

**Minutes of the March meeting of the Guildford Referees Society held at
Godalming Town FC on Monday 9th March 2009.**

The meeting was opened at 7.50pm by Chairman Geoff Comley with thirty members present.

In his opening remarks, Geoff welcomed the Guest Speaker Jim de Rennes from Kingston and two new referees who had recently passed the course and had already started refereeing. Geoff congratulated Chris North who had recently accepted the position of fitness coordinator for Surrey FA.

Apologies for absence had been received from Mark Chapman and Mike Stobbart. The minutes of the previous meeting had been printed in the magazine and it was proposed:- Martin Feast, seconded:- Steve Ferris that they be accepted as a true record. There were no matters arising.

In his report, Secretary Brian Fish reminded everyone of the forthcoming event on the 12th March when three Societies were holding a special evening where the guest speaker would be Martin Bland from Prozone.

The disciplinary road show that was postponed in February due to bad weather has now been re-arranged for Wednesday 25th March at Leatherhead FC. Lists of Cup Final appointments and promotion successes were not quite complete and would appear next month.

The financial report was in the magazine and in Mikes' absence the Secretary would collect any subscriptions and forward them on to him. Geoff Comley and Cyril West had attended the recent referees examinations and were delighted to report that some new Society members had been gained and that two of the Referees on the course had already started doing games. Many of the young referees who had passed this season were already cutting their teeth on youth League matches.

Problem Corner

Q) A player takes his shirt off in order to remove his tee shirt whilst the game is in progress. The ball comes across and is headed on by this player and is then kicked into the goal. Should the goal stand?

A) No, as the player had removed his shirt he has contravened Law 4. Restart play with a free kick where the ball was headed.

Q) The penalty mark has been placed so that it is not in the centre of the goal but to one side. Should this be allowed?

A) If possible get the mark moved before the start of play and marked in the correct position. If this is not possible tell both captains that if a penalty is awarded that you will have the kick taken from the correct place and not where the mark is.

Q) Can a player play in a match wearing a hearing aid?

A) If it is of the soft type and is not dangerous this is ok. If it is of the rigid, plastic material and the referee deems it to be dangerous to either the player or an opponent they should not be allowed to wear it.

Q) Referee turns around and there is a player on the ground claiming he has been kicked. The referee consults with the Club linesman who backs up the players claim. What should the referee do?

A) As the alleged action was not seen by the referee, he can't send any player off. If he knows which player was supposed to be involved he can tell this player that he is aware that something took place and that he will be watching him closely. He can use the captains to explain the decision that he has made and how he came to this decision. He should restart play with a drop ball at the point where play was when he stopped it.

Any Other Business

A Level 4 workshop had been arranged for Sunday 24th July.

Milford Ladies FC required referees for Sunday afternoons.

Surrey University now has a parking system whereby a permit is required 24hrs a day. On visiting the University, a permit can be obtained, free of charge from the Club shop. It was suggested that all Clubs should be told of this and they can then inform referees who are officiating there.

Best wishes were expressed to the Secretary and his family for their imminent trip to Egypt for their daughters wedding.

Members were reminded about selling RA draw tickets which benefited the Society funds.

Guest Speaker was Jim de Rennes from Kingston who talked about and used a practical session to find out where the 'Respect' campaign had got so far and what the future had in store for it. At the end of an interesting session a vote of thanks was given by Ray Cotton and endorsed by the members.

The key draw will be £40 next meeting as the wrong key was selected. There being no further business the meeting was closed at 10.05pm.