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HEAVY WOOLLEN MINOR F.A.

The Heavy Woollen Minor team have had another win in the W.R.C.F.A. Minor Cup Competition. On this occasion they beat Huddersfield by 3 goals to 2 and they have now qualified for the semi-final stage even though they have yet to play Leeds at home. The Leeds game is due to be played at Ossett Albion on Wednesday, 25th February, K.O. 7.30 p.m. and the

Substitute Fourth Official.

On the first Saturday of the year David Wright, who is Huddersfield Town's official Photographer was called upon to be 4th Official in the game against Doncaster Rovers. Just before the half time whistle, one of the Assistant Referees, Mr. Chris Reeves, pulled a hamstring whilst sprinting down the touch line and could not continue so the 4th official took his place and at the interval David was given the fourth official's job having to keep Peter Jackson and Terry Yorath in order in the technical area. Fortunately Town were comfortable winners so they were easy enough to control.

Presentation

Dinner Dance.

The Dinner Dance was held at Blenheim House, Batley on February 7th when Gary Scott and David Wright (referees of last season's District Cup Finals) were guests and were presented with mementos of the occasions. 73 people attended and it was good to see that about 18 of our members were there, which is many more than on some previous years.

Thanks are due to the many people who gave raffle prizes and to the ticket sellers (John, Lynne, Amy and William) who did a fine job raising over £150.

F o r t h c o m i n g M e e t i n g s.

29th March : Annual General Meeting

26th April : Preparation for next Season (John Byrne) followed by Pie and Pea Supper.

Congratulations !!!

Our Five-a-side team took part in the W.R.R.A. Competition at Castleford in November and came second, being undefeated in the tournament and only losing first place on goal difference.

As a result they have been invited to represent the County R.A. at Beverley in the regional finals in March. WELL DONE, lads. Best



NEWSLETTER

February 2004

No.39.

LAW 11 -- A More Detailed Interpretation by FIFA

Sorry to have the offside law as the leading article again but I feel this is very important.

In November, FIFA (perhaps after reading our last newsletter) published a decision to ensure uniform interpretation of Law 11.

The full text of the decision is printed below.

"The aim of this decision is to respect the Laws of the Game and to protect attacking play intended to lead to a goal, which is the ultimate objective in football. This is NOT a change to the Laws of the Game as this interpretation adheres entirely to the original wording of the Law.

Law 11 reads as follows : "A player in an offside position is only penalised if, at the moment the ball is touched or played by one of his team, he is, in the opinion of the referee, involved in active play by Interfering with play, or Interfering with an opponent, or Gaining an advantage by being in that position."

"How to interpret :

"Interfering with play." 1 --> PLAYING OR TOUCHING a ball passed or touched by a team-mate.

"Interfering with an opponent ." 1 --> PREVENTING an opponent from playing or being able to play the ball. For example, by clearly obstructing the goalkeeper's line of vision or movements. 2 --> Making a gesture or movement while standing in the path of the ball to DECEIVE OR DISTRACT AN OPPONENT.

"Gaining an advantage by being in that position". 1 --> PLAYING A BALL that rebounds off a post or crossbar having been in an offside position. 2--> PLAYING A BALL that rebounds off an opponent having been in an offside position.

With these CLEARER instructions, the referees will be in a better position to make informed decisions based on uniform criteria. However, as stipulated in the laws of the game, the referee's decision is final."

When did you hear about this decision made by FIFA ? Did you receive the printed text from the FA or FAMOA ? Did you get it from the Internet as I did ? Did you read it in the newspaper ? Did you hear it from another referee? OR Is this the first time you have seen it in print ? Several referees, who I have spoken to, had not received any official notification of this decision to unify interpretation. It may be said that the changes are not significant, but if there was a need to give this information, surely it should have been sent to EVERY referee and not to just a select few on the Premier League.

Whether everything is now clearer about when a player is offside or not remains to be seen, but I can see some problems arising on our local parks if the changes have not got through to the players and spectators, especially with the "Interfering with play" decision, where a player is not offside until he actually touches the ball. As an example --- what about a player who is just in his opponents half, in an offside position, and he chases a pass 20 yards in front of him with only the keeper to beat. Would wait to blow him up for offside until he catches up with the ball near the penalty area after running 30 yards? (Continued over the page).

The Offside Fiasco (Contd).

It didn't take long before some manager decided that he could take advantage of the new interpretation and in a game at Bolton we saw two attackers standing on the goal line when a free kick was about to be taken and then running out towards the ruck of defenders standing near the edge of the penalty area and so giving the officials and defenders a problem.

This led to a meeting between The FA, the Premier League and Football League (not FIFA or IFAB who started it all), who had urgent talks to review the IFAB's offside interpretation.

On Saturday, 14th February newspapers reported that referees had been told to clamp down on players who try to abuse the recent IFAB guidelines.

John Baker, (the FA's Head of Refereeing) said, "We have told referees (*I wonder how many he told*) they must look at the actions of players. If they believe a player in an offside position makes actions which distract or deceive opponents that player will be given offside. There was clearly an attempt to work round the system and we have asked our officials to respond to that."

Wouldn't it have been far more sensible to have left all these so called "new interpretations" to the end of the season instead of bringing them in now and then ALL referees would be able to digest and discuss them.

But is there really much change after all the hullabloo??

These views are those of the editor (P.H.) and not necessarily those of the Heavy Woollen R.A.

A Bit More Nostalgia

On the Internet auction site E-Bay recently a programme for the Huddersfield Town v Preston N.E. Cup Final of 1938 was sold for over £300 and this set me thinking about the first season I started watching the "Town" which was 1938. ---- I was only 9.

Town's Cup run in 1938 saw them beat two Third Division teams Hull City (3 - 1) and Notts County (1 - 0) in the 3rd and 4th Rounds and this was followed by a Fifth Round meeting with Liverpool at Anfield which was won by the only goal. This led to another Third Division club York City meeting Town in the sixth round at York and 28,123 saw the teams draw without any goals being scored. The replay was the following Wednesday -- no flood-lights in those days -- so the match was played in the afternoon and 58,066 attended paying £4,159 in gate money. Nearly 60,000 for a Wednesday afternoon game -- I wonder how many mills and factories had a large absentee rate not to mention schools which must have been almost empty.

The Semi-final was at Ewood Park with Sunderland, the Cup holders, the opponents and Town won 3 - 1. Then on to Wembley and the battle with Preston North End. The result is well known when Town lost in the last minute of extra time to a penalty which was the only goal in the game and some Town supporters still insist that the foul by Alf Young was OUTSIDE the penalty area.

After the Cup Final, Town just escaped relegation by winning the last game of the season against Manchester City.

Congratulations !!!

The first Cup appointments of the season have been made and Steven Holroyd has been given the Blackburn Cup Final with Bob and Tony Madley as his assistants.

Well done, all three of you, and I hope you enjoy the game which will be played on Thursday, 18th March at Liversedge with a 7.30 p.m. kick-off.

Undesirables At School Games.

Recently, Mr. J. C. Thornes, President of the Dewsbury Schools F.A. said it had come to their notice that some recent cup-ties had been followed by rowdiness and brawls amongst a section of spectators composed mainly of irresponsible youths. Such actions were seen at one ground where a voluntary referee was struck several times.

The Association are determined to stop this unseemly behaviour by prosecuting the offenders to the fullest extent of the Association's resources. Mr. Thornes said that he did not want these undesirables on our playing fields and if we have to play games with no spectators we will do so rather than have this evil, disturbing influence passed on to the lads who always play the game fairly.

This news item was in the Dewsbury Reporter in April 1929.

Things don't change much do they?

Life After The Last Whistle. (Part Two).

In the last newsletter I wrote about the opportunities available to retired referees who wish to continue playing an active part in the development of their junior colleagues through mentoring or assessing. However these are not the only avenues open to assist in the recruitment and retention of referees.

The F.A., through the referees department and its training arm are actively looking to recruit established senior referees to become instructors to teach the basic two tier referees course.

Obtaining County Credited Referee Instructor status by attending a CARI course is the first step. This involves a two day course during which candidates are required to deliver two presentations to other members of the group. The group leader who assesses your presentation is looking at its content and timing, as well as your appearance, presentation skills, planning and delivery. Above all of this however is the need for accuracy in law.

Completion of a CARI course may lead to an invitation to Year One of the National Course for Referee Instructors which offers Registered Referee Instructor status. This is a full week residential course based at Staverton Park in Daventry. The work is intense but rewarding and again follows a similar pattern to the CARI course. However, this time you are required to show evidence of your presentation planning, timings, research of your subject matter and target audience during evening tutorials with your personal tutor.

I did mention that the work was intensive but the opportunity to network with referees from outside of your home association (*for network read "have a few beers"*) helps the week fly. I gained from the experience and have put into practice a number of practical tips learned during the week.

I am currently waiting for confirmation of a place on Year Two this coming August -- so I'll keep you posted.

PS. Since writing this I have learned that this year will be the last in the present format. The National Training programme is being revamped and a new structure is being rolled out.

John Byrne.

Next Year's Dinner Dance

Provisional Date

Saturday, 19th February 2005

Hope to see you there !!!!

Grandad sent off.

After reading the article in the last newsletter about the Wheatley Cup Final of 1929 when the Moorside Rovers player was sent off after several cautions, Martin Atkinson recognised the name Oxley as his mother's maiden name and further research showed the offending player, George Oxley, to be his **Grandad**.