got on. "Not bad", the referee replied, "only 5 reds and 10 yellows".

He explained to his wife that the small number of expected sending offs was probably due to the new attitude that the home team had afforded him.

"You won't believe it my dear", he said to his wife, "but they place a welcome card in my dressing room, but I must admit I can't quite work out what the code '370HSSV-0773H' means".

"You fool" says his wife, "you've been looking at the card upside down."

Superstitions.

The national side representing El Salvador in the 1970 World Cup, having already been embroiled in the "Soccer War" that year, had to contend with the influence of a witch doctor when they met Haiti for the second of two qualifying games. The witch doctor sprinkled a mysterious powder on the pitch, muttered an incantation, and Haiti stormed to an unexpected 3-0 victory.

When the witch doctor turned up at the play-off game that was then arranged, El Salvador's coach Gregorio Bundi took no chances; he aimed a punch at him and effectively ended his involvement in the match, which El Salvador went on to win 1-0.

The things you hear!

"I thought I had heard most of the names referees are called, but I came across a new one recently. It happened as I was walking off the field to get a drink after refereeing a game during a six-a-side competition. A small boy on the sideline, the son of one of the players, gazed up at me with eyes as big as saucers as my menacing figure – black shirt, black shorts, black socks, and black shoes – advanced towards him.

As I reached into my bag, his mother, sitting on the grass beside him, leaned over and said, "Not vampire darling – umpire."

(From the "Referee Australia")

ODD SPOTS.

Dangers of the dressing room.

Brazilian soccer club Botafogo's goalkeeper, Lopes, has been sidelined for at least a month after suffering second-degree burns in the showers at the famous Maracana stadium.

Lopes said that the players had showers after a game last week but could not get the hot water to work. "Suddenly a jet of boiling water came directly at my face and I couldn't get out of the way," he said.

(The Herald - August 21, 2006)

Thank you linesman, thank you ball boy.

RIO DE JANEIRO: A ball boy emerged as the hero for his local side when he "scored" a goal in a Brazilian third-division match between Santacruzense and Atleico Sorocabana.

When a Santacruzense player shot wide in the 89th minute, the ball boy stopped the ball, took a couple of steps onto the pitch and booted it into the net.

Referee Silvia Regina de Oliveira, the first woman to referee a Brazilian National Championship match, did not see the kick but saw the ball in the net and awarded a goal, making the final score 1-1.

De Oliveira had her back to the goal and relied on a linesman, who saw no irregularities with the goal.

The draw kept Santacruzense at the top of the table with 16 points.

The football association in Sao Paulo said it saw no possibility of annulling the result.

How (not) to deal with dissent

Following a disputed goal awarded in a South African match held in February 1999, captain of the Hartbeesfontein Wallabies, Isaac Mkhwetha, left the field – 110 miles west of Johannesburg – to grab a knife. He then lunged with it at referee Lebogang Petrus Mokgethi, who shot him dead with a 9mm pistol, which he had just retrieved from a friend amongst the 600 spectators at the game.

Failing to fulfil an appointment.

FIFA were slightly embarrassed when they discovered the referee they had appointed to handle a World Cup qualifier in April 2000 between South Africa and Lesotho had died six months earlier. Zambian officials later confirmed that Boxen Chinagu had been killed in a road accident and was thus unavailable to officiate.

From "The Final Whistle" by Graham Sharpe

Goalkeepers

When the Lewes goalkeeper held the ball for an interminable length of time without being penalised in the Aveley v Lewes game, a spectator shouted, "If that's six seconds ref, I'm a better lover than I thought!"

(From 'The Midland News')

Further proof that goalkeepers are only a poor back-pass short of insanity: Forest Green's Justin Shuttleworth was in agony before a Dr Martens League game against Atherstone and complained bitterly about an ill-fitting and uncomfortable jersey.

The problem only came to light after the warm up and Shuttleworth was prevented from taking the field with the coat-hanger still in place.

(From 'The Chiltern Referee')

And still more

Did you hear about the goalkeeper in Wexford, England who made an excellent save but the strong wind caused his baseball cap to be blown off his head and into goal?

He went to retrieve it, still carrying the ball.

Lost in the mist.

In the Cambridgeshire League in England a game was played one winter in typically murky fenland conditions. After about ten minutes, the fog came down so thickly that visibility was reduced to about half the length of the pitch and the referee decided to abandon the game.

It was only after the players had been enjoying the warmth of the dressing rooms for about twenty minutes that a player from one of the teams noticed that their goalkeeper had not come in.

When they went out to look for him, they discovered him still faithfully guarding his goal, oblivious to the fact that the game had been abandoned. The goalkeeper thought his team had been playing particularly well and had managed to keep the play at the other end of the pitch.

Paws for thought.

Medjimurje goalkeeper Ivan Banovic thought he had performed a good deed during his team's 1-0 Croatian league defeat at Sibenik.

Midway through the match, a cat strayed onto the pitch, prompting Banovic to pick up the disorientated moggie and carry it off to the stands, where he allowed it to escape.

He received a warm round of applause from fans for his act of kindness – but a booking from the referee for leaving the pitch without permission.

“Outside interference”.

Soccer match problems are not always created by the players. Take the case of Jean-Marc Luchetti, a fanatical supporter of the Corsican team Calenzana.

April 23, 1978 was a most important date for Jean-Marc. Calenzana was playing a vital relegation match against big rivals from Murato, near Bastia. Toward the end of a tense game Calenzana was holding Murato to a draw to gain a valuable point. Suddenly a Murato forward ran through the defence and kicked the ball towards an empty goal.

Jean-Marc, standing on the touchline had given his team his usual vocal encouragement – but was it enough? The ball was surely going into the goal. It would be a catastrophe if Murato scored now.

Jean-Marc decided on swift action to save the day. Producing a gun from his pocket, he fired at the ball. His aim was true. The ball dropped instantly, with a final rush of air from its lifeless carcass, just short of the goal.

Jean-Marc must have known that soccer law does not allow a goal to be scored if interference from an “outside agent” prevents the ball from entering the goal. In the confusion that followed, the match was ended by the referee who declared that he had neither seen nor heard anything unusual!

Calenzana had escaped defeat but Jean-Marc was arrested and had to pay the price for his loyalty. He was sentenced to three months in prison for possessing an illegal weapon.

From “Official Soccer Laws Illustrated” by Stanley Lover.

DID YOU KNOW?

How things change

This year marked 150 years since the FA in England was formed. Here are a few of the rules that applied back then.

Anyone can catch the ball.

There was no such thing as a goalkeeper 150 years ago – or at least there was no formal goalkeeping position. The original Laws of the Game allowed any player to take a ‘fair catch’ and set the all down for a free-kick. So anyone could catch the ball. Although they weren't allowed to run with it.

Keepers were mentioned in the separate Sheffield rules, but it was still an informal arrangement. “The goalkeeper is that player who is nearest his own goal.” It was a ‘last man back’ rule or sometimes multiple goalies, with some teams allocating two or more players to hang back and keep goal.

Inevitably, these prototype keepers made some of first ever goalkeeping errors. In a match at Uppingham School, reports reveal how the Reds scored a ‘plucky goal’ with some assistance from the Whites’ two ‘goalkeepers’: “The two made frantic efforts after the ball as it went through the goal, but only succeeded in kicking each other.”

It wasn't until 1871 that the FA updated its rules to outlaw handling except by one designated goalkeeper.

Ox, pig and bullock bladder balls.

If you wanted to get hold of a ball 150 years ago, your first stop would be the local butcher. Most balls were handmade using inflated animal bladders – usually ox bladders, although pig and bullock bladders were also used. They were enclosed in leather cases, with the seams tied together with boot laces.

“A shoemaker will generally manufacture the cases better than those which are purchased ready-made, unless a ball be procured from the old established shops in London,” advised *Every Boy's Magazine*, a popular title at the time. The finished “casers” were hard and heavy, especially when soaked in rain and caked with mud. Any attempt to head them was extremely ill-advised.

For those who couldn't be bothered with animal bladders, India rubber provided a new-fangled alternative. However, ball with rubber bladders were considered more liable to burst than those made from animal organs. “We admonish our readers to take note of experienced advisers and not to buy an India rubber ball for outdoor play,” warned *Every Boy's*. Rubber balls didn't gain popularity until they were mass-produced by sporting goods companies, including Lillywhite's, founded by John Lillywhite in 1863.

The day's formation: 0-0-11

Football tactics were virtually unknown in 1863, and basically amounted to all-out attack. With forward passing outlawed (and passing virtually unheard of), much of the game at this stage centred around mass "scrimmages", which involved the whole team charging forward with the aim of driving the ball towards the opponent's goal. With no goalkeepers, and no real defenders or midfielders, 4-4-2 was foreign concept; 0-0-11 was more typical.

The nearest thing most teams had to a tactic was the practice of 'backing up', which basically involved the rest of the team running behind whichever team-mate had possession of the ball. Dribbling was a key feature of football at this time, although it wasn't quite the cultured skill it is today. Fleet-footed players could pounce upon loose balls, but, unless they were protected by a horde of team-mates, their dribbles would be cut short by trips and charges.

Although tactics were rudimentary, they could still be debated by newspaper pundits. After Tunbridge Wells lost 5-0 to Charterhouse, a Victorian ancestor of Alan Hansen noted: "The main reason for this defeat is to be attributed to the fact that they were unaccustomed to dribbling, and indulged in too many long kicks.

Match day kit: Knickerbockers, cap and clay pipe.

What did the well-turned-out Victorian gentlemen wear for football in 1863? Well, apart from a seemingly-obligatory lustrous moustache, he would cut a dash in a knitted cotton jersey, long flannel trousers or knickerbockers, and a colourful cap or cowl. With no specific football gear available, many teams simply wore cricket whites. Leading side Forest FC (hailing from Leytonstone) played in whites, and also used a striped nightshirt as a change kit. Sheffield FC had what was probably the first distinct football kit – a scarlet and white uniform with the Cross of St George on the left breast. Teams that turned up for matches wearing the same kit would distinguish themselves using different coloured caps. Football boots didn't exist, so working boots had to suffice. Some players customised the soles of their boots for extra grip, until FA rules banned players from fitting "projecting nails, iron plates or gutta percha (rubber)". Shin pads had yet to be invented, and the most common footballing accessory was the clay pipe – it wasn't unusual to see players puffing away at tobacco during matches.



(From the FourFourTwo magazine)

Introduction of Shin Pads.

The first known use of the shin pad can be traced back to 1874, when Nottingham Forest captain and England player Sam Weller Widdowson cut down some cricket pads and then wore them on the outside of his stockings. The early shin pads were used as protection against hacking, or deliberate kicking of the shins, which was still prevalent in some areas of England, despite being outlawed by the Football Association.

As the game progressed and got quicker shin pads became smaller and many players hen elected not to wear them.

It wasn't until 100 years after Widdowson's first shin pad that the FA deemed them compulsory equipment.

Goal Nets make an appearance.

Football had managed to survive without the use of goal nets until Professor John Alexander Brodie, who was appointed city engineer for Liverpool in 1898 and famously designed the Mersey Tunnel, witnessed a dispute over whether the ball had passed through the goal posts while watching an Everton game.

As a result, he formed the idea of a net 'pocket', to be attached to the goal posts. Goal nets were first used in a match on New Year's Day 1891, in a match between Nottingham Forest and Bolton Wanderers, and they proved to be a great success.

(Extracts from "1001 Football Moments", published by Carlton Books)

The First Crossbar.

The early Football Association rules didn't specify a fixture between the goalposts, so in effect there wasn't a height restriction. The only stipulation was that the upright posts had to be a distance of eight yards apart.

In 1865, though, it was decided that tape should be stretched from one goalpost to the other at a height of eight feet. Then ten years later the crossbar was introduced with tape being outlawed in 1882.

Changing Ends.

Until 1875, teams changed ends after every goal (or at half-time if neither side had scored). This could be a real disadvantage. A team could kick against the wind for 45 minutes, change around, score a goal, and find themselves kicking against the wind for another 35 minutes. Then they might concede a late equaliser and be too exhausted to stand up. From 1875, teams changed ends only at half-time.

Collusion.

In 1878-79, Trent Rovers needed to beat Newhall St John 49-0 in order to win a local Staffordshire amateur league. Guess what happened? Yes, Trent Rovers won 49-0. Guess what happened next? Yes, league officials suspended both teams.

There is nothing in the laws to stop a team, or a player, from scoring deliberate own-goals, but the competition's authorities and the national association will certainly take action. It is a sure way to bring football into disrepute.

The most extreme case happened in Toamasina, Madagascar, when Stade Olympique l'Emryne (SOE) scored 149 own-goals and lost 149-0 to AS Adema (October 2002). The SOE players were protesting about a refereeing decision in their previous match, when they conceded a last-kick equaliser to a disputed penalty. The Stade Olympique coach was suspended for three years and four players received one-year bans.

Certain ill-conceived competition rules have provoked players into planning own-goals. One example was the 1998 Tiger Cup. Thailand and Indonesia both wished to finish second to avoid favourites Vietnam in the next round. With a few minutes left and the score at 2-2, Indonesia attacked their own goal. Despite fervent 'defence' by Thailand, Indonesia's goalkeeper got hold of the ball and threw it into his own net. The authorities punished the teams involved.

An even stranger example occurred in the 1994 Shell Caribbean Cup. The rules stipulated that drawn group matches would be decided by golden goals. More interestingly, the golden goal would count double in the for-and-against columns. When Barbados needed to beat Grenada by two goals to qualify for the next round, they realised that a 2-1 win was not good enough, so they deliberately scored an own goal to take the game into extra-time. Then a golden goal gave Barbados a 4-2 win. (After scoring their own-goal, they had an anxious few minutes while defending at both ends of the pitch, as a goal at either end would have taken Grenada through.)

Colour Clash.

The 1882 FA Cup Final was between Blackburn Rovers (blue and white quarters) and Old Etonians (light blue and white harlequin shirts). Rovers had to buy a new set of shirts when they arrived in London. In those days, two local teams would go on the pitch wearing the same colour strip, and the referee would toss a coin to decide which team would wear waistcoats or pullovers.

The most common colour clash in the early days was between a goalkeeper and his team-mates. Until 1909, goalkeepers wore the same colour shirts as the rest of the team.

As part of their pre-match routine, referees check that their own kit does not clash. The referee failed to do that when Sheffield met Glasgow at Hampden Park (September 1930). He wore a white shirt without a jacket and Sheffield played in white shirts and black shorts. After several good passes to the referee, Sheffield captain Jimmy Seed asked the official to stop the game and put on a jacket. The referee obliged. Soon afterwards, an IFAB decision stated that the referee in international matches should wear a jacket or blazer 'in a distinctive colour' (June 1932).

A new reason for a colour change arrived during the 1978 FIFA World Cup. Hungary (red shirts) met France (blue shirts) in a group game, and television companies wanted viewers with black and white sets to be able to distinguish between the teams. The kick-off was delayed by forty minutes while a set of green-and-white shirts were borrowed from a local club.

When Manchester United wore two-tone grey at Southampton, the clash was with the background; United players claimed they couldn't see their team-mates (April 1996). In one parks match, the referee was confused because the two teams on the next pitch had exactly the same colours as the ones he was refereeing.

Players' colours can also clash with spectators or stewards. The Queen's Park Ranger's mascot was despatched for confusing the referee in the game against Preston (February 2005), and Norwich players complained that Lofty the Lion looked like a Bolton Wanderers player (March 2005). At top class stadia, kit can clash with thousands of replica shirts in the crowd.

From "Ward's Soccerpedia" by Andrew Ward

No Hands Allowed.

In times gone by, when Sheffield played a village team, they sometimes gave the villagers a pair of white gloves and a silver coin to hold throughout the match, to stop them using their hands.

Soccer Lashes

An Italian, a German and an Australian football fan were arrested in a small Arabian state when they were caught peeing on a religious building after an all-night drinking binge.

The trio have to face up to the local sultan and are dished out the typical punishment for religious desecration - 20 lashes of the whip to the back.

But the Sultan was a big football fan so he kindly granted them two wishes each - but they were not allowed to reduce the number of lashes or change the type of punishment.

The Italian says "Well we are the World Champions so I go first. I want the pleasure of a beer and a pillow." The Sultan grants his wishes.

With a wide grin the Italian drinks his beer and binds the pillow to his naked back. But after 10 lashes the pillow falls apart and he has to painfully endure the remaining 10 lashes which leave deep welt marks on his back.

The German saw all this and spends a few minutes thinking before smiling. "I would like to have two pillows for my back". The Sultan thinks about the uniqueness of the wishes but decides to grant it given he has used up his two wishes in one go. However after 15 lashes of the whip both pillows have fallen apart and the German has to painfully endure the remaining 5 lashes which leave deep welt marks on his back.

The Australian is grinning from ear to ear and mutters something under his breath about a bullshit penalty. "Ok my first wish is to double the number of lashes to 40."

There is stunned silence in the hall. The Italian, German and Sultan are a little surprised at the first wish but then remember the strong fighting performance the Aussies put up during the World Cup in Germany 2006. The Italian and German look at each other and nod in admiration - obviously this Aussie wants to show how tough he is.

The Sultan asks the Aussie for his second wish.

"Tie the Italian to my back" he replies.

THE IMPORTANCE OF TIME.

MONTEVIDEO, 15 JULY 1930,

Brian Clough's celebrated assertion that 'It only takes a second to score a goal' recognises 'time' as football's most valuable commodity. That's why the game needs competent officials to administer it. And why the Brazilian Gilberto de Almeida Rego is remembered for a World Cup refereeing debut that proved to be the most untimely on record.

FIFA seemed nervous about the officials from the start. They appointed fifteen referees from only thirteen nations. And all attended a pre-tournament symposium aimed at minimising the error count. Unfortunately, 'how to tell the time' had been missed off the agenda.

Rego was given Argentina versus France as his opening fixture. Argentina was considered the main threat to the hosts and favourites Uruguay, so most of the locals in the stadium were behind France. (Making life difficult for Argentineans is a popular hobby in Montevideo.)

Argentina went a goal up in the 81st minute but France weren't dead. With six minutes to go (remember that's 360 scoring opportunities in Clough terms), their flying left winger Marcel Langiller broke away and bore down on the Argentine goal. But whether he crossed, passed, scored a screaming equaliser or merely fluffed remains entirely academic, because referee Rego blew for time – in the 84th minute.

All hell broke loose. The Argentine players celebrated wildly. Some even wept with relief. Their exuberant fans scaled the perimeter fencing to invade the pitch. But, even as the dubious 'victors' leaped for joy, the French players were surrounding the referee. And their manager, Raoul Caudron (the Alex Ferguson of his day) launched into a manic wrist-tapping routine.

Uruguayans in the crowd soon joined the on-pitch melee to lobby for France. Then on came the mounted police. Only slowly was order restored as the French players trooped disconsolately to the dressing room.

But Rego wasn't finished.

After repeatedly examining his watch and then consulting his linesman, he dramatically admitted his mistake. With his arms raised to the heavens as witness, he cried in perfect French, "*Marquez que je me suis trompe de bonne foi!*" (Something like "I have dropped a large part of a bull's anatomy", as he frantically raced to recall the retreating 'losers' who were already heading for the showers.

Now all that remained was to tell the Argentineans, still revelling on the pitch.

This he bravely did while armed police cleared the field of straggling fans. It was all too much for Argentina's inside-left, Ciecro, who was said to have fainted with rage during the fracas and was unable to continue for 'the lost six minutes' when the flustered Rego restarted the game.

I would really love it if I could say the French scored two to win the game. Alas, their momentum knocked sideways by the referee's dreadful timekeeping error, they failed to score any.

Several World Cup referees have since been involved in timing controversies, but none has fallen so far short in his professional duties as the 84-minute Brazilian.

From "The World Cup's Strangest Moments" by Peter Seddon.

“PARKLIFE presents” was a series of articles published in *“The Football Referee”* the former official monthly publication of The Referees’ Association in England. It was devoted to stories about football at the everyday park level rather than the top premier levels. Some are tongue-in-cheek but all can be related to by referees officiating at the normal weekend games.

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Whistle A Happy Tune

Strip it down to its bare essentials and what is a park ref’s most essential piece of equipment (essential, that is, to the game)? The answer to that question came under rather embarrassing circumstances at the beginning of December. Truly, in thirty-plus years of officiating this is the first time anything like this has ever happened to me, and please, great God up in the football heaven, make it the last.

I have been debating for some time now whether I should have two cups of tea with my breakfast on a Sunday morning. The facts of it are that I’ve usually had a few glasses on the previous evening, add to them a pint or so of tea and the old bladder only really gets going when exercised by the 10.30 kick-off. The consequence of this is that I’m busting by half-time.

Desperate for half-time relief, I rushed over to the nearest section of hawthorn hedge once the 45 minutes had elapsed and relieved myself in the time-honoured way. Feeling a ton lighter, I then trotted back to the centre circle to blow the whistle for the restart.

Whistle? What whistle? I simulate a police search on myself, tapping top pockets, short pockets and butt pocket. The whistle is not there: the most essential piece of equipment after the ball is no longer a constituent of the game. The players are now looking to me for a lead, thinking this is well over the statutory half-a-fag park football interval break. Panic is rising as I retrace my steps toward the venue for my ablutions. Somewhere between there and the centre spot, my whistle must be. Meanwhile the players are gathering on the field demanding the game gets underway.

Now I admit that all the books tell you never, never take only one whistle. Always take a back-up. You could lose one or a wet whistle could dry up in the middle of a game. A colleague might have lost his and you can then help him out. Even worse than all of these is the possibility that you might drop and lose this vital instrument in the middle of the game. Just like I had done.

I had a good excuse. You see, my 16-year-old daughter has recently qualified and has been very keen to get started in minor football. That is where my reserve whistle had gone. Much good it did me at this point in time.

“Come on, ref, what are you mucking about at? Don’t you want a pint at dinner time or what?”

By now I had retraced every one of my steps from the damp patch on the fence next to the hawthorn bush all the way to the centre circle. Result – nothing. The time has come to make the bold announcement which will knock my credibility rating to kingdom come.

“Lads, I’m sorry but I seem to have lost my whistle. Never done this before. Not sure where we go from here.

The seriousness of the situation didn’t hit all 22 players straight away. You could tell that by the hysterical edge to much of the laughter.

“Nice one, ref. Good wind-up. Shall we get on with it now though?”

“It’s not a wind-up”.

“You had it in the first half so where the hell is it now”?

“I went for a leak at half-time. It was in my hand just before . . . well, you know, the other thing was and . . .

“Now there were a number of stretcher cases as players from both sides collapsed on the pitch, convulsing with serious laughter.

“All right, all right, lads, joke over. Can you help me look for it please?”

If anybody had been passing on the nearby road they would have been totally baffled by the sight of 22 players and a referee combing the “turf” whilst the ball sat untouched on the centre spot. Things took a really grim turn when even the customary seven men and a dog joined in the search.

Then the Royal Oak captain asked the question I had been dreading for some time. I knew someone would come up with the idea.

“Ref, can’t you just put your fingers in your mouth and blow? That’ll be good enough for us”.

“Or even shout” said one smart Alec.

Now, ever since I was knee-high to Gianfranco Zola, I had always wanted the ability to blow ear-piercingly high purely with the aid of two fingers. All the top lads in the various cliques I knocked about with at home and school could do it. And how I tried. I would lie in bed before going to sleep covering sheets and blankets in spittle, (honest that’s what it was), but I could never sound a note. I managed it with reeds plucked from the tall grass around the duck pond, but never with my fingers. In those days it was just a vanity thing. Now, as the half-time break stretched towards the kind of length which would gain it an entry in the *Guinness Book of Records*, whistling with your fingers had taken on the status of a vital life-skill. But I wasn’t going to show myself up any worse than I already had done by asking one of them for lessons.

But at this very moment, the Royal Oaks manager found a whistle labelled “Titanic” at the very bottom of the team’s kitbag. He ran across towards me with a big grin on his face and a quick quip on his lips.

“You’d better have a go with my titanic, ref, before we’re all sunk” and handed me a silver instrument which looked as though its previous user had suffered a massive dose of flu and never quite summoned the courage to clean up after himself. Still, beggars can’t be choosers, as they say, and I was more than grateful for the offer.

No matter, my New Year’s resolution is already formed. Now I really am going to learn how to whistle with only the use of two fingers.

Alan Combes

A BIT OF TRIVIA.

Last month we posed the following question: Which modern day English Premier League club was originally known as “Newton Heath”?

Answer:

“Languishing in the Second Division in 1902 with dwindling crowds and spiralling debts, Newton Heath was on the verge of bankruptcy when fate intervened in the form of a St Bernard.

An attraction at a fund-raising bazaar for the club, the dog’s escape brought together the Heath captain Harry Stafford and two local businessmen, James Taylor and J H Davies. Along with J Brown and W Deakin, they agreed to pay the 2,000 pounds sterling required to keep the club afloat in return for a direct interest in the running of the club.

When it was suggested that the club should be renamed ‘Manchester United’, the new owners unanimously agreed.”

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It’s no wonder the club has proceeded to become one of the largest businesses in the world. Even in the early days, it showed the touch of opportunism and tapping into a market. This is evidenced by the following story.

“A hundred years ago, health cures were just as big a business as they are nowadays, but whereas today’s shelves are stuffed with offerings endorsed by TV experts, those of the early 20th century featured tonics such as Wincarnis, a vitamin-and-herb-infused ‘wine of life’ described as ‘suitable alike for the robust, the invalid and the convalescent’.

The increasing popularity of football and muscularity of its players made a tie-up inevitable, and so it was that Manchester United broke new ground in 1909 by endorsing Wincarnis, a full 70 years before the first top-flight shirt sponsorship.”

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The next step for Manchester United was the creation of “Old Trafford” in 1910.

“After nearly going bankrupt at the turn of the century, Newton Heath had renamed itself Manchester United, restructured their finances and set about moving from their Bank Street ground in Clayton.

Identifying a site in Trafford near Lancashire County Cricket Club’s home ground, they employed renowned stadium architect Archibald Leitch, fresh from developing Rangers’ Ibrox home.

Initial plans were for a capacity of 100,000 but these were scaled back to 80,000. Even with only the South Stand covered, Old Trafford still cost an eye-watering 60,000 pounds to build.

The first match was an inauspicious 4-3 defeat to Liverpool, but one of Football’s most famous theatres was open for business.”

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Old Trafford bombed.

“Given its proximity to the Trafford Park Industrial Estate, Manchester United’s stadium was always going to be at risk from eager German bombers on their regular raids during World War II.

The ground had suffered a hit in 1940 but it was on 11 March 1941 that it was extensively damaged. Two bombs made their mark, one destroying the Main Stand, the other partially destroying the United Road terrace and scorching the pitch.

Underlying the neighbourly spirit of the Blitz, Manchester City offered to share Main Road with United. In 1945 the War Damage Commission awarded the club 4,800 pounds to clear away the debris and a further 17,748 pounds to build the new stands.

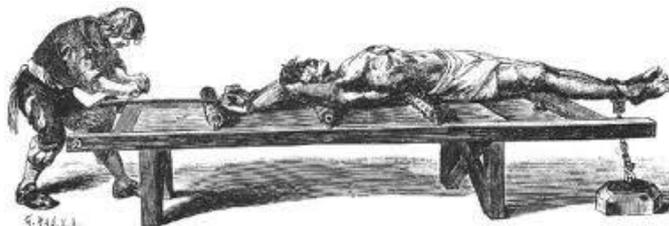
(Extracts from “1001 Football Moments”, published by Carlton Books)

AND THE FINAL BIT OF ADVICE FOR YOU

Tall Ref = Top Game.

The taller the referee, the better the standard of football. Research into height, body language and authority status show that tall Bundesliga refs are perceived as being more competent and better at controlling matches by giving fewer fouls, managing player behaviour and increasing the flow of play.

So, if you are less than seven feet tall and want to improve your performance next season, get yourself an old-fashioned “Rack” and do some stretching exercises.



FINALE

I started the 'R' Factor in 2006 when I was the Association Coach with the intention of providing a means of conveying news, coaching articles, law explanations, plus items of general, humorous or historic interest.

Over that time and with one hundred and eleven precious editions, I hope that I have been able to meet some of those expectations and provide the readers with something that was of interest and help.

Unfortunately circumstances now mean that I am no longer able to produce the 'R' Factor and regretfully this will be my last edition. The feedback from readers over the years has been positive and I would dearly like to see it continued as there is still much that could be printed but at this stage I don't know if anyone is able to take over.

I have had a lot of support during this time, with members supplying incidents that could be explained or used for coaching (such as "*from the grounds*") and articles and I would like to thank those members. In particular, I want to thank our President, Neil Jones, who from the start has been a consistent and strong supporter.

A lot of the articles were reproduced from various publications and books and I would like to acknowledge and thanks the authors and editors who very generously and kindly gave their permission to use them. Some of the sources are now quite old, but the basics of man-management, match control, decision-making, movement, etc. have not changed so I would urge anyone who is interested in improving their refereeing to try and get some and read them.

Following is a list of those publications:

Association Football Match Control by Stanley Lover
Football Oddities by Tony Mathews
Football's Strangest Moments by Andrew Ward
FourFourTwo (monthly football magazine)
Linesmanship by D.C. Emerson Mathurin
Seeing Red by Graham Poll
Soccer Refereeing by Denis Howell
SBS Encyclopedia of Soccer by Keir Radnege
The Book of Lists (World Football) by Stephen Foster
The Cassel Soccer Companion by David Pickering
The FA (England)
The Final Whistle by Graham Sharpe
The Football Referee (former official monthly publication of The Referees' Association in England)
The Referee's Survival Guide by Jeffrey Caminsky
The Rules of the Game by Pierluigi Collina
The Soccer Referees Manual by David Agar
Ward's Soccerpedia by Andrew Ward
You're Off (The Book of Red Cards) by Adrian Besley

And any other source I could lay my hands on.

Finally I have to thank my family. I have a large family, all involved in football as players, coaches and fans and all with the usual players, coaches and fans/parents attitude towards referees. As you can imagine, this has led to many lively discussions at the dinner table but they never failed to support me, even when I was unapproachable because I was researching or publishing.

In closing, I want to wish each and every one of you success and happiness for the future.

Wish the Dream

Work at the Dream

Realise the Dream

This newsletter has been compiled by Brian Tamsett for the Northern New South Wales State League Football Referees Association. The content is not sanctioned by or affiliated with any governing body of football. The opinions expressed here are sometimes those of the editor and the readers, or from other media sources. Reference to the male gender in this newsletter is for simplification only, and applies to both males and females. All rights of the current Laws mentioned in this newsletter are reserved by FIFA, and they are the official laws of the International Football Association Board. Any fitness and medical advice given is general in nature and readers must seek specific advice from their own medical practitioners and trainers.