



TOUCHLINES

The Magazine of the Sutton Referees' Society

www.suttonreferees.co.uk

September 2008





Simeon says...

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TOUCHLINES is published by the Sutton Referees' Society.

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The opinions expressed in **TOUCHLINES** merely reflect the views of the authors and are not binding in any way on the editor or any official.

Dear All,

Welcome to the new season and I guess some of you have already had either competitive or friendly matches.

I also welcome Barrie Gale as our new Chairman and Mike Coen as the Touchlines Editor. I'm sure both will do a sterling job for the forthcoming season.

My thoughts on the European Championships were how disappointing it all was. The best players rarely showed their true ability and the matches were generally drab. I know everyone has their own ideas and you could use Touchlines to express these.

Your Committee has met once during the Summer and compiled a programme for the forthcoming season. We have, hopefully, got three guest speakers. The other meetings will follow an in-house format (which always seems to work well).

To save any misunderstanding, the meetings are on the second Wednesday of each month and will be held in the President Room on the Ground floor.

By now you should all have received your County registration card together with a County newsletter. It is well worth reading and my first feeling was that there are several new initiatives.

For those who have applied for promotion, or are part of a mentor scheme, please ensure you give it your best and there are members of the Society who are prepared to help

Charles Jeffrey has done a great job with the Web Site and we have recently renewed it for another year. Please visit it as there is always information available and links to other useful sites.

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

Looking forward to seeing you all on the 10th September, 2008.

Simeon.



Front cover:

Mark Marlow at the Etihad Airways Tournament, Stamford Bridge. May 2008.

Photo by Mike Coen.

Editor's Notes

Welcome to the first *Touchlines* of the new season and also the first under my editorship.

Firstly, thanks to outgoing editor, Dan, for his efforts last season.

Thanks also to all who gave feedback on the new layout (*it seems that email distribution in .pdf format is the way to go*) and also to those few who have gone even further and contributed articles or points for discussion. Sadly, not as much input as I may have hoped for but, with the season underway, I'm sure more will be forthcoming for the next edition!!!

Two new features I hope to bring you every month are the Caption Competition and the Opinions and Letters Page. Both of these are totally reliant on your input so please start/keep it coming. If there's anything else you'd like to see here in **your** magazine, let me know and I'll see what I can do.

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



Mike.

that it went well as your efforts are greatly appreciated. Without this input from Society members we would not be able to use the facilities provided by the club free of charge for our meetings, so thanks yet again.

Many thanks also to Phil Smith for looking after the Chair during recent years and I will look after it for him.

For those who have not heard, Epsom Society celebrated their 30 year anniversary last season but subsequently folded due to diminishing numbers; so any ex-Epsom members who find their way here, Welcome.

John K and Simeon have been busy with the itinerary for this coming season's meetings and I am sure that they will have more news on that at the meeting.

In conclusion I would just like to wish you all the best for the season ahead and I hope you achieve what you are striving for.

Kindest regards,

Barrie (The New Chair)



From the Chair

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the new season. For some it is just about to start but for others it has been in full swing for a couple of months now.

During the close season the committee met and sanctioned the purchase of the multi media equipment we sorely need to assist with the training of new referees and for use at Society meetings. Hopefully it will be in action tonight.

As there is very little law amendment to concern ourselves with this year, Peter Watson came up with the idea to re-examine and to discuss certain decisions made during the Euro 2008 Championships at our September meeting.

On the whole I personally felt that the games were refereed very well, albeit with the normal eccentric European style of assisting, but there were several high profile decisions made by officials which certainly need looking at again. So do please make the effort to come along to the first meeting of the season. I am sure it will be most entertaining and enlightening.

May I personally thank Wayne for helping out with the Sutton United pre-season programme this year. I hope

Sutton's Super Refs

Simeon Potter

FA Cup Extra Prelim. Round Camberley Town -v- Worthing (*Assistant*)

Sat 30th Aug.

Matthew Westlake

Chelsea Academy Chelsea U18 -v- Wolves U18 (*Assistant*)

Sat 16th Aug.

Women's FA Cup Prelim Round Abbey Rangers -v- Shanklin (*Assistant*)

Sun 7th Sep.

John Ryan

Chelsea International Trnmt. 3rd v 4th playoff

Mon 25th Aug.

FA Cup Extra Prelim. Round VCD Athletic -v- Croydon

Sat 30th Aug.

Barrie Gale

FA Cup Extra Prelim. Round Horley Town -v- Raynes Park Vale (*Assistant*)
Horsham YMCA -v- Tunbridge Wells (*Assistant*)

Sat 16th Aug.

Sat 30th Aug.

Wayne Ingram

FA Cup Extra Prelim. Round Horsham YMCA -v- Tunbridge Wells (*Assistant*)

Sat 30th Aug.

Craig Hicks

FA Cup Extra Prelim. Round Beaconsfield SYCOB -v- Marlow Utd

Sat 30th Aug.

Mike Coen

FA Youth Cup Prelim. Round Chipstead -v- Haywards Heath Town (*Assistant*)

Thu 11th Sep.



Take it to the Bridge!

Mike Coen, on officiating at Stamford Bridge in the Etihad Tournament.

It began with a casual request at the last Society meeting of the season – referees required to cover a Monday afternoon company tournament in London – and finished with four of us officiating at Stamford Bridge.

Etihad Airways are one of the sponsors of Chelsea FC and one of the perks of being in this position is having the occasional use of the Stamford Bridge pitch. In conjunction with The Business Travel Magazine, a four-team tournament had been set up which was to include a tour of the stadium as well as the football itself.

John Kasey, Simeon Potter, Mark Marlow and I met up at the Blues Bar before joining those players and their families who were taking the tour, which covered the Press Room and the Home and Away Dressing Rooms.

As the tour guide led the group out of the Home Dressing Room, season-ticket holder (*and opportunist!!*) Mark took the opportunity to slip under the guide-rope and have his picture taken close-up with his hero John Terry's shirt.

Some amusement was then provided in the Away Dressing Room; even as our tour guide was explaining how the neutral colours were intended to

invoke feelings of calm and to mute any aggression, a child of one of the players was going completely mental and running around yelling like a banshee.

So with the corporate niceties completed, it was on to the serious business. After a short delay, while Chelsea staff attempted to fix the electrics in the temporary changing cabins, we donned the black and prepared for the fray.

Straight away, a slight but noticeable odour was apparent in the playing area. John was a little worried that it may have been lingering after-effects of his recent fishing trip, so was relieved to suddenly realise that it was the seaweed extract that is used to help keep the turf in top condition. I certainly recommend it for the garden as, despite it being the end of a hard Premiership season, the pitch was in fabulous shape.

Four teams from Etihad and the Business Travel Magazine, playing each-other in a league format would

mean six twenty-minute matches so, in glorious sunshine and on the second-largest pitch in the Premiership, we got things underway.

As I prepared to get my first game going, one of the

forwards was grinning like a four-year-old locked in a sweetshop. Catching my eye, he threw his arms wide.

'How good is this?' he beamed. 'I'm about to kick off at Stamford Bridge'. Chatting with him later I found that,



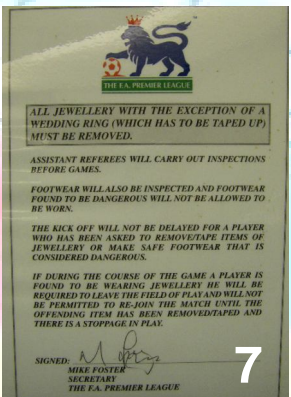
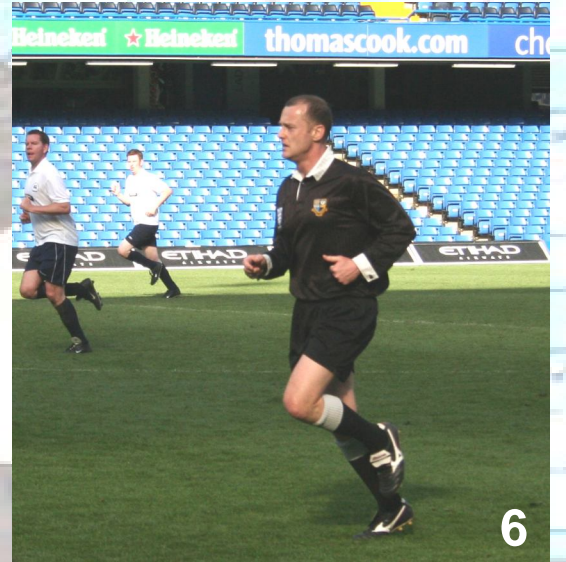
like many of the players, he was a Chelsea season-ticket holder and was fulfilling a lifelong dream.

The width of the pitch was certainly an eye-opener. I made an early attempt to run wide and get a better viewing angle. In the heat, it felt like I had been running for ever but the touchline didn't seem to be getting any closer so, in the absence of a map and a camel, I narrowed my margins a little in order to keep up with play. Respect to the men in the middle who have the Premiership greyhounds to keep up with in these arenas on a Saturday.

That everyone was there to enjoy themselves was apparent with the welcome lack of foul play; in two twenty-minute games I only had to blow for a single foul – and that was for holding-off – and in the entire

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Photos by Simeon Potter and Mike Coen:

1. Mark Marlow officiates.
2. GOAL!! Live the Dream.
3. Simeon Potter reporting for duty, sah.
4. New signings? Simeon & Mark sit in the famous chairs.
5. Spectators at the Bridge
6. Mike Coen keeps up with play.
7. Bling-Free! Yes - They have the same rules on Jewellery in the Premiership.
8. John Kasey in action.
9. Simeon on the line.
10. Dream Team.



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tournament there were only two challenges that required a strong word.

This attitude from the players allowed me and Mark to take full advantage of a rare chance to referee with neutral assistants and also to get some experience running the line with a pair of more experienced referees, in the shape of John and Simeon.

Following the tournament proper, everyone got a chance to wind down by firing in a penalty against one of the Chelsea goalkeepers. With an upcoming Moscow appointment, none of the big three were available but the lad who turned up showed himself to be no mug, saving the first four penalties that he faced before eventually being beaten by a cheeky Ronaldo-like chip.

Having been invited to join in, we weren't going to turn down the opportunity and three of us tried our luck, showing the footballers how it was done by scoring two out of three with even the 'miss' requiring a save high and to the keeper's right.

There was a somewhat surreal ending as we left the pitch: A young German tourist, in London with his girlfriend and taking the opportunity to visit the Bridge, had seen the end of the final game and requested that he be allowed to pose with me for a photo. I have no idea who he thought I might be but I wasn't going to disillusion him, so posed in my best 'famous referee' stance and we all managed to keep a straight face until we were out of sight.

Commemorative trophies, a very fine buffet and a couple of pints in the Blues Bar, brought the day to a perfect close.

Carlsberg don't do tournaments...but fortunately Etihad do!!

Hey Prezzo!!

Friday evening 16th May saw thirteen of Sutton RS's finest descend on Cheam for an evening to celebrate the season just gone by.

A fine evening was had by all with a few pints at the Harrow followed by copious amounts of pizza and pasta at Prezzo – one of Simeon's best bookings of the season!!



CAPTIONS PLEASE !!!



What could Howard Webb or the Polish player be saying? Or just an amusing title for the picture! **Email your thoughts to me and I'll put the best efforts in the next issue.**

O f f s i d e ? . . . R u b b i s h !

Following the furore over Van Nistelroy's 'offside' goal against Italy, in the qualifying rounds of Euro '08, the following marvellous post appeared on the BBC website from someone calling himself DouggieLee:

"This reminds me of a similar situation at home last weekend. On Sunday morning I had a hangover and was laid up on the couch; my wife wanted me to take the rubbish out, but I claimed that I was out of action. She said that even though I was lying down I was still involved in the housework, so I had to accept her ruling and take out the rubbish.

And they say women don't understand the offside rule!"



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

Your Thoughts, Questions and Comments

Question: Howard Webb & that Euro penalty (*Austria –v- Poland group game*)!!
Why does he not give them in the Premiership??

Have the members any thoughts on the matter??

Roger Pink



Respect! I suppose it was only a matter of time before the 'experts' were expounding on how yellow cards were only forthcoming because of this new programme (*not a 'campaign' apparently!*). It doesn't seem to be occurring to them that dissent has resulted in cautions for quite some time now and that the Respect Programme is more for players and coaches to focus on, rather than something that is going to significantly alter the behaviour of referees.

Mike Coen

Thought: do you think one day players will be able to go up for headers aided by other players like they do in rugby? Reminds me of the "leg-up" to get over fences etc...!

Matthew Westlake

(I hope not, as imagine someone challenging while they were in the air. I still remember being charged while up for a header, spinning in the air and coming down on the back of my neck...and that was from a standing jump – Ed)



The old chestnut has cropped up again. Two teams both in black shorts and black socks, one in blue and black stripes the other in black shirts with white shoulders.

Why are teams allowed to register these colours and County tell us that we must wear predominantly black? If reported for being non-conformist we can be suspended or reprimanded.

Is it not easier for a referee to change his shirt, as in that sensibly administered game of rugby, than a whole team, as the law tells us should happen??

John Martin

Are any referees in the society interested in regularly having games at Carshalton FC on a Sunday morning (10am KO) for our youth section?

We are running sides at U9, U12, U11, U12 and U14 age groups. All our youth sides won their League sportsmanship award for their age groups last season and our senior section have regularly won the AFA Referees Society Hospitality award.

Dave Geddes



I need (would very much like) to pass the Physical Test on the 17th September; the test entails running 2.5 km in under 12 minutes. Currently I'm only managing to do it in 16 minutes, which is not good enough. When I run faster I get a stitch and slow up and still finish in 16+ minutes.

Is anybody on a regular work-out plan that they can share to help me get there?

I'm regularly running, doing various runs:

2.5 km / 12 minutes (*managing about 2 km at the moment*) / 5 km / 30 minutes / occasionally 10 km / and obviously matches coming up in the new season.

You are welcome to call me on 020 8644 7651 or email me andy08@netarcher.co.uk

Anyone running at a track regularly please let me know if I can join you.

Andy Murray

Going for Promotion

Referees' In-Service Training Day – June 2008 - Bagshot

There were many red-faced referees following the In-Service Training day that took place in Bagshot in late June!!! Happily, this was the result of a combination of a hot sunny day, lots of outdoor scenario work and a conspicuous lack of sun-screen (*as I write this, I'm told I look like a swan vesta*) rather than any embarrassment on the field of play. The day was for referees attempting to move from level 7 to 6 or from 6 to 5 and began at 10:00 with a brief introduction to all present on how the day would be run.



The large number of instructors present meant that plenty of interaction would be possible throughout the day, enabling everyone to both contribute and get specific feedback on any points for which they required clarification.

For the morning session, we were split into two groups, regardless of level, half to take the exam (*promotion candidates are required to achieve a 70% pass-mark in an exam on the laws of the game – this consisted of 35 multiple-choice questions based on match scenarios*) while the other half discussed the importance of a warm-up and warm-down before trying out various warm-up routines. Roles were then switched, with the now-warm referees tackling the exam and vice-versa.



Lunch was a very pleasant selection of sandwiches, and other small savouries as well as a variety of fruit and offered time for some in-depth discussions on some of the exam questions, some of which proved to have elicited very different responses – **see below for the scenario which seemed to provoke the most discussion.*

For the afternoon, each promotion group (7-6s and 6-5s) were then further split into three sub-groups for some practical exercises that took place out on the pitch:

The 7-6s went through a number of scenarios covering positioning and movement in various situations such as goal-kicks, penalties, free-kicks and corner-kicks, using either club or neutral assistants. In each case, it was shown that there was no definitive 'correct' position but the strengths and possible issues with each were discussed, with everyone encouraged to participate fully.

Meanwhile, the 6-5s were covering situations such as dealing with mass confrontations (*and it sounded like they were really entering into the spirit of it!!*).

Finally, with all the groups back together, there was a brief summation from each of the scenario group leaders before the day finished at about 3:45. Overall, a well-planned, well-staffed and well-executed session.

Mike Coen

***...and the scenario referred to above:**

A player runs towards his opponents' goal in possession of the ball. The opposing goalkeeper comes out to challenge but the attacker evades him and kicks the ball towards the now-empty goal.

A substitute for the defending side runs onto the field from where he was warming up behind the goal and kicks the ball away before it can cross the goal-line thus preventing a goal from being scored.

Does the referee:

- A) Send off the substitute and award an indirect free-kick to the attacking team.
- B) Send off the substitute and award a penalty-kick to the attacking team.
- C) Caution the substitute and award an indirect free-kick to the attacking team.

Run, Ref. Run!

Matthew Westlake on preparing for, and running, 10K.

Having registered in January for what I thought was a "good idea at the time!", my thoughts turned to how much time I had to prepare. July seemed distant, and I didn't want to peak too soon!

My team of 2 expanded to a team of 5 but on the day it was just me who took part. However, the occasion was fantastic. My relative fitness was obviously based, like so many other referees, on short bursts with rest periods; so I found a track and gradually built up over the months to be able to run for up to 30 minutes without a break.



I had a bit of a problem in that in early June, having been achieving 4k fairly easily, I had a back problem and lost 2 weeks off work. Unheard of for me, and with the date looming large, this was a severe worry.

My sponsors, especially Mike, had been very kind, and I was determined to see the commitment through, but I was unable to surpass 4k in training; so on the day the 10k was a daunting ask. My ambition was to get round, and I estimated 53 - 56 minutes to complete the course. The weather was very muggy, but the camaraderie amongst all the other participants gave everybody a lift, raising tired spirits, spurring on tired legs and giving second and third wind on the way round.

I am happy to say I overtook Alesha on the way round, never stopped running and finished in 2788th place out of nearly 12000 in a time of 54mins 20seconds - which for you refs is 2207.5 meters in 12 minutes, run four and a half times!

I stretched afterwards for an hour and rode my bike home but still collapsed for a 2 hour kip in the afternoon!

I would like to thank all my sponsors, whose money raised has already been given to Capital Radio's **Help a London Child** (seen in the picture on the day - my face was the colour of their t-shirts!) and really does make a difference.

For those who would like to join me, I have already pre-registered for next year! Any volunteers, please contact Craig at Private Hire / Mike at Touchlines, or e-mail me at Matthew.Westlake@Premierdespatch.com!

CONTACTS - 2008/2009

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Vice President	Peter Watson	020 8393 9989
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Hon. Treasurer	Roger Brown	020 8642 5517
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	John Ryan	020 8337 6248
	John Martin	020 8641 0501
R.A. Delegates	John Kasey	020 8394 2968
	Keith Glover	020 8786 0545
Magazine Editor	Mike Coen	020 8715 4678
Supplies Officer	Mike Ewing	020 8644 7225
Retention Officer	John Ryan	020 8337 6248
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 23rd April, 2008 at Sutton Utd FC with 19 Members present.

As Phil Smith, Chairman, was absent, Peter Watson opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the joint meeting and AGM. He congratulated those that had achieved promotion during the year.

Apologies for Absence

Received from Phil Smith, Charles Jeffrey, Grant Sheavyn, Wayne Ingram, Derek Tanous, Dan Rutstein.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes for the February meeting had been published and were signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

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Hon Secretary's Report/Correspondence

The Secretary made the following mention of correspondence :

- a) Allocation for FA Cup tickets will 4.
- b) Mention was made of County and Local league cup finals.
- c) Resume of Steve Bennett meeting.
- d) County renewals are now out and should be returned by end of May.
- e) Please return the Prozones CD's that have been handed out.

Hon Treasurer

Balance @ 13th Feb meeting = £2057.34

Balance @ 23rd Apr meeting = £1652.34

Receipts = £0.00

Payments = £405.00

Outgoing of £495 relates to £325 catering to Jane Pascoe for Steve Bennett evening (will be reimbursed by County - John Kasey is dealing with this).

£80.00 to L.B.S for Affiliation fees.

Training Officers Report

Peter Watson was pleased to advise the meeting that there will be a course held in September. This will be a 3 week course and consist of 2 nights per week.

Supplies Officer

Mick Ewing was pleased with the way things had gone this year and felt the service from Head Office had improved.

Magazine Editor

Dan Rutstein was away on business and there was no report to record.

R A Delegates Report

Nothing to report.

Retention Officer Report

John Ryan had finished his enquiries to date and would start again in the new season.

Any Other Business

A debate was had regarding the acquisition of a Multi-Media System for the society. It was agreed that John Ryan has exhausted all avenues in attempting getting lottery funding. A vote was passed unanimously to fund a new Multi-Media System with society funds.

The meeting was then followed by a break before the AGM

The meeting closed at 20.35 hrs

DATE

CHAIRMAN

Dates for the Diary

September, 2008

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

October, 2008

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

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

December, 2008

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

January, 2009

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

February, 2009

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

March, 2009

Wed 11th @ 7:30pm Sutton 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