

## November 2002

**The next meeting of the North Middlesex Referees' Society will be held at the usual venue, Cockfosters FC Chalk Lane Cockfosters, Barnet, on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November. Guest Speaker is Eddie Stone, Football Association Regional Manager for London.**

At the time of writing the October meeting at Highbury, the home of Arsenal FC, has not been held; a report of Gary Lewin's talk on his involvement at World Cup 2000 will therefore be included in the December edition of Normidian. For the same reason, details of the NMRS 100 Club usually provided by Treasurer, Gary Cobden are missing.

My apologies to Mick Osborn (not Osborne) and Robin Jagot (not Jago) for misspelling their names in last month's magazine. This was due to my rushing about before going on hols. – a poor excuse for an editor!

Like all of you, I received a new badge recently along with 'Briefing' the newsletter of FAMOA. Anyone want a spare "old" round one? What happens if you have had the round badge sewn on to your referees top already and don't want to make a mess of your kit by removing it? I must say though, the new '3 Lions' badge is an improvement. Perhaps more referees will wear the new badge – I haven't seen too many round ones on my travels. Mick Osborn includes comments on 'Briefing' in his article 'November's Offering', elsewhere in this issue.

Mick is now the Social Secretary, again, and makes a plea in his article that you support his efforts – all made on your behalf.

A report on a game I refereed recently appeared on the home club's website. Reference to the official in the middle was mercifully brief – merely to say that a free kick given outside the penalty area was clearly a penalty!

I enjoyed reading Harry Cole's article in Peter Dace's reminisces, about club linesmen. Read it and have a chuckle.

Peter also writes a thought-provoking and amusing article on his efforts to accept 'retirement' gracefully (Saturdays only!).

And what's all this about FIFA considering putting extra Assistant Referees behind the goals? Hertfordshire's top official, Paul Taylor, probably reflects all our thoughts on this barmy idea in a recent article spotted by Gary Cobden in the Mercury. One can just imagine a goal being confirmed by someone in white gloves, theatrically pointing first upwards then forwards to the centre spot. Now where have I seen that done?

A new feature, 'Around the Societies', is included in this edition of Normidian, which will include articles etc from other RA Society magazines that have recently caught my eye.

Gary Cobden is looking for more referees to do Chelsea Academy games. For new referees in particular, these matches are an excellent way to develop the skills needed for you to pursue your career in the game – or just to enjoy the experience. You will get all the help you need – details are included in this issue.

**Closing date for the December magazine is Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November**

Having taken on the office of Social Secretary again, at the time of writing, I was most disappointed with the response to our first function of the season. Let me remind you that on October 27<sup>th</sup> we had/did not have, a quiz. We were pleased/disappointed not, to see you and your family and friends there. On their Society registration form many indicated their interest in having a quiz but so far only one of our members, (one of our newest and youngest members I hasten to add,) has let me know that he will have a team. For future reference, on the inside page of this publication you will see that I have an address, a phone number and an e-mail address. I regret that I have no ESP. Our social calendar appears elsewhere in this edition.

I have just received my copy of "Briefing", the newsletter of FAMOA. Enclosed in this seven paged glossy, full of smiling faces, was a new badge, "changed from the round one of previous issues.....to reflect the rebranding exercise that has been carried out across the whole of The Football Association." "One of the benefits of this badge," the article continues, "is that it clearly identifies the wearer as a referee, even when they are operating as an Assistant Referee." My county badge says this already and I cannot recall anyone challenging the fact. Whether they thought I was competent to be so described is another matter and I don't think that the FAMOA badge would make any difference to that! On the same page, we are informed that the FAMOA Membership Card is, "coming soon." "These photo identification cards," it is explained, "will recognise your FAMOA membership and be used as identification at football matches." When registering this year I was asked to provide information about my "ethnic origin (optional)" and my mother's maiden name and place of birth. The reasons given for this were not very convincing. Is the F.A. getting control happy?

In an endorsement of FAMOA, Arthur Smith, the General Secretary of the R.A. writes, "We are in a changing world....." Perhaps it is a sign of this world that before people do anything they are expected to ask, "What's in it for me?" The December newsletter enticed us to "Introduce a friend and win an England shirt!" Now we are told, "Points could win you prizes!" You can exchange these points to purchase a variety of kit and merchandise from the FA's England Direct or the R.A. catalogue. Has the FA been secretly taken over by a supermarket chain? How long will it be before we are offered "two for the price of one?" I ask. But wait! Read on. The refereeing incentive scheme offers to reward you, on a sliding scale, for refereeing as well as introducing successful recruits. For up to 20 games in a season you will be rewarded 10 points per game. 21-40 will earn 20 points, and so on. Join in the scheme and you will get a logbook to take with you to the match where you will have to ask a club official to sign the book or have it verified by the league or competition that you have earned your points.

Call me old fashioned if you like but I find the FAMOA enterprise undemocratic, invasive and rather tacky. Would not the money spent have been better invested in improving the lot of struggling clubs where many games are being played on poor grounds with well below standards of accommodation? It could be these that contribute to the lack of referees.



“The World Cup – truly an international event”. JOHN MOTSON



## ***FIFA proposals will put drain on resources at local league level according to Taylor***

### **There aren't enough refs to bring in rule changes**

Top Herts referee Paul Taylor has called on FIFA to consider every level of the game before introducing extra assistant officials on a permanent basis.

Following a meeting between the FIFA president and a delegation from the French football federation recently, plans are apace to experiment with extra assistants stationed behind each goal.

The idea came at the suggestion of former France captain, Michel Platini, and is believed to be backed by a number of international coaches, including England's Sven Goran Eriksson

FIFA have targeted the Confederations Cup in June as a probable date for the new scheme, where it is hoped that the controversial aspects of the game like the ball crossing the line and scuffles in the penalty area can be analysed more stringently.

But although former Premiership ref Taylor, who comes from Cheshunt, is all for experimentation for the good of football, he is also concerned that such a move on a permanent basis may put a strain on resources at grass-roots level.

He said "I think we can apply this at the highest level, but the more we apply it, the more there will be a shortage of referees."

"It would mean at least six officials at every single game. I don't know how we'd apply that in football across the whole of the country because we've got a shortage of referees as it is".

But as a referee with more than 25 years experience, 42 year old Taylor also understands the bigger picture, and the need for the game to evolve.

"Let's try these things," he said. "If they work, then brilliant, if they don't then so be it. We can sit back and imagine all sorts of things about what we can and can't do in football. We need to experiment and this is another area where we can do that."

FIFA have had a busy week discussing the future of the game. Aside from introducing plans to introduce additional officials, FIFA have also decided that referees will no longer be able to review a decision after a game. Except in a case of mistaken identity, all red cards will stand and referees will not be given the chance to change their minds.

The FIFA director of communications said: "There has to be a clear distinction between using video evidence to impose sanctions on players who break the rules behind the referee's back, and using it to change a factual decision at a later date."

Taylor has mixed feelings on the thorny issue: "These changes will affect players more than referees, but the only thing that will really change is that players will no longer have the right of appeal after being sent-off."

He added: "The only thing that concerns me is that if we are seeking to employ technology at the highest level of the game then this might be seen as something of a backward step."

Taylor has had a busy schedule of late. He took charge of Southampton's 6-1 victory over Tranmere in the Worthington Cup on Wednesday 2 October, and will be in charge of Saturday's (5 October) Nationwide division one clash between Wolves and Sheffield United at Molineux.

This article appeared in the Mercury Group of Newspapers on 4 October 2002, and was written by Jonathan Waldron.

## **CHELSEA FC ACADEMY MATCHES**



We are looking for a number of young or newly qualified Referees to join our regular panel of Referees who officiate at these games every Sunday morning. Age groups involved range from Under 9 through to Under 16, and there will also be the opportunity to act as Assistant Referees. At Under 9; 10; and 11, small sided matches are played, but all other matches are normal eleven-a-side games. If you are interested, or would like further information, and can offer one Sunday morning a month, please telephone me on 01992 469153. If you do not have transport, so long as you are able to get to any junction on the M25, transport can be arranged.

Gary Cobden  
Society Treasurer

Peter Dace asks is this ‘The first Saturday of the rest of my life?’

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October – not perhaps a significant day in the history of the world but for me memorable beyond belief in that it was the first Saturday in 31 years I had not actively sought a game of football to referee. Many is the time I have said “if I am not on some lonely football pitch at 3 o’clock on a Saturday afternoon then something is seriously wrong in my world” – well there was something seriously wrong, I HAD RETIRED FROM SATURDAY FOOTBALL !! I hasten to add my retirement only extends to Saturdays not Sundays or mid-week where hopefully my career, now in excess of 2,500 games in 30 seasons will continue further, albeit in my allotted role of Journeyman Referee.

I had announced my Saturday retirement at the end of last season to John Faithfull, Referees Secretary of the Southern Amateur League. The SAL has been my ‘bread and butter’ league and the only one on which I served for at least some part of every season in my refereeing career – indeed my first ever game was on that league back in October 1972 – Old Stationers 4<sup>th</sup> XI v Winchmore Hill 4<sup>th</sup> XI, and in the bar afterwards I discovered I was now ‘Ref’ and no longer Peter.

My Saturday retirement was no reflection on the SAL which remains first-class administratively and playing-wise with facilities better than most and where I have enjoyed the company of many marvellous people. Amazingly in my last few games I discovered for the first time I was not looking forward to the matches and started wondering what else life might hold for me outside refereeing. Lots of referees have such thoughts in their first season so I felt that having completed thirty seasons I could say with a clear conscience I had given it a real go and perhaps even made a small contribution. Also, and most particularly I found increasingly the standards of behaviour and understanding of the laws by the players were not my standards and not my interpretation, so if it was me out of touch then a good time to go and with only happy memories.

So I awoke on 12<sup>th</sup> October to a perfect day, grey, overcast and cool – my ideal refereeing conditions, but I was not going to referee so no need to plan my route; pack my bag; walk the pitch etc etc. What would I do to fill those magic hours on Saturday afternoons? Well having refereed over 80 games every season I knew I could never just walk away and therefore Saturday only retirement meant I would be able to stay in touch with football – AS A SPECTATOR! Many is the time I had thought it would be nice to watch Barnet or QPR and here was my opportunity – Barnet home to Nuneaton Borough in the Nationwide Conference.

Now one of the perks of reaching 60 (or 39 and a lot of months I prefer to admit to) is that it brings the occasional discount and at Barnet F.C. it means

becoming a Bees Member for just £10 and thereafter reducing any admission price by £6 i.e. I can stand on the north terrace for just £2. So I took my application form to the ticket office and paid the tenner, the nice Lady checked my form and I noticed she ticked the age box as 'over 60' without giving any apparent thought to whether I might instead have been in the 'under 18' group which also qualified for reductions. A further £2 to the gateman and there I was standing behind the goal, a little to the left and half-way up just like all those years ago at White Hart Lane in the glory, glory days.

The first person I saw in the ground was Society Member Carlo Boggia looking immaculate in orange jacket (as opposed to yellow jackets worn by stewards who sort out crowd problems), two-way radio in hand giving and receiving instructions with an unseen colleague about some unknown but important matter. Carlo told me it was his job to guard the north terrace gate. I stared at the gate – it must be 15 feet high and 10 feet wide, and I had to wonder who would steal it anyway, and what would they do with it if any human being could actually move it! Carlo explained his role was to get the gate open in any emergency and he had to stay close by.

The teams duly arrived on the pitch and I looked enviously at the Match Officials all undoubtedly looking forward to their game and the challenges it would bring. The game passed quickly ending in a 2-1 win for Barnet. No real controversy but nevertheless 5 cautions for statutory offences.

I returned home. No feeling of tiredness, no one shouted at me, no disciplinary reports to write and NO FEE! The little Daces have been fed and watered on refereeing fees for years and now suddenly not only no fee but I have to pay an entrance charge instead – a double whammy.

So will this really be the first Saturday of the rest of my life? Yes I suspect so. I quite enjoyed it and found afterwards I was immediately looking at next Saturday's fixtures including Barnet away at Kettering. A member of the 92 club in due course? – who knows but like all Football Managers I shall take one game at a time. However my biggest test is yet to come and how I will respond to that Saturday morning phone call that starts "I know you are retired but I've just had a cry-off and nobody else is available..... Watch this space!



"That ball was glued to his foot, all the way to the net". ALAN PARRY

"Football's always easier when you've got the ball". KEVIN KEAGAN



# SOCIAL CALENDAR

**Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> October – QUIZ**

at Old Finchleians F.C.  
Southover, Woodside Park.  
Tickets £5.00

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**Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> February – ELEPHANT RACE NIGHT**

at Ellenborough Table Tennis Club, Enfield

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**Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> April – ANNUAL DINNER & DANCE**

at The Apollo, Cockfosters.

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**Please note: To attend these functions, advance booking is essential!**  
**Phone Mick Osborn 01707 650804 or e-mail [mgosborn.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:mgosborn.freeserve.co.uk)**

Peter Dace reminisces – the Normidian of November 1992

President Dave Dickinson reports on R.A. Conference at Cardiff during which Max Lea received his Meritorious Service Award.

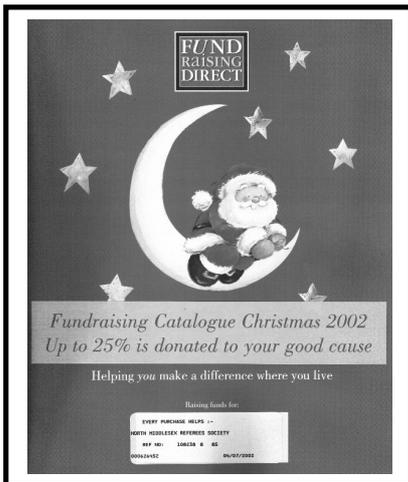
Editor Ken Goldman says ‘the games the thing’ and compares Italian Serie A football to be shown on Channel 4 with Premier League games available on Sky. He says the difference between the two styles is not only the pace – us fast, them slow – but also the skills factor. Ken supports John Cartwright former Gunners coach in suggesting we bring up young defenders to be comfortable on the ball and attack from the back, in the style of Andy Awford (who the hell is Andy Awford?).

Enfield and District Youth Sunday Football League place half page advert seeking more Referees. The League offers progress through the age groups and an opportunity to embark on the ladder of stardom. Contact Gary Cobden then on 0992-33422.

Author Harry Cole writes a piece especially for Normidian entitled ‘the linesman’, reflecting his own experiences of Club linesmen. Whilst he personally prefers the officially-appointed, expenses- paid, well-attired, higher-league linesmen he usually gets beer-bellied, duffle-coated, cloth-capped and blind club linesmen who will be slow-witted, slow-moving, horrendously biased and related to the noisiest, most obnoxious player in their team. He adds that in the course of an average 90 minute game, the average club linesman will flag for some two hundred fouls, eighty nine of which will be for penalties – he will make seven complaints to the Referee concerning the language of his opponents and threaten to ‘duff up’ at least three of them. Of the 200 infringements he has spotted, 199 of them will be against his opponents and one against his own team. This latter brave decision will be in the last seconds of the match, never against his son and only if his team has a three goal lead at the time. This he firmly believes will prove his fair-mindedness.

Guest speaker, John Cartwright at Norsemen Football Club

## CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISING



As a possible opportunity to increase our Fund Raising, the Society has a number of Christmas Gift and Stationary catalogues available for Members if they so wish. How does it work I hear you ask. The catalogues are ideal for passing around family/friends/work colleagues, and each contains a number of order forms. Complete the order forms with your requirements, and send it off direct to the catalogue. Your goods will arrive at your door later. The Society will then receive a percentage of income from all orders places at a later date. If you would like to help the Society raise additional funds, and would like a catalogue for yourself, please contact me at the address on the inside cover of the Normidian.

**Gary Cobden**  
**Honorary Treasurer**

## MEETING DATES - SEASON 2002-2003

We will again be holding our Monthly Meetings at Cockfosters Football Club, Chalk Lane, Cockfosters, Barnet, Hertfordshire, EN4 9GJ

All meetings will be on the second Friday of the month unless notified otherwise – See October Meeting Dates - with confirmed Guest Speakers for the forthcoming Season are as follows:-

- **13 September 2002** - Phil Sharp - Society member - World Cup Final Assistant Referee
- **24 October 2002** - Gary Lewin - Arsenal and England Physio - AT HIGHBURY - Date subject to change
- **8 November 2002** - Eddie Stone - Football Association Regional Manager
- **13 December 2002**- Social Evening - no Society Business
- **10 January 2003** - Training Evening
- **14 February 2003** - To Be Advised
- **14 March 2003** - Alan Robinson - Former National List Referee and PRO for the Referees Association
- **11 April 2003** - To Be Advised
- **9 May 2003** - Annual General Meeting



## QUIZ NIGHT

?????

**SUNDAY, 27<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER**

?????

**at Old Finchleas FC**  
**Southover, Woodside Park, N12**  
**Tickets £5.00**

**Phone Mick Osborn – 01707 650804**

## **SUPPLIES**

**All your Kit Supplies will be available at every Society meeting. See Percy Brown for details, or telephone 01707 850674**

## **Around the Societies**

Dried Ink!! Back in 1936, York City were so keen to sign talented teenager George Lee that their officials waited outside his house until midnight struck to herald in his 17<sup>th</sup> birthday. They were then legally able to sign him. He was exactly 17 years and 30 seconds when the ink dried.

Ice Cool. When Manchester United signed Hughie McLenahan from Stockport in 1927, the fee was three freezers of ice cream.

Life Sentence. In January 1955, Trinidad footballer Selwyn Baptiste was suspended for 1,000 years after playing in a cup game the day after he started a two-year suspension

The above extracts are from The Chiltern Referee, provided by Tony Murphy, ex- Editor of the Basingstoke Bleep.



The opening paragraph from an article by Stuart Aitken in The Harrow Referee:

Last season, I had the dubious privilege of attending three personal hearings. Let me say at the outset that I have nothing but admiration for the Counsellors who give up three Fridays a month to sit on these panels. My concern is that the procedures and rules that they are asked to adopt are not only wrong in Law but are biased in favour of the player.



This is also a piece from The Harrow Referee, extracted from an article by Doug Douglas entitled “World Cup 2002 – A Refereeing Perspective”:

My particular favourite was the gentleman from, I believe, Paraguay. He spoke very little to players. His body language, though, shouted out his authority. He gave his decision and when players came round to whinge, although not a tall man, he simply adopted a statue-like pose and stared straight through them. It worked. Even the most accomplished moaners simply melted away. An object lesson to us all perhaps.



From the Nottingham Whistler:

Did They Really Say That?

**John Lyall**

“In terms of the Richter scale, this defeat was a force 8 gale.”

**Brian Moore**

“Remember postcards only please, the winner will be the first one opened.”

**Barry Davies**

“Lukic saved that with his foot, which is all part of the goalkeepers arm”





## A BETTER WAY TO THE TOP

**When you pass the initial exam and become a fully-fledged Class 3 referee, you are usually filled with a feeling of euphoria and a determination to reach the top. If you are a young man, in all probability your ultimate aim is the Football League, (or Premiership), and the only obstacle to achieving this goal is promotion to Class 2, and then to Class 1.**

No problem, you think.

I am going to prove to everyone that I am a good referee and get my deserved reward. Your training officer, having duly congratulated you on qualifying, has suggested one or two suitable local leagues to commence your career on and you have applied, and hopefully, been accepted. Now, this is where it all starts -this promotion business. Being a reasonable person, of course, you know that you need to gain experience, learn how best to position yourself, how to identify match situations in order to make correct decisions and gain the confidence of the players.

When you feel that your performances are satisfactory, whether that be over one or more seasons, you will start to get the 'itch' to climb the ladder.

This is where the trouble begins!

You will know that in every match both clubs award marks according to how they think you performed. These markings cover such categories as your appearance, your general control, decision-making, etc., and are usually made by the club secretaries, or managers, who are after all, committed to their own team. So, it is very subjective. You may have had a superb game from a referee's point of view, but the team that lost to an 'iffy' penalty might not quite agree with that!

Even the team that won may feel that you deprived them of precious goals by blowing for offside when they thought they had scored! It follows, therefore, that the marks you get may, or may not be fair and/or accurate. And you are relying on these arbitrary markings to further your career. 'Ah!' I hear you say, 'But I'll have an assessor to watch me if I'm going for promotion' but not at every match.

Yes if they were, then you will have to hope that on the days you are assessed you perform well, and the fair and reasonable minded assessor hasn't got a headache, or had a row with his wife before he left home!

If all these possibilities are in your favour, then, with luck on your side, you will get your promotion. If you don't, then you will have to go through it all again, (and again, if you fail once more). When you achieve Class 2, you become a senior referee. You should then get a better class of game, probably on a better class of league, and the wheel starts to turn once more. Of course, you will now be judged at that higher level by clubs that MIGHT have more enlightened managers, or they may not! So, even though you are a better referee, you still come up against the problem of subjective marking. This, then, is the point of my article, do referees have to be so reliant on club markings? League fixture appointments are made based upon them, so too are County appointments. Promotion depends on them to a large extent. There has to be a better, fairer system. Under the present scheme, some referees are confused as

to how best to further their careers. Do they try to please club managers to get good markings, or do they referee firmly, (but well), and take the risk of a bad rating? I don't want this to be a 'doom and gloom' story, we all know that the good referees will get there in the end. The County Football Associations get you to Class 1. From there it is club markings that get you further promotion into higher football. There has got to be a better scheme.

What do you think?

**Observer**

### **IT ALL MAKES FOR AN INTERESTING LIFE**

The other Sunday I was appointed to a league match at a local park. The changing rooms are very large and could accommodate a separate referee's room as well as about twenty teams. Whilst I was changing the home manager brought in the match ball and gave me my match fee. At the same time he hoped that I had a good game.

In a short while, he returned back with the captain of the opposition. The captain apologised but he had only eight players and would not be getting any more as they had been headhunted by their first team

A quick reference to the rules of the competition, confirmed that nine were needed. This was a 10.30am kick off and I told him he had until 11.00am under the rules before the game would be forfeited.

The captain said he would reluctantly have to forfeit, as he could not envisage anyone else coming.

This was all conducted very amicably and he was genuinely sorry about these circumstances. Just then the managers in adjoining changing rooms from clubs in the same league arrived. The home team manager had told them that my match was in doubt and they asked if I could do their match instead, as they had no official. As I had come a fair distance, I was certainly keen enough. The club representatives from my game had no objections and said it sounded like a reasonable solution.

It was now 10.40am and I said, "If no additional members of my teams arrived by 11.00am. I would referee their match". By 10.50am no one had arrived and the other teams were going out (20 minutes late). I thought it was a shame to disrupt this game so I offered to start their game on the strict understanding that if anyone did turn up I would have to return to do the original match.

Well you can guess what happened. Three minutes had gone on my watch, when two of the missing players arrived fully changed. It was 1058am.

At the next opportunity I apologised to my teams and transferred to the other pitch much to everyone's amusement.

I must say that all four sides were very amicable about the arrangements. Indeed there was no way that I would have considered such an arrangement if there had been any hint to the contrary.

However this was also due to my making sure all parties were quite aware of what was happening and the implications of the same.

Maybe my actions will have been frowned upon with hindsight but at the time I felt it was in the best interest of the game.

It all makes for an interesting life!

Observer

# New referees must have a good attitude

The fundamental aim in refereeing at any level is *Control*

Everything else will follow. A match is full of dangerous moments and it pays to be prepared and get to know them. Look at the league tables, get a sense of the standard, the likely type of game you are being asked to handle. Look at your LOAF.

You need to have *Fitness*.

You have to be fit mentally and physically.

Physical sluggishness can lead to a lack of concentration. You must train. It's the last 15 minutes that count. Do you train around a pitch? Very few do, but why not? The local park football pitch is a good place to practice the various types of movement you will need to get into the right position.

You need to have a *Good Attitude*

You need to want to referee.

You need to want to enjoy it.

You need to want the players to enjoy it.

If you receive a fee, remember you are a professional.

Make sure you earn it.

You will make mistakes, because every one is human.

If you have a *Good Attitude* everything will be fine.

*First appearance* does matter. Players have expectations.

You should be neat and tidy, it helps you to get respect.

Take charge, start on time, don't hang around.

Blow your whistle as if you mean it.

Don't say too much to players in your earlier matches.

Develop your style, later you may wish to say more.

Your first *decision* is the important one, even if it's 'play on'.

As a new referee, only give the obvious advantage.

There is nothing better than the feeling when you have given advantage and the player sails through to score a cracking goal, but it only comes with experience, be patient.

Brief your club linesmen together; so it can be seen that you are saying the same thing to both of them.

*Remember you must carry out everything you have promised or threaten.*