The next meeting will be at Godalming Town FC Monday, October 10th 7:30 for a 7:45pm Start.

Please try and attend.

http://www.guildfordreferees.co.uk/

OFFICERS and COMMITTEE MEMBERS: 20010-11
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01483 422560  
ray.cotton@btinternet.com

Chairman:  
Honorary Magazine Editor: Roger Hall  
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Honorary Auditor  
TBA

Committee Members:  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Football Team Manager</th>
<th>Life Vice Presidents:</th>
<th>Vice Presidents:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Colin Henderson  
01483 224479  
cjsahenderson@yahoo.co.uk | Chris Burgess, Ray Cotton M.S.A., Brian Fish M.S.A. Geoffrey Comley, Derek Hart O.B.E. Ken Mills, Brian Pearce M.S.A. Vic Rolland, Mike Topping, Bernie West, Cyril West M.S.A. George White. John Thornton M.S.A | Derek Berry, Norman Brice, Rex Faulkner, Colin Henderson, Phil Tilbury. |
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NOTICEBOARD

SUPPLIES please make Cyril your first port of call for all of your equipment

GUILDFORD REFEREES SOCIETY membership is due AGAIN! (Is anyone checking that we only pay this once a year??) Bob, I’m sure, would be grateful to get your hard earned money as soon as possible. Renewal forms have been circulated, if you haven’t received one contact Bob (email above) and he will put this over-sight right.

Godalming Town v Folkestone Invicta 7:45 (£1 entrance fee for all GRS Members)

24th NOVEMBER Woking Referees’ Society’s guest speaker will be David Ellery. All local society members are welcome and will be held at: Meadow Sports Football Club, Loop Rd Playing Fields, Loop Rd, Kingfield, Woking. GU22 9BQ. Map

Official Website:- www.guildfordreferees.co.uk

EDITORS COMMENTS

Roger Hall
r0ger@btconnect.com

I attended my first Delegates Meeting last month and there’s an hour of my life I won’t get back. A Delegates Meeting is a meeting with a representative from each of the Surrey Referees Societies and have a chat, a good idea in principle, and it’s a chance for the SCFA to send messages back to the Societies and their Referees. Minutes of the September meeting appear in this Magazine and Minutes of Surrey Referees Committee Meeting is worth a read. One thing that did grab my interest is that a referees’ course for over 18 is now £95, and with tutor fees soon to be introduced this will go well into three figures. I just wonder how many potential referees would be put off by the increase or would it stop people with no intention of refereeing from taking the course? There are dates to remind you of, but by this time I had lost the will to live! These dates can be found in the fore mention minutes under Surrey Referee 2011 Events.

A small core of society members attended the Godalming Town match against Folkestone Invicta on the 27th, and an enjoyable evening it was too. The score line of 2-1 to Godalming was unfortunate for our excises, for we all know when the team wins the referee has done no wrong. But Jon Underwood, the Godalming manager has promised to attend our meeting, as has the assessor for the evening, but quite rightly won’t be committing on he’s report at the meeting. I have also invited the Godalming Captain to see if we can get a players view on the match and refereeing in general. All in all Guy Poynter and his assistants, Peter Conn and Andrew Connor had a very good match, but with every match that has ever been played we can pick holes. Three yellow cards for Godalming couldn’t be argued against, one for holding, kicking the ball away and a foul tackle/dissent, but it was the one yellow for Folkestone that did course a bit of discussion as from where we were sitting it looked like the foul was committed by the last defender. There was also some colourful language aimed towards one of the assistance that was ignored and a disallowed goal that was all forgotten because of the score line. Hopefully we’ll have an enjoyable evening discussing these points at our next meeting.
**Adrian’s Tip Of The Month**

The darkest hours come just before dawn. So if you’re going to steel your neighbour’s milk and newspaper, this is the time to do it.

We are now well and truly into this football season. County Cup notifications have been distributed (don’t forget to confirm with Rod Wood your acceptance or inability to officiate). On some Saturdays in the SCIL(W) I am finding that I have more Match Officials than games. On these occasions I have been, and will continue, to pass referees on to Rob Weguelin in the G&WA. One point that has arisen so far this season is the tick boxes. Please ensure when you are filling in the Match Result Sheets that you indicate on all the boxes the relevant information for the Referees Secretary. This includes whether a substitute is used or not and sportsmanship marks.

As I write this piece for the RA we are enjoying some of the best weather of the autumn. This of course may result in very dry pitches so make sure you are wearing the most suitable footwear. On the subject of the weather I very nearly totalled the company motor today when on the radio some wag had text in ‘Dear Grecians. If you want your weather back then pay your bills!!’ It hit a funny chord for me.

On the personnel front. I, like some of my colleagues, duly deposited my youngest son at University (he chose Portsmouth, so is only 45 minutes by car). When we got home we then girded our loins and set about clearing up his room (it usually looks like a bomb has hit it). I have noticed my food bill has reduced a certain amount and Diane and I have more time at home as we do not have to be a taxi service. The only thing he is missing is his mum’s cooking – apparently he needs some Lasagne and a Jalfrezi Curry! If any of you go down the A3 watch out for those Muppets that think as soon as they get to the Hindhead Tunnel they have to slow down from 70 to 50! I haven’t fathomed out why yet unless they want to view the inside of the structure. Ce’st La Vie.

Adi Freeman

What a brilliant idea this is. At least women can feel safe now. With the high rate of attacks on women in secluded car parks, especially during evening hours, Cardiff City Council has established a “Women Only” car park at the new St. David’s Shopping Centre. Even the attendants are exclusively female so that a comfortable and safe environment is created for patrons.

Below is the first picture available of this world-first women-only car park in Wales.
British Illiteracy, but makes good Humour.

Extracts from letters written to local councils:

1. It's the dogs mess that I find hard to swallow.

2. I want some repairs done to my cooker as it has backfired and burnt my knob off.

3. I wish to complain that my father twisted his ankle very badly when he put his foot in the hole in his back passage.

4. Their 18 year old son is continually banging his balls against my fence.

5. My lavatory seat is cracked, where do I stand?

6. My lavatory seat is cracked, where do I stand?

7. I am writing on behalf of my sink, which is coming away from the wall.

8. Will you please send someone to mend the garden path. My wife tripped and fell on it yesterday and now she is pregnant.

9. I request permission to remove my drawers in the kitchen.

10. 50% of the walls are damp, 50% have crumbling plaster, and 50% are just plain filthy.

11. I am still having problems with smoke in my new drawers.

12. The toilet is blocked and we cannot bath the children until it is cleared.

13. Will you please send a man to look at my water, it is a funny colour and not fit to drink.

14. Our lavatory seat is broken in half and now is in three pieces.

15. I want to complain about the farmer across the road. Every morning at 6am his cock wakes me up and it's now getting too much for me to handle.

16. The man next door has a large erection in the back garden, which is unsightly and dangerous.

17. Our kitchen floor is damp. We have two children and would like a third, so please send someone round to do something about it.

18. I am a single woman living in a downstairs flat and would you please do something about the noise made by the man on top of me every night.

19. Please send a man with the right tool to finish the job and satisfy my wife.

20. I have had the clerk of works down on the floor six times but I still have no satisfaction

21. This is to let you know that our lavatory seat is broke and we can't get BBC2.

22. My bush is really overgrown round the front and my back passage has fungus growing in it.

23. He's got this huge tool that vibrates the whole house and I just can't take it anymore.

Three women: one engaged, one married and one a mistress, are chatting about their relationships and decided to amaze their men. That night all three will wear black leather bras, stiletto heels and a mask over their eyes.

After a few days they meet up for lunch.

**The engaged woman:** The other night when my boyfriend came over he found me with a black leather bodice, tall stilettos and a mask. He saw me and said, "You are the woman of my life. I love you." Then we made love all night long.

**The mistress:** Me too! The other night I met my lover at his office and I was wearing the leather bodice, heels, mask over my eyes and a raincoat. When I opened the raincoat he didn't say a word, but we had wild sex all night.

**The married woman:** I sent the kids to stay at my mother's house for the night. When my husband came home I was wearing the leather bodice, black stockings, stilettos and a mask over my eyes. As soon as he came in the door and saw me he said, "What's for dinner, Batman?"
I promised at the last Society meeting that I would send out details of the RA’s Physiotherapy offer again to see who wants to join the scheme. After two games yesterday, and refereeing all today today, I need it!
I’ve attached the full details of the scheme, which some of you have already joined. The cost is £5, so if you want me to enrol you on the scheme, (remember it’s for members only!) please let me know and I will send your details to the RA. I can collect your £5 when I see you next time.
Here are some FAQ’s....

Who are IPRS?
IPRS are the provider of Physio care. Website: - www.iprsgroup.com

Is the cover open to all ages 14 to 75?
Yes cover is available for active referees up to the age of 75. Non active referees may join up to the age of 75, and must be on refereeing business in the event of a claim.

How many claims can the insured have in one year?
4 Separate Musculoskeletal Disorders in any insurance year.

Will there be a local Physiotherapist?
Yes, IPRS will allocate one of their approved Physiotherapists which are local to your home or workplace.
If IPRS intervention is appropriate they will refer you for treatment into their network of Associate Practices, we do not have lists of approved practitioners.

Regards
Bob

Overview
To provide the members of RA with a scheme which provides them with (immediate) access to physiotherapy and rehabilitation if they suffer a musculoskeletal disorder (MSD), which prevents them from being able to perform their duties as a referee.

Description
The incident/Injury which results in the MSD must be incurred whilst the member is travelling directly to and from a game, during a game, training or whilst on recognised referee’s society business.
To qualify for the service the MSD must prevent the member from being able to perform their duties as a referee for at least five consecutive days.
An injury website will be available during the intervening period, so that the initial care which should be administered by the patient immediately following the injury can be treated, e.g. Icing elevation etc
An IPRS Personal Care Advisor will contact the member by phone within 2 working days, to carry out a triage call to assess the extent of the member’s injuries and whether IPRS intervention is appropriate.
If IPRS intervention is appropriate, IPRS will arrange a physical assessment and up to a maximum of four treatment sessions, as clinically appropriate.
Each member can claim for up to 4 separate, non-related MSD’s during the annual Agreement Period. All treatment will be arranged by IPRS only, and referred into their network of Associate Practices.
Treatment will not be provided for an MSD:

i) which did not specifically occur within the Agreement Period,

ii) where, in the opinion of IPRS, it is neither reasonable nor appropriate to do so,

iii) which occurred within 7 days of the commencement of the Agreement. This does not apply for renewal Agreements,

iv) for which the Official has previously received treatment under this Agreement.

Agreed Pricing £5.00 including vat
The Irish Lorry Driver

A lorry driver breaks down on the M6 with a cargo of live monkeys on board bound for Chester Zoo. They need to be delivered by 9:00 am and the driver fears he will get the sack if the don’t get there on time. He decides to try and thumb a lift for his monkeys and eventually an Irish lorry driver pulls over. “What’s the problem” ask the Irish chap.

“Do us a favour mate and take these monkeys to Chester Zoo for me” says the driver, “and here’s a hundred quid for your troubles.”

“Happy days,” says the Irish fella, loads the monkeys onto his truck and gets on his way. The lorry driver goes about trying to fix his truck and has been there for a good few hours when he notices the Irish fella coming back down the motorway, still with all the monkeys on board. Panicking he flags him down again, “What are you playing at, “ he fumes, “I told you to take them to Chester Zoo!”

“I did and we had a great time,” says the bemused Irish fella, “but there’s still fifty quid left so we’re all off to Alton Towers”.

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RMD : 30th September 2011
MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 6<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2011 AT THE LEATHERHEAD INSTITUTE, LEATHERHEAD

Present: - Gerry Kehoe (Chairman), Paddy Boshell (West London), Chris Ducklin (Delegate to SCFA) & Peter Crichlow (Croydon), Keith Glover & John Kasey (Sutton), B. Fish (Hon Secretary & Guildford), Andy Cooles (Camberley & Farnham), Graham Kendall & Phil Sherlock (Redhill), Vic Rolland (Chairman SCFA Refs Committee), Roy Butler & Brian Reader (Woking), Barry Rowland & R. Gucche (Kingston), Damith Bandara (Dorking), Ray Mallory (RA Board Member).

1101 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE,

Tim Dowdeswell (Dorking), Geoff Comley (Guildford), Mark Wood (Redhill), Bob Stanley (West London), Richard Parsons (West Middlesex),
West Middlesex not represented

1102 CHAIRMAN’S OPENING REMARKS

The Chairman opened the meeting at 8.10pm by thanking everyone for attending and explaining the reasons for the change of venue for the evening.

1103 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2011 had been circulated and it was proposed by Redhill and seconded by Sutton as being a true record and the Chairman authorised to sign them as such.

1104 MATTERS ARISING

194. Should read item 204

1105 Secretary’s Report

a) Conference voting forms had been sent out to all Societies. They could be filled in and returned to the RA or sent to the Secretary by the 8<sup>th</sup> July and the votes would be cast at Conference after listening to the debate on each item.

b) All Secretaries were reminded that details of each Society Officer should be sent to The RA office as soon as possible after their AGM.

c) Details of all Officers and meeting details to be sent to the County RA Secretary by the end of June so that they can be sent to the County FA for inclusion in the handbook.

d) Promotions for next season included two National List Referees, three National List Assistant Referees, one Select Group Assistant Referee, six Level 3 Referees and four Level 4 Referees.

e) It had been agreed that each Society would send a copy of their own rules to the Secretary as soon as possible together with their membership list for the previous season.

f) A meeting of Chairmen and Secretaries would be arranged for the start of the new season.

1106 RA BOARD MEMBERS REPORT

Ray Mallory submitted the following report:-

Current membership figures as of 31<sup>st</sup> May shows a membership of 4793 of which 794 have taken up the physiocare option. Although in its first year, the Physiocare uptake is very disappointing and Societies are requested to promote this service which has already been utilised and proved to be of good value.

The new RA Tie is available at a cost of £10

New LMSA and Life Membership badges have been produced with the new RA logo and any of the current holders can exchange their old one should they so wish.

Brian Smith (Kingston) had been granted his MSA by the RA.

This was Ray’s last meeting before standing down as an RA Board Member after having served the membership since the change many years ago. The Secretary recorded a vote of thanks to Ray for everything that he had done for the members especially those in Surrey.

1107 SCRA DELEGATE TO THE SCFA

The Delegate had nothing to report.

1108 INTER SOCIETY COMPETITIONS.

Nothing to report

1109 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(a) Interviews would soon be taking place for positions on the Development Group. If any Society had possible potential candidates they should contact Mark Wood immediately.

(b) Barry Rowland voiced his concern regarding the cost of training and the difference in costs within Counties.

1110 There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.15 pm. The next meeting would take place on Monday 26th September 2011.
Report from Surrey Referees Committee Meeting  
Notes from the meetings on  
11th July & 5th September 2011

Referee Numbers  
There is a reminder for Level 3 and 4 officials to register with the Surrey County FA early in order to prevent bother with FA, County and Supply Leagues.  
Current referee registration figures are made up as follows:  
- Level 1-8: 1050 (1032 male & 18 female)  
- Level 9 – 119 (105 male & 14 female)  
- Level 10 – 39 (37 male & 2 female)  
- Associate - 35  
A second e-mail has been sent to all those officials who have not registered for this season.

Surrey Referee 2011 Event  
The 2011 event will be held at Imber Court on Thursday 13th October 2011 starting at 7.30pm with refreshments available from 6.45pm. Darren Cann and Mike Mullarkey (World Cup Final Assistant Referees) will be the guest speakers. The invitation to all referees was included in the August Referee Newsletter. It will also be advertised via a ‘splash page’ on the SCFA website and further communication to Surrey referees. There will be an FA Referee event in Surrey on Monday 27th February 2012 details to follow.

Promotion & Training  
Basic Training  
The three summer courses were full with 77 new referees being trained. 50 candidates are booked on the autumn courses.  
The Female Only Referees Course was cancelled due to low numbers despite extensive advertising and radio interviews. Of the seven candidates who were due to attend four are attending other courses and the others are not going to pursue being a referee.  
Tutor fees for trainers will start at the beginning of season 2012/2013.  
For referees who were demoted by the FA from Level 4 to Level 5 the FA has changed the criteria for promotion back to Level 4. This change was introduced in June 2001 part way through the marking season. A Level 4 who has been demoted to Level 5 must remain at that level for one season before they can apply for promotion.  
There was a comment on promotions this year, which were not part of the development group.  
There appears to be a lack of talent from the RA routes and a lack of applications and nominations from RA’s of any age officials towards promotion or nomination to the Development Group or Academies.  
It is recommended that the RA’s check with mentors and mentees and endeavour to nominate officials for these to Tim Lawrence and Mark Wood.  
Promotion, it was noted that a lot of applicants for 7/6 had not completed 20 games from training and / or attended a relevant IST or filled in the relevant forms.

Appointments  
Rod Wood is still awaiting responses regarding his article in the Surrey Newsletter covering officiating at Chelsea Academy. Those who are interested should declare an interest, if an officials name has not been received, then it will not be considered.  
Some off season friendly matches are being communicated by clubs to officials without going through the proper procedures such as the FA or league referee secretaries. This practice is incorrect and should be avoided in order to protect clubs and officials.  
Through their Chairman, Alan Turvey, the Ryman Youth League asked if the County would appoint officials to our clubs in the league. This was not something County could help them with.  
The Suburban FL has asked the Sussex County FL to provide some assistant referees for its games this season.

Other issues  
4 Surrey officials served the County well by officiating at a Tournament in Lisbon. Feedback is ongoing.  
The FA plan has been replaced by the “Centenary Board” in County Office. Eventually there will be a screen in the County Office reception to show a rolling presentation of Surrey County targets and also to show the County FA promotional DVD.  
This year’s RA Conference was the most successful yet with 435 referees attending.

The Surrey FA Presentation Evening went very well with 48 referees receiving awards on the night. There are another 14 who did not attend the evening, some have had their award and for the rest I Surrey FA are waiting for suitable dates for presentation.

Pam Crane had an operation at the end of September and Stan see’s his consultant again at the beginning of November. If there is no improvement then it’s another MRI scan and possible op. Apart from that they are doing fine.

Sam Exworth has been going through a difficult time. Currently he is recovering from a second bout of pancreatitis which has made him very ill for the last two weeks. He is hoping to go into hospital to have a bone marrow transplant on Friday 19th August, which is also his 18th birthday! That could be anything from a 6 to 8 week stay in hospital.

Richard Hailstone is the new Referees Academy Mentor Coordinator. Matt Eva who was interested in taking on the role of Academy Liaison Officer is now unable to due to personal circumstances. However he will help out until the end of the year when Richard will take on this role.
If I was a footballer on a contract I would want to PLAY!

You do know that the professional game, at the very top, has gone mad, don't you? This is neither the time, nor place, to raise the old question of who is in charge, we all know for sure that it is not any one or more human beings, it is SIMPLY MONEY, that is if money can ever be simple. And though every Club benefits because of the huge influx of money ever since the Premier League and Sky both became IMPORTANT, the fact is that the game is still, and probably more than ever, a case of 'haves' and 'have nots'.

Right at the top we now have two Clubs in that Northern City that used to be called 'Cottonopolis' in direct competition not just to win things but to see how many players they can afford to both buy and then put on their very expensive payrolls. Down south two, possibly three, other Clubs similarly spend and speculate. The 'panic' amongst some Arsenal supporters was there to behold as the Club made a bit of a mess of the first leg against Juventus. I heard a couple walking and talking as they left the Surrey Sports Park building, you would have thought they were shareholders. They quoted the 'paper' figure that the second leg result could be worth £26 Million, and actually offered each other a list of names of players that Wenger ought to be buying. It was fascinating. But my interest in this piece is that despite all these five clubs being in an 'extra competition' their habit of collecting so many of the top ranking players is having two effects on the world game as a whole, both of which I believe will be deleterious in the long term. First of all Europe is now 'the place to be' for anyone who is a good footballer. No harm in that, unless you are a South American fan. Then, in Europe, England is possibly the 'place to be'. I understand these Clubs can name, maybe have to name, a squad of 25 for their European adventures. A bit like that Italian bloke (who can see his players are not 'up for it' by the way they do their 'warm up' ! WOW.) who could take 23 to the World cup. The same 25 they 'choose' for Europe will be the bulk of the squad they use for Premier League games, causing each of these managers, and Capello for that matter, to NEVER be able to tell you which is their best team, meaning that when they take 18 to each Premier League game the ELEVEN who start AND the SEVEN who sit and wait may be just as puzzled as we are. THINK about being ONE of SEVEN sent to the stand before the game starts, if you are the Reserve goalie do you pray for one of two things (INJURY or SEND OFF)? If you are any of the other SIX sitting out this game (to await with) are you watching the game at all, if so are you watching (perhaps intently) the one or two blokes you might reasonably be called upon to replace, and if so, are you too looking for an injury or a complete loss of form to 'open the door' for you? How do you honestly feel at having a CONTRACT as a FOOTBALLER but NOT PLAYING. It never used to be like that, did it. In those far distant days (around 1990 actually) the teams used to nearly pick themselves. Go even further back in time and the delineation twixt what was known as the First team and the 'stiffs' was clearer still. I recall getting home
for a 48 hour pass from the R.A.F. in season 1947-48, grabbing the 'Express & Star' and being disappointed that Wolves would be playing Leslie Smith on the left wing the next day as Jimmy Mullen was injured. Dad pointed out to me that one Reserve would not make too much difference to the side and, anyway, Smith would be seeking to impress Stan Cullis to try to get a regular place. The details don't really matter, my point is that in those days, pre substitutions, 2 shillings to get in, 2/3 to stand in the enclosure along the sides, teams and players were fairly settled, and the idea of having an extra 14 players sitting watching, doing nothing, all being paid, all 'waiting for the call', would be looked on as ridiculous in the extreme. I CAN just understand three subs being allowed to play, I can just understand that the top layer needs 3 from 5 so that Managers can then 'juggle' their teams a little and not be tied to the bare 3 subs they might take along. But I CANNOT understand any 3 from 7 (at any level) condemning as it does some 4 players per team to spend another game kitted up, watching play, and wishing they were out there. Add in the pseudo substitutions in the last few minutes, and even in the time 'added on' designed to what : (1) Allow the goalscorer his own personal ovation !!!

(2) Break up the rhythm of the game (i.e. either to waste time or prevent the opposition benefiting from 'being on a roll'. (3) Save a 'star' for a forthcoming 'harder' game.

To sit in the dug-out (wrong name these days, who can even remember when it really was a dug-out) or on the bench (another wrong name, those seats are more like easy chairs) for all of 90 minutes, except when someone tells you to go and warm up, to then take to the field (with instructions burning into your brain ???) for all of 3 or 4 minutes, and for that to be your total actual playing time for that week MUST take some getting used to. WHAT HARM IS ALL THIS DOING ? Firstly : It must cause some players to wonder why they are not getting a game. Will their time come, would they be better off, playingwise, elsewhere ? Secondly : It really is a shocking waste of talent, time and money. Thirdly : The influx of the huge number of foreign players to support all this extra staffing of our top clubs makes it far less likely that English/British players will make the real breakthrough. In a much wider/broader sense it cuts across the present 'problem' concerning the decline in 11 v 11 adult male football. SCFA has a working group set up to discuss that very subject, and amongst the points made at one meeting was the fact that at A.F.A. level some of the Clubs simply never 'carry' subs with them and deplore the idea of having sunsubstitutes simply because if every one of their teams had two or three subs each playing day that Club could form another team from all those extra players and they could/would all get a game. Yet the top level has gone to an extreme in the other direction by signing enough players, and top players at that, so that on any day each of them COULD field what would effectively be TWO FIRST TEAMS. Next time TV shows a close-up of the occupants of the benches take a good look and then tell me (a) Are they all enjoying being idle, left out, awaiting the call? (b) Can our game afford such very real wastage? (c) Is money replacing genuine competition ?
PAMPERED FOOTBALLERS? Don't you believe it!

Within the last couple of years my wife has (at last) become used to the fact that the game of football is prominent on TV, her games (before we met) were Tennis, at which she excelled both as a girl and young woman, and Cricket, which she played at Guildford County School when it had all female pupils. Her father fostered her interest in both sports. She it was, of course, who asked me in the autumn I retired from Vokes (1991) if I would like Sky TV as a Christmas present, probably one of the worst mistakes she has made in our 59 years together. Several times during last football season, whenever anyone said on TV or stated in the paper that such and such a footballer, or even a whole team was 'tired', after playing two games in one week or three games over 8 days Jill would compare their 'output' with that of the top Tennis players, who can be on court for 2, 3 or even 4 hours for one match in any of the 4 Grand Slam tournaments. It is difficult to argue with her point of view when you see the agility & effort necessary.

But her declaration set me thinking about both sports and then about Cricket. Which players ARE the most pampered, bearing in mind that football and tennis both make true millionaires of their top performers, cricket may now offer a good living to relatively few, but that's about all. But that is only one sort of pampering. All three sports look after their players health and welfare to a far greater extent than in days gone by, diet and medical care are priorities, and one suspects that only rarely does any one player have to book his own next journey and make all the arrangements himself. But these are mere sidelines to some very real pampering that goes on in Tennis. What is it with all that TOWEL business, or even the delivering of the actual balls to the player, his then careful look at the handful of three balls he is holding, the (almost) careless rejection of one of them downwards and behind him, in the general direction of ball boy (or girl), to be followed by the bouncing of the ball umpteen times prior to 'winding up' and serving. The Serbian gentleman appears to vary the number of bounces slightly, anything between 9 and 13, (yellow for timewasting if it was football ?) The towel business fascinates me. There is an element of contempt (almost akin to slavery) in the way the towel has to be within one foot of the player's hand as he finishes a point, which means that the carrier has to learn to not only hover, but also synchronise his steps, forward, backwards and sideways to coincide with the steps of his Lord and Master (i.e. the player) until such time as the player finally grabs the comforting bit of cloth, mops his brow, rubs any other assorted items of his anatomy he feels may be a bit damp from his exertions, and then either drops the towel (for slave to catch) or projects it roughly in slave's general direction, making quite sure his own concentration is not disturbed by any form of word, smile, scowl, look, frown, or anything that might acknowledge that this very attendent 'thing' is simply another human being. Consider this : They all use the towel after each point from first to last ! I ask you. How much sweat (perspiration ?) does one rally
produce, even if it lasts 28 strokes? Put it into context alongside our other two sports. Rooney gets stuck in and runs three quarters of the length of the field to either score or miss, there is no-one anywhere near touchline or goal-line with a towel. Tom Maynard scores a three at cricket, has to run a bit sharpish, no towel waiting for him. Both Tom and Wayne have 'done a quick burst' equally as energetic as Nadal might have done, but their games do not allow for all that nonsense. Then we come to the 'sitting down' bit as they change ends. Sunny day, slave at the ready with a thumping great umbrella, or waiting on the player hand and foot with various bottles of drink, meanwhile other slaves are busy getting all the balls to one end of the court, or changing them completely each nine games. Meanwhile both contestants sit and, so far as one can see, brood. Absolutely no 'please' and 'thank you' enters the relationship, and the players are so used to this everlasting pampering that if the ball boys went on strike the tournament would have to be cancelled. I DO admire the level of DISCIPLINE shown by all such ballboys, I visualise some of the things they are TOLD they must do, I am aware that only the BEST ones get on the Finals (Not like County Ciup appointments at all, then ?) but even they only get the 'reward' of lining up later at Presentation time, and if they are at Wimbledon (of course) The Duke of Kent may just stop for a moment, and have a word. One trusts that the conversation includes the words "Well done" and "Thank you". I wonder if they actually get paid, or do they have to be satisfied with 'meals on duty', the uniform they are given, and possibly someone explaining that it is 'an honour'. My mental pictures if we transferred the towel business to football and/or cricket include for the 4th official to really have something to do: Keeper of the towels, 22 players plus subs plus the officials whilst all the mascots would act as towel carriers for the two teams, one per player of course, and then THEY would not have to pay to be a mascot and their replica kits would also be free. To save time (?) wherever 'their' player was on the pitch, he would signal that he needed a wipe down and his mascot would set off across the turf.

To make sure play was stopped players requiring towelling down would be required to get the permission of the referee. Alternatively something like a wheelie bin could be placed at intervals around the pitch, with a supply of towels in each. Not too hygienic though.

As for cricket: You have to be a bit careful where you leave the towels, if you put a helmet on the ground and the ball hits it it is 5 runs or something, so they dare not be actually within the boundary. Most matches now seem to have a referee, two visible umpires and a 3rd and 4th umpire we only see at medal time (where do they hide ?) so maybe a couple of them could be the towel carriers. The REAL umpires (the ones actually seen on the ground) used to often be decorated with players' jumpers, etc. so perhaps they could each have a couple of towels tied round their middles. Just an idea.

As for the tennis 'selecting the right couple of balls' bit, wouldn't that be fun in football, or, better still, lets see the cricket bowler able to call out for that box of balls of several ages to be brought out when the one he is using is not taking wickets. Great!
By the time you read this I will have probably hosted London FAs first Mastermind Group of the season with referees who wish to improve their officiating…

The essence of the Referee’s Mastermind Group (RMG) is to sit in groups and discuss our experiences coming up with solutions and plans to improve our performances.

I suggested that unless you get enjoyment from officiating then get out and do something else. It’s not worth the hassle; well I have to tell you that Monday’s Mastermind was extremely enjoyable.

We had about 30 referees ranging from Level 2b to Level 10 and we argued about how to be better referees for 2½ hours.

COMMON SENSE

There was a discussion about using common sense and one of the London Referees’ Committee said there was no room for common sense in refereeing.

This was argued about – as everything is – and we came to the decision that he might be right but he was probably wrong.

Then the next day one of the referees sent me this little story about commons sense which aptly describes why common sense is needed when we referee…

Jeff,
Following on the conversation on Monday night about common sense application of the laws, a work colleague reminded me of an apt saying, coined by a well know comedian.
“The difference between Knowledge and Wisdom. Knowledge is knowing that a Tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a Fruit Salad!”
Whilst knowledge of the laws is important, common sense application is wisdom!
Regards,
Mark Jenkins

Two things here: I think common sense is a necessary skill if you want to get to the top in refereeing, when you get to FIFA you best apply the Laws rigorously!

And just in case you want to take me on consider this: if you’re refereeing on a council park and you’ve got 22 players there all ready to go and you discover that the field is only 89 metres long you’d be well advised to use common sense and play the game!

Secondly, Mark was discussing at work what he’d been talking about the night before at a referees’ meeting. BRILLIANT!

IMPROVING YOUR PERFORMANCE
The reason we meet on a monthly basis is to improve and therefore enjoy our refereeing more. For us to improve we have to have a “growth mindset”.

Simply put a “growth mindset” knows that to master any skill you have to understand that you will make mistakes. The secret is to learn from those mistakes.

However, those with a “closed mindset” will not expose themselves to making any mistakes so that they cannot be ridiculed for them.

The way to cultivate a “growth mindset” is to add the word YET to any sentence when talking about current situation.

For example: “I’m not a level 4” could leave you thinking you never will be. Whereas the same statement with the word “yet” added gives you the oomph to strive on.

“I’m not a level 4 yet!” To complete the power set ask yourself a powerful question like: “How do I get the skills needed?”

This is what our Mastermind Group is about on Monday night and we asked the question:

- “What can we do to ensure our performance is spot on?”

If I was in charge of assessments we’d mark referees with four categories:

A - Excellent
B - Very Good
C - Good
NY - Not Yet

Not yet doesn’t say “no never” it says “not yet” which leaves hope and also encourages a growth mindset to find the answer.

This idea is another from my coach and friend Peter Thomson who helped teach me that refereeing is about managing people (principally me) and not just applying Laws.

Remember this weekend that you will make mistakes – that is to be expected – and those mistakes will help you grow in experience and wisdom.

Enjoy your refereeing.

**The Renegade**

PS Don’t allow the RefsComm to make you a fruit salad!
Please refrain from smoking in the meeting room.

Ensure mobile phones are switched off or switched to silent

Take your glasses back to the bar at the end of the evening.

Make sure you have signed the attendance book.

Note the date of the next meeting—we look forward to seeing you then and have a safe journey home.

**Dates For Your Diaries**

**Guildford Society Referees Annual General Meeting Monday 8th August**

Montenegro v England  
7th October 19:45 ko

Carling Cup Final

**Sunday 26th February 2012**

Europa Cup Final

**Wednesday 9th May 2012**

FA Cup Final

**Saturday 12th May 2012 18:15 ko**

Champions League Final

**Saturday 19th May 2012**
THE GUILDFORD REFEREE
Is the monthly magazine of Guildford Referees’ Society

Its aim is to give members notice of meetings, report on Society activities and act as a forum for members views, comments and opinions.

The views expressed herein are not necessarily the view of the Football Association, FAMOA, The Society nor of it’s Committee

Contributions (on any subject likely to be of interest to members) are invited, and should be sent directly to the Editor at least 16 days before the date of the next meeting.

**Guildford Referees Society** meets on the second Monday of each month, August to May, at Godalming Town FC, Weycourt, Godalming. Kick off 7:45pm

The Society is part of the SURREY REFEREES ASSOCIATION whose objectives are:

To improve the status of Referees
To improve the standards of Refereeing
To promote a closer relationship between Referees and Football Associations and kindred bodies.
To assist all such Associations in promoting the best interest of the game.
To assist all such Associations in promoting their educational and general work.
To establish Referee’s Societies of Associations in districts where none exist.
To watch over and promote the Referees in general.
To protect the members from injustice or unfair treatment.
To assist or take action (legal of otherwise) for and on behalf of any member unfairly or unjustly treated.
To make such representation to the governing bodies as may be thought necessary for the good of the game and the benefit of Referees and Refereeing.
To maintain a Benevolent Fund to aid members or past members or their dependents in case of need.
To assist in maintaining a steady supply of suitable candidates to take the Referees’ examination.
To provide social activities, as desirable, and to retain in membership those who have given up active Refereeing, that their experience may benefit the newcomer.