



TOUCHLINES

The Magazine of the Sutton Referees' Society

www.suttonreferees.co.uk

October 2008



www.simonroephotography.co.uk



Simeon says...

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TOUCHLINES is published by the Sutton Referees' Society.

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Dear All,

It was good to see a such large turn-out for our first meeting and especially as the there were International games being broadcast live at the same time. Thank you to all those who attended.

Hopefully we are now all into the swing of the new Season and you have a few games under your belts. Remember, if you have any match incidents from your games you wish to air, our new editor will be only too glad to put them in **Touchlines**.

Also, for those who may feel they need a bit of advice or guidance on their own game, please do not hesitate to ask one of our experienced members (including myself), who will be only too willing to assist.

Attending the meetings is a great place to do this. How often do we go out alone to officiate, an incident happens and we end up asking ourselves, "Could I have done anything different to prevent this?" Help is on hand if required.

As always, the Committee are looking for suggestions, so please let anyone know your thoughts.

I look forward to seeing you all on the 12th October at Gander Green Lane.

Simeon.



Front cover:

Officials, including our own **Barrie Gale**, lead the Merstham & Redhill Teams out for the Surrey Senior Cup Semi Final. 22nd April, 2008.

Photo with kind permission of Simon Roe.

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Editor's Notes

Welcome to the second *Touchlines* of the season.

My second season back in the black and I've upped my game count, adding Sundays and mid-week games to the Saturdays I was covering last season. I still get to see my family on the odd occasion too!

Sadly, I had to face the threat of physical violence earlier this month, when a player I had just sent off suddenly lost all control and came storming back onto the pitch with me as his obvious target. Despite talk of Respect, it seems there is still some way to go, although his team-mates dealt with the threat by dragging him from the pitch and clearly voiced their disgust at his behaviour.

Thanks for the positive feedback that followed September's issue. A couple of suggestions I've picked up on mean that we have two new features this month:

"*Interview with the Ref*" is exactly what it says; we start with our esteemed chairman, this month's cover-star Barrie Gale.

"*Check the Net*" is a page for items that have grabbed your attention on the world-wide web.

I've also received a few comments from outside the society, the most thought-provoking being those from an ex-editor of a (now defunct) Suffolk society magazine. His comments make interesting reading and can be found on the Opinions and Letters page.

See you on the park, or at Gander Green Lane.



Mike.

From the Chair

Dear Colleagues,

Many thanks to all those who made the effort to attend the September meeting, especially as England were playing away in Croatia in a World Cup qualifying game that night. The turn out was excellent; 28 all told. Also in attendance was our new multi media kit with Peter Watson who gave it a trial run, looking at what is deemed to be off side and what is interfering with play or an opponent.

I hope that on the refereeing front you are all staying injury free and that your games have been enjoyable and trouble free to date.

I have to admit that, when the FA insisted that all jewellery of any description had to be removed and not taped up, I feared the worst. I thought it would become a battle of wills between officials and players but on a personal level I am pleased to say with the zero toleration approach it seems to be working very well.

I was out with a couple of colleagues at the end of August officiating in an FA Cup tie at Horsham YMCA and had thoroughly nice day out. The game went swimmingly and we worked really well as a team.

It was only afterwards, when we were enjoying the hospitality of the home team, that I thought to myself that the game had been officiated by three rejects!! Two of us had suffered demotion (if that's the correct word for it) at sometime in our refereeing careers, whilst the third member of the team had twice been put up for promotion only to be cruelly overlooked on both occasions.

What this brought home to me was that it is all very well progressing up the refereeing ladder but **the most important thing is to enjoy what you're doing and to officiate to the best of your ability.**

If promotions, cup finals and plum appointments come your way, wonderful but if not, no matter.

I think we **all** do a great job and this glorious game of ours needs us because without us it just could not function.

Yours in sport,

Barrie



Sutton's Super Refs

Roger Brown

Chelsea Academy	Chelsea U16 v Reading U16	Sat 13 th Aug.
Premier Academy	Fulham U18 v Notts. Forest U18 (<i>Assistant</i>)	Sat 16 th Aug.
Premier Academy	Fulham U18 v Sheffield Wed. U18 (<i>Assistant</i>)	Sat 23 rd Aug.
Surrey Sunday Intmtd Cup Rd 1	Banstead Utd. v AFC Woking	Sun 5 th Oct.

Dolapo Odujinrin

Surrey U16's Youth Cup	Worcester Park Colts (U16b) v Monotype Juniors (U16)	Sun 5 th Oct.
London Sunday Challenge Cup	Valtaro Wasteels FC v Anorthosis FC (<i>Assistant</i>)	Sun 12 th Oct.

Andy Murray

FA Youth Cup – 1 st Qual Rd	Chipstead v Croydon (<i>Assistant</i>)	Thu 25 th Sep.
Surrey Sunday Lower Jnr Cup	Inter Wallington v Sporting St. George	Sun 5 th Oct.
Surrey Intermediate Cup	Worcester Park Res v Esher Athletic	Sat 11 th Oct.
Surrey Sunday Junior Cup	Grange Park v Brooklands Old Boys	Sun 12 th Oct.

Barrie Gale

FA Cup - 1 st Qualifying Round	Chalfont St Peter v Gloucester City (<i>Assistant</i>)	Sat 13 th Sep.
FA Vase - 2 nd Qualifying Round	Lordswood v Ringmer (<i>Assistant</i>)	Sat 20 th Sep.
FA Vase – 1 st Round	Molesey v Badshot Lea (<i>Assistant</i>)	Sat 4 th Oct.

Matthew Westlake

FA Vase - 2 nd Qualifying Round	Lordswood v Ringmer (<i>Assistant</i>)	Sat 20 th Sep.
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Craig Hicks

FA Vase - 2 nd Qualifying Round	Lordswood v Ringmer	Sat 20 th Sep.
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Keith Slaughter

Surrey Senior Cup - 1 st round	Lingfield v Raynes Park Vale (<i>Assistant</i>)	
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Wayne Ingram

FA Cup 1 st Qualifying Round	Oxhey Jets FC v Dulwich Hamlet FC (<i>Assistant</i>)	Sat 13 th Sep.
FA Vase 2 nd Qualifying Round	Erith and Belvedere FC v Sidlesham FC (<i>Assistant</i>)	Sun 21 st Sep.



Mike Coen, on the joys and perils of international company tournaments.

How many referees can you fit in a people-carrier? This question was addressed on the final weekend of August, as a bunch of Sutton's finest answered the call to supply referees for Procter & Gamble's Annual International Football Tournament.



Teams from P&G's European offices, in Belgium, Croatia, Germany, Italy, Poland, the UK and Ukraine, descended on QPR's training facility near Heathrow to battle it out for the P&G 'World Cup'.

Six pitches were in almost continuous use - four for the men's competition and two for the ladies' - so all referees were guaranteed plenty of football. A good job then, that we had several available:

Matthew Westlake took the Lead-Referees' role for both days: As well as covering multiple 40-minute games, he found himself dealing with a number of re-worked timetables but still ensured every game had a referee and the finals (Cup, Plate and Women's Cup) all had three officials.

Mike Coen, Roger Brown and David Solly also covered both days, with Mark Marlow, Alan Watkins and Nigel Walker available for the Saturday and Mick Ewing, Peter Crichlow, Corin Readett and Steve Barry for the Sunday.

The eccentricities of the British weather were much in evidence: The forecast for a cloudy Saturday saw

most of us caught out by the bright sunshine so pink faces and knees were the order of the day. Sun cream was duly packed for the Sunday but a drizzly day meant that it stayed in the kitbags.

So - what to expect when refereeing teams from across Europe? Passion from the Poles, PASSION from the

Italians, stylish and structured football from the Belgians and Germans, s t e e l y determination from the UK and non-stop running from the Croatians and Ukrainians (although the

Croatians did seem to like a little lie-down whenever a tackle was in evidence).

Overall the level of skill and sportsmanship was high. It was clear very early on which teams were going to be contesting the final places but everyone took it seriously enough to make it highly competitive without losing the feeling of fun. Mark's final game on the Saturday went so well that the two appreciative teams carried him off the pitch shoulder-high; how often do you see that happen on a weekend?

My main memories of the weekend centre around penalties:

- The Italian idea of 'legal' contact which seems to include any sort of holding - I can still see the bemused look on an Italian defender's face as a penalty was awarded against him, despite his still holding the remains of his opponent's shorts in his hand.

goalkeeper when his tremendous penalty save was ruled out due to his having almost reached the 6-yard line before the penalty was struck.

- Italian smiles and congratulations on a game 'well-refeed' when they were the recipients of two penalties in their next game.
- The Final!!

The final was between UK (Bournemouth) and Poland (Targówek - Warsaw). I was very pleased to be assigned this game, assisted by Corin and Steve. An early Polish goal (superb free-kick from just outside the penalty area) was cancelled out with ten minutes left to play (another penalty, this time to the UK, following a hefty push at a corner).

So 1-1 and penalties with no hint of the drama yet to unfold. Steve took control of the teams in the centre-circle whilst Corin took up his position on the goal-line. With the score at 2-2, the Poles seemed to have drawn first blood, when the Polish keeper plunged to his right to make a fine save. The dejected UK player was trudging back to half-way as the keeper drew the cheers of the watching Polish supporters but it was all premature as Corin had whipped



the flag across his chest to indicate that the keeper had been off his line and the penalty would need to be retaken.

...continued on page 7

- The disbelieving stare of the Italian



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Photos by Mike Coen:

1. David Solly finds new reasons to ref!!
2. Matt Westlake – Man Management.
3. Alan Watkins – I guess that’s why they call it the Blues.
4. Mark Marlow referees the Swiss.
5. Croatia –v- Italy Ladies (*What on earth is going on over by the fence?*)
6. Nigel Walker in control.



Mike Coen covers the Final. The only sunshine we saw on a wet Sunday, after we had all been burned to a crisp on the Saturday!!

...continued from page 5

Now it was Steve's turn to earn his fee, keeping the Poles under control in the circle, whilst the Polish skipper (the next penalty taker) had to be warned as to his conduct before being sent back to wait for the retake. Once again, the keeper made a flying save and Corin's thumbs-up meant that the Poles were in control...

...at least for as long as it took for the next penalty to be taken; this time it was the turn of the UK keeper to shine and the Polish captain to hold his head, only for the save to once again be ruled out as eagle-eyed Corin again spotted the keeper straying from his line. Imagine Steve's thoughts as, having just managed to calm the Poles, he now had a UK-based furore to deal with!! This time the retake was decisively put away but it proved to be to no avail as the final Polish penalty clipped the post on its way wide to take us into sudden death.

Penalty after penalty was cleanly dispatched and the score stood at 9-9 before the Polish keeper once more got his hands to the ball and Corin signaled that all was OK. There was to be no final escape for the UK and Poland had won 10-9.

A sheepish handshake and apology was forthcoming from the Polish captain, who had benefited directly from the same retake decision having been applied to the UK keeper's early movement as that which he had so vehemently argued against for his own keeper.

Amazingly, the Men's Plate and the Women's Cup both also had to be decided on penalties.

When Serious Foul Play isn't quite Serious Enough.

Mark Halsey, John Terry & that Red Card.

Manchester City -v- Chelsea (13th September, 2008)

It was initially thought that Mark Halsey had dismissed John Terry for denying a goal-scoring opportunity but he later clarified that the offence was "serious foul play" although this seemed overly harsh for what appeared a straightforward cautionable offence.

Terry had been facing a three-match ban but the FA's Independent Regulatory Commission upheld Chelsea's appeal. The referees' body said: "All matters of discipline are an issue for the FA."

It is interesting to hear the views of the two managers most affected by the decision to allow Terry to play:

Luiz Felipe Scolari of Chelsea:

"I am satisfied because it is the first time I am a coach when they changed the decision of the referee. I think only in England this would happen. In other countries the referee is the God. This time the referee said he made a mistake. For me it is a surprise; a positive surprise. The Football Association understands that the referee makes mistakes sometimes like you and me."



and Sir Alex Ferguson, who manages Manchester United (Chelsea's opponents in their next match):



"My information is that Hackett [referees' 'chief' Keith Hackett] told Halsey to rescind the red card and he would not do it. If it had been a Manchester United player Hackett would never have done this for us."

CAPTIONS PLEASE !!!



Have you an an amusing title for the picture?

Email your thoughts to me and I'll put the best efforts in the next issue.



... and Last Month's Offerings

Barrie Gale:

- "Nowadays, if you're this much off the pitch you're still deemed to be interfering with play"
- "The ball was that much over the line and Kasey still didn't give the goal"
- "Simeon was always this much behind the last defender"

Mike Coen:

- "OK. You can have a penalty. Just put the gun down!!"
- "That reminds me; I must get some of that triangular chocolate at the airport on the way home; they're selling bars this big in duty free"
- "I've got to give these penalties...I've got a bet on a 5-3 result."

Toby Westlake (son of Matthew):

- "I am not going to try to spell your name again!"

Roger Brown:

- "Change your name by deed poll, Wojciech, and I'll be happy to send you off."
- "Howard's End – that'll be my headline tomorrow"

....in the Referee's Opinion....

Your Thoughts, Questions and Comments

Free Kick in game on Saturday.

Defending manager shouts to player, "Stand in front of it".

Me (*loudly*): "If he does, he's in the book".

Defending manager (*even more loudly*): "Don't stand in front of it".

Smiles all round.

Mike Coen



A few years ago, I was the editor for the Society that I then belonged to. I did the job for about four years, I believe.

Your main problem will be getting contributions from the members. Everyone wants a good informative magazine, full of great ideas, and lots of comment, but fail to offer any themselves!

It will start OK, with many supportive words from the aforesaid members, and probably you will get some articles from them too. But this will dwindle down as the months go by and you will find that you will have to drum-up enough items to keep the venture going.

If you find, as I did, that contributions are 'sparse', then you will need to be a bit of a journalist yourself and that will mean writing more and more of the magazine's content yourself. You will then start to get the "Oh! It's all written by the editor" syndrome! And that is the beginning of the end. They either have a journal written almost in full by you or they will not get a journal at all! Which is precisely what happened in my case.

After all this(!), I wish you well. I enjoyed doing the job but in the end it became too much of a labour of love. The lack of support from the members finally took its toll, and I quietly resigned! I no longer belong to that Society and I understand that they no longer have a magazine!

Best of luck! Let us know how you get on.

RonW (Suffolk)

Now that's not anything I have to worry about, is it? – Ed.

Sunday morning game; third minute; a long punt up field is patted down by the keeper on his goal-line and he trots behind it as it rolls towards the edge of his area. I can see that he's planning to pick it up, so administer preventative medicine and shout, "You can't pick it up, keeper".

He seems surprised by this but, with forwards closing in, keeps his head and kicks the ball to safety.

Come half-time, he jogs up to me. "What was all that about not picking it up?". I explain briefly about controlling the ball with the hand as opposed to making a save. "Well!", he says. "I never knew that. Thanks for the warning".

As we prepare to start the second half, I check with the keepers and there's my mate, digging trenches on the six-yard line in line with his posts. It's blatant and he's done it right in front of me. I hold up the restart, jog down to him and issue a caution. Stunned disbelief. "I'm just marking my territory, ref". Another law he apparently didn't know about.

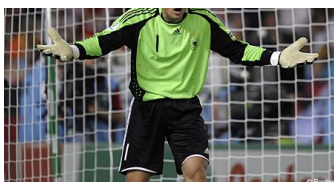
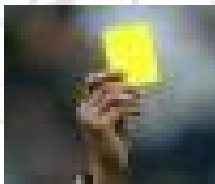
His captain pleaded on his behalf; "We just turn up to play football, ref. We don't read referee books!!"

So - Opinions please.

- Was it a good move to advise about not picking the ball up in the first instance?

- Was I too harsh to issue a technical caution in Sunday football or is it the referees who have been turning a blind eye that have created this problem?

Mike Coen



Interview with a Referee

This month's subject: **Barrie Gale**

Current Level: **5 (previously a level 3)**

Position in Referee Society (if any): **Chairman (previously Secretary)**

How long have you been a referee? **15 years**

What was it that led you to become a referee? **It was actually a bet I had with a Fulham friend of mine who at the time was a class 2 referee (in old money) that I could pass my exam and make class 1 before he did. He won the bet because in the two years it took me to get from class 3 to class 1 he made the jump first.**

What is it that keeps you refereeing? **The humour and camaraderie between officials.**

What are your normal methods of game preparation and player communication? **I must admit I don't think too much about matches until I arrive at the ground but once I am there I like to get a feel for the place especially if it is somewhere I have not been before.**

After that it will be a quick pre match briefing with my assistants – a gentle warm up (I'm getting on in years now) and on with the game.

Communication I find is an important facet to my game – acknowledging my assistants by name during the match normally goes down well and makes them feel an important part of the team (which they are).

I generally chat to players all the way through the game, offering them encouragement to play the game in the correct spirit and giving them a word of warning if my patience is wearing thin (a little like my hairstyle).

What is the most prestigious game you have been involved with (as referee, assistant or 4th official)? **Gosh that's a hard one because there are obviously different reasons as to what makes a game important. Some are important because they are promotion / relegation deciders and others because they are high profile games. I couldn't limit it to just the one so it would probably be one of the following:–**

- Aldershot Town -v- Dagenham & Redbridge (FA Cup),
- Hayes -v- Doncaster Rovers (Nationwide Conference),
- Sutton Utd -v- West Ham Utd (friendly against the full first team when I think there were over 5,000 in attendance).
- The three Surrey Senior Cup semi finals are also fondly remembered – always the bridesmaid never the bride.



Continued on page 11

What are your main on-the-field memories (best and worst)? **Strangely I don't really have a great recollection of best and worst moments because as an official I feel peripheral to the game and view it differently to players and spectators.**

What really sticks in the mind though are those funny things that happen. I remember a game at Dulwich Hamlet once when under no pressure at all their keeper, Les Cleevly, tried to punch the ball out, only to punch it straight up in the air. As the opposing forwards rushed in he tried to clear the ball over the cross bar but punched the ball into his own net. A classic own goal but he still blamed his defence for the cock up.

On another occasion I spent a rather odd five minutes in the bar after a game at Northwood with Graham Taylor (the then Watford manager). It was only after he had left that one of the Northwood players told me that they had convinced him that I was in fact Steve Coppel.



Steve Coppel



Barrie Gale

More recently, I was assisting Simeon Potter (our Secretary) at a pre season fixture at Banstead Athletic. He paced out the 10 yards and after doing so he retreated backwards towards the player taking the kick. Unbeknown to him a player was tying his boot lace and he fell over him, ending up on his backside. I wish I had a picture of that one.

One piece of advice for up-and-coming referees: **Enjoy!**

Any other comments: **It was great to see such a good turn out at the September meeting. It makes all the hard work that the committee put into it worthwhile. Lets keep it up.**

Your nomination for next month's interviewee: **Wayne Ingram**

Sutton Referees' Society October Meeting

Sutton Utd FC, Gander Green Lane.

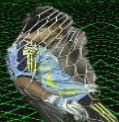
Wednesday 8th October, 2008: 7:30pm for 8:00pm

The Guest Speaker for this meeting is Bob Langford.

Bob was Manager for Banstead FC when they were in the Ryman League for 11 years. He usually runs a question and answer style meeting and is really good value. He may be accompanied by **Micky Stephens**, who has been involved in Non League football for years; particularly as a player with Sutton Utd.

Check the Net !!

Snippets pulled from the World Wide Web



Shoe'd she be Penalised?

A contribution from outside Sutton.

Mal Davies - Explaining offside to someone who'd rather be shopping



You are in a shoe shop and are second in the queue for the till. Behind the shop assistant on the till is a pair of shoes which you have seen and which you must have.

The female shopper in front of you has seen them also and is eyeing them with desire. Both of you have forgotten your purses. It would be totally rude to push in front of the first woman if you had no money to pay for the shoes. The shop assistant remains at the till waiting.

Your friend is trying on another pair of shoes at the back of the shop and sees your dilemma. She prepares to throw her purse to you.

If she does so, you can catch the purse, then walk round the other shopper and buy the shoes.

At a pinch she could throw the purse ahead of the other shopper and, whilst it is in flight you could nip round the other shopper, catch the purse and buy the shoes.

Always remember that **until the purse had actually been thrown**, it would be plain wrong to be forward of the other shopper.



Ref had Wet His Whistle!!

Charles Jeffery - The dangers of having a drink at half time



It's widely known that football referees have one of the toughest jobs in sport. But nobody expects them to turn to drink to relieve the stress – and certainly not during a match. Yet that's what apparently happened at a Belarusian Premier League tie between FC Naftan and FC Vitebsk.

The first half went well enough. It was only when the players came out for the second half that people began to notice something was wrong.

At first it looked like the FIFA appointed referee, Sergey Shmolik, was having trouble with his back. But gradually the players and spectators saw the real reason - he was drunk.

The referee spent most of the second period in the centre circle, directing the game with meaningless gestures and strange whistle-blows.

Shmolik has been suspended from refereeing for the time being and is due to face a hearing at the Belarusian FA later this week.

No one knows what happened for certain, but that half-time cup of tea looks to have had more than just milk and sugar in it. A test performed after the match revealed an enormous amount of alcohol in the referee's blood.

The match, meanwhile, ended in a 1-1 draw.



Wayne Ingram - doing a 10K Cancer Charity Run

Dorney Lake – 26th October

Wayne is going to be running 10K in aid of **Cancer Research**.

It is being held at Dorney Lake, which is where the Rowing and Canoeing will be taking place for the 2012 Olympics.

To sponsor Wayne, go to the following link:
<http://www.run10ksponsorme.org/wayneingram>

OR

see him at the Gander Green Lane Meeting on 8th October.



Ruud Awakening - Guud Goal.

An excerpt from "Mal's Referees' Newsletter" (June 2008)

Mal Davies is based in the Midlands and was involved in the production of the ProZone Offside DVD we enjoyed at last month's meeting.

Euro 2008 had its usual share of controversies. One of them occurred on Monday, 9th June in the Group C game, Holland v Italy (3-0) refereed by Peter Frojdfeldt (Sweden).

Ruud van Nistelrooy opened the scoring in the 26th minute. A free-kick was taken by Rafael van der Vaart on the right. The ball went over to the far post where Dirk Kuyt challenged with goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon and defender Christian Panucci.

Instead of putting the ball out for a corner kick, Buffon punched the ball to the feet of Joris Mathijsen, 6yds away, who played it out to Wesley Sneijder to shoot from a yard inside the penalty area. Buffon, in punching clear, collided with Panucci and pushed him to the ground as he tried to regain position in goal from his bad punch. **Panucci fell 3 yds outside the field of play, over the goal line outside the goal posts.**

When the ball was played to Sneijder, Andrea Barzagli and Massimo Ambrosini advanced out to catch an attacker offside. This 'advancing defence' tactic is not being used as often nowadays because the attacking team will have a player coming from an onside position, knowing that the Assistant Referee (AR) will not flag any team-mates caught in an offside position. If Panucci's position off the field was ignored when Sneijder shot, Ruud van Nistelrooy would have been less than half a yard offside.

When Ruud scored from 4 yards, the advancing defenders were outside the goal area (6-yard box) and immediately raised their hands, appealing for offside. They were appealing to the Assistant Referee, Stefan Wittberg, to indicate offside and, in a way, help them defend. "Please flag as we've conceded a goal through poor defending."

Wittberg is one of Europe's top ARs. Now, he's rightly realised that Panucci, **although off the field of play, was still correctly deemed to be part of play** and so kept his flag down. Within three seconds of Buffon's bad punch the ball was in the back of the net. In that time, Panucci was grounded on his back and looked up to see the goal being scored.

Football is a body-contact sport. The referee is required to stop play if, in his opinion, a player is seriously injured. He does not stop play for a slight injury. Referees will rarely stop play within three seconds. If it's a head injury, yes, an immediate stoppage but referees invariably take longer than three seconds to make a judgement on the extent of a player's injury. Panucci was only slightly injured, if that. He got up and did not need any treatment.

If Panucci had been pushed to the ground by Kuyt, the referee might have blown for a foul but he was pushed to the ground by Buffon. Furthermore, it does not matter, really, whether he fell on or off the field of play. He could have fallen in the goal area. He had been part of the defence and still was part of play, part of the move, part of the game, when Ruud scored.

The two Italian defenders advanced and their thoughts were not on marking Ruud but on advancing, hoping that the AR would defend for them by flagging Ruud offside. The tactic backfired as Panucci could not advance with them.

Officials should not defend for the defence. They should not be negative, but positive. The skill of the attacking team had beaten the defence. It was a good goal. It's simple: **Don't disallow Guud goals!**

UEFA STATEMENT

In a statement the following day, the UEFA General Secretary David Taylor, said: "The player was not offside because, in addition to the Italian goalkeeper (Buffon), there was another Italian player (Panucci) in front of the goal scorer. Even though that other Italian player at the time had actually fallen off the pitch, his position was still relevant for the purposes of the Offside Law."

"There need to be two defenders involved: the first is the goalkeeper, and the second is the defender who, because of his momentum, actually had left the field of play. But this defender was still deemed to be part of the game. Therefore he is taken into consideration as one of the last two opponents."

"The referees' team applied the Law in the correct manner. If we did not have this interpretation of the player being off the pitch, then what could happen is that the defending team could use the tactic of stepping off the pitch deliberately to play players offside, and that clearly is unacceptable."

SpooF Sport

Football Referee is “Hated at home too”

...a spoof report – edited from the NewsBiscuit website original.

A man has revealed that his high profile refereeing brother is despised with the same passion by his family as he is by players, coaching staff and fans.

Geoff Barclay-Barrington, brother of Premiership referee Bill Barclay-Barrington, said, “I don’t know why he does it. He travels all over the country week after week; he’s

hated by players; fans sing songs questioning his parentage and managers have to be restrained from hitting him at most games. The press ridicule him. Even the ball boys don’t respect him. In fact he isn’t even a good referee, indecisive, inconsistent and card happy.”

Most referees shrug off such criticism as part of the job. Many reveal that they are able to forget about the game when they are in the company of friends and loved ones.

Geoff said that Bill, however, has a lonely existence. “He has no mates whatsoever. He stopped going to the pub because people would actually leave when he came in. He did have a girlfriend a

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few years back but it only lasted a few weeks; he kept referring to her as his linesman; she dumped him pretty quick. He is looking for love, albeit in vain. He put an ad in the classifieds saying ‘Man in Black (32), seeks sexy assistant for home and away



Premiership Referee: Bill Barclay-Barrington

games. Will you wet my whistle?’ – what a plonker”.

It’s not a view that is unique to Geoff. Bill’s father, Robert, revealed that his son is a

source of embarrassment and shame to the whole family. “Look we don’t mind the fact that he is a referee but it’s just that he is such an idiot too. He was never really even a pleasant kid; I honestly can’t think of one decent thing to say about him. He has a weird, slightly cock-eyed look to him and a funny sheen; tends to smell of damp coconut too!”

The Barclay-Barringtons always plan their Christmas day celebrations around Bill’s busy refereeing schedule. Geoff said, “We know that if he has a game in London on Boxing day, we spend Christmas day with our Aunt in Newcastle, hoping he can’t make it up north. The kids don’t even open his presents any more; can’t blame them. Who would be impressed with a yellow card autographed by him?”

Brazil – Where the Nuts Come From

FACT: In Brazil, and maybe one can generalize to all countries not of the First World, educational attainment and entry to the professions or higher echelons of government are considered such outstanding achievements that for many it is almost taboo to make fun of them.

An example in Brazil is that senior members of the legal profession object to a football

referee being called a juiz (judge) and insist, under threat of legal action, that public



Brazilian Referees take to the Field

broadcasters and journalists should use the term ‘árbitro’.

CONTACTS - 2008/2009

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Committee Member	Charles Jeffery	020 8641 2611
Sutton United Liaison officer	Barrie Gale	020 8644 3825
Hon. Auditors	TBA	

Minutes of Meeting that took place on the 10th September, 2008 at Sutton Utd FC with 26 Members and 2 Guests present.

Chairman:

Welcomed everyone, old and new members.

Barry congratulated those that had achieved promotion during the year. He hoped everyone had had a good summer (even if they did get a little bit wet!)

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes for the April 2008 meeting were published in September's Touchlines.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

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Apologies for Absence

Craig Hicks, John Martin, Keith Slaughter, Phil Smith.

Hon Secretary's Report/Correspondence

Simeon thanked all those who attended; a very good number turned out even though a live England game was being broadcast at the same time as the meeting.

- County news letter delayed due to printing problems at the County office. It should have come out with the handbooks; expect them within 2 weeks.

- There will be a 2nd edition of "Your Questions Answered"; the last one was around 4 seasons ago and proved quite popular.

- County state that we have 1,100 referees registered so far, compared with a total of 1,200 at the end of last season. Still 500 down from 3 seasons ago!!!

- Respect: The respect campaign, introduced from Contributory Leagues upwards, is going to be extended to Supply League (Step 5) as from 27th September. This means involving the captain a lot more, walking both teams onto the field of play and doing the handshake between both teams and officials. This does not apply to the new Elite League or Intermediate and Junior Leagues, whether Saturdays or Sundays.

- Jewellery: From Supply (Step 5) upwards, all jewellery has to be removed. There was some debate on whether players may play if wedding bands are taped up. Some say they may not, some say they may but are reported to Neil Barry and the player is banned from the next game.

- Elite, Intermediate and Junior League (Saturdays and Sundays) players have to remove all jewellery; the only exception is if a wedding band cannot be removed, in which instance it may be taped up.

- Vacancies at County:

•Assessor Coordinator, to replace Phil Sherlock 7-6 promotions. East side of the County (Croydon, Reigate, Horley). Appointing assessors to games.

•Fulham Academy Referee Coordinator: County are looking for someone to appoint and liaise with Fulham, using a list of given referees (Academy Referees).

Hon Treasurer

Treasurer's 1st Report for Season 2008-09:

Balance @ 23rd April meeting = £1,652.34

Balance @ 10th Sept meeting = £2,195.40

Receipts = £1,170.00

Payments = £ 626.94

- Membership stands @ 29 paid-up (including 4 youth members).

- An updates list has been forwarded to Retention Officer John Ryan for his attention & to work his magic.

- Roger has blank registration forms for those who have not, as yet, registered and will be happy to issue paid-up members with their membership cards and R.A. commemorative coin, celebrating 100 years of the R.A.

Training Officers Report

- Peter had done an excellent job in purchasing our very own new Multi Media Kit at a very reasonable cost (just under £1,000). A debate was had, regarding insurance for the kit. It was decided that the committee members would all do some research on the best way forward. Roger Pink will also look into this.

- Training Course: New course to start later in the month. 15 candidates have applied. The course will run for 3 weeks: 2 nights a week with the exam on the 4th week.

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Supplies Officer

- The Laws of the Game can no longer be obtained from the RA. Members are advised to contact County if you wish to purchase one.
- £165.20 worth of stock with £1.26 cash in hand.

Magazine Editor

- Mike was very pleased with the response he has had for his 1st edition. He stressed that the magazine can only be as good as the input coming from the members.

R A Delegates Report

- The next Delegates meeting of the SCRA will be at County Office on Monday 22nd September.
- John Kasey to enquire regarding the wearing of spectacles by players.

Retention Officer Report

- John Ryan stated that hours of work has resulted in little response from previous members.

Any Other Business

- Prozone Disks: Simeon reminded those who have finished with the disks to please return them at the next meeting, so they can be given to members who have yet to see one.

After a break, Peter demonstrated our new Multi Media Kit, giving a presentation on 'Interpretation of the Off Side Law' with use of a Prozone DVD.

The meeting closed at 20.40

DATE

CHAIRMAN

Important notes from SCRA Delegates Meeting - 22nd September 2008

- a) It will still be necessary for you to pre-book tickets for County Cup Finals.
- b) FAMOA meeting at Sutton Utd FC on 13th November. **Phil Sharpe** is the guest speaker and will be re-living his World Cup exploits.
- c) If we are concerned about the loss of Sports Grounds near to us (Windsor Ave, New Malden and Grand Drive, Raynes Park) we should contact Caroline McRoyall at SCFA.
- d) Confirmed that wedding bands can be taped for Junior and Intermediate football.
- e) Assessing Co-ordinator needed for East of County, to run Level 7 to 6 promotions.
- f) Co-ordinator needed for Fulham Academy.
- g) Newsletter slightly delayed but it is due out shortly.
- h) Concern was voiced, regarding the photo on the front of SCFA Handbook. The picture is merely to show children having fun; the Referee was a parent, hence no formal kit.
- i) All Referees that have not re-registered have been sent a letter by SCFA.

Dates for the Diary

October, 2008

Wed 8th @ 7:30pm Sutton Society Meeting @ Sutton Utd FC

- Guest Speaker: Bob Langford – see page 11 for details

Sun 26th Wayne Ingram running 10K for Cancer Research

- Last chance to sponsor Wayne – see page 12 for details

November, 2008

Mon 3rd @ 7:30pm Surrey FA IST (Promotion Candidates) @ County Office, Leatherhead

- Review & Tools for Self Analysis

Wed 12th @ 7:30pm Sutton Society Meeting @ Sutton Utd FC

Thur 13th FAMOA meeting @ Sutton Utd FC

- Guest Speaker: Phil Sharpe (World Cup Assistant Referee)

December, 2008

Wed 10th @ 7:30pm Sutton Society Meeting @ Sutton Utd FC

January, 2009

Wed 14th @ 7:30pm Sutton Society Meeting @ Sutton Utd FC

- Guest Speaker: Martin Bodenham - ex Football league Referee,
Match Observer and First Class Cricket Umpire

February, 2009

Wed 11th @ 7:30pm Sutton Society Meeting @ Sutton Utd FC

March, 2009

*Thur 12th @ 7:30pm Joint Society Meeting @ Sutton Utd FC

April, 2009

Wed 15th @ 7:30pm Sutton Society Meeting & AGM @ Sutton Utd FC

May, 2009

Sat 30th FA Cup Final