



# TOUCHLINES

The Magazine of the Sutton Referees' Society

[www.suttonreferees.co.uk](http://www.suttonreferees.co.uk)

October 2009





## Simeon says...

# Contents

- 2 Simeon Says...
- 3 Editor's Notes
- 3 From the Chair
- 4 Sutton's Super Refs
- 5 Peter Adams - RIP  
Tribute to the late President of SCFA
- 6 Captions Please!
- 7 ..in the Referee's Opinion  
Your thoughts, questions and comments.
- 8 Check the Net  
Snippets from the World Wide Web.
- 9 Deliberate Intention  
Barrie Gale's thoughts on Intent.
- 10 FAMOA Events & Rent-a-Ref  
Memos from Ian Blanchard.
- 10 Ladies Looking for Linos  
An appeal from AFC Wimbledon Ladies.
- 11 10 men, 9 men, 8 men, 7 men, 6 men...  
Shenanigans at Swansea.
- 12 refworld.com  
New website with a weekly quiz.
- 13 FAMOA Event  
Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November with David Elleray.
- 14 IsMatt Westlake...  
A choice of hobbies –make up your own mind!
- 15 Putting it On the Line  
Mike Coen on being an Assistant Referee.
- 16 Interview with a Referee  
This month's subject – David Laughton.
- 17 Delegates Report  
Keith Glover reports.
- 18 Sutton Society – In the Frame  
Smile Please! - Picture Pages.
- 21 Society Contacts
- 22 Minutes  
From the Meeting of September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009
- 24 Dates for Your Diary  
Upcoming Events.

**TOUCHLINES** is published by the Sutton Referees' Society.

Editor: Mike Coen

Email: [mikecoen@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:mikecoen@blueyonder.co.uk)

The reproduction of articles and news is welcomed by the Society. They would, however, like to receive a copy of those publications which reproduce any of our articles, either in whole or in part.

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,

It was good to see a large turn-out for our first meeting; especially as there was an England game being broadcast live at the same time and many of our members were involved in FA Youth Cup games. Thank you for 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 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 my self - 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 ask ourselves, "Could I have done anything differently to prevent this"? Help is on hand if required.

Next month (November) we have Tim Lawrence, the Referee's Development Officer for Surrey, as our guest speaker. I'm sure Tim will have new ideas he would like to put across and looks to be quite an interesting speaker. Please try to attend if at all possible.

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

I look forward to seeing you all on the 14th October at Gander Green Lane.

### Simeon



#### Front cover:

**Ryan O'Sullivan** reffing at the Stamford Bridge Etihad Cup, May 2009.

(Photo by: Mike Coen)

## Editor's Notes

### ***Hello Everyone!!***

A slightly different start of season for me, with seven of my first eleven matches being on the line. Last season, I found that the games where I was assisting more senior referees greatly helped my own performances in the middle. I've written my thoughts on this and they can be found later in this issue.

One of my big learnings has been the importance of a credible decision. A wrong call from 10 yards is much easier to sell than the right one from half a pitch away, so positioning, anticipation and fitness are key.

A minor incident whilst on the line in a Combined Counties game earlier this season really brought this home. A quick clearance from defence had left the home striker running onto a high bouncing ball, with the referee striving to catch up with play but still some way behind. Almost immediately in front of me, the striker dipped forward and controlled the ball on his chest, rolling his body to the left to ensure it didn't squirt away.

From behind, it looked for all the world like he had probably used his arm to retain control. As the home manager pointed out after the game, the only person in a position to know for sure was me; however, the referee decided he was sure enough and blew for the handball, even as the ball was being thumped into the back of the net for what would have been an equalising goal.

In such situations you have to support your fellow officials, so the only answer I could give to the fervant appeals was, "the referee saw him handle it".

The home manager was polite after the game but made what was probably the key point, saying, "I couldn't tell if he'd handled it and from **your** position there was no way **you** could be sure he'd handled it. The lino was the only one who could have made a call and **he** kept his flag down".

Credibility! and remembering that being part of a team means being able to trust your teammates.

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

**Mike.**



## From the Chair

### ***Dear Colleagues,***

I do hope that those of you who are going for promotion this season have received the glowing assessments you were hoping for. If you have not, take on board any points made by the assessor and use them to your advantage next time around.

Many thanks to all those who attended the September meeting. Numbers were very low due to the fact that England were qualifying for the World Cup in South Africa against Croatia at Wembley stadium the same evening and several of our members were also officiating in FA Youth Cup games.

With Sutton United playing in the FA Youth Cup themselves, the same evening, we decided that, after the business part of the meeting had ended, we would go and watch about half-an-hour of the second half, make notes of the three officials' performances and discuss what we liked and what, if anything, we felt could be improved on.

Our society magazine, *Touchlines*, continues to entertain and hopefully educate but I would encourage all of us to contribute to it, so as to ensure that this season's magazine is as good as, if not better than, last year's one. No matter how good a magazine editor Mike is, without input from the membership it will become harder and harder to maintain its current excellent standard.

The season is in full swing now and I'm sure that we have all had incidents during games which we wish we had handled differently looking back at them. If that is the case, don't be shy. Let Mike know of them so that he can highlight them in *Touchlines* as, you never know, the person reading about it may just find him or herself in a similar situation in the near future and may benefit from your observations.

Even at this early part of the season, before the winter weather arrives, don't overlook the importance of conducting a proper pitch inspection before a game. It is an important part of the match day responsibilities of a referee. During dry periods, erosion of the pitch may make the surface unstable and therefore unplayable so never take the risk or be talked into playing a game against your better judgement. Always ensure that the goals are stable and well secured and give yourself sufficient time to do a proper inspection before any game.

I know Simeon has arranged a guest speaker for this month so please do make the effort to come along on the 14th.

Kindest regards,

**Barrie (*The Chair*)**



# Sutton's Super Refs

## Barrie Gale

FA Youth Cup - 1st Qual Round	Carshalton Athletic -v- Chertsey Town ( <i>Assistant</i> )	Wed 23 <sup>rd</sup> Sep
FA Academy	Fulham U16 -v- Arsenal U16	Sat 26 <sup>th</sup> Sep
Surrey U18 Floodlit Cup	Carshalton Athletic -v- Epsom & Ewell	week of 11th Oct

## Matt Westlake

FA Youth Cup - 1st Qual Round	Colliers Wood Utd -v- Worthing Utd	Thur 24 <sup>th</sup> Sep
Women's FA Cup - 1st Qual Round	AFC Wimbledon -v- Horley Town LFC	Sun 27 <sup>th</sup> Sep
Surrey County Prem Cup - 1st Round	Coulsdon Utd -v- Colliers Wood (@ Chipstead)	Wed 30 <sup>th</sup> Sep

## Mike Coen

FA Youth Cup - 1st Qual Round	Colliers Wood Utd -v- Worthing Utd ( <i>Assistant</i> )	Thur 24 <sup>th</sup> Sep
Women's FA Cup - 1st Qual Round	AFC Wimbledon -v- Horley Town LFC ( <i>Assistant</i> )	Sun 27 <sup>th</sup> Sep
Surrey U18 Floodlit Cup	Carshalton Athletic -v- Epsom & Ewell ( <i>Assistant</i> )	week of 11th Oct
Surrey Sunday Intmtd Cup – Round 1	Roundshaw & District Colts -v- Wisley	Sun 4 <sup>th</sup> Oct
Surrey Sunday Premier Cup – Round 1	Wimbledon Royals -v- Rowbarge	Sun 25 <sup>th</sup> Oct

## John Ryan

FA Vase - 2nd Qual Round	Cove -v- Ringmer	Sat 19 <sup>th</sup> Sep
FA Cup - 2nd Qual Round	Welling Utd -v- East Thurrock ( <i>Assistant</i> )	Sat 26 <sup>th</sup> Sep
FA Vase - 1st Round Proper	Ash Utd -v- Badshot Lea	Sat 3 <sup>rd</sup> Oct
FA Youth Cup - 2nd Qual Round	Sutton -v- Colliers Wood Utd	week of 5 <sup>th</sup> Oct

# Peter Adams - R.I.P.

Colleagues

It is with great sadness that I have to inform you that Peter Adams passed away on Saturday evening after a long illness.

Peter was currently President of SCFA, but I believe that he was the only person in the Country to have held the positions of Secretary, Chairman and President of a County FA over a long and distinguished career in football.

Very much a referees man, Peter was always available to lend an ear and give his advice accordingly and many of us are better off for listening to his words of wisdom.

Always the diplomat, Peter would sit at meetings and when things became a little strained, he would break the ice with one of his many 'one liners'.

He will be greatly missed by many people throughout the County and football in general.

At this moment in time, I can advise that the funeral will take place on Tuesday 29th September.

The time and venue has yet to be decided [at time of writing].

It will be family flowers only with any donations to Cancer Research via Co-Op Funeral Care, 2-4 Addison Road, Guildford, Surrey. GU1 3QG.

Our thoughts are with his wife Elsie and his family

May he rest in peace.

Brian Fish

*It's amazing what can be achieved when no-one minds who gets the credit.*

Howard Wilkinson - on the value of teamwork.

# CAPTIONS PLEASE !!!



Picture submitted by **John Ryan**

**Have you an an amusing caption for the picture?**  
*Email your thoughts to me and I'll put the best efforts in the next issue.*

## ... and Last Edition's Offerings



**Barrie Gale:**

- ...and here we see the mother bird returning to the nest to feed its greedy offspring in its revolting blue plumage.
- Michael Ballack enters Strictly Come Dancing but is not best pleased with the program's choice of partner

**Mike Coen:**

- Poppa!!.....Pinochio??

**Rob Pizzy**

- We were odds on to win this but now you're refereeing we're 4-1.

**Simeon Potter**

- Nein....nein....nein....When you do the YMCA your arms must be this high.

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

*Your Thoughts, Questions and Comments*

Hi Mike

I met Terry Venables at Gatwick airport last Friday and have a picture taken with him.

I informed him all about *Touchlines* and will send next month's version (with picture) to his PR Company.

Just thought you might like to know your paper is famous.

Regards

**David Laughton**



Where can you find out what players and what teams have been banned or teams suspended? As I ref a team which I am sure played a player who was suspended.

**Is there a site you can go to to find out?**

regards

**Matt Ackerman**

*(Responses direct to Matt and/or also to me, please, so that this information can be printed in the next issue. Ed)*

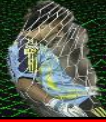
Listening to BBC London in the car yesterday evening and a QPR fan phoned in. One of his points was about players 'diving' and he made particular reference to Didier Drogba, who appeared to find the turf much to his liking several times during the game against Liverpool.

This particular fan thought that teams should install a swimming pool by the goal area and hang a pair of Speedos in the away dressing room whenever Chelsea come calling.

It's not just in the Premiership though. **John Ryan** sent this picture showing the moment in the Bedfont -v- Mile Oak game, where a player earned himself a caution for his antics.



**Mike Coen**



## Check the Net !!!

Snippets pulled from the World Wide Web



### Keeper Guilty of Moving Goalposts

From the BBC Website – 24th September, 2009

**IFK Gothenburg goalkeeper Kim Christensen could be in hot water after moving the posts during a Swedish first division game to make the goal smaller.**

The Danish goalkeeper was caught by TV cameras pushing the posts toward each other before a match against Orebro.

Referee Stefan Johannesson spotted the posts had been moved a few centimetres about 20 minutes into the game and pushed them back into the right place.

Christensen later said he had done the same thing before several other games.

He was spotted using his feet to push the bottom of each post slightly inwards.

The Swedish Football Association is investigating the incident.



"I have never heard anything like this before," said Swedish FA's disciplinary chief Kheneth Tallinger. "It's unique."

IFK Gothenburg drew 0-0 with Orebro and top the table on goal difference with just a few weeks of the season to go.

### Swiss Referee Massimo Busacca Responds To Three-Match Ban

From GOAL.com – 21<sup>st</sup> September, 2009

The Swiss Football Association (SFV) has suspended referee Massimo Busacca for three domestic league matches following his behaviour last weekend.

The 40-year-old Busacca was caught by photographers gesturing to fans of Young Boys during a Swiss Cup match on Saturday. The incident happened after supporters of third-tier club Baden entered the pitch when their team took an early lead at home to the Swiss league leaders.

Busacca asked for a warning message to be relayed over the stadium public address system, prompting visiting fans to chant abuse at him. The referee, who took charge of the Champions League final last May, apologised for his actions on Sunday.

"I let myself be provoked by verbal abuse from supporters. Unfortunately, I lost my cool with an unsporting gesture. I was wrong and I will pay the price," said Busacca



# Deliberate Intention

Barrie Gale

**Will the term 'Deliberate Intention' ever disappear from law?**

Many seasons ago, even before I started refereeing, a free kick was only awarded if the referee felt that the "foul" was a deliberate act and was intentional. So we had the situation where the man in the middle had to guess the intentions of the transgressor.

Since the wording of this law was amended to state that any foul **whether intentional or not** was punishable by the award of a free kick, we have merrily got on with our football without any real issue and the thorny issue of intention on the part of the offending player has been put to one side.



Why then do the laws of our game continue to expect the referee to apportion intention when it comes to handling offences? I have been involved with several cases already this season when myself or the referee in charge on the day has been left with a difficult call, when the ball has struck the arm or the hand of a player, as to what his intentions were at the time.

I recently refereed a Spartan South Midland game between Sun Postal Sports and Stony Stratford Town where a home defender cleared the ball which struck an opposition player on the arm; the ball then ricocheted to a team mate who was presented with a clear run at goal and,

to my displeasure, finished with aplomb.

Try explaining to the aggrieved party that a goal must stand because in your opinion the handling offence was not a deliberate act. They



just don't want to know. You even have players agreeing with you that the handball was not deliberate but - because it had a direct effect on a goal being scored - who cannot accept that it was the correct decision.

I know ignorance of the law is no defence on the part of players and managers (and some referees who I have come across) but I must admit I do have some sympathy for them on this.

I know of several referees who will always give a direct free kick when the ball strikes the arm or hand, as it is generally the line of least resistance with players.

I think that maybe the time has come to do away with the premise that a handball has to be deliberate for a free kick to be awarded, as intent is very hard to ascertain. I'm sure that if the wording was changed to confirm that ANY handling offence was punishable by the award of a direct free kick, whether intentional or not, it would be understood by all and would lead to less confrontation.

*My wife, who was in the stand, told me that at one stage the entire row in front of her stood up and gave me the V-sign. I asked her what she did and she said she didn't want them to know who she was so she stood up and joined in!*

**Neil Midgley** – retired referee - recalling his First Division debut.

# FAMOA Events

Ian Blanchard

I am in a position to offer you an update on the FAMOA events. I am pleased to say that Mike Riley - PGMO General Manager designate - has been tasked to look at the FAMOA events where CFA's have made requests for either select group or National List referees to attend. In most cases, subject to the extraneous of their refereeing roles, the select group referee initially invited to attend will do so. However in some cases replacement speakers have been found based on your original requested speaker being unavailable.

I must personally thank Mike for his efforts in ensuring our local grassroots referees have a great opportunity to learn from our senior colleagues.

Janie Frampton is tasked to co-ordinate the FAMOA events and I would ask you to direct any enquiries through her.

# Rent-a-Ref

Ian Blanchard

This is a scheme set up by an 18 year old referee in Lancashire, which offers leagues and clubs a referee on payment of a fee.

Interestingly this referee has not registered this season.

I have spoken to him personally and offered him suitable advice on a number of issues, including CRB, Safeguarding Children, Insurance, affiliated and non-affiliated referees etc.

The upshot is that, at this time, should you have any queries regarding this company, **they should NOT be used.**

The Referee Development staff in Lancashire have arranged to see the young referee concerned to offer him further advice.

# Ladies Looking for Linos

David Laughton

**AFC Wimbledon's Sunday Ladies Team** are desperate for Assistant Referees for all their home and away matches.

This is ideal for officials who enjoy running a line and spending time with the ladies. All home games are at Kingsmeadow near Kingston. They can take you to all away matches on their Mini Bus. Ideal for new referees who do not drive.

**All kick offs are at 2:00pm**

£25.00 for home matches + lunch provided and up to £30 for away games.

AFC are registered with Surrey and play in the Premier Division of the London South East Regional Women's League.

**If you can help them please contact me and call John Ivers.**

*They will treat you like gold.*

Tel:- 07719 074908

# Ten men, Nine men, Eight men, Seven men, Six men – went to mow a meadow!!

Swansea -v- Scunthorpe - Carling Cup - 25th August

Mike Coen

There was plenty to discuss following Scunthorpe United's Carling Cup victory over seven-man Swansea City at the Swan's Liberty Stadium.

The score was 1-1 on 90 minutes, sending the tie into extra time but the real talking points of the night had begun in the 85th minute when Swansea's Garry Monk was sent off for violent conduct.

As if Swansea's task with ten men was not difficult enough, the Swans were reduced to nine-men in extra time when goal-scorer Dobbie was forced off with a rib injury - and manager Paulo Sousa had used all of his substitutes.



Swansea Manager: Paulo Sousa

Nine became eight, when Gorka Pintado was sent off after picking up a second yellow card, then seven, when his fellow countryman Angel Rangel followed just a minute later, having made strong use of an elbow.



Referee James Linington shows the red card to Swansea's Gorka Pintado

Swansea and Scunthorpe's benches then saw bad-tempered clashes, as a foul on debutant Besian Idrizaj saw him forced to leave the field.

The laws state that each side must have at least seven players on the pitch for a game to be played so, with Swansea down to six men, Isle of Wight official James Linington was having to consider abandonment with just two minutes remaining.

Swans boss Sousa sent the injured Idrizaj back on to the pitch despite his inability to take part just so the game could have a conclusion. He stood motionless, just inside

the touchline, for the full two minutes.

He later claimed that, although he did not want the match to be abandoned, Idrizaj should not have gone back on the field and had only done so because 'the referee put pressure on us to get him back on'.


**Q - It is by no means certain that this referee applied any sort of pressure BUT, in a situation like this, would a referee be correct to make this sort of request?**

**Have any of the members ever experienced a similar situation?**

'I was told that while on one journey back to South America he bought an island off the Brazilian coast. Can you believe that? He popped home and bought an island. The last time I went home to England I bought myself a new tie!

*The late great Sir Bobby Robson on managing Ronaldo. 11*

## NEWS

News Updates 

Appointments

## INFORMATION

Background to the PGMOL

Officials Profile

Match Assessors

Directives

Laws of the Game

Training & Fitness

Links

## INTERACTIVE

My Account

Ask The Ref

Quiz

## FEATURES

Ref Selection

Technology

A Day In the Life

How To Be A Referee

4th Official

## QUIZ

### Week 7



Do you think you have what it takes to be a referee? Do you think you can make the right decisions under pressure? Now you can find out with our new quiz...

If you go to [www.refworld.com](http://www.refworld.com) which is the website for the Premier League referees, you will see 'Win Great Prizes!' You need to register and log-in.

Each week there are five Multiple Choice questions on the Laws. (In future weeks these might be three on the Laws and two football related Qs, or a four-one split.)

You will be given 30 seconds to answer each question. You score points on the speed with which you get the right answer.

When you log in the following week for another five Qs, you will be given a score and the position you were the previous week.

**At the end of the month, the person with the highest score for the month will receive a prize.**

**At the end of the season, the person with the best score will receive a special prize.**

Log in and have a go. Even if you do not want to win a prize, it is good fun to have a go and test your knowledge of the Laws/football. Register as soon as possible

Please let me have any feedback. Was it user friendly? How to improve the quiz? Whatever.

And please forward the website address to any friend who you think might be interested.

All the best.

Mal Davies ([malref@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:malref@yahoo.co.uk))

...continued on page 13

...and to give some idea of the sort of questions you might face...

**Q1.)** A player is asked to remove a ring, and does so. Later in the game he had put it back on. The referee stopped play and sent him off to remove it again. The referee must also caution (yellow card) the player and restart with:

*Correct Answer:* An indirect free kick to the opponents **from where the ball was**.

*You answered:* An indirect free kick **from where the player was**.

**Q2.)** A goalkeeper takes a quick goal kick to a team-mate outside the penalty area near the corner flagpost. The ball passes over the goal line 17 yards from the nearest goal post. What should the referee do?

*Correct Answer:* Order the goal kick to be retaken as the ball was not in play

*You answered* correctly!

**Q3.)** A defending player, with both feet outside the penalty area, deliberately handles the ball. Part of the ball overlapped the edge of the penalty area. It would have gone to an attacker who would have had a possible chance of scoring. Does the referee:

*Correct Answer:* Award a penalty kick and caution (yellow card) the defender

*You answered* correctly!

**Q4.)** True or False: It is an offence to be in an offside position?

*Correct Answer:* False

*You answered* correctly!

**Q5.)** A goalkeeper makes a mark with his boot in the centre of the 6 yard line which is parallel to the goal line, so that he can judge his position better when making a save. The referee noticed him doing this two minutes into the game when play was at the other end of the field. Does the referee:

*Correct Answer:* Allow play to continue and then caution (yellow card) the goalkeeper when the ball is next out of play.

*You answered* correctly!

## FAMOA Event - Thursday 12th November 2009

The annual Surrey County FA FAMOA Event will be held on Thursday 12th November 2009, at Sutton Utd FC, Gander Green Lane, SM1 2EY commencing at 7.30pm. Complimentary refreshments will be provided from 6:45pm.

The Guest Speaker will be **David Elleray**. David is an ex Premier League and FIFA referee and is the current chairman of the FA Referees Committee.

An invitation from Surrey FA has been sent to all referees and the information will also be on the County Website via a 'splash page' article nearer the event.

Further information can be obtained from Tim Lawrence at County Office.



**Exhibit 'A'**



**Exhibit 'B'**

## 1) ...A novice amateur jockey?

*Matt has always been keen to try new things, so when a friend asked how difficult it could be to ride a horse over a few fences, he decided to find out. A few riding lessons later and Matt found himself on an unfancied nag and under starter's orders.*

*Three fences later, Matt and the horse parted company. All Matt remembers is a feeling of flying and then a breath-stealing thump, followed by the sound of lots of horses disappearing very quickly.*

*Will he be giving it another go?*

*"I don't think so", said Matt, once he had got his breath back.*

*"It was really much scarier than I thought it was going to be (see Exhibit 'B' above). I think I'll leave it to the experts after this".*

## 2) ...A dedicated cyclist?

*"How can I referee if I'm not fit"? says Matt.*

*"And what better way to get fit, than to get on my bike and get pedaling".*

*Whatever the weather, Matt shuns the car and takes to the saddle.*

*"Mudguards are for wimps (see Exhibit 'B' above). What's a little mud and rain between friends"?*

## 3) ...An extreme-weather skydiver?

*Having made his 200th parachute jump, things were getting a little boring for Matt. Jumping out an aeroplane with an oversized hanky and a few strings may not be everyone's cup of tea but it had become less of an adventure as time had passed.*

*Then a fellow referee mentioned that he had seen a documentary about a bunch of nutters who jump out of aeroplanes to free-fall through thunderstorms, before parachuting the last few hundred feet.*

*"It was like I was hearing my own destiny", says Matt.*

*"Whatever else, it certainly wasn't going to be boring".*

*In fact 'boring' - as in a hole in the Earth - was almost what Matt ended up doing when his main chute failed to open on his very first attempt. These guys carry two spares though, and the first reserve chute did just what it says on the tin (don't ask me why they keep them in a tin!!).*

*"Scary?" reflects Matt... "I think the pictures speak for themselves (see Exhibit 'B' above)".*

*Matt is now back jumping out of regular aeroplanes on sunny days.*

***Incidentally - for any who haven't worked it out - only one of the above is true!!***

**Who, in their right mind, would want to be a referee?** A common reaction I get when people first find out what I like to do in my spare time.

What on Earth, then, would convince anyone that running up and down the side of the pitch, waving a flag, could in any way be enjoyable?

Like many, I had my first taste of lining as a sub on the parks; the much berated 'club lino'.



Many referees, it appears, never even had this limited experience and their first outing, with a flag instead of a whistle, is when they are called upon to assist at a local league semi-final or final.

I had direct experience of this when in the middle for a cup-final at the end of last season.

As we walked out to take a look at the pitch, one of my assistants asked me, in all seriousness, "I only go as far as halfway, don't I?". Not a question that inspired confidence but at least it solved the problem of who would be handling the benches.

**So how can new referees avoid finding themselves in this situation?**

I received great advice soon after joining my local referee's society in Sutton.



"Get yourself onto a mid-week youth league as an assistant", I was told. So I signed up with the Ryman Youth League and soon found myself assigned to my first game. Rather than just turn up 'cold', I also went on-line on the Referee Association website, where a number of referees of all levels are only too happy to add their two penny-worth to any request for advice.

It didn't take long to realise that 'proper' lining is more than just understanding what offside means. An assistant referee is part of a team and how that team is seen to interact can make a huge impact on the referee's match control.

A referee will normally brief his assistants as to what he expects from them during the game.

Different referees have their own preferences as to how much control they want to leave with their assistants and the level of input that they expect and the briefing should leave the assistant in no doubt as to their duties for the day.

I have yet to come across a referee who has not been happy to clarify any point that may not have been totally clear.

There are, however, certain matters of flag 'etiquette' that are generally expected to be common knowledge:

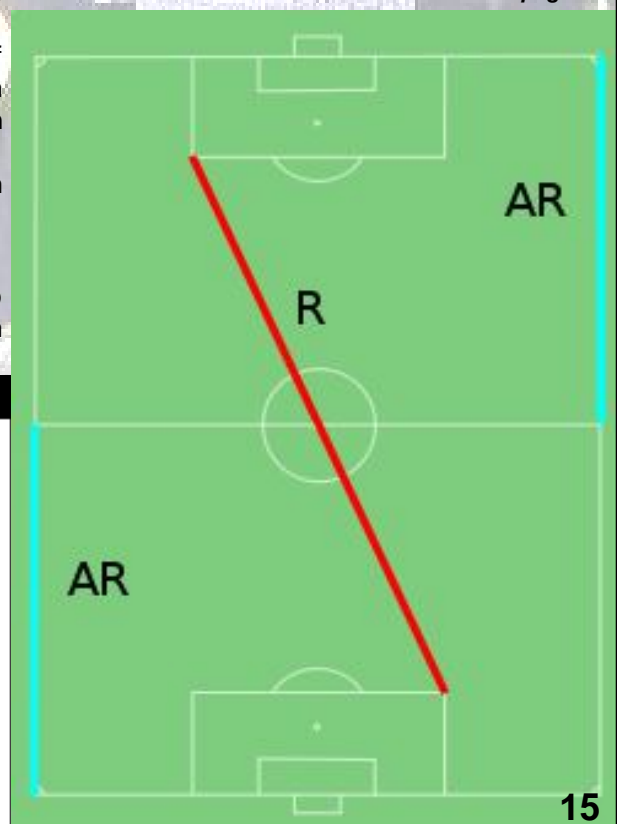
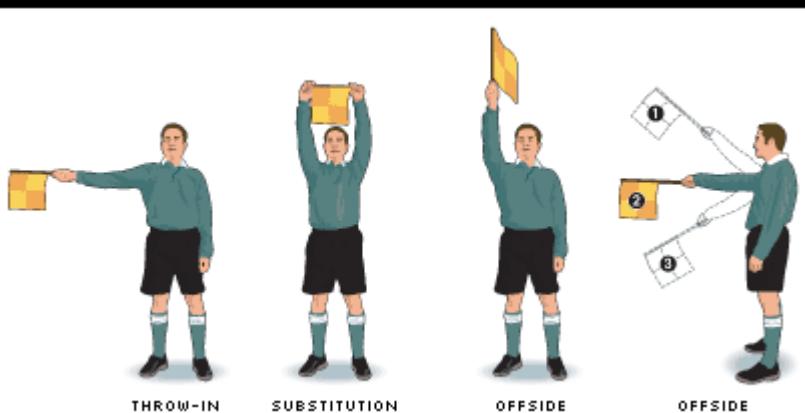


-Try not to 'cross', pointing your flag one way when the referee is signalling in the opposite direction. Avoided with plenty of eye contact and taking your time before signalling.

-Keep your flag in the hand nearest

*...continued on page 16*

## ASSISTANT SIGNALS



# Interview with a Referee

This month's subject: **David Laughton**

Current Level: **6**

Position in Referee Society (if any): **Vice Chairman (1 year with the Society)**

How long have you been a referee? **Since 2005- 06**

What was it that led you to become a referee? **I became a referee as I was coaching Merton FC and undertaking my coaching badge and wanted to learn and respect the rules so I could pass these onto my players and improve their overall performance. Injury had forced me to play less football and, loving the game so much, I really wished to remain close to the action.**

What is it that keeps you refereeing? **Just love being involved and believe I have the man management skills to ensure football is enjoyed, especially at the current level I participate in. Keeps me tremendously fit and keeps the cost of booze down as I hardly ever drink as a result.**



What are the most prestigious games you have been involved with? **Surrey County Cup Final 2007- 08, as an Assistant, where I worked alongside Peter Rogers and most recently, also as an assistant, on the Spurs & Sutton Match 2009 where I had the pleasure to work alongside John Ryan & John Kasey.**

What are your main refereeing memories (best and worst)?

**Best - Have been lucky to have experienced loads. Hard to single out; probably being appointed my first Cup Final at Sutton 2007- 08 (Mrs Hickey Cup) as referee in charge. Was an honour and great to work with my fellow referees on the night.**

**Worst - Being verbally threatened, with my family watching, was just awful, though I am pleased to see that the player was struck off by the League. You learn from these experiences and I would have honestly handled the situation differently now and prevented it happening in first place.**

One piece of advice for up -and -coming referees: **Prepare, remain calm and, above all, enjoy the roller-coaster ride. Listen to the advice of fellow referees and join a society (preferably Sutton).**

Any other comments: **Refereeing in football takes a special class of people; a band of brothers who work and always support each other. Remain true to your goals and when you get going, never stop. Lead by example and aim to represent your county and society professionally at all times.**

Next issue's nomination: **Peter Watson**

## Putting it on the Line ...continued from page 15.

the pitch – or nearest to the referee when facing the pitch – except when signalling.

- When swapping the flag between hands, do so with the hands low in front of you and before you signal. Don't find yourself flagging for an offence with one hand and then switching hands in front of your face to indicate the direction.

- Keep yourself in line with the second-last defender. It may seem obvious but get caught ball-watching for just a few seconds and suddenly you're twenty yards from where you should be and in no position to make a credible offside decision (*and, believe me, the benches will let you know about it!*).

- Keep it credible. If a referee is 10 yards from an incident, with a clear view, and shouting, "Play on! No Foul", he doesn't want to see you flagging for the penalty from the far side of the pitch.

- Above all, as your Assistant Referee title suggests, you are there to 'assist', not to 'insist'; it's the referee who makes the final decision.

RA Website Discussion Boards: <http://www.footballreferee.org/forum/index.php>

Ryman Youth League Assistant Referees: **Brian Fish (details in County Handbook)**

The following is from the Delegates' Meeting of Monday 21st:

1. Conference voting cards need to be returned a.s.a.p.
2. Severn Society have not confirmed entry in the five-a-side tournament.
3. FA and County would like societies to co-ordinate guest speakers in order to cut down travelling.
4. Portable goals:- These goals must be secured or weighted down. If you are being accessed, it will count against you if this is not done
5. Five-a-Side Tournament date: 10th Jan at Haywards Heath. A Trophy has now been donated.
6. CRB checks: No change at present. Nothing expected until April 2010.
7. FAMOA Evening: Guest speaker is David Elleray.
8. New black-collar kit not to be worn outside the pro-game.
9. County are still looking for assessors and mentors. Please contact Mark Wood or Tim Lawrence if interested
10. Handling of Cup-Final tickets for County finals is still with Vic Rolland.
11. Disciplinary Reporting: An idiots guide will be put in the next refs' newsletter.
12. Membership at end of August shows 3,422 not rejoined, therefore not covered by insurance. Surrey figures are the same as last year, at 363 as of 31st July.
13. A meeting between the RA and the FA took place to discuss RAFA (a proposed new joint body); this would do away with FAMOA. The RA agreed to meet on 18th October to discuss and agree a strategy to put to the FA, so we keep independence and own identity.
14. Referees are reminded to do checks before games: i.e. boots, jewellery, goals, colours and dog- muck.



**Gentlemen,**

Kingston, Wimbledon and Sutton Referee Societies have again organised a combined societies meeting at Sutton Utd on **Thursday 18th March, 2010** and I am pleased to tell you that **Mike Riley** has agreed to be our Guest Speaker.

All Surrey County Referee Societies are invited to attend and you will receive a formal invitation early in the new year.

There will be a buffet available from 7.15 pm and an informative and convivial evening is anticipated.

With best wishes for a good season

**Ron Hobbs**

# Sutton Society – In the Frame

Etihad Stamford Bridge Cup – May 2009



Mark Marlow – Secret Handshakes? Gotta laugh!



Above: Is it that time already? Surely the crowd should be here by now!  
Mike Coen in the middle, with Simeon Potter & Ryan O'Sullivan



Right: Cooeee! Over here! – Mike Coen stars in 'How Camp is that Lino?'



Left: Ryan O'Sullivan on the line

Below: That sprint training comes in handy!  
Simeon Potter in the middle with Mark Marlow on the far line.



# Sutton Society – In the Frame



**A Tough Job but Someone's got to do it!**  
Mike Coen with the USA Ladies Team after their match -v- Reading Ladies – August 2009



**Chelsea U17 -v- USA U17** 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2009  
Referee: Simeon Potter. Asst referees: Jim De-Rennes (Kingston) and Tim Gilmore (Redhill)

# Surrey Lower Junior County Cup Final – May 2009



From Left to Right: Rick Letheren, Steve Smith, Mike Coen & Ian Brash Photo by Mark Wood



Photos by Wayne Ingram



## CONTACTS - 2009/2010

President	Philip Smith	020 8644 5111
Vice President	John Kasey	020 8394 2968
Vice President	Peter Watson	020 8393 9989
Chairman	Barrie Gale	020 8644 3825
Vice Chairman	David Laughton	020 8288 9275
Hon. Secretary	Simeon Potter	020 8661 1555
Hon. Treasurer	Keith Rodger	020 8786 7410
Training Officers	Peter Watson	020 8393 9989
	John Ryan	020 8337 6248
	John Martin	020 8641 0501
R.A. Delegates	John Kasey	020 8394 2968
	Keith Glover	020 8786 0545
Events Coordinator	David Laughton	020 8288 9275
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	

**Sutton & District Referee Society**  
**Minutes of September Meeting that took place on**  
**9<sup>th</sup> September 2009 at Sutton Utd FC with 16 members & 2 guests present.**

**Chairman**

**Opening address:** Barrie gale opened the meeting, welcoming everyone especially as it was international night and many of our members were also involved in FA Youth Cup fixtures.

**Apologies for Absence**

Received from Alan Donovan, Keith Slaughter, Neil Stitch, Lewis Gordon, Matthew Westlake. Toby Westlake, Roger Pink, Mike Coen and Jon Ryan.

**Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Barry asked if there were any matters arising from last month's minutes. None were raised.  
Proposed by John Kasey and seconded by Wayne Ingram.

**Matters Arising**

None.

**Hon Secretary's Report/Correspondence**

He wished good luck to Ryan O'Sullivan, who has joined the Surrey Development Group.

Last year's FA Cup Final: John Whity & Keith Rogers enjoyed their day out (John more than Keith!!).

The Secretary made the following mention of correspondence:

- a) Referee newsletter: Main points - Important dates & Disciplinary Report writing.
- b) Two cautions resulting in a Send Off must be put on the Misconduct report and not the caution report form.
- c) County Handbook: Anyone who has not received their's, please contact the County Office.
- d) The Surrey County FA FAMOA 2009 Event will be on the 12th November at Sutton Utd. Guest speaker will now be the new chairman of the FA Referee Committee, David Ellera.

**Training Officers' Report**

Peter Watson stated that Sutton will be running two courses this year: the first starting on 21st September. This course will run for four weeks on Monday and Tuesday nights and Surrey FA have confirmed that 12 have already signed up. A second course will run in November. The course will now include a new module called "Respect".

**Supplies Officer**

Current Stock £156.46 - Cash £10.05 with a balance of £166.51.

Mike Ewing stated that new ties were on order and showed us all the new track suit the RA had brought out for the new season.

**Magazine Editor**

Mike was involved in an FA Youth Cup fixture and was not present. Once again many comments were made on yet another excellent issue of *Touchlines*.

*continued on page 23...*

...continued from page 22

### **Hon Treasurer's Report**

Our new Treasurer Keith Rogers gave an up to date state of our finances:

#### **Sutton & District Referees' Society Income & Expenditure A/C**

Accounting Period 01/04/09 to 31/03/10

<b>Income</b>	<b>£</b>
Members fees	573.00
Other	287.50
Charity Income	1,511.47
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>2,471.97</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	
	<b>£</b>
RAE fees	415.50
Surrey RA fees	42.00
Other	415.70
Charity donation	1,511.47
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>2,384.67</b>
Surplus for period	87.30
Balance b/f 31.03.09	1,623.27
<b>Balance as at 01.09.09</b>	<b>1,710.57</b>

### **R A Delegates' Report**

John Kasey stated that there was really nothing to report and the next meeting will be held on the 21st September.

### **Events Officer's Report**

David Laughton reported that the society had received very good press in our efforts in raising a grand total of £2611.47 for the Chernobyl Children's Life Line. Lease Plan would also like to continue the event to raise money.

David also mentioned he will looking into having other events, such as a Society golf day.

### **Retention Officer's Report**

John Ryan stated he had sent out 32 emails to previous members but, as yet, had had no replies.

### **Any Other Business**

A reminder to all to check mobile goalposts and make sure they are secure and pegged down before any match is started.

The meeting closed at 20:30

DATE

CHAIRMAN

# Dates for the Diary

## **October, 2009**

Wed 14<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30pm      Sutton Society Meeting      @ Sutton Utd FC

## **November, 2009**

Wed 11<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30pm      Sutton Society Meeting      @ Sutton Utd FC

Thur 12<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30pm      Surrey FAMOA Event      @ Sutton Utd FC  
*Guest Speaker - David Elleray*

## **December, 2009**

Wed 9<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30pm      Sutton Society Meeting      @ Sutton Utd FC

## **January, 2010**

Sun 10<sup>th</sup>      Inter-Society Five-a-Side      @ Haywards Heath

Wed 13<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30pm      Sutton Society Meeting      @ Sutton Utd FC

## **February, 2010**

Wed 10<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30pm      Sutton Society Meeting      @ Sutton Utd FC

## **March, 2010**

Thur 18<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30pm      Joint Society Meeting      @ Sutton Utd FC  
*Sutton, Kingston & Wimbledon – guest speaker – Mike Riley*

## **April, 2010**

Wed 14<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30pm      Sutton Society Meeting & AGM      @ Sutton Utd FC