

WHO AM I? – this month we go outside our membership for the first time and PHIL NEWMAN gives us his thoughts -

Q1	What is your name?
A1	Philip (Phil) Newman
Q2	When were you born?
A2	March 1936 in Fulham
Q3	Why did you get into Refereeing?
A3	Commenced November 1957. Wanted to actively participate in football without receiving those hard physical knocks! I still shudder when seeing some of these (with a close up view)..... ouch!
Q4	Who do you support (football)?
A4	Fulham.... and Torquay United
Q5	Do you model yourself on a particular Referee and if so who?
A5	Norman Burtenshaw (aged off The Football League in 1972 and George McCabe (aged off The Football League in 1969), both F.A.Cup Final Referees. That imitation still exists!
Q6	What are your refereeing highlights to date?
A6	Am proud to have Refereed on Sydney Cricket Ground and Lined (F.A. Amateur Cup) on Kennington Oval. (I have also Umpired at The Oval and Lord's main ground). 1971 – Surrey Senior Cup Final Linesman.
Q7	What advice would you give to a new Referee?
A7	<u>Try to ensure that you have a “cry on the shoulder” Mentor attending your matches. Your morale and subsequent progress can only benefit..... obviously! Remember, an Assessor is there for your good..... be courteous.</u>
Q8	What goals have you set yourself within Refereeing?
A8	To continue with the whistle for the bulk of each season until 2012, thereby marking 50 years in the ‘middle.’ Yes, I am still enjoying shouting back at ‘em that much!
Q9	What has been the funniest thing you have seen during a game you have Refereed?
A9	Nothing awfully hilarious although just recently a player realising my ‘vintage’ black uniform (and veteran self) becoming exasperated by some of my decisions blurted out, “we’re not playing to 1950s rules now Referee!”
Q10	Given a free rein (don’t worry about upsetting FIFA) what law change would you implement?
A10	Revert to the, <u>so straightforward</u>, offside law – as worded in the Referees Chart from the thirties right through to the 1980s.

Phil Newman is a member of Worthing Society and a former member and Magazine Editor at Oxted Society. He has spent some time in recent years officiating in the Norwich area where he lived before moving to West Chilmington in West Sussex where he now lives. You will guess from answer 6 that he is also a Cricket Umpire. He is, as you will be aware, a regular contributor to ‘The Guildford Referee’.