

Newsletter

Volume 35 December 2001



CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

We are now approaching the half time break in our league season and I am sure we are all looking forward to the rest. Many of us have been very busy trying to help clubs out when they plead to us desperately. Although this may satisfy the short term problem it is not the long term solution. This can only be achieved by getting more active umpires. These will come from two sources:-

- 1) Getting more umpires qualified – here we are doing well with over 20 candidates currently working towards qualification. Please bear in mind that in the next few weeks of friendly matches these umpires will be looking to gain experience, so if you find yourself opposite a level 1 candidate PLEASE help them to improve their confidence. Do not blow under their nose or give them a hostile lecture.
- 2) By getting previously qualified umpires back on the active list. This is not as difficult as you may think. These umpires will need a few games to get back

into the swing of things but the only formal part of becoming active is an assessment game of a suitable standard.

So if there are umpires out there who have become inactive but would like or could be persuaded to return to the ranks please give them the nudge that they need and get them to give Pete Lovell a call.

Finally my congratulations to Pete Lovell who got his Level 2 Umpire Coach Award in early September - Recognition for his undoubted coaching talents as many of us have found to our benefit.

Best wishes, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all.

Gill

Committee

Chairman:
Gill Prophet 9652716

Secretary:
Peter Lovell 9091025

Treasurer:
Bob Pearce 9622139

Committee:
Joe Garry
Liz Powell
Lynda Watts
Janet Wilson

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W
C
A



Discipline

We all carry those three pieces of plastic in our back pockets and we all know what they mean. But do we all know how to use them and to use them effectively? Probably not.

One of the most annoying and upsetting things to be entering our game is the ill discipline of players. In fact it is primarily responsible for the decline in the number of umpires, who no longer wish to spend their Saturday afternoon's being abused.

So what can be done about it?

A certain amount of responsibility must lie with the players and their coaches – they must realise that umpires are necessary for a game to take place – therefore there is a need for players and clubs to ensure there is an element of self discipline. We can help this process by speaking to the captains, players and coaches at every opportunity.

Self discipline cannot always be the answer, and we, as umpires, must step in. It is important, although difficult, to distinguish between dissent and mere frustration. I normally take the line that if a remark is not pointed directly at me that it is merely frustration, however if a player stands and stares whilst making the remark it is normally dissent.

The player shouts “Oh rubbish” and moves away to her position – frustration.

The player shouts “Rubbish umpire” and stands and stares – dissent.

However the most appropriate action may not be to show a card, the good umpire takes into account the state of the game. It may be that you are well into the second half and this is the first sign of any trouble in the match and

in general players are getting on with it. To show a card under these circumstances might well spoil a very good match and aggravate the players. However it might be that players have been mumbling since the start, then the timing of the card is all important. You must remember that if the player continues to cause problems you will have to progress to the next card.

Should several players be giving you angst, the best way to deal with the situation is to speak to the captain, remind her of her duties and ask her to have words with her players. Having done this you must give her a couple of minutes to be able to speak to them – I often find it is best to speak to both captains together – it may be that at that time only one team is causing problems but it doesn't harm to remind the other captain as well.

Dissent can also occur because we as umpires are not protecting the more skilful players and as a result through frustration they have a go at us. It is important to penalise the destructive and dangerous tackle, again showing cards where appropriate. This if done at the right time will ensure the players have confidence in you and your ability to control the game.

I am not suggesting for one moment that we all become “card happy” but cards used in the right way can be a very effective weapon in our bid to control matches.

Remember when showing cards, you should do so in a relaxed manner, the situation is already explosive and if you become agitated the situation may well mushroom.

The best way to show a card, is to blow your whistle and stop time. Gain the attention of the player you want to discipline by calling her number and team, once her attention has been gained, raise the card – it is not necessary or advisable to enter into dialogue, the player usually knows what she has done.

Ensure by waiting for a signal that your colleague has noted the action. It's as simple as that.

It is important that our body language remains calm. More importantly it is important that we remain calm, if you become agitated it is likely that your decision making will become less effective and the chances of further dissent may result.

So in conclusion:

1. Stay calm.
2. Don't over react.
3. Recognise the difference between frustration and dissent.
4. Get the captain to help you.
5. Penalise the destructive or dangerous tackle.
6. Don't engage in dialogue when showing cards.

WORDSEARCH

G	O	A	L	K	E	E	P	E	R	I	I	S
S	T	R	I	K	E	R	F	A	I	T	K	T
E	U	M	P	I	R	E	R	E	S	G	M	I
D	N	Q	D	L	Z	E	G	K	S	S	F	C
R	T	I	F	Z	Y	B	A	L	L	C	C	K
O	E	C	L	A	C	R	R	E	J	S	I	O
X	I	D	L	P	E	U	G	A	E	L	R	R
D	K	P	N	M	I	A	F	M	S	H	C	G
F	O	F	I	E	T	C	C	T	C	S	L	L
T	T	S	E	K	F	B	S	A	O	T	E	U
R	I	Q	B	M	H	E	O	I	E	O	K	O
C	B	U	L	L	Y	C	D	E	O	I	E	O
G	O	A	L	F	S	B	R	B	Q	N	R	Z

Words to find

BALL – BULLY – CIRCLE – COACH – DEFENDER – DISCIPLINE – FOOT – FOUL – GOAL
– GOALKEEPER – LEAGUE – PASS – PLAYER – STICK – STRIKER – UMPIRE

Dear Marge



Your questions answered!

Dear Marge

At a game recently I noticed the following: a penalty corner was given at full time and the players took their positions. The disengaged goalkeeper then walked off the pitch. The PC was taken and the attacking team scored and the goal given. Should this goal have stood as the attacking team did not have a GK on the pitch?



Puzzled

Dear Puzzled,

Several points to make over this incident;

- If one of the umpires was aware then they should have asked the GK to come back onto the pitch before the PC was taken and delayed it while she returned. (She only needed to be stood inside the side-line in her half of the field, not necessarily in the circle!)
- If the umpires were unaware then the defensive captain has the right to bring it to the umpires notice before the PC was taken
- If the captain did not bring it to the notice of the umpires until after the PC was completed then umpires can confer and decide what action to take. If common sense prevailed then the umpires would realise that the GK could not influence the goal in any way as she cannot leave her half of the pitch. The goal should therefore stand but GK should be reminded that they have to be on the pitch at all times.

Marge.

Dear Marge,

In a recent match our team had several penalty corners given one after the other. Sometimes they were for someone coming off the back-line too early, some were for a foul by the defence.

My question is about when an umpire should increase the penalty or use a card to stop the early break from the back-line by the defence players. I felt that the umpire should have

stepped in with “something” to ensure fair play as most of the time it was the same player who ran out too early.

What are your thoughts?



A player/umpire wanting to learn!

Dear player/umpire,

This is a very difficult area of the game.

The rule book is not very clear on this – it says that a persistent breach by the defenders warrants a penalty stroke. When we check the meaning of persistent we find that it means anything after once so it is possible for the umpires to give a PS the second time a defender breaks early from the back-line. That is not a good idea in practise as it would not be “in the spirit of the game”. However, umpires should first use other weapons in their armoury to curtail eager defenders.

Firstly, in the same series of PC's - the first time a defender comes off the line early (and after an advantage has not accrued; e.g. a good strike at goal was not able to be made) it is sufficient to re-award the PC explaining to the teams why. The second time it occurs a green card to the offending player and a general warning to the whole defence. The third time it occurs use the PS. This should be sufficient and I would not use a yellow card at this time.

If the PC's are given over time during the match then I would suggest that on the occasion of the first break the re-award of the PC. At the next PC where there is again an early break the award a green card (and subsequent cards) to the player making the early break. At subsequent PC's, either straight away or later in the game, a yellow card could be shown for further breaches.

Please remember to umpire in the spirit of the game; do not use the same yardstick at very occasional PCs bearing in mind that the early use of cards can limit the availability of penalties for subsequent breaches and cause you and your colleague difficulties later in the game.



CAPTION COMPETITION



This was last month's cartoon and you were asked to supply a caption. Your committee has decided that the winning caption was:

“Yes – it is a green bogey”

Congratulations to Joe Garry who will be receiving a bottle of white wine.



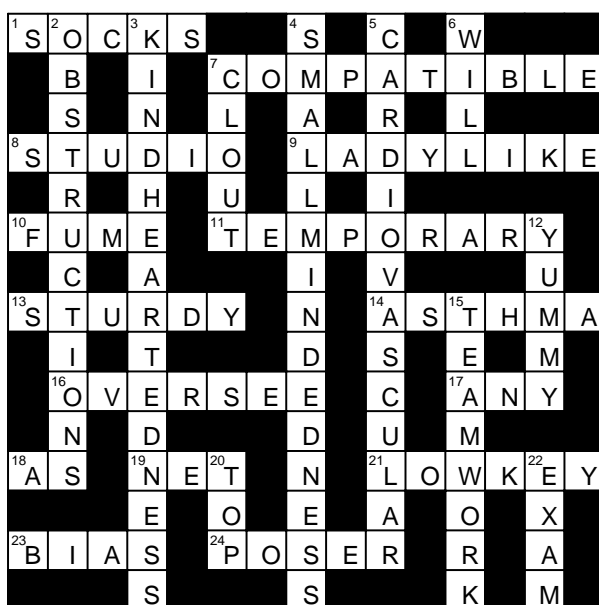
Now for this month's:

Some people enjoying a Christmas party, but what could be going on?

There is another peales whistler or bottle of wine on offer for the best caption – so why not give it a go.

Send your entries to: Peter Lovell, 6 Salisbury Park, Salisbury Road, Downend, Bristol, BS16 5RY or Email to: Peterlovell@tesco.net

Please see below the solution to the crossword set in the last Newsletter – how did you do?





Who's been doing what

Apart from junior county matches our umpires have been involved in numerous West events, please see below who has been doing what.

16 th September	West v Millfield School boys	Under 15s	Lyn Thacker
22 nd September	West Junior Training matches		Justine Nicklin
			Joe Garry
			Simon Croucher
23 rd September	West Junior Training matches		David Parry-Jones
			Sarah Pattenden
7 th October	West Junior Training matches		Gill Prophet
			Caroline Britton
4 th November	Under 19 Counties Tournament		Richard Powell
	Adjudicator: Jo West		Gill Prophet
18 th November	Under 16 Bae Systems Schools		Simon Croucher
	Adjudicator: Lynda Watts		Carolyn Britton
			Justine Nicklin
			Janet Wilson
			Peter Lovell
25 th November	Under 18 Bae Systems Schools		Gill Prophet
	Adjudicator: Liz Powell		Simon Croucher
			Carolyn Britton
			Jo Dee

Our thanks congratulations go to all those involved.



Web Site



Relaunched

Yes we have relaunched our web site

For those of you with Internet access our web site address is now:

www.acwhua.freehosting.net

Please visit and let us have your comments.

Our grateful thanks to Terry Watts who did a lot of the really hard work.