

The Corsham Referee Newsletter No 24 (June 2005)

1st June 2005 International newsletter covering Football (Soccer) Refereeing matters.

Welcome, with an International perspective.

Welcome to the 2nd anniversary (24th edition) of The Corsham Referee monthly International Referees' newsletter. Membership of this newsletter continues to grow each month. We now have a membership of well over 500 referee from all parts of the world. Please let me have any contributions for the newsletter, as readers are always interested in hearing about Refereeing from around the world. The newsletter is designed in an effort to keep it simple, and easy for you to read. Please let me know if you have any difficulties in receiving or reading the newsletter; and let me have any suggestions on how it can be improved. It is issued free by email in both in html (web page format), and plain text format. Previous issues (and printable pdf versions) can be seen by using the Newsletter link on the home page of the www.CorshamRef.net web site. This newsletter is issued approximately on the 1st day of each calendar month.

The season has finally come to an end here in England, and our National team is currently touring America. We have seen some remarkable football here, with Liverpool coming back from 0-3 at half time, to win the Europe's Champions League Cup Final, the biggest Club prize this side of the world. Arsenal won the FA Cup, beating a much better side Manchester United in a penalty shoot out; and West Ham are finally back in the Premier League following their success in the Play-off Final a few days ago. Chelsea have also won the Premiership for the first time in 50 years after playing some great football this season. All of this would not have been possible without the unsung work of the excellent Refereeing teams - keep up the good work wherever you are in the world.

ASSAULT - A TIP FOR REFEREES TO THINK ABOUT

An assault on a Referee, can very often begin with a verbal confrontation, where a player has tried in vain to influence the Referee's decision, or when a player totally disagrees with the Referee's decision. It is when the player realises that the Referee is not going to change his mind, that physical assault is an option that the player may suddenly take. A Referee must always be on the lookout for this change in emphasis from the player. If the Referee can anticipate this moment, he can take steps to back further away, or use alternative methods of man-management.

One factor that may be considered, is as follows: When admonishing players, Referees will generally ask all of the other players to move away, whilst the perpetrator is being dealt with. This allows the Referee to concentrate on the task in hand, without being interrupted by the other players. This works well in most cases; but when a player looks as tough he may potentially use violence, it is more prudent for the Referee to have other players nearby. Players (particularly team-mates) very often helpfully intervene very quickly, when a colleague, or an opposing player, make physical moves to confront a Referee. Having players nearby, will greatly assist the Referee from coming to any harm. In situations such as this, the Referee should allow other players to remain nearby, until such time that the irate player has calmed down enough, for the Referee to feel confident, that violence will not be used. It is then, that the Referee can ask the other players to move away, whilst he talks to the perpetrator. In short, the Referee should not always ask players to move away immediately, when disciplining a perpetrator; the Referee needs to assess each situation, and use all the help available to minimise assault.

(By Julian Carosi. Use the SiteMap link on <http://www.corshamref.net> to see the full article entitled, Minimising Assault).

MOAN MOAN MOAN!

Jose Mourinho ran the risk of further punishment by UEFA for comments the Chelsea manager made about Slovak linesman Roman Slysko, who confirmed the ball had crossed the goal-line at Anfield following a shot by Liverpool's Luis Garcia during the semi-final of the European Champions League.

Lars-Ake Bjorck, the Swedish vice-chairman of UEFA's referees committee, said: "It is unbelievable he does

not have the decency to learn anything, especially considering that he was recently punished with both a suspension and a fine," a clear reference to Mourinho's remarks about Anders Frisk earlier this year. The Swedish referee announced his premature retirement in the wake of threats to himself and his family. The well-positioned [Assistant Referee] Slysko immediately signalled a goal as William Gallas cleared the ball. There were few Chelsea protests at the time but after the match Mourinho said: "Football sometimes is cruel. We have accepted the result. They scored a goal, if you can say they scored it. I can say that the linesman scored it."

"I felt it, it was magnificent. It did not interfere with my players but maybe it interfered with other people. It maybe interfered with the result. I think you should ask the linesman why he gave a goal. Only one person decided the future of players who never played in a Champions League final."

Lars-Christer Olsson, UEFA's chief executive, announced that coaches should be more sensitive and aware of the consequences of public statements about officials following the Frisk controversy.

Bjorck said of Mourinho's latest outburst: "This damages football a lot. We can only hope Mourinho's initiatives do not have the same consequences this time."

While no complaint has yet been made Bjorck added "If we receive a complaint it will be dealt with fast and thorough."

RED CARD FOR REFEREE

The Football Association hurriedly changed the referee for a play-off semi-final at Carlisle on 6 May 2005 after discovering the official scheduled to take charge of the second leg against Aldershot is a former Carlisle player. They replaced Stan Gate, who used to be a member of the club's Youth Training Scheme (YTS), with Neil Swarbrick, of Preston. "The competition is such that we wouldn't have wanted to put Stan or us under any scrutiny," said Joe Guest, the FA's referees' officer.

([Telegraph](#) 6 May 05)

NEW WEMBLEY STADIUM LONDON

Wembley will be ready to host the 2006 FA Cup final in just 365 days, according to Wembley National Stadium Limited chief executive Michael Cunnah.

BARTHEZGETS A LONGER BAN FOIR SPITTING AT REFEREE

Former Manchester United goalkeeper Fabien Barthez has vowed to play on despite being hit with an extended ban yesterday which could rule him out of action until the end of the year. The 33-year-old France and Marseille keeper's original suspension for spitting at the referee in the friendly between Marseilles and Wydad Casablanca in February was increased by the French Football Federation and will now run until Dec 31.

([Telegraph](#) 14 May 05)

Moroccan international referee Abdellah El Achiri has condemned the six-month ban (with half of the sentence suspended) for spitting at him. Under FFF rules, a player should receive a minimum six-month ban.

NIELSEN BACKS TV APPEALS

Kim Milton Nielsen, the Danish referee who took charge of last season's European Champions League final, believes there are lessons to be learnt from American football's system of challenging controversial decisions. "It is something we have tried in Denmark and I think the experiment was a success," he said.

Nielsen - who famously sent off David Beckham in the 1998 World Cup - refereed an experimental game between Danish rivals FC Copenhagen and Brondby last year. The clubs fielded reserve sides in an exhibition game at the Parken stadium in Copenhagen, with the coaches given the opportunity of two appeals to video evidence, as in American football.

"It became another part of the tactics for the coaches," said Nielsen. "They disputed two penalty decisions which I had rejected and then a decision over whether I should have awarded a goal kick or a corner kick. I'm pleased to report that television supported my decisions on all occasions."

"Football has to accept that in some instances we are just never going to know," said Nielsen. "The 1966 FA Cup final goal by Geoff Hurst has still not been cleared up and how many times have we seen that? The man who invents something to decide these things will be the richest the game has seen."

([Telegraph](#) 22 May 05)

WEARING RED GIVES OPPONENTS BLUES

Sporting competitors are more likely to emerge victorious if they are wearing red, according to a study of performance in a range of Olympic events.

Red coloration is associated with high testosterone, fitness and aggression in a variety of creatures, such as mandrills, sticklebacks and birds.

Now two evolutionary biologists at Durham University have found the same effect might also operate in humans to subconsciously put an opponent on the back foot, whether in a fight or a sporting event. Indeed, it could be another reason that Liverpool have reached the final of the UEFA Champions' League.

The researchers believe that, to ensure a level playing field, sporting authorities should pay more attention to the colour of sporting attire.

To study whether red affected sporting prowess, Russell Hill and Robert Barton studied four one-on-one disciplines in the 2004 Athens Olympic Games - boxing, tae kwon do, Greco-Roman wrestling and freestyle wrestling - in which combatants were randomly assigned either red or blue clothing or body protectors.

Those wearing red, but otherwise matched in ability to their blue opponents, were more likely to win, they report today in the journal Nature.

A preliminary analysis of the Euro 2004 football competition suggests that red can influence team sports, too. Five teams were found to play better when they wore red, scoring more goals.

Mr Hill said there was plenty of anecdotal evidence of this effect. "We can obviously also point to the fact that post-war red teams - Manchester United, Arsenal and Liverpool - have dominated the English football scene." He also cited the Telegraph's "wonderful description of Bill Shankly's words after Liverpool wore red for the first time in the European Cup", written by Henry Winter:

"That Anderlecht tie witnessed further evidence of Shankly's awareness that footballers are not machines, but human beings susceptible to positive and negative influences. That night, Liverpool were clad for the first time in an all-red livery. 'It had a huge psychological effect,' recalled Shankly. 'The players looked like giants and played like giants.' Anderlecht were overwhelmed."

The team concludes that the "implications for regulations governing sporting attire may be important".

Roger Highfield, Science Editor ([Telegraph](#) 19 May 05)

NEARLY THE FAMOUS FIVE!

The first FA Cup Final (England) was held in the -Kennington Oval, on March 16, 1872, when a crowd of 2,000 paid a shilling to watch Wanderers(1) beat the Royal Engineers (0), and the Referee was Mr A Stair who went on to Referee the first 3 FA Cup Finals. The recent FA cup Final on 21 May 2005 between Arsenal and Manchester United (Arsenal won 5-4 after penalties) played at the Millennium Stadium, was broadcasted in 169 countries to an audience of 400 million. The Referee was Rob Stiles, and he had a magnificent game, earning justified plaudits from around the footballing world. The Assistant Referees were J Devine and P Canadine; the Fourth Official was Neil Barry.

Had Manchester United won this game, their players Roy Keane and Ryan Giggs would have become the first players since the 19th century to collect a fifth FA Cup winners medal. But it was not to be, and the chance was lost to form a Famous Five with those of Charles Henry Reynolds Wollaston, Arthur Kinnaird and Jimmy Forrest.

Wollaston, a forward, who won four England caps, acquired his five medals between 1872 and 1878, claiming the youngest when he was 22.

Kinnaird, a Scotland international, won three times with Wanderers (1873, 1877 and 1878) and twice for Old Etonians (1879, 1882) and went on to become the president of the FA for 33 years. When the second trophy was retired, it was presented to him to mark his first 21 years in the president's post. An FA committee man at the age of 22, he was also President of the YMCA of England and Lord High Commissioner to the Church of Scotland. He died in 1923, shortly before Wembley opened.

Forrest - small, slight, and a great judge of the timing of a pass - was a template for a half-back. He won three Cup winners medals in a row for Blackburn Rovers, from 1884-86, and was thought to be the first professional to play for England.

([Telegraph](#) 21 May 05)

TINY WHARTON

What a genius for diffusing trouble was Tom 'Tiny' Wharton, the Scottish football Referee who died in May, aged 77. His height was an asset, 6ft 4in being at least a foot taller than many of Scotland's finest post-war players. But his true gift was eloquence. We live in an age where a footballer thinks a constructed sentence is

something a judge hands down when he is up on a drunken-drive charge. But during Wharton's career, 1948-71, the players were treated not just to good sense but to wit. In the Sixties, Johnny Hamilton of Hearts would always leave his dentures in the changing room before kick-off. A fiery type, Hamilton had already been booked when Wharton summoned him from another tangle and pointed to the dressing room with the words: "The time has come, Mr Hamilton, for you to rejoin your teeth." ([Telegraph](#) 25 May 05)

THE REFEREE AND UMPIRES

The very first rules laid down for FA Cup games in 1871 specified that: 'The Committee shall appoint two umpires and a referee to act at each of the matches in the Final Ties. Neither the umpires nor the referee shall be members of either of the contending Clubs and the decision of the umpires shall be final except in the case of the umpires disagreeing when an appeal shall be made to the referee, whose decision shall be final.' These three officials were already a feature of football, especially in the most important games, though many ordinary club matches made do with just the two umpires, who were usually members of the contending clubs, a proceeding which was prohibited in the above F.A. Cup rule. Maurice Golesworthy has made the point that: 'The wording of this rule shows just how much the increased competition was already beginning to change the attitude of the players. The days of the gentlemen players, who were proud of the manner in which rival teams generally conducted themselves, and settled any disputes, were beginning to fade. The time had come not only to specify the appointment of both umpires and referees but to insist upon these men being NEUTRAL.' (*The Early F.A. Cup Finals And the Southern Amateurs by Keith Warsop*)

CRACKS APPEARING IN THE CHINA'S GAME

China's Football Association will investigate a massive coach-player row between Chi Shangbin and Shenzhen Jianlibao amidst ominous further allegations of Referees being bribed. China's Soccer officials met with Chi Shangbin, who was recently removed from his position as head coach of Shenzhen, the domestic league defending champions. Xie Yalong, director of the national soccer management centre, says the governing body will look into the issue.

He says "soccer tyrants" is another serious issue, and needs to be dealt with effectively. He also says match fixing and bribing Referees, known as "black whistling" needs to be handled.

THE HOYZER SCANDAL NET WIDENS

The biggest scandal in the country's football in 30 years has been an embarrassment for Germany a year before it hosts the World Cup. The suspected ringleader of Germany's match-fixing scandal has told prosecutors 10 more players and two more matches were involved. This man, officially identified only as Ante S, was arrested in January and taken into custody, along with his two brothers, Milan S and Filip S. Now Ante S has named players from three Third Division teams in an East German regional league - Chemnitzer FC, Sachsen Leipzig and Dynamo Dresden.

Both games, in 1994, involved those teams, Ante S. and his two brothers are said to have run a betting ring and bribed soccer referees to fix games. Four Referees and 14 players had been suspected of being among 25 people who fixed at least 10 games, mostly in lower divisions. Berlin prosecutors have reported the Croatian has "admitted the accusations against him," and provided evidence without releasing details.

The scandal broke in January when Referee Robert Hoyzer admitted receiving money from the three men to rig games. Hoyzer has been banned for life by the German soccer federation.

German football chiefs also want Referee Dominik Marks banned for life for his part in the Robert Hoyzer Scandal. The DFB wants Marks banished for match-fixing, his part of a wider shame that has embarrassed Germany in recent months.

They accuse Marks, 29, of receiving money for influencing the result of a regional league match between the amateur sides of Hertha Berlin and Arminia Bielefeld on August 11, 2004. He is also charged with being paid for agreeing to fix the Second Division match between Karlsruhe SC and MSV Duisburg on December 3, 2004,

although Marks did not appear to have influenced any of Duisburg's three goals.

"Referee Marks has, with his wrongdoing, grossly violated his duty to lead a match neutrally. He has caused great damage to the image of referees and deeply affected football in Germany," the DFB's charge sheet reads.

"The perpetrators of such failings as referees cannot be part of the German footballing community."

Marks spent four weeks in custody. He was arrested on the basis of information supplied by Hoyzer and was released on bail last month after surrendering his and his wife's passports.

AFRICAN REFS AGAINST US SAYS MOROCCO BOSS

Morocco manager Badou Zaki has insisted he wants his squad's upcoming away World Cup and African Cup qualifiers to be officiated by non-African referees.

The Atlas Lions boss had lodged a formal grievance to the Royal Moroccan Football Association's Federal Bureau, requesting it to communicate his refereeing concerns to the continental and world football authorities. He called for unbiased officials, preferably from Europe, to umpire the national side's away matches.

[\(International Referee\)](#)

2005 FIFA REFEREES LIST FROM ENGLAND

Name / Since Year / Date of Birth

FIFA REFEREES

Stephen BENNETT	2001	17.01.1961
Andy D URSO	2001	30.11.1963
Michael DEAN	2003	02.07.1968
Mark HALSEY	2001	08.07.1961
Matthew MESSIAS	2002	07.05.1964
Graham POLL	1996	29.07.1963
Michael RILEY	1999	17.12.1964
Robert STYLES	2002	21.04.1964
Howard WEBB	2005	14.07.1971

FIFA ASSISTANT REFEREES

David BABSKI	1997	05.09.1961
David BRYAN	1999	01.07.1962
James DEVINE	1999	17.04.1962
Roger EAST	2005	12.05.1965
Antony GREEN	2000	20.08.1962
Robert LEWIS	2005	22.04.1969
Kevin PIKE	2001	02.05.1961
Philip SHARP	1997	05.04.1964
Mike TINGEY	2004	10.08.1967
Glenn TURNER	2002	06.11.1964

www.fifa.com

NEWS BITS FROM THE MIDLAND REFEREE MAY 2005

ZERO-TOLERANCE POLICY

In response to the furore surrounding press coverage of footballers swearing at and verbally abusing referees, The FA have revealed that they have already undertaken a priority review of the way that they can toughen up their present procedures and implement more hard-hitting punishment as a deterrent. FA Chairman, Geoff Thompson, and new Chief Executive, Brian Barwick, have instigated moves for a new code-of-conduct for the start of next season. Clubs risk being charged for the first time and The FA believe that they cannot shirk their responsibilities.

KARL ARRESTED IN GERMAN SCANDAL

Former Manchester City midfielder Steffen Karl has become the first player to be arrested in connection with Germany's match-fixing scandal. Karl, 35, now plays for German third division side Chemnitz. He is suspected of helping manipulate the results of a May 2004 match between Chemnitz and SC Paderborn. Karl joined City on loan from Borussia Dortmund late in the 1993/4 season and scored two crucial goals to help Brian Horton's side stay in the Premiership.

OUT OF TOON?

There was an error in the spelling on the shirt of Newcastle United's defender, Jean-Alain Boumsong, in their match against Liverpool on Saturday 5th March? The 'N' and the 'G' were transposed to make 'BOUMSOGN'. It was a good job it wasn't the 'O' and the 'N'. Think about it!

SUNDAY LEAGUE PLAYER KILLED

3rd April - Father of six, Tommy Slattery, 39, suffered head injuries and subsequently died in hospital following a brawl after the North Birmingham Sunday League game between St Joseph's and Lozells GMA. Police are treating the incident as murder. By Tuesday 5th April, 3 men had been questioned and released on police bail. Neither match referee, Sid Gilkes, nor BCFA Disciplinary Manager, Mike Fellows, were allowed to comment.

VIOLENCE IN AFRICA

Africa's World Cup qualifying campaign was once again marred by violence as a riot brought an early end to Mali's home match with Togo(1-2) in Bamako on Sunday 27th March. There was crowd trouble in Cairo at the game between Egypt and Libya, with the visiting fans ripping up plastic seats, which were hurled at the police. In Cameroon, the problems were on the field as the beaten Sudanese players angrily confronted Senegalese referee Badara Diatta, whom they felt had added too much stoppage time during which Cameroon scored the match winner.

REFEREE WHO SENT HIMSELF OFF IS BANNED

English Referee Andy Wain sent himself off after a verbal altercation with a Peterborough Sunday Morning League goalkeeper went too far. The Northamptonshire FA has banned him for 35 days and fined him £50. The ban has effectively ruled him out for the rest of the local league season. Andy is now considering his future and League officials are to meet to decide whether to use him as a match official again.

JUST NOT GOOD ENOUGH!

Gigg Lane, Bury, played host to an U19 match between Sweden and Denmark at the end of March. However, when the referee, Paolo Dondarini, accustomed to the luxury of Serie A, saw the state of the officials' dressing room, he refused to use it. The Bury Supporters Society have since gallantly offered to refurbish it this summer. As a clue to what caused Dondarini's horror, the volunteers are looking for help from joiners, electricians, plumbers and tillers plus a builder to carry out 'minor structural changes'.

FIFA SUFFERS KIT SETBACK

German judge, Ingrid Kefer, ruled that Cameroon's kit at last year's African Cup of Nations did not violate football's Laws on players' apparel. She made the decision at the start of a lawsuit filed against FIFA by Puma, the maker of the uniforms. "There is nothing [in the Laws of Association Football] that says shorts and shirts must not be linked together," Kefer said. The sportswear manufacturer is seeking US\$2.6 million in damages from FIFA and a declaration that it can market the uniform. Puma have alleged that FIFA's decision was influenced by rivals, adidas, an official partner of football's governing body. The Indomitable Lions wore a catsuit, combining a jersey and short into a single piece of kit, which FIFA said was a violation of the game's Laws. Judge Kefer gave FIFA's lawyers four weeks to submit a written statement; a final ruling on the case is expected on 1st June.

FA INSTRUCTORS

Licensed Instructors - Accredited County Instructors will be appraised and, depending upon their marks when qualifying and/or practical appraisal, some instructors will be awarded 'Registered Instructor' status. New Accredited Instructors will have to undertake the two-weekend course, but with an additional requirement to participate in referee training/coaching and be appraised by The FA Area Manager or his nominee before being

awarded 'Registered Instructor' status. Some non-active Instructors and Instructors participating solely in 'coaching of Candidate Referees' may lose their 'licence' and may be reclassified as Registered Instructors.

VIOLENCE JUSTIFIED!

After North Korea lost in a World Cup qualifier to Iran, fans rioted. The North Korean government justified the violence in a party-controlled newspaper: "If such extremely partial refereeing as performed by wicked Syrian and Thai officials is allowed, such practice will mar the popularity of world soccer."

Costa Rica - Saprissa FC have been fined £5,000 after their fans emptied dustbins over the referee....who they thought was rubbish?

Portugal - Three referees have confessed to accepting sexual services after a game. They did not realise that the dinners and Brazilian prostitutes were paid for by FC Porto President, Jose Nuno Pinto da Costa, in an attempt to influence their game against Amadora in January 2004.

Russia - New measures have been introduced to eradicate corruption or intimidation of referees. The officials are selected by computer just a day before matches and are accompanied by two armed security officers from that moment until the game is over.

UEFA Talents Scheme develops:

Anders Frisk and Hugh Dallas have been appointed as UEFA Mentors in an innovative move by the UEFA's Referee Committee. The two former World Cup referees, who have now retired, will have key roles in the development of the UEFA Referee Talents Scheme. Their appointments were announced at the fifth seminar of UEFA's ambitious refereeing development programme which took place in UEFA Headquarters in Nyon.

GRAHAM POLL

Like most youngsters, English referee Graham Poll was a football nut who marvelled at the big-match atmosphere whenever he watched European club competition games on television.

"In the early days, you're really unaware of the higher echelons of refereeing and how it works. As a 10-year-old boy, I used to be woken up by my mother at ten o'clock on a Wednesday evening to watch the big European games, because I love my football. I still visualise those days - the big European games with the colour, the spectacle, the noise. As a referee, there is something very magical about going into mainland Europe and doing these games, and it does evoke memories of being a young boy."

Despite having refereed in many of the hottest footballing kitchens around in England - Poll was given particular praise for a superb performance in a highly-charged match between Arsenal FC and Manchester United FC earlier this year.

"Traditionally before a game I don't get nervous; but it is not such a bad thing in a big game, if you can harness these feelings and emotions."

Poll says a positive moment early in the match can help a referee get into the groove. "If you get a clear decision in the first minutes, if you were carrying nerves beyond the first whistle - which hopefully you won't be - that would tend to settle them down. However, you also have to be prepared for the fact that it could be a game where people are keeping possession for the first five to ten minutes, and there isn't that opportunity."

www.uefa.com

FLAG COLOURS?

It was in 1891 when the Referee (who used to be stationed on the touchline) moved into the field of play to take charge of game. Prior to this, the two umpires who governed play on the field, used to wave a stick in the air to allow an appeal to be made by the captain. It was therefore, in 1891 onwards when the sticks became flags for the two linesmen (ex-umpires). Flags were also mentioned in 1896, in a column entitled 'Hints to Referees', in

the first Referees' Chart (today known as the Laws of Association Football).

Ken Aston, on his return from military service in 1946, became the first League referee to wear the black uniform with white trim which became the standard for referees. The following year (1947) he introduced bright yellow linesmen's flags in place of the pennants in the colours of the home team, which had been used before. In 1956, the following Decision of the International Board was added into the Laws. "In International Matches, Linesmen's flags shall be a vivid colour, bright reds and yellows. Such flags are recommended for use in all other matches".

These days, flags that are yellow or orange can be seen better by the Referee.

(By Julian Carosi)

AN EXCERPT FROM A REF'S BOOK

Occasionally the ladies get in on the act and at Grimsby a large woman behind one of the goals was going on an on. The ground wasn't exactly full and her voice seemed to echo round the place. I was dying to get up to her end of the field but play would never allow it. Then I got my chance - the ball ran out for a corner and as I signalled it I charged towards the wall. At the last moment I stuck my foot up to stop me in full flight, leaned over, and said: 'Give us a kiss, love.' She was struck dumb and the fans around her burst out laughing. I don't know if it was the thought of having to kiss a ref but there wasn't another peep out of her for the rest of the match.

(1979: A moment in time by English Referee Pat Partridge, from his book "Oh, Ref!" By Pat Partridge and John Gibson).

THIS MONTH'S TOPIC

This month, we look at applying advantage.

Advantage or play-on signs given by an Assistant Referee may cause confusion for the players. Assistant Referees should not shout or indicate 'Play on' or 'Advantage'. This is always the prerogative of the Referee. The Referee is the only match official who should indicate advantage. Assistant Referees have been seen to indicate "Play-on. Advantage", by putting out their arm or a hand whilst running along the touchline. The Referee is the only one who should indicate "Play-on; Advantage". Imagine a situation following a foul, where the Assistant Referee uses an arm signal to indicate "Play on. Advantage", and then a goal is scored which is subsequently disallowed because the Referee calls play back for the original foul and awards a free kick instead. As an Assistant Referee; by remaining passive in advantage situations, this should encourage players to continue with play.

The Assistant Referees should bring any offences not seen by the Referee, to the Referee's attention. Although Assistant Referees should not signal or decide advantage, they can indicate to the Referee when a foul has been committed - thus allowing the Referee to decide on allowing advantage or not. If play is stopped for the foul, the Assistant Referee should indicate the direction of the free kick and (if in close proximity) ensure that the free kick is taken properly.

Assistant Referees should also highlight any further fouls following the award of an advantage. For example, following the award of advantage by the Referee to an attacker, the attacker's shirtsleeve is pulled preventing him making fair progress. The incident is unseen by the Referee, but is witnessed by an Assistant Referee. In this case, the Assistant should raise his flag to indicate a second foul committed on the attacker. The Referee will then decide either to allow a second advantage, or to stop play to award a free kick.

If a flag signal for any type of offence is not immediately seen by the Referee, the Assistant Referee must keep signalling until he is acknowledged by the Referee or until the Assistant Referee recognises a clear advantage to the team against which the offence has been committed. The Referee will normally acknowledge his Assistant Referees' signals during play, if he (the Referee) wishes to apply advantage and keep play going in normal circumstances.

If a Referee decides to penalise an original foul committed on the edge of the penalty area following an allowed advantage that did not ensue - the Assistant Referee may be asked to indicate to the Referee whether the foul occurred inside or outside of the penalty area. A subtle way of doing this, is for the Assistant Referee to stand facing inwards to the field of play, make eye contact with the Referee, and then side-step towards the corner flag, to indicate that the foul occurred inside the penalty area. If the fouls occurred outside of the penalty area, then the Assistant Referee should side-step towards the half-way line. But to avoid any misunderstanding, these types of body-language signals **must** be agreed with the Referee during his pre-match brief.

If a Referee allows advantage following an offence, and the attacking team subsequently take a shot on goal (in 2 to 3 seconds) but do not score (or the goalkeeper prevents the ball from entering the goal), the Referee should not bring play back and award the attacking team a free kick (or penalty) for the original offence. This would be tantamount to offering the attacking team two advantages (chances to score). This would not be fair, and is against the 'Spirit of the Law'. By allowing advantage, the Referee gives the offended team a better chance of scoring a goal, or a better change of positively progressing with play. If following a foul, the offended team gain an advantageous position but do not make the most of their advantage, then they should not be given a second chance, just because they were not skilful enough to make the most of the opportunity.

Let me have your thoughts on this month's topic. Regards Julian Carosi julian@carosi.freeserve.co.uk

I hope that you have enjoyed this issue of the newsletter, and that you are all continuing to enjoy your refereeing roles. All the very warmest wishes to you all, wherever you are in the world.
Regards, Julian Carosi

(Laws Editor of [Refereeing Today](#), Referee, FA Referee Instructor, and FA Referees' Assessor Wiltshire, England).

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The Corsham Referee website

www.corshamref.net or www.ref.sport

This newsletter remains free to subscribers. But if any of you wish to make a small contribution so I can buy a beer, you can do so via Nochex.

www.nochex.com/payme.asap?email=julian@carosi.freeserve.co.uk

This newsletter will **always** remain free to **all** members.



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