

DONCASTER & DISTRICT REFEREES' SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

JIMMY JOHNSON RECEIVES COUNTY FA AWARD



Above we see pictured from left to right Sir Geoff Hurst MBE, Jimmy Johnson and Dave Morrall, the independent chairman of S & H CFAs Referee Development Group. Jim was presented with the Ken Burkinshaw award for Extraordinary service to Refereeing. The ceremony took place at Barnsley's Oakwell ground and Jim was one of a number of award winners in the various categories. We have to say that we are pleased to see the County FA showing appreciation of the work done by referees and other people who support the game voluntarily giving their own time selflessly.

We are sure that all those who received awards were thrilled to have had them presented by the living legend that is Sir Geoff Hurst MBE, still the only man to have scored a hat trick in a world cup final.

Ken, as many of you will know was the senior referee examiner at Sheffield & Hallamshire for many years.

I am sure that most of you will remember the dread you felt when you saw him sitting in the examination room waiting for victims.

All referees in Doncaster will have come into contact with Jimmy Johnson at some stage of their career. Jim started his refereeing career in 1962 after qualifying as a Class 3 referee. He was wise enough to join the Doncaster and District Referees' Society and in 1965 was appointed to the Linesmans' list on the North Midland League. He continued to referee locally and in 1968 was appointed to referee the Sheffield Junior Cup final on the Friday evening and on the day after was also appointed to referee the DDFA Challenge Cup final. Jim continued to progress through the leagues and in 1969 was appointed to the referees' list on the North



Ken Burkinshaw

Midland league and also appointed to the linesmans' list to the Football League. In 1973 Jim unfortunately had to retire from active refereeing following a road traffic accident. Jim also served as an executive committee member of Doncaster RS for 32 years. He became Referee Delegate to the DDFA in May 1974, serving on the Doncaster Senior League Management Committee, DDFA committee and the Referees' committee. In 1988 Jim became Referee Appointments Officer for the DDFA.

Jim was also played along with John Chappell in the first DRS team to win the J.B. Holland cup in 1967 at Silverwood Colliery in a team managed by P J Griffiths.

We wish Jim a long and happy retirement and can plainly see why he received this award from Sheffield & Hallamshire CFA.

INSPECTING THE FIELD OF PLAY

With thanks to Middlesex FA

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 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 gets 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 to 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

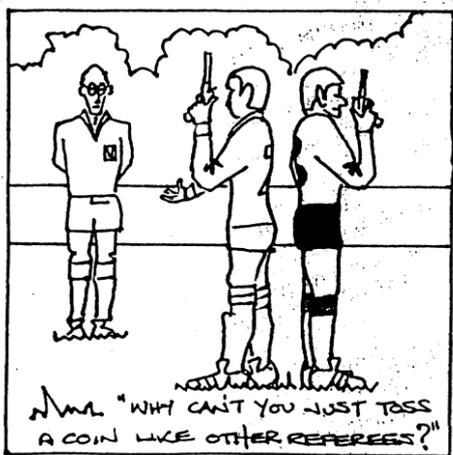
If this cannot be guaranteed for the whole of the game re: the playing surface/pitch conditions then postpone the game

- 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



How good is your knowledge of the law?

- 1/ The ball is in play in the centre circle, a defender and his own goal keeper are arguing in their own penalty area about a defensive mix up and the defender punches the goal keeper. What actions do you take and how do you restart play?
- 2/ A blue player is standing on the FOP close to the technical area when the red manager who has been sarcastically critical of him during the game, makes another derogatory remark to him. The blue player runs into the technical area and head butts the blue manager. What actions do you take and how do you restart play?
- 3/ Surely you can't get this one wrong!! How many penal offences are listed in Laws of the Game?



Remaining Society Meetings 2017

26 th Jan 2017	In service training "Confrontation"
23 rd Feb 2017	Guest speaker – Ted Ring, editor of "Benchmark"
30 th Mar 2017	"Bob Kelly" quiz
27 th Apr 2017	AGM

Bob Ayre had a unique style of match control!!

Les Hayes Remembers

At a recent DDFA meeting I was speaking to Les Hayes and he 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.

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 is made out. I well recall in my playing days the linesman was always wrong, also on my visits to watch Doncaster Rovers, unless it 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.

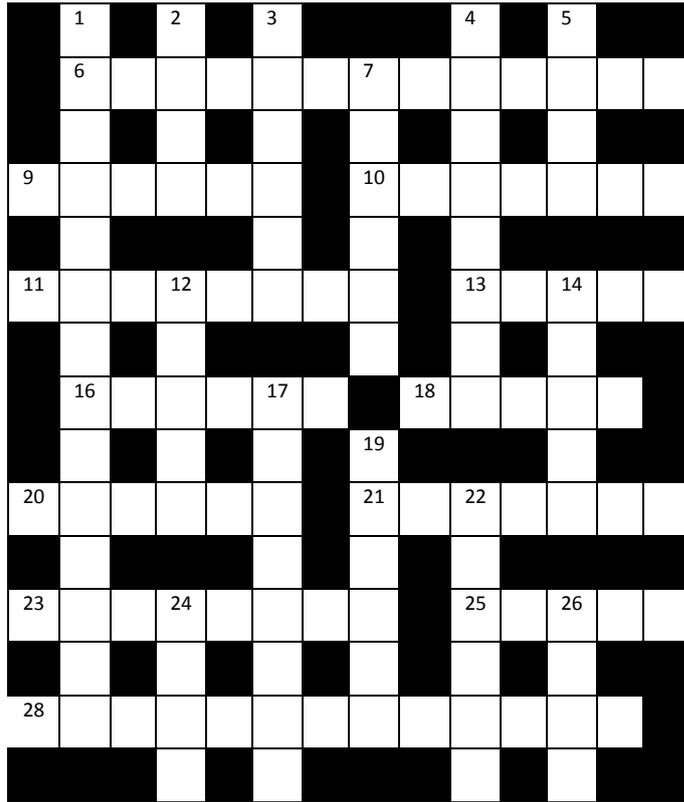
We kicked off and sure enough Toll Bar's Big Bill made a typical "Toll Bar" tackle on an opponent, suddenly war was declared. I blew my brand new whistle and to my utter amazement a truce was called, probably to see how the "rookie" would deal with the situation. I went across to Big Bill who stood some 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 thar see wot 'ee did to me, is thar 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 thar'll have no more bover 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.

A VERY loosely football related crossword



ACROSS

- 6/ An English club that play in the Scottish League (7,7)
- 9/ at the cup final “Abide with me” ----- deep feelings (6)
- 10/ a player who leaves the FOP without permission is an -----(8)
- 11/ -- - ---- The RA is a resource for referees (2,1,5)
- 13/ A player may be cautioned if he ----- the FOP without permission (6)
- 16/ a referee must ----- the start of play (6)
- 18 ----- Gate - Bristol city play here (6)
- 20/ Senor Messi’s first name (6)
- 21/ a referee has to be well ----- with a chip on each shoulder (8)
- 23 In LOTG & Practical Guidelines for match officials these are used to illustrate text (8)
- 25/ Tony ----- used to play for Leeds Utd
- 28/ Newcastle tried like this to avoid relegation. (14)

DOWN

- 1/ This was not Sepp Blatters status (14)
- 2/ If you had to walk from Stainforth to Edlington you would have a long ---- (4)
- 3/ Graham Poll’s last World Cup Finals game could be described as one (6)
- 4/ When standing was allowed at football grounds there used to be crash ---- (8)
- 5/ It has been ---- since Newcastle last won a trophy (4)
- 7/ Another name for the “custodian” (6)
- 8/ First name of ex West Ham defender. (3)
- 12/ They are nicknamed the Latics (5)
- 14/ John Charles was a ----- in defence (5)
- 15/ One of the things a referee must do to impress the observer (3)
- 17/ Doncaster Sunday ----- (8)
- 19/ If a player swears at the referee he ----- him (6)
- 22/ A short gentle pass that a colleague can run on to (3,3)
- 24/ What Hull city supporters are this season (4)
- 26/ The subject of Law 2 (4)
- 27/ First name of Fearn, first lady to referee FA Cup first round tie (3)

HOW GOOD IS YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE LAW

1/ Stop play. – Send defender from FOP – Penalty Kick. (Check Law Amendments)

2/ Stop play. – Send off blue player remove red manager from technical area. – Restart IFK from position of ball when play was stopped.

3/ Oh yes you can!! There are now 11 penal offences. The new one is “Impedes an opponent with contact”. Yeah, Me Too!!!



“How come it’s always me who has his name taken?”

Crossword Answers

ACROSS

6/ Berwick Rangers 9/ evokes 10/ egressor 11/ as a whole 13/ enters 16/ signal 18/ Ashton 20/ Lionel
21/ balanced 23/ diagrams 25/ Yeboah 28/ unsuccessfully

DOWN

1/ above suspicion 2/ trek 3/ fiasco 4/ barriers 5/ ages 7/ keeper 8/ Rio 12/ Wigan 14/ Titan 15/ run
17/ Alliance 19/ abuses 22/ lay off 24/ glum 26/ ball 27/ Amy