

VOLUME 10

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A letter from your Chairman, John Burr:

Dear Member,

YES - we are still here!

NO - we have not forgotten you!

I can say we have been busier this season than ever before.

We have run six Preliminary Umpire Award sessions, three more than last year.

We have tested four Level 1 candidates and all passed.

We have run one "improvers" course which was very successful.

We have arranged talks for two clubs and two groups of umpires and players.

AND we have been strenuously trying to pin down Jane Nockolds to do an Open Evening for us since before Christmas!

PHEW!

We are now delighted to say that Jane has us firmly fixed in her Diary for MAY 17th. Please keep that date free, I know it will be an interesting evening!

Indeed, we have two Open Evenings arranged, the first on APRIL 13th. This will be an opportunity to listen to International players on the way they view umpiring. No doubt there will be some controversial comment leading to discussion!

Many thanks to those writing to "Dear Marge" - she is very grateful for your contributions, but would welcome more items.

On the coaching front we are going to offer two more "Improvers" courses in the summer. If you are interested let me have your names as soon as possible (those who have already spoken to me need not do so). These courses are free to members (but a charge of £20 for non-members) and consist of a theory session followed by an extended game for you to show off your talent!

I look forward to seeing you at the Open meetings in April and May.

Best Wishes,

John

REMINDERS

(a) Penalty Corners. Must be taken from a point on the back line ten yards or more from the post and not beyond the edge of the circle, on either side of the pitch.

(b) Goalkeepers headgear. A full protective helmet must be worn at all times by either a goalkeeper or a kicking back whilst participating in a match. The only exception is when the goalkeeper/kicking back is taking a penalty stroke as a striker.

(c) Any player sustaining a blood-borne injury must have the injury bandaged/covered before participating in play again. They must leave the field of play for that purpose, if necessary. As a precautionary note - unless you are at least a qualified first-aider you are advised as an umpire not to attempt to treat any injured player, especially one with a blood-borne injury.

(d) Cycling shorts are now permitted, but must be of the same colour as the club skirt.

COACHING

Following some successful sessions in the past we would like to offer two more courses for coaching umpires. It seems as though people are more prepared to come along if the standard is one they are familiar with.

We have arranged for the sessions to be organised so that umpires familiar with team standards like those in Division 3/2 of any League will be catered for on May 26th at Coombe Dingle and those more familiar with Division 1/2 standards on June 2nd. Obviously we will use teams from those divisions at our sessions.

People who are on the Level 1 trail have an opportunity to meet with assessors and receive coaching on the first nights of the Summer League.

The Association did vote at its AGM in 1992 to insist that members attended a coaching at least once in every five years. Shouldn't you get in early and avoid the rush?

Things do change in Umpiring, and it is not only the rules! Please come along if you are able as it is your skill which sometimes determines whether a game is enjoyed or not!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

13 April	Open Evening	Clifton College	07.30	An International players persp
17 May	Open Evening	Clifton College	07.30	Jane Nockolds, U.D.O.

26 May	Coaching Course	Clifton College	06.30 -09.00	Umpires in Divs. 2 & 3 of any
2 June	Coaching Course	Clifton College	06.30 - 09.00	Umpires in Divs. 1 & 2 of any

PROBLEM PAGES

Dear Marge,

During an attack on goal, an attacker got into the circle and from a very acute angle, hit the ball across the circle.

A defender swept at the ball aiming to put it over the goal line, but the ball, which would have missed the goal, went over the goal line between the posts.

I gave a short corner as it was not a pure deflection but a deliberate attempt to play the ball over the goal line. Was this correct or was it a goal?

"Pretty Hassled"

Dear "Pretty Hassled",

It was a goal.

A player from the attacking team had touched the ball with her stick in the circle and so, no matter how bizarre the circumstances, a goal should have been awarded.

If after being touched by an attacker inside the circle, the ball ends up between the posts over the goal line then, unless a foul has been committed by the attack, a goal is awarded.

Can I also clear up confusion that arose in your letter about the goal line and the back line?

The line that runs between the goal posts is the **GOAL** line.

The lines that extend from the goal posts to the edge of the pitch are the **BACK** lines.

Marge

Dear Marge,

Some time back, a short corner was taken but beat the attackers attempt to stop it just outside the circle. In my opinion the ball just went more than five yards outside the circle before a midfield player took it back into the circle and shot.

The goalkeeper ignored the shot, which went in above the backboards, and complained when I gave the goal that the ball was rolling throughout and was too high. It was obvious that only I knew it was open play.

What signal can be given? Call "Open Play" for example? This is not in the Rules but neither is "Play On" which is heard very often from some umpires when giving the advantage.

"Inchworm"

Dear Inchworm, (Inchworm?)

As you say, there is nothing in the Advice to Umpires in the Rules book about a "play on" signal or a way to indicate to players that is what you are doing. However players are taught to play on until the whistle is blown and therefore no such signal should be necessary.

There are signals used to indicate to the other umpire that you are playing an advantage and not to interfere - especially in the centre of the field where play is coming towards you. Both arms raised or a very clear arm raised in the direction of the advantage are often employed by the top class umpires.

Us lesser mortals umpiring less experienced players though, need to resort to the voice occasionally to increase the players knowledge and awareness of the game. To shout "Play On" is acceptable in these cases and my advice would be to do that in this instance. Take care however not to become too vociferous. Only use it sparingly.

From what you say in your letter I feel you made the correct decision, but guard against using "the backboards" in your replies. The correct height is 18 inches above the ground when the ball passes over the goal line. You can be taken to task for that by more knowledgeable players, causing you more hassle.

Another comment would be addressed more to players than umpires. The captain can appeal against a goal decision, sensibly, of course. The umpire then stops time and goes across to consult with the other umpire. The ultimate decision is still with the umpire giving the goal but after a chat with her colleague she may change her mind. Do not forget to start time again. Explanations for the decision can be talked about later.

Marge

Dear Marge,

It's never going to happen to me.....only it did!

It was one of those matches! "Nobody loves me, everyone hates me....."

A needle match, a cold morning, (yes, one of those where everyone wakes up after the game). Those unsociable hours which take even the pretence of after game socialising into other realms.

Lovely play down the left wing, ball brought skilfully round to the far edge of the circle - a lovely dinky move to beat the defence, into the circle and.... oh dear - here it is - a lifted scoop shot at goal.

Up goes the ball only to come down into the goalkeepers pads, who whips it back out again in sheer panic before the ball has time to observe the decor! Several others start to look on in horror as the ball jumps straight up, falls to the side of the goalkeeper and is cleared by a defender, hitting an attackers foot on the way out of the circle.

All this in the space of time it takes to bring ones pea-less whistle to ones mouth....!

All breathed a sigh a relief with nervous laughter taking over.....all happy with the decision, BUT which one should it be - bully, stroke, penalty corner, free hit to the defence??

The refreshments were great!

(no name!)

Dear Anon,

Well, I'm glad it ended well! Some teams are noted for their excellent butties and cake, was it one of those?

The decision? Ah, well!

Always go back to the first thing that occurred that you were unhappy with, in this instance I will assume the scoop shot was OK. So we move on to the ball in the goalkeepers pads.

The ball could not have leapt out of the pads with out assistance so one can assume that it had become lodged in the goalkeepers pads and therefore a bully should have been awarded: to be taken at the top of the circle with no on-side necessary.

Hope you got it right!

Marge