

OFFICIALS FOR SEASON 2003-04

President : Kevin Thompson

Vice President : David Fuller

Secretary : John Byrne, 6, Keats Drive,
Heckmondwike, WF12 0PF.
Tel. 01924 407432

Treasurer : Peter Hodgson, 14, Hollin Hall
Lane, MIRFIELD, WF14 8EU.
Tel. 01924 493196

Executive Committee : Martin Atkinson, Alan
Helliwell and Jamie Waters

Delegates to :

H W D F A : Alan Helliwell

W R R A : Alan Helliwell and Tony Murphy

H W G S A F L : John Swinden and
Stavros Patsaros

Spenn Valley League : Stephen Land and
Andy Howard

Subscriptions

A final reminder for those members who have not yet paid their subscriptions for this season.

If you have not paid you are no longer insured by the Referees' Association and this will be your last Newsletter.

Please send your cheque to Peter Hodgson (payable to H.W.R.A.) as soon as possible if you wish to continue membership.



NEW SLETTER

November 2003

No. 38.

OFFSIDE REF. !!!

Ask most local referees what are the most difficult decisions they have to make and most will come up with the Offside Law, especially when they have no official assistants.

Even at the top level we still hear controversy every single week when there are differing opinions on "offside" incidents on television. This was highlighted recently in the Leeds v Liverpool match when Liverpool were awarded a goal after Robinson's blunder and about four Liverpool players were standing in front of him in an off-side position but Referee Winter decided they were not interfering even though his assistant clearly thought they were,

The law says that a player is only penalised for offside "*if he is interfering with play or interfering with an opponent or gaining advantage by being in that position.*"

I think that the Liverpool players concerned were doing all three of these things in that they were interfering with play by being in the goal-mouth, interfering with an opponent by being five yards in front of Robinson and in his direct line of sight and gaining advantage by putting the goalkeeper off. I think it was Bill Shankly who said that if a player is not interfering what is he doing on the field? In the dim and distant past when I refereed the only time a player was deemed to be not interfering was when he was standing next to the corner flag tying up his laces.

However, at the last H.W.R.A. meeting, two of our senior officials disagreed with me and thought Mr. Winter's decision was correct. Probably many of you will also think the same and yet we still talk about consistency.

Wouldn't it be better if a player was off-side if he was in an off-side position whether he was "interfering" or not. It would certainly be easier on the referee and I wonder how the game would change -- if at all -- if we abandoned the Off-side law altogether.

Would it be worth an experiment in one of the Minor Leagues for a season to try it out ?

Whilst we are on about the Leeds/Liverpool incident is it in the realms of "unsporting behaviour" if a team deliberately tries to put players off-side by running forward when a free kick is taken or is that just good tactics, which this time did not work ?

WHAT DO YOU THINK ?

What's Your Name ???

Is it true that one of our more experienced referees recently called a player over to him after a rather nasty foul and asked him his name. The player replied: "Anton Otulakowski" The referee paused for a moment before saying: "Er, well, Anton, don't do it again".

ANNUAL DINNER DANCE

*Our Annual Dinner Dance will be held on
Saturday, 7th February 2004 at BLENHEIM
HOUSE, BATLEY at 7.00p.m. for 7.30p.m.*

*Presentations will be made to Garry Scott
and David Wright who refereed the Wheatley
and Brook-Butler Cup Finals.*

*Tickets will cost £16.00 and will include
Dinner and Dancing until 12 midnight.*

**MAKE A NOTE IN YOUR DIARY AND
SUPPORT THE ASSOCIATION .**

YOU WILL ENJOY THE EVENING .

A Bit Of Nostalgia !!!

Earlier this month I had an e-mail, via David, about a medal that had recently turned up in Hull. It was bought at a pawn brokers as a present for a young lady. It had a Yorkshire Rose and was engraved "H.W.D.F.A. Wheatley Cup Winner 1929".

She wanted to know the history of the gift and asked the H.W.D.F.A. for help.

Research shows that the medal was made of gold and had cost 12 shillings. It had been bought at a Brighthouse jeweller called Shackleton & Co. The runners-up medals were silver and gold and had cost 10 shillings (50p). The game was between Norristhorpe and Moorside Rovers from Drighlington and was won by Norristhorpe by 2 goals to 1. Oxley of Moorside was sent off "after having received several cautions". About 600 spectators watched the game paying 6 pence admission. Ladies and children paid 3 pence.

This was one of the last years that gold medals were given to Wheatley Cup winners as they became too expensive and for a few years after that prizes such as Sets of cutlery or cake stands were given until the F.A. banned such presents as they were classed as payment for winning and broke the rules about amateur players. Miniature cups were then presented for some years until small shields and plastic trophies took their place in recent years.

I wonder what happened to all the medals that were given for the first 30 years of the Wheatley Cup from 1899 to 1930 when the District F.A. stopped giving them. Do you know of the whereabouts of any more ?

Life After The Last Whistle.

For most referees putting their kit away for the last time signals an end to their active careers. There are, however, a number of ways in which experienced officials can still play an important role in the development of newly qualified referees and referees seeking re-grading or promotion up the "ladder".

For newly qualified referees the "mentorship" scheme requires an experienced referee to go and watch the candidate. No written report is required as the mentor offers verbal guidance on arrival at the ground and again at half time and full time.

For referees seeking re-grading or those invited onto the promotion ladder assessments are undertaken by qualified F.A. Assessors. The assessor will analyse the referee's performance and provide a comprehensive written report offering guidance on pre-defined aspects of their performance which will assist his or her future development.

Mentorship workshops and Assessor training days are organised by the West Riding County F.A. and if you have an interest in helping out and developing your own career please let me know and I will give you more details.

John Byrne.

The Other Code.

Recently, Steve Ganson, the Rugby Super League referee, was interviewed and a few of the things he mentioned may be of interest to members to perhaps compare the two codes.

Qualification is similar to soccer as the candidates have to pass an exam covering the laws of the game and are then appointed to local amateur games. They then go to local and national area camps where they receive further coaching and a competent referee could take charge of Super League games within three years.

He said a good referee is someone with a strong personality who is confident enough to make split second decisions and live or die by them and he should develop mental toughness to cope with constant criticism.

He was of the opinion that Full-time professionalism for Super League referees is the way forward to allow more preparation before matches.

On the subject of respect, he said that the Rugby Football League clamps down hard on players who show dissent towards officials. "I know that if I send someone off -- and it was the right decision and I treated the player fairly -- then I will be supported if the player abuses me. A referee is only as strong as the organisation that he works for".

Finally, he said to anyone thinking of becoming a referee, "If you want to be popular, do not become a referee. Refereeing is not about being popular but gaining respect".

Heavy Wooten District F.A.

The H.W. Minor team started its season with an excellent win over Bradford by 3 goals to 1 at Ossett in September followed by a draw against Wharfedale at Guiseley when they held a 3 - 1 lead and then allowed Wharfedale to score twice in the last ten minutes.

In November they played at Cougar Park and gained a great victory on Bonfire night beating a Keighley side who had held a 100% record by 4 clear goals.

Their next game is at Goole on November 27th with a 7.30 p.m. kick-off. A free bus will be leaving Heckmondwike(Flush) at 5.20 p.m. and Dewsbury (Link Road) at 5.30 p.m.

The Wheatley Cup and the Brook-Butler Cup are now down to the last 16 stage.

The Blackburn Cup has reached the semi-finals.

Discipline.

Recent news items give food for thought.

1. It was good to see that the goalkeeper who head-butted the lady referee in Hull during a Sunday League game was given a 6 month gaol sentence by magistrates and his team mates who gave evidence in his defence were criticised for making most of it up.

2. The FA are still stuttering over the Rio Ferdinand case. He "forgot" to attend for a dope test in September and he has now decided to ask for a personal hearing and his case will not now be heard until December. How convenient that he will now be free to play for his Manchester United side in all the First Stage Champion's League matches. Surely it should not take three months to sort out whether he refused or forgot to take the test.

3. Most of the country who watched Huddersfield's FA cup game on TV thought that Worthington should not have been sent off (especially after watching it 10 times and in slow motion). However, when Town appealed against the decision the FA video commission decided that the decision should stand, Town should lose their £300 appeal fee and the player should serve a 3 match ban. The Accrington player who writhed in apparent agony and conned the referee - who only saw the incident once -- was back in action within moments after the sending-off and got away with blatant cheating.

