

VOLUME 9
NOVEMBER 1993

A Letter from your new Chairman:

Dear Member,

Another season is well and truly underway! (Did last season actually ever finish!). I hope that you came to our first open meeting which, judging by comments and phone calls, people found particularly useful. Our thanks to Lyn Goodliffe, Pete Atwell and Tim Martin for a great evening.

Our next open meeting will be in January when it is hoped Jane Nockolds will be our guest. Those of you who came to her last session, A - Z of Umpiring, will recall how informative and entertaining she was.

For Level I umpires there is a more advanced coaching session available on Sunday 5th December, 11.00 - 4.00 at Combe Dingle. If you are interested let me know by 18th November.

I ask you all to remember that this Association is YOUR Association. Each of us can and should contribute to the ethos of our Association. The Committee is there for YOUR use and we welcome any suggestions, requests or constructive criticism. No organisation can move forward in a positive and vibrant manner without the active support and contribution of its members. This support is welcomed and required, even if only by your presence at Open Meetings etc. Please contact myself, or any member of the Committee, if we can be of help to you or your club.

Best wishes,

John

I am interested in the advanced coaching on December 5th at Coombe Dingle.

NAME.....

Club.....

Telephone.....

Return to John Burr, 20 Rannoch Road, Filton, Bristol, BS7 0SB

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QUIZ?!

Now the answers to the Quiz in Newsletter 8. (Did you keep your copy?)

1. b
2. All false!
3. c
4. b
5. a
6. c

Congratulations to anyone who got all six right.

LEVEL ONE RESULTS 1992/3 SEASON

Another good season which highlights the strength of the Preliminary award as being an excellent starting point for beginner umpires.

12 people passed the Level One test, many of them having taken the Pre-lim award at the beginning of the season.

Several papers have already been taken in September and there is another theory paper evening planned for **MONDAY NOVEMBER 29th** 7.30 for 8.00pm at Clifton College Pavilion.

If you know of anyone who wishes to try for the Level One this season, tell them to be there.

PRELIMINARY AWARD 1993

This excellent beginners coaching has gone from strength to strength since it was introduced and we are very pleased to say that this September we had a total of THREE courses running! That translates into at least 30 people (John always tries to squeeze an extra one or two in!) that have benefited from 5 hours of coaching from experienced umpires.

The final results were that 29 people passed the course (6 to resit theory but we are very hopeful). They now have a certificate to hang on the wall!

We will not be running another course until next September, BUT if you would like something set up for your club, or two clubs joining together, please let us know.

"DEAR MARGE!"

We have tried to evoke correspondence and comment from members for inclusion in the Newsletters, but without success. We are therefore starting a "Dear Marge" column and have now had three letters. These are reproduced

below and we would invite your replies and observations and, PLEASE, some more "anonymous" letters for inclusion in the following editions covering problems or matters of discussion to keep the ball rolling.

Two of the letters are, not unnaturally, on the most topical current point following the rule changes this season - goalkeepers equipment!

Dear Marge,

Last Saturday I was asked to umpire a friendly match between my club's 1st XI and 2nd XI. The second eleven keeper failed to arrive and the captain said that they would play with a "kicking back". The keepers headgear was not available so I informed the captain that therefore the player concerned could not be designated a kicking back unless she had a helmet.

The captain said therefore they would play the game with just ten outfield players without a designated goalkeeper or kicking back. Under these circumstances I allowed the game to be played.

Was I right to do so?

"Pale Peter"

Dear Marge,

Last Saturday I was due to umpire a friendly game between my club and a local club. Both teams had travelled over 25 miles each to the venue (as well as having paid for a pitch). When they arrived, the opposition, although having eleven players, did not have a goalkeeper. Neither did they wish to play a kicking back.

Both teams agreed to play the match despite this handicap. Should I -

(a) Have advised them that the game should not have been played?

(b) Refused to allow the game to go ahead?

Anonymous

Dear Pale & Anonymous,

What a dilemma!

You were quite correct in your procedure to tell the teams that they are not allowed to play without headgear for a "kicking back".

The problem arose because the teams chose to ignore your advice.

There are two courses of action as it is a friendly match:

1. Refuse to umpire and go home! This will really make you popular with your club but at least you would not have the responsibility of coping with the trauma of a major injury if it occurred.

2. Agree to umpire the game without a goalkeeper. This is the course of action that most of us would take, so if it does happen to you make sure you say clearly and distinctly that it is against your better judgement and that you may have to umpire the game with less advantage than usual due to the likelihood of actions "leading to dangerous play" being more acute.

All the players must realise that this rule was brought in to protect against injury and should be taken seriously.

If it is a league match then obviously the match could not have been played.

Dear Marge,

In a match last month a penalty corner was awarded by my colleague. I was at the half-way line keeping an eye on the players, when I noticed that one of the defending players had slipped off the far side of the pitch to effect a substitution while the PC was in progress.

As the PC was already started it was impossible for me to blow my whistle to catch their attention.

What should I have done?

I did speak to the players at half time and explain that they could not substitute at that moment, but needed to wait until the PC was over.

Any advice?

"Confused"

Dear Confused,

You did the correct thing by not interrupting the PC and by speaking to the players at half-time.

However, the situation could have been avoided by reminding the captains when the "toss" is effected, of the rules concerning substitutions while also telling them which side of the pitch is to be used.

As the players could have substituted as soon as the PC was over and presuming they were both at the centre line just awaiting the opportunity, then you took the best course of action.

Dear Marge,

At a penalty corner the player taking the hit-out struck at the ball but miscued and it moved at moderate speed towards the penalty spot. The defence, anticipating a clean hit, raced off the goal-line and almost over-ran the ball. Meanwhile the attacking players advanced quickly towards the ball, arriving at the same time as a defender. The defender, trying to play the ball off the side-line (or back-line, who knows?) slashed the ball along the ground and into the goal. What should I have done -

- (a) Given a goal?
- (b) Given a long corner?
- (c) Given a penalty corner?

"Hopefully Right"

Dear Hopefully Right,

You cannot give a goal as the ball has not been played by an attacker in the circle other than the taker of the hit-out, who cannot score from that hit. You have to decide between a penalty corner and a long corner. From your letter you were uncertain as to whether the aim-off was for the side line or back line; was it therefore deliberate, warranting a penalty corner? In your situation I would have given a long corner.

You do not give us your decision. You were hopefully right, Hopefully Right!

Marge

MARGE AWAITS YOUR PROBLEMS!

Write to Marge care of John Burr (address on first page).

No problem too big or too small!