



January – March 10

[www.cambsdistra.co.uk](http://www.cambsdistra.co.uk)

*The newsletter of the Cambridge & District Referees' Society*

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## Welcome

by Matthew Leach - Chairman

Welcome to the second magazine of the 2009/10 season. I hope you all had a good Christmas and New Year – even with the severe lack of matches available.

Since our last magazine we have had Simon Long come to speak to the society about setting targets. The meeting was very interesting and though provoking. Hopefully everyone who attended pick something up from the meeting.

Our next meeting is on the 8<sup>th</sup> March and we have premier league referee Kevin Friend coming to give a presentation to us. This should be an excellent evening and I encourage as many of you as possible to attend.

If anyone has articles that they would like to submit for the next issue, please drop me an e-mail to [cambridgera@gmail.com](mailto:cambridgera@gmail.com) or telephone our myself. Comments are always appreciated too!

[www.cambsdistra.co.uk](http://www.cambsdistra.co.uk)



Our website is up and running if you have not taken a look we strongly recommend you do. The site will contain Information on meetings and news from the society \* pictures and videos of members refereeing \* social events \* fitness training \* downloadable newsletters past and present \* Articles from Bob Spiller \* links to other useful websites.



# The Meetings so Far.

by Chris Abbott



So far this season the Society have had 5 meetings. They have all been held at the Cambridgeshire Football Association. We would like to thank the Association for letting us headquarters for our meetings.

Our latest meeting was held in February. As previously mentioned Simon Long came to give a presentation on Setting Targets over the short, medium and long term. Simon is a Premiership Assistant referee and Blue Square Premier Referee. He gave us some interesting insights into his refereeing career so far and things he has learnt from success and disappointments.

## Future Meeting Dates

The dates for this season's Referees' Society meetings are as follows:

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March – Kevin Friend

April – AGM - TBC



We have confirmed that **Kevin Friend** will be coming to speak with us at our March meeting.

All of our meetings start at 7.30pm and are at Cambridgeshire Football Association Head Quarters.

If you require new tyres on your car and do not wish to have the hassle of going to a garage

Call Keith Wilson on  
07850111202

He will come and fit your tyres at your work or home location



# Why not JOIN US every **WEDNESDAY**

At

*Swavesey Village College Sports Centre*

— *Gibraltar Lane, Swavesey – (or CB24 4RS for sat navs)*

On

*The TENNIS COURTS – Training as per the FA Fitness section –  
<[www.refworld.com/news/1/article/weekly-training-plans](http://www.refworld.com/news/1/article/weekly-training-plans)> (Need to paste this link in your browser)*

*The GYM – Using the fitness facilities of Swavesey Sports Centre –  
**Note: You will need a fitness induction first before commencing training .***

## **7.30 – 8.30 pm**

Meet about 10 minutes before outside the Tennis courts / Sports Centre



The sessions at SVC will be free, however if we go in the gym the cost will be £3.50 payable to the Sports Centre. Each session will be related to referees' fitness levels. I shall be updating both the RA and Cambs FA websites so please keep an eye out for further developments.

Please ring **John Steel** for more details **01353 777806** or **07971 575218**.

*Changing Room & Shower Facilities are available.*

*Please make sure you bring a bottle and a towel (for the gym).*

# A Question of Consistency

by Bob Spiller

Having given the signal for the kick-off to start the game, the Referee's main objective then becomes the need to initially establish match control and indeed maintain control throughout the duration of the game. To achieve this objective the Referee will need to apply all his/her practical experience and technical knowhow in terms of communicative skills and player management techniques, together with knowledge of the Laws of the Game in terms of their interpretation and application. Under practical match situations, and with the help of the two Assistant Referees, the Referee controls the game proceedings by means of observing, making a decision, stopping the game, taking appropriate disciplinary action and restarting the game in accordance with the Laws. The players participating in the game, however, will be expecting some level of consistency in both decision making and subsequent actions taken by the Referee is quite understandable, since the bone of contention with regard to the Referee's performance frequently raises the question relating to the degree of consistency experienced during the game, or more often than not, an inconsistency of decisions and disciplinary actions taken.

The dictionary list's *consistency* as '*being consistent to same principles of thought and action*' and when related to a Referee's on-field performance, consistency becomes a significant ingredient. It is, of course, appreciated that the achievement of **total consistency** with respect to the interpretation and application of the Laws may never be fully realised during the course of a game and indeed from one Referee to another. Nevertheless, as the Referee you can take significant steps to improve this situation which will entail, after each game, an honest and critical self-assessment of one's own performance. The ultimate aim being to identify the major incidents which occurred during the progression of the game which led to decisions and disciplinary measures taken and were such official activities carried out in a consistent manner.

## **FITNESS, POSITIONING and WORK RATE**

Fitness in terms of the ability to move quickly from one position to another during open play and indeed to reposition when restarts in play occur following a stoppage for whatever reason becomes a major factor with respect to being in the right place at the right time. In other words, exploiting and moving into space from which to observe and accurately judge the legality of a challenge and in doing so, keeping pace with the open play so as to be as close as possible without interfering with players' movements or getting hit by the ball. These primary factors are generally achieved by the adoption of a flexible control path and busy work rate which will allow the Referee to exploit the field of play extremities whenever the open and active play dictates the Referee's close presence. It is an accepted fact that players will readily accept a decision made from close proximity to an offence, say 5 metres, as opposed to a decision made from, say 30 metres distance. Therefore, to sell a decision, it has to be made as close as possible to where the offence was committed with an abundance of authority and confidence. Remember the further the Referee is from the centre of the incident the less effective the match control can become. Moreover, any indication as to lack in fitness and playing catch up instead of keeping up with play will lead to sacrificing good positioning, thus promoting an inconsistency in decision making. It is, therefore, an essential requirement for the Referee to work hard on his/her level of fitness and be prepared to keep a high work rate going which will more than suffice to achieve the right place at the right time requirement.

## **BALL OUT OF PLAY and RESTART OF PLAY**

The golden rule of refereeing must surely be to keep an eye on the centre activity while the ball is in play and to use those moments when the ball goes out of play to check all round that everyone is behaving themselves. This includes keeping an eye on the last two or three players involved in the activity immediately prior to the ball going out of play. Every time the ball goes out of play for a throw-in, a direct and positive response needs to be made by the Referee to clearly indicate the direction of the throw and which side is entitled to take it. The players should always be clearly and positively informed by the use of a

defined arm signal supplemented whenever possible by a loud shout of confirmation to who has the throw-in. This action will immediately stamp your authority on the situation, avoiding possible confusion and delay. This authoritative action can also be augmented by helping players to help themselves by clearly indicating to where the throw-in shall be taken. No need to be too pedantic as to the exact blade of grass. A metre either side of the point where the ball crossed over the touch line would be an acceptable yard stick (or should I have said metre stick.) Always be consistent when supervising throw-ins, since any lapse of concentration or failure to be fully informative with an approved arm signal and voice will contribute toward loss of control, which may not be too easy to regain.

An acute awareness of players indulging in acts of 'unsporting behaviour' (cautioning offence) in order to gain an unfair advantage must be kept in mind. Acts of unsporting behaviour may be expressed in many ways and guises and moreover, can also be carried out in such a manner that players cleverly disguise their true intentions in order to accomplish the unfair advantage over their opponents. Such acts of unsporting behaviour are, without doubt, contrary to both the letter and the spirit of the Laws and need to be stamped out. Unsporting behaviour can be encountered when play is open and progressive during which physical contact of varying degrees become inevitable as a result of both fair and unfair challenges. However, acts of unsporting behaviour are generally encountered when there are stoppages in the game with the ball out of play until the restart in play takes place. Suffice to say, the Referee must be fully alert to any potential involvement of unsporting behaviour for which the player guilty of such an act must be instantly recognised and punished accordingly in a consistent manner to discourage and eradicate repetition.

The restart of play following the award and the taking of a free kick is another area where inconsistency can be prevalent, if the Referee allows such situations to become so. The award of free kicks within the mid-field and even in deep mid-field zones are generally the easiest to deal with in terms of controlling the procedure for the kick to be taken. Perhaps the only problem the Referee could expect to face would be is where an opponent stands too close to the kicker before the ball is kicked. This unlawful practice is often carried out to interfere or delay the kick to give his team mates time to regroup to defend against the outcome of the kick. However, the closer attacking free kicks get to the opponents penalty area, the more critical the control and supervision of such free kicks become. Such scenario's will involve the defending team wanting to form a human wall which must be at least 9.15m distance from where the stationary ball will be placed for the free kick. At the taking of these 'ceremonial free kicks' all manner of things can happen which means the Referee must be alert and aware of both the attacking and defending players technical and unsporting antics. Consistency in controlling the taking of free kicks, no matter where on the field of play they are to be taken, will demand strict supervision and Law enforcement. Once having set the 'bench marks' adhere to the same principle throughout the game for the taking of all subsequent free kicks. The key to a successful pattern of consistency for controlling free kicks will be to read the game and the players' intentions, reactions and body language which will make it clear whether or not quick free kicks are the order of the day or otherwise.

While on the subject of quick free kicks, total awareness must be the watchword when there is a 'ceremonial wall' free kick scenario. If the team offended against want to take a quick free kick, the Referee should be prepared to accept this restart within reason. Otherwise, strict enforcement of the stipulated 9.15m distance between the wall lineout and the ball placement will need to be carried out with the free kick being taken in accordance with Law. With all free kicks, however, do be seen to be consistent in supervising the free kick procedure by being consistent in what you do.

All too often when and where play is restarted, acts of encroachment can be attempted with the deliberate intention of trying to gain an unfair advantage which disrupts the progress of the restart of play which becomes a blatant offence. Definition: one or more opponents standing closer to the ball than the prescribed 9.15m distance at the start or any restart in the game.' For example, players encroaching or attempting to do so from the defensive wall line out as the kicker moves to take the free kick and both attacking and defending players encroaching into the penalty area at the taking of a penalty kick. Referees must make players aware that attempts to indulge in acts of encroachment and indeed unsporting behaviour will not be

tolerated and such acts will be punished accordingly in a consistent manner.

## **ACTS OF FOUL PLAY**

Instant recognition and appropriate reaction relating to acts of foul play with respect to accurate judgement and interpretation of both penal and technical offences and their severity will be an essential requirement, if consistency of decision making is to be achieved during the progression of the game. Challenges, when committed in a physical manner and carried out in either a careless, reckless or with disproportional force must be penalised with firm and positive response with the offender being punished as required by Law. This course of action may only result in the Referee awarding a free kick to the offended team. If, however, the Referee interprets the challenge to be worthy of some measure of disciplinary action for example, quiet word, stern word, public rebuke or a caution will be necessary. If the challenge was serious enough it could even be a case of sending the guilty player off the field of play. Whichever course of action is deemed to be necessary at the time and place of the incident, repetition of such occurrences, again depending upon on the severity of the challenge, must always be dealt with in a similar manner. Apart from those situations where the 'quiet word' to an offender would suffice without fear of possible retribution by the offended player or indeed his team mates, it would be totally inexcusable if acts of foul play and unfair challenges were to go unpunished.

## **THE ADVANTAGE CLAUSE**

Some refereeing schools of learning advocate the strong disciplinarian approach to deal with foul play during the early stages of the game, letting nothing go, lecturing guilty players and issuing cautions in order to establish control. Once control has been accomplished the Referee then significantly relaxes the grip of control and liberally applies the advantage clause. This approach is understandable but arguably such an approach can be regarded as an inconsistency. Would it not be more feasible to be firm and flexible during the early stage of the game, letting the game develop to a point where it would be safe to invoke the advantage clause without detriment to the match control? Moreover, in the case of contact fouls, especially if they are of a trivial nature, and the Referee reads the players intentions and actions correctly, there is no reason why the application of advantage should not be encouraged in the early stages of the game providing the climate of the proceedings allow for such an application. For the sake of consistency, the playing of advantage should never be used as a means of not giving a decision as in the case of pronounced acts of foul play. In other words, advantage should only be applied where circumstances permit and without sacrificing the control factor. If acts of foul play are considered to be serious enough to warrant an instant stoppage in the game with the award of a free kick, then so is it. The need to be fully aware of the physical challenges resulting in a manner leading to acts of dangerous play and the way in which these challenges are viewed and punished accordingly will also be of extreme importance with respect to consistency in decision making.

## **DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS**

Any player, who indulges in misconduct to such an extent that the player deserves to be officially cautioned and shown the yellow card or to be dismissed from the field of play having been shown the red card, it then becomes within the Referee's power to administer such punishment. The Laws of the Game are quite specific about this and clearly state the circumstances in which such severe punishment must be administered. For example, acts of unsporting behaviour, dissent by word or action, serious foul play, denial of an 'obvious' goal scoring opportunity and offensive or insulting or abusive language and/or gestures to name but a few. There should be no excuse what so ever for not enforcing the Laws in terms of the required disciplinary measures. From the moment the players leave the dressing room, take to the field of play till the time they leave (duration of the game) and return to the dressing room, they are subject to disciplinary action if they indulge in misconduct. No matter what time period during the game. Should the need arise to either caution or dismiss from the field of play an offending player or players then such course of action must be carried out promptly and efficiently. If in the early stages of the game a player commits an

offence which warrants a caution and another player commits an identical offence near the end of the game, that player must also be cautioned. The Referee, at all times, must be seen by everyone to be enforcing the Laws and carrying out disciplinary measures fairly and positively without fear or favour which relates consistency.

In the case of players questioning decisions in any form of dissenting manner such disagreeable behaviour must not be tolerated to any degree. Players, who express dissent by way of verbal outbursts, passing comment and making expressive gesticulations as a protest or disagreement to any decision given, must be dealt with accordingly. It is not enough to take some form of disciplinary action for dissent in one situation and on another, allow the dissent to go unpunished. Such inconsistency in reaction and non-reaction in terms of dealing with offending players will lead to loss of respect and ultimately erosion of match control. Whenever such objectionable behaviour becomes manifest, it will be of paramount importance to act quickly to deal out merited punishment as required by Law. Having then confirmed an authoritative standard it will be of equal importance to retain the same standard throughout the game.

### CONCLUDING REMARKS

The question of consistency relating to a Referee's on-field performance has been discussed in terms of identifying areas where inconsistency in decision making and subsequent disciplinary actions can occur to the detriment of match control. The password for every Referee in every game must always be consistency. This can be achieved by increasing our knowledge and understanding of the Laws of the Game and the manner in which they are interpreted and applied under practical on-field match situations. If we all try to think and react in similar manner when interpreting and applying the Laws, we can then say, together we have finally achieved the ultimate aim of total consistency.

K R Spiller September 2009.

## Caption Competition

From the [www.cambsdistr.co.uk](http://www.cambsdistr.co.uk)

The winner of the first quarter's caption competition was **Steve Symonds** with

*"Look how close I am to play, I hope Mel (Debenham Manager) is watching. I must remember to ask him after the game"*

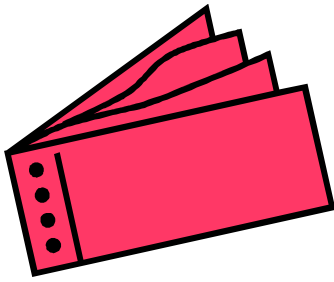
Congratulations Steve! A new competition will be uploaded onto our website shortly

## Social Evenings

We are currently still in the process of arranging a bowling evening against Cambridgeshire FA. As soon as we have a date we will e-mail and put details on the website.

We are also considering organising a Go Karting evening towards the end of the season, if you would be interested in attending please e-mail [cambridgera@gmail.com](mailto:cambridgera@gmail.com) Please note this would be a money in advance event.





## RA Raffle Tickets

Gerald Whitfield still has some raffle tickets for the national RA Draw. If you would like some tickets he can supply them at the meetings or e-mail him on [gerald.whitfield@tesco.net](mailto:gerald.whitfield@tesco.net)

## Brian Chapman Dinner

By by Gerald Whitfield

The Referees Association recently honoured Brian Chapman for 50 years service to the RA. Brian started refereeing in 1953 at which time he joined the RA, and to which he is still currently a member. Brian will be well remembered for his illustrious service to this Society, namely 29 years as it's Chairman and 4 years as it's President.

Brian's career in football is unparalleled both at local and national level. During his career he officiated locally on all the Senior local Cup competitions and spent a total of 17 years on the Southern league first as an assistant progressing to the middle including refereeing 3 Finals.

Brian progressed to the Football League in 1968 and enjoyed 7 years in that role culminating in his appointment in 1975 at the Football League Cup Final at Wembley Stadium between Aston Villa and Norwich City. The year previous Brian also associated in Brussels as an Assistant on a European Championship game between Belgium and France.

Over this wonderful career Brian refereed 970 games and lined on 240 matches, an incredible achievement. Not content to sit on his laurels, Brian was invited onto the Football League Assessors panel where he served for 27 years, covering a total of 1296 matches.

Brian has been a true ambassador for this Society; therefore it gave us great pleasure to host a Celebration Dinner at Cambs FA Headquarters on Friday 29 January 2010. Over 50 people attended the event and we were extremely pleased that all of Brian's family were able to attend. The society was also honoured by the attendance of the guest speakers, Jack Taylor, the 1974 World Cup Referee ;Arthur Smith and Alan Poulain, General Secretary and Chairman of the Referees Association respectively. There was a good cross section of old and newer acquaintances that really added to the flavour of the evening. There were a number of speeches culminating in the award of the Salver presented to Brian by Jack Taylor, a long standing friend of Brian, and a bouquet of flowers to Lorraine, Brian's wife, also a long standing supporter of the Society.

Everybody present echoed the sentiment that the evening had been a great success and we left knowing that we had been privileged to attend a nostalgic evening that will be long remembered and very unlikely ever to be repeated in the lifetime of many of the present members.

# Tampa Bay Sunbowl & Disney Showcase

By Matt Leach

Steve Symonds, John Steel, Joe Iwanko, Peter Howard, Ashley List and myself all travelled to Florida between December 26<sup>th</sup> and January 4<sup>th</sup> to officiate in the Tampa Bay Sun Bowl and the Disney Showcase Tournaments.

## Tampa Bay Sunbowl

This year was the 32<sup>nd</sup> Sunbowl competition and ran from 27<sup>th</sup> December until 30<sup>th</sup> December. Unfortunately we had a couple of travel issues due to a terror alert on Christmas Day, which resulted in us spending a night in Houston Texas and missing the first day of the Sunbowl. However when we did arrive and we were staying in a wonderful hotel courtesy of the tournament organisers. We started refereeing on the 28<sup>th</sup> with great enthusiasm. The competition was of a good standard, we were refereeing Under 17's. Over the next couple of days we officiated on varying matches and ages. Culminating in our debutant Ashley List being appointed to the Under 16's Cup Final as assistant referee. Over the 3 days we were officiating in this competition we officiated in average 5 games per person. Over the course of the tournament we got to meet many officials from around the USA and Canada. Some who we had know for numerous years and some who were new to us. The tournament incorporated all levels of referees including a couple of officiate on the MLS



*From Left: Steve Symonds, Joe Iwanko, Matt Leach, John Steel and Peter Howard in their team tops*

## Disney Showcase

On the 30<sup>th</sup> December we moved onto Orlando to officiate in the Disney Showcase event which was for Girls aged between 15 – 18. The tournament was sponsored by Chelsea Football Club which really pleased our resident Leeds Fan John Steel. The Tournament ran from the 31<sup>st</sup> December until the 3<sup>rd</sup> January. During this time we were stopping in a spacious 5 bedroomed house close to the Disney World Wide Sports Complex. We went to various locations during this

tournament for matches including a new purpose built venue. The tournament has a lot of college scouts who come to watch the Girls, looking for the next stars and who can get college scholarships. We officiated in around about 9 games each during this tournament. In the evenings we used the house's pool, Wii console and pool table which provided great amusement.

Overall the whole trip was superb and I would really recommend people going along, you get to referee some decent football, work with different officials and have a great holiday with fellow referees. On the society website is a link to a magazine sent to us by a fellow referee from Canada which talks more about the experience.



*Ashley List (Haverhill) Flagging for a goal kick*

One question still remains unanswered from our trip, we found a large number of M&M's under the sofa on the last day, but nobody admitted to the crime?

Even though the tickets have been booked this year if you are interested in attending or would like more information on the competitions please contact Steve Symonds [scs23@cam.ac.uk](mailto:scs23@cam.ac.uk)

## Darren Cann visits Hunts RA

From [www.footballreferee.org](http://www.footballreferee.org)

Cann was appointed as a FIFA Assistant Referee in 2007 and has officiated as an Assistant Referee in the 2007 FIFA under 20 World Cup Finals in Canada, the 2006 FA Challenge Cup Final and a UEFA Cup Semi Final in the same year. He hopes to be part of a team of Englands Match Officials at the World Cup in South Africa this summer.



The meeting was held at Alconbury Sports & Social Club and was attended by over 40 local Referees who officiate in the local leagues many of which were young referees willing to learn from a top official. The photograph shows Darren Cann with Callum Sharpe who with only 3 months experience since qualifying as a referee impressed Darren with his lining technique.

# Arsenal Ladies v Doncaster Rovers Belles

## FA Women's Cup Sixth Round

By George Sprague

Referee George Sprague

Assistant Referee Brian Williams

4<sup>th</sup> Official John Steel

If John, Brian and I had other plans for Valentine's Day, these had to be put on the back burner in favour of a trip to Boreham Wood FC for this Women's FA Cup Quarter Final.

Arsenal had beaten Doncaster 8-1 earlier in the season but in Baltic conditions it was the away team that started brighter. Doncaster should have gone ahead from a great run and cross from the right that was put a mile over the bar from 6 yards when it seemed easier to score. From virtually their first attack though, Arsenal gave John something to keep his fingers warm in noting the first goal from Rachel Yankey. Shortly after that the notebook was out again, this time for a caution for the Doncaster No.5 for kicking the ball away.

Despite a couple of good chances to equalise, Doncaster fell further behind shortly before half time when Kim Little scored Arsenal's second. Half time brought a welcome respite from the wind and a chance for us to get a break from the elderly couple taking turns to shout encouragement to both Arsenal and the match officials.

The second half started slowly, but the game was put beyond doubt when Little scored her second. With Arsenal clearly in control, the second half began to peter out. Although Doncaster did have a couple of chances to get back into the game, the main entertainment came from the crowd's vocal enquiries of Brian as to where his fishing rod was and when he'd be off back to his pond.

Little's third goal from a big deflection off a defender gave her a deserved hat trick and there was time for a caution for the Doncaster right back for a very late challenge on an Arsenal player who had to be cautioned for her reaction.

The last action of the game saw an unfortunate own goal give Arsenal a convincing 5-0 win.

Although it was a really cold afternoon it was great to get an FA appointment like this one and the quality of the football made it very enjoyable to referee



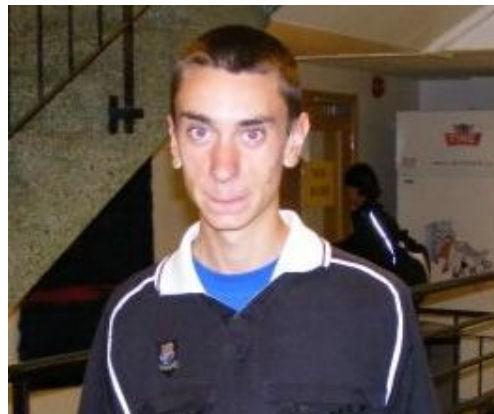
# Refereeing Interview – Ian Pascu

Age – 18

Which team do you support? *Cambridge United*

How did you get introduced into refereeing? *I gave up playing but still wanted to be involved in football, so i started doing the line for my local club and then took the course and haven't looked back!*

How long have you been refereeing? *I am into my third season now.*



What has been the highlight of your refereeing career so far? *The highlight of my refereeing career would have to be officiating in Norway. To experience refereeing in a different country is brilliant, and working with referees from all over the world really helps to develop you. There is such a diverse array of footballing nations out there as well it is just brilliant. One day I was refereeing Palestine the next day a team from Ghana it's just brilliant and a excellent learning curve.*

What is the best game you have officiated and why? *The best game i have refereed would have to be last years S-tech ladies league cup final. Played on a Wednesday night at Newmarket! Both teams were really up for it and there was a huge crowd watching it was between Long road and Yaxley, and I think of the college turned up to watch. It was the first cup final i had refereed and I wasn't used to refereeing in front of so many people (there's not normally that much on Coldhams Common on a Sunday morning!) Both teams just wanted to play football and it was a pleasure to be involved in such a match.*

If there was one thing you could change about football what would it be? *I think they should introduce a wage cap. That would stop so many clubs going into administration and stop the price of tickets going through the roof. No one needs to earn 200,000 a week really do they? Football is no longer about passion and more about money.*

What skills do you think you need to become a referee? *There's quite a few skill needed, the ability to work under pressure, good communication, a good sense of humour is always good as well. As Andy Skelhorn is always telling me just smile at players no matter what! A good knowledge and application of the laws is always good! And Common sense is one of the most important as well!*

Who has been the biggest influence in your career and why? *Everyone I have dealt with to do with refereeing has been brilliant and there is always someone at the other end of the phone when you need a chat. But Colin Hills has been the most help to me, when I have had some rough times he's always been there to give me the guidance I need and move me on in the right direction. Without Colin I would have most probably packed it in a long time!*

In your opinion who is/was the best referee and why? *Pierluigi Collina was the best referee. Now I think the best English referee is either Howard Webb or Mark Clattenburg. Although I quite like Mike Dean as well, he has a likeable nature. Although Gary Sutton is one of the best lower league referee's his ability to remain calm under pressure is brilliant and he's someone I get on well with. Ollie Yates is also a very good young referee, I had the privilege of working with him in Norway.*

*Thank you Ian for Answering our Questions!*

# Refereeing Interview – Colin Peck

Thank you Ian for Answering our Questions!



Age – A Young 62!!

Which team do you support? *Chelsea*

How did you get introduced into refereeing? *As a 19 year old crazy about football, the late great Cyril Pegg and with Trevor Wilson, they both ran a course for youth clubs on becoming a referee that was back in 1967, I took a great interest in the rules of the game, and combined with the stories that Cyril told us, it helped me to make my mind up, that rather than be one of societies young wasters ,I would try to do something useful with my free time on a Saturday afternoon, the decision*

*was a concerted effort to take up refereeing on a more serious level. On January 27th 1969 I received my certificate to say that I was now a qualified referee*

How long have you been refereeing? *As a qualified referee, over 20 years!*

What has been the highlight of your refereeing career so far? *Simple answer to that is to look around me and see the faces of referees at grass roots levels, achieve the elevations to the top levels of football in this county and national level and feel proud that perhaps over the years, I may have been able to help them achieve their dreams.*

What is the best game you have officiated and why? *The first county FA Centaury Cup final, because it contained two finalists from what was back then known as The Mick McNeil Sunday Alliance League, a league whose inception I was involved in over 30 years ago this year, better known now as the Tucker Gardner Alliance Sunday League.*

If there was one thing you could change about football what would it be? *That it should be written into football law that the game is for enjoying, And not always to win at any cost.*

What skills do you think you need to become a referee? *That's easy; 1. Confidence in what you do. 2. Knowledge of the rules. 3. Common sense. 4. Sense of humour.*

Who has been the biggest influence in your career and why? *Just a few, Cyril Pegg, for giving me basic knowledge. Brian Chapman (who rightly was honoured for over 50 years service to the RA), for the dignity and his bearing on the field of play. Football league referee, Roger Kirkpatrick, (known as Mr Pickwick.) for his colourful way of refereeing, and finally the greatest referee of English football the one and only Mr. Jack Taylor, World Cup Referee from Wolverhampton, for his dominating presence and common sense on and off the field of play.*

In your opinion who is/was the best referee and why? *I think that the last person mentioned in previous question would have to be in my mind the best in my era, but in more modern times, the performances of Mr. Pieere Luigi Colina of Italy, on the European circuit, and World Stage.*

*Thank you Colin for Answering our Questions!*