



The Last Word



Published by Sheffield and Hallamshire RA

Encouraged and supported by Sheffield and Hallamshire County FA

Editor: Mal Dodd, 17, Ashville, Rossington, Doncaster DN11 0BX - Tel: 01302-864 241 Mobile: 07947 785 830 E-mail: maldodd@hotmail.com

What motivates YOU to go out and referee?

Have you ever asked yourself why you go on to a football field and referee? I am sure most of you will have taken part in an exercise that asks that question. Some of the answers to consider are :-

- Enjoyment
- Make a contribution to players enjoyment
- Keep fit
- Keep involved with football
- Comradeship
- Better than shopping
- Like making decisions
- Feeling of power
- Match Fee

When I have been involved in this discussion, the answer that always comes last is - Match Fee. Then when I say to the group that I am pleased to hear that because from next season the FA are going to abolish match fees for referees I have to very quickly take cover as the reaction from the group is furious. Of course no one is going to abolish match fees, but that reaction shows how much of a motivator money is to referees.

There are two types of motivation, intrinsic and extrinsic. Put simply, intrinsic motivation is when you sincerely want to achieve something and enjoying the inherent rewards that come with it,

congratulations on a job well done, the chance to be rewarded with more responsibility (honours games - promotion to higher leagues).

Extrinsic motivation is the drive to achieve that comes from wanting the external rewards (like money, power, status, or recognition), although it's clear that intrinsic motivation is usually a more effective and fulfilling drive. To demonstrate this point, let's consider two scenarios you've likely experienced:

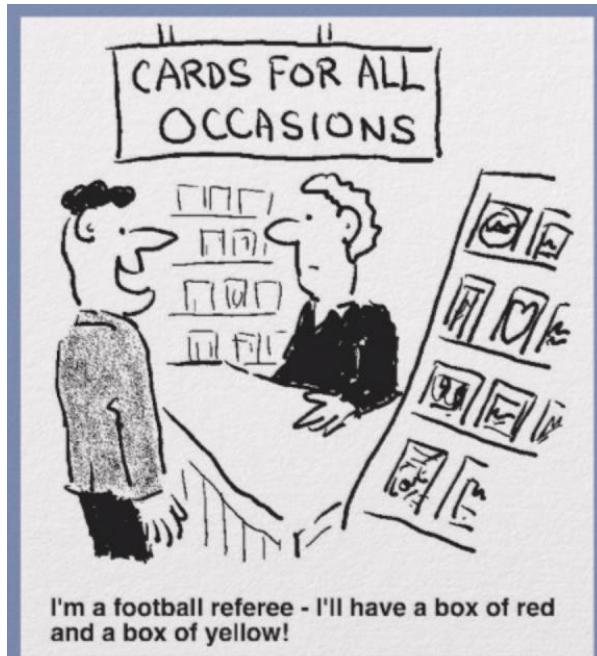
1. You have something you *have to do*. You're not excited or passionate about it, but you know you need to get it done. This feeling of obligation motivates you to work hard to complete the task;
2. You have something you *want to do*. You're interested in your task—you might have even assigned this task for yourself rather than receiving it from someone else—and you are happy to put in the time and effort to complete it.

In which scenario are you more effective? In which scenario are you more efficient? And, in which scenario do you feel the most fulfilled?

I'm willing to bet that your answer to each of those questions is Scenario 2, and that describes self motivation.

Motivation is about expectations, what do people expect of you and what do you expect of others and what do you expect of yourself. When you are a referee there are a lot of people watching and judging you, players, team officials, observers, referee appointment secretaries, and spectators. They all have expectations of you and look to you to satisfy them. The expectations they have are probably the same ones that you will have of a tradesman who comes to do any work at your home or business. You expect professionalism, a thorough knowledge of his/her trade, respect for you and your property and of course value for money. It is easy for you at home or for businesses as they just do not re-employ unsatisfactory tradesmen or suppliers. Football clubs do not have that option, as referees are appointed to them and they must accept those appointments. Of course football players and clubs expect the same things as homeowners and businesses, that is good quality and a professional attitude. When I attend District Football Association meetings, one of the biggest concerns of clubs is the cost of officials, for grassroots clubs, this can be a very expensive cost and if they feel that they have not received value for money, then they will no doubt let the referee know about it in no uncertain terms. This is what leads clubs to regard referees as a necessary evil that they have to put up with.

I really have no qualms about referees having money as their motivation for officiating. If anyone does a good job then they deserve to be rewarded for it. However if referees are unfit, do not keep up to date with law amendments, fail to answer correspondence promptly and arrive at games in an untidy state with dirty boots, then clubs have a right to be disillusioned with that official. So by all means pocket your match fee but please do all your colleagues a favour and provide the best service you can!



WHAT'S YOUR DECISION?



- 1) At the taking of a red team penalty kick, a red team player encroaches and the penalty kick is put wide and missed. What action do you take?
- 2) At the taking of a blue team throw-in. An opponent unfairly distracts the thrower from less than 2m away. The throw had not been taken. What action do you take?
- 3) A player commits a holding offence that stops a promising attack inside the penalty area. What action do you take?



Do You worry about bad decisions?



So what's the answer? Yes or no? No one likes to make a bad decision, but we all will! If you worry about previous decisions during a game it will affect your ability to make future decisions in your game. The most important decision you have to make in your game is the next one. Previous decisions have gone and you cannot change them. Put them out of your mind and concentrate on what is happening NOW in your game. Of course post match you will be able to analyse any poor decisions that you may have made and work on methods to improve those areas of your game that need it. Players will give you immediate feedback and your local Referees Association will provide any help, support or advice that you may need!



INSPECTING THE FIELD OF PLAY



Looking out of the window I can see that it's that time of year again when we are called upon to inspect pitches to see if they are fit to be played on, either for water, ice or snow. So with thanks to Middlesex FA here is a guide to what we should be doing and looking for.

As referees our primary focus re: players and ourselves is the chance to participate in the game safely and that, in the first instance, means ensuring that the playing surface upon which the game will take place is going to be a safe one for the whole of the game.

With this in mind, can we remind you that it is imperative that you carry out a full pitch inspection prior to the start of ANY game that you referee... but especially at times when conditions are unusual. This may mean extremely dry and hard pitches in the summer, or frozen and/or waterlogged pitches in the winter.

If for any reason you have any doubts about the safety of players and yourself to take part in a game following any such inspection, and these cannot be rectified prior to the start of the game i.e.: the pitch is frozen and the temperature is not going to rise, then you must discuss this with the home club (and away club if in attendance) and advise them that the game will have to be postponed.

It is far better to have a few differences of opinion with your decision expressed to you, than be pressured into allowing a game to take place that ends in a broken limb or maybe worse.

Please see below a small guide to pitch inspection procedures and protocols. These guidelines are there to assist you in coming to a decision if it is within your power to do so; quite often the decision will be out of hands of the referee as some pitches i.e.: council pitches, will have a blanket decision made at a certain venue(s) re: their playability. If this is so, you

must as a referee respect this and not contradict it to get a game played. If the council have decided the pitch is unplayable, it is unplayable. That said, you can still decide that a pitch maintained by a council isn't safe to play on if you believe it to be so based on an inspection... even if the council have said the game can go ahead. In this instance the final decision rests with you.

For advice in respect of pitch inspections, please be advised of the following that would be considered best practice and should be adopted wherever possible.

Pre-Inspection

- Be proactive re: the weather and its' potential impact on your up-coming game(s) – keep an eye on the forecast in the days leading up to your game(s) .
- Be positive and as proactive as your availability allows towards any requests to attend a ground slightly earlier than usual if asked to carry out a pitch inspection where there is a doubt about the safety of a playing surface due to the weather .
- When carrying out a pitch inspection, seek to wear suitable footwear so that you can make as accurate an assessment of the playing surface as it would be in a game... get your football boots on if you can. In addition, it is also great to get a football that you can take onto the pitch too... to see the effect any potential surface problem will

have on a rolling/bouncing ball.

The Inspection

- On your own and without vested interest opinion (if possible), inspect the field of play
If a groundsman is available with local knowledge, seek that first & then inspect the field of play
- Inspect all areas of the field of play but pay specific attention to areas of high traffic i.e.: goal/penalty areas, the central third of the pitch from goal to goal/penalty area to penalty area... this is where the majority of the game will be played. Look to see that the playing surface is safe and/or playable i.e.: not frozen/icy, not waterlogged, not covered in snow:
- If the pitch is frozen/icy, are there ruts from previous games that would be dangerous i.e.: they could cause twisted ankles etc if stepped into and/or could cause cuts to legs/arms if slid over

If this is so... postpone the game

- If the pitch is waterlogged, does the ball run feely and/or bounce true i.e.: does it get stuck in puddles/not bounce back up having hit the ground

If this is so, postpone the game

- If the pitch is covered in snow, are the pitch markings visible and/or does the ball run feely and/or bounce true i.e.: are the lines covered in snow and /or does the ball get stuck in the snow or gather snow onto it as it rolls/not bounce back up having hit the ground

If this is so, postpone the game

- Take your time to assess the current weather conditions and be fully aware of the local forecast for the next few hours

If, as an example, the pitch is close to being waterlogged and heavy rain is falling & will continue to do so... will you be able to finish the game if you were to start it

- If a delay to kick off is possible, consider this if it means the game can take place i.e.: if kick off is 10.00am but a delay to 10.30am to allow the temperature to rise will allow the pitch to become safe then consider this (be mindful though of games that might follow yours... this might not be an option available to you). This is especially pertinent in respect of fog-bound pitches; a small delay could allow the game to take place safely Having said that, frozen or icy pitches will not become playable in a short space of time... they will need a substantial increase in the temperature to unfreeze – if the weather forecast

doesn't support this happening, postpone the game

- If snow can be removed from the pitch and/or lines in time, consider this as an option. That said; still ensure that the remaining snow (if any) doesn't prevent the ball from rolling true etc (as above) & that the ball can be seen!

A different coloured ball (yellow/orange) should be used in this circumstance as a white ball will not be visible

Post-Inspection

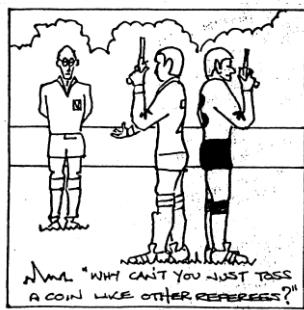
- Take some time to consider all that you have seen and heard (if relevant)
- If you are in doubt about whether to play the game or not – postpone the game
It is better to postpone the game & be wrong, than play the game & be wrong!
- Make a decision in your mind & stick to it (unless something really drastic occurs that would need you to change it i.e.: the weather completely changes in a very short space of time)
- Discuss the situation as you see it with the club(s) & explain your decision as to whether the game can go ahead or not. Refer to the evidence you have i.e.: weather forecasts/actual things you have seen whilst inspecting the pitch
Do this on the pitch if possible to add weight to your decision

- Be positive in your approach to people who are seeking your opinion and show a degree of empathy if the game cannot go ahead, especially if others disagree
- If the game can go ahead, ensure you remind all those concerned that if for some reason things do change that cause you a real concern for the safety of players and yourself... you do reserve the right to reverse your decision to preserve the safety of the players and yourself

This is just a caveat in case of need; if you are in doubt about whether to play the game or not – postpone the game

- The reference point for your decision is always the safety of the players and yourself
If this cannot be guaranteed for the whole of the game re: the playing surface/pitch conditions then postpone the game
- If you don't think you will finish the game... don't start the game
- Make a brief note of your discussions and who with... so that you can accurately report the circumstances around your decision. This will be required by the competition the game was due to take place in if the game is postponed.

Are you giving teams the choice?



Are you giving teams the choice of kicking off or which goal to attack when tossing the coin at the start of play? When all those amendments to law were being explained to you at the start of the season, did

it register that we had gone back to the "good old days" with this law. The winner of the toss has the choice of kicking off or choosing which goal to attack. The normal procedure for footballers it to choose which goal to attack, at this point the loser of the toss turns round and goes back to tell his team that they are kicking up the hill into the wind and rain and the winners put the ball down and kick off. Depending on what choice the winner makes you should immediately offer the loser the other option.

Les Hayes Remembers

At a recent DDFA meeting I was speaking to Les Hayes. Les used to be a Football League referee before the days of the Premier League and he officiated at the highest level of English football. Les gave me an envelope and said "You might find these interesting." He was right, I did and they brought back memories of my own start into refereeing, although I started due to a lack of playing ability rather than through injury. Mind you there were those who said I had a lack of refereeing ability also. However back to Les and I thought that members might like to see a few extracts from Les's memoirs, here are some. There are sections of this article in the vernacular and I apologise to our overseas readers, but I am sure you will get the gist.

What induces someone to become a referee and expose himself to open resentment, abuse both verbal and physical? I quote my own personal experience. I never regretted becoming a referee and have to say I got more pleasure from refereeing than playing. My playing career came to an abrupt end when playing for Crossfield Villa (a Skellow team of

some years ago) I still recall very vividly our trainers response to my clash of heads with an opponent, when he saw the resultant lump on my forehead, he took out his tobacco knife and said "I'll just cut it and let out the fluid." My playing career ended instantly at that moment. The match referee, one David Ambler, on hearing my concern suggested I took up refereeing. My response was to laugh loudly, however after three Saturdays shopping in Doncaster I changed my mind.

Having made contact with the local coach, Len Richardson, I visited his home for six lessons. Like all players I thought I knew the laws of the game. After the first lesson I realised how little I knew about them. I suddenly knew there were nine, YES NINE, offences for which a penalty kick can be given. My estimation was about three, i.e. TRIPPING UP, THUMPING A PLAYER, HAND BALL. Can you name all nine? The "Referees Chart" also made the very controversial offside law seem far less complicated and involved than it is made out to be. I well recall in my playing days the linesman was always wrong, as he also was on my visits to watch Doncaster Rovers,



unless the decision was in your favour. Today's candidates have the advantage of two further lessons with modern teaching aids.

At last it was the day of my first game, Toll Bar Central v Railway Hammers. Having played against both teams I knew that Toll Bar fed on nuts and bolts and the Hammers used iron filings to clean their teeth. There I was, the dreaded man in black (in Toll Bar too). My brand new uniform was somewhat soiled having to change in a disused fish and chip shop. The fans conversed with me from the start with

things like, "Where did they dig thee from?"
"Gerrup wi play, tha's like an owd farm 'oss" and many other such niceties.

We kicked off and sure enough Toll Bar's Big Bill made a typical "Toll Bar" tackle on an opponent, suddenly war was declared. I blew my brand new whistle and to my utter amazement a truce was called, probably to see how the "rookie" would deal with the situation. I went across to Big Bill who stood some 6' 3" tall, and was a very ferocious looking person as well. His response to my "polite" warning was to tower over me and shout loudly "What's up wi' thee!! Didn't tha see wot 'ee did to me, is tha blind or summat?????" Unfortunately he won that confrontation as I was somewhat nonplussed as to how to answer him. Needless to say other players "caught on" and my task was even harder until half time. I knew I wasn't very popular as drinks were served all round except to me.

It was very lonely in the middle of the pitch with only the match ball for company. The Hammers secretary, the late Mr. Wilson, finally came to me and said, "Come on referee, they're only human beings and will take advantage of any weakness shown by you. Someone is going to get a broken leg and you are here to stop that. Sort them out, and, if my players give you any trouble, I'll help you." The second half started where the first had left off. Big Bill committed another of his tackles on an opponent. I called him to me in a hopefully commanding voice. I remember wondering what I would do if he refused to come. To my surprise he ambled across to me, he stood with his hands on his hips and a smug grin on his face. I thought it's you or me mate, so I gave him a really good Yorkshire telling off. To my utter amazement, he said "Sorry Ref, I know what's what now and tha'll have no more bovver from me."

From that moment no player was too big in stature or masculinity to stop me carrying out my duties as a referee. As for the crowd they were even more abusive to me, they suddenly began to amuse me, in fact, helped to keep an atmosphere that was "noisy". Guess what, suddenly I was beginning to enjoy being a part of it. I was reasonably happy with my first attempt on the "other side".

Thanks to Les for permission to reproduce an abridged version of his memoirs. As they are from the long and distant past, I am sure that you will be aware that some of the references made no longer apply to the current LOTG. In fact the speed that things change these days nothing in this newsletter may be relevant when it is circulated.

WHAT'S YOUR DECISION?

Answers

- 1) Encroachment by attacking player, no goal = Indirect free kick.
- 2) Stop play, caution the opponent - re start with blue throw in.
- 3) Award a penalty kick & caution for unsporting behaviour. Cautions for unsporting behaviour-Commits a foul which interferes with or stops a promising attack, except where the referee awards a penalty kick for an offence which was an attempt to play the ball.

The Last Word this month goes to Marcin, Oleg and Barry who are in a church; these three old men are praying for their teams.

Marcin asks, 'Oh Lord, when will Poland next win the European Championship?'
God Replies, 'In the next five years.'
'But I'll be dead by then,' replies Marcin.

Oleg asks, 'Oh Lord, when will the Ukraine next win the European Championship?'
The Good Lord - answers, 'In the next ten years.'
'But I'll be dead by then,' says Oleg.

Barry asks, 'Oh Lord, when will England win the European Championship?'
God answers, 'I'll be dead by then.'

I hope you have enjoyed this issue of "The Last Word". Any feedback you have will be appreciated. I would also be pleased to accept any contributions readers may wish to send in. All contributions will be acknowledged and credited to the author (if you so wish). Also if you have any subjects that you would like to be included, please let me know. In particular I would be interested in local news from the Sheffield & Hallamshire area, with pictures if possible.