



September 2024 - Issue 703

1. *Chairman's foreword*



I hope you have all had a great summer break and enjoyed the nail biting Euros followed by the Olympics in Paris and still to come the Paralympics.

First Society Meeting

As the New Season gets underway, our first Society meeting will be on Thursday 5th September 2024 at 19:30 for a 19:45 start at the Croydon Bowls Club. This meeting will serve two main purposes :-

1. An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) to discuss and resolve the issues remaining from the Annual General Meeting held on 9th May 2024, namely the adoption of a new set of Rules for the Society and secondly the approval of the 2023/4 accounts to be presented by Stephen Maguire.

As regards the new proposed rules, these were distributed in July but are also attached. These are the same as those presented in May, but with the financial year changed to be 1st April to 31st March each year. This addresses the concern of members relating to the previously proposed dates.

2. A presentation of the Law changes applicable to the new season by Jamie Beal.

Of course - there will be an opportunity to discuss any other general refereeing issues you may have.

David Gowers RIP

As most of you know David Gowers, our Society Patron, sadly passed away on Friday 5th July 2024 at the age of 98.

David was a prominent member of our Society for many decades and holder of the RA Meritorious Award.

We were well represented at the funeral and the Society has given a donation to the family's choice of charity. Outside of refereeing we were all moved by his family tributes which spanned the Second World War, a career in banking and latterly sitting as a JP. We will all miss him.



I look forward to seeing you all on the 5th September 2024.

Best regards
David Norman
Chair

2. Report of the May meeting – AGM

At our Annual General Meeting, the main outcomes were:

Stephen Maguire was elected as a Life Vice President

David Roper was elected as a Vice President

All Officers and Committee Members were elected and will continue in their roles (Steve Watson will be our permanent Editor of the Ray)

Two items, Changes to the Rules of the Society and adoption of the Accounts have been deferred to an EGM.

We thank all those for attending.

3. Formal Notice of an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM)

An Extraordinary General Meeting will be held at 19:45 at Croydon Bowls Club, Nottingham Road on Thursday 5th September 2024.


4. September meeting – Law Changes by Jamie Beal

Our own training and development officer Jamie Beal will be clarifying the law changes for the forthcoming season. Luckily there are not too many, so there will be plenty of time for match incidents afterwards.

5. Sin Bin totting up simplified

I'm very pleased to see that the FA have now made an improvement to the sin bin process whereby a player could previously accumulate three yellow cards (of which at least one was for dissent) before they permanently left the field of play. That can no longer happen.


A yellow card for dissent now has the same weighting as a yellow for any other offence. See the FA's graphic below.




SIN BINS

Temporary Dismissals - otherwise known as 'sin bins' - are mandatory for acts of dissent across all of grassroots football.


HOW DO YOU FIND YOURSELF IN THE SIN BIN?



Players will only go into the sin bin for dissent cautions




For use of words, gestures, questioning or undermining the referee's decisions




EXAMPLES OF DISSENT:
Shouting at the referee, questioning the referee's ability, slamming the ball into the ground and sarcastically clapping a decision


DURATION OF A SIN BIN



For matches of 90 minutes, players spend 10 minutes in the sin bin




For matches of all other lengths, players spend 8 minutes in the sin bin



If the sin bin period has not expired at the end of:
1st half: Continues into the 2nd half
2nd half: Continues into extra time
Extra time: Players can participate in the penalty shoot out


THE MATCH DAY PROCESS




Dissent




Dissent caution: Referee issues a Yellow Card and directs the player to the touchline



Whilst in the sin bin, if the player commits a Yellow or Red Card offence they are sent off and can not be substituted



A player can only return to the field of play with the referee's permission at a stoppage in play



If a player receives a second Yellow Card for any type of offence, they will be shown a Red Card and dismissed from the field of play

Sin bins only apply to a player's first Yellow Card. If they receive a second Yellow Card they are dismissed from the field of play.

Offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or actions is still a Red Card offence!

6. David Gowers MSA (11th Dec 1925 to 5th Jul 2024)

The “Father of the Society”, a term borrowed from the Palace of Westminster to denote its longest serving Member, passed away in June. At the age of 98, it was clearly a good innings but in recent years, his health had understandably deteriorated which must have been very frustrating for him having been so active in many areas throughout his life. The final whistle sounded for the Society’s Patron, David Gowers, surrounded by his family in a nursing home in East Grinstead.

His father worked at Handley’s Brickworks in Woodside and his early years were spent in a house backing on to the old yard. David and his three brothers were well known around the site having surmounted the garden wall to gain access to a vast playground. Football was in the family as father George was involved with Woodville Athletic in the Croydon League and as well as whistling, he also became involved in the competition’s administration rising to Chairman by the time of its closing due to a lack of numbers.

From what I recall, it was his National Service as a Brylcreem Boy that gave him the refereeing bug and when he returned, he qualified through this Society. In true forces fashion, it was probable that he was volunteered. “Who’s got a whistle?” “Me Sergeant!” “Well volunteered Gowers, you’re the referee!” That though is my mental meandering although probably not too far from the mark.



His ability with figures led to him passing the relevant exams, took him into banking and a successful career with various organisations. After demob, he and Beryl met at a dance in St Mildred’s, Addiscombe and clearly got on well as they were happily married for over sixty years and happy to indulge each other’s work / hobbies outside the family. The pair had a flair for administration and volunteered for many different roles.

He was a gentleman and a stickler for protocol and I cannot recall him ever using nicknames. The one that comes immediately to mind was Winkle who he insisted on calling Ian. And that was why, one Christmas Social, he “won” a box of Chocolate Mitchells (i.e. Winkles) purchased that afternoon. No fix, honest!

I don’t know much about David’s refereeing career but one honour was lining the Surrey Senior League Charity Cup Final at Leatherhead when Croydon Amateurs had Peter Bonetti between the sticks. And I do know of the family’s involvement with Croydon Amateurs with his father being match secretary until his passing in 1970-71 season, his mother Gladys sorting the post-match meals and David doing a stint as Treasurer. Was it coincidence that Hurricane Beryl had not long arrived on

these shores just before his passing? As one member of the family jested after his departure it was as though his late wife had come to collect him! With David and Beryl now reunited, Croydon in general has lost a pair of volunteers who certainly put “Service before Self”.

RIP.

BigNose 2024

7. Membership renewals – 1st June 2024

My grateful thanks to all those members who have renewed for the 2024/25 season.

If you have yet to do so please:

- Make payment of £37 directly to the Society bank account
Sort code: 60-50-01
Account number: 43896669
Reference: Please enter your name
- E-mail me (stephenjmag36@gmail.com) confirming payment has been made; or
- Alternatively, send a cheque for £37, payable to Croydon Referees Society, to me at 36 Sherwood Road, Addiscombe, Croydon, CR0 7DH

Remember, membership of both the RA and this Society provide a valuable forum to support and assist your development as a referee (as well as providing insurance cover through the National RA).

WhatsApp Group

Jamie Beal has established a WhatsApp group to:

- Support referees;
- Develop of Referees with video clips and open discussions;
- Support the social media demand for match officials in our area; and
- Provide updates to members.



This WhatsApp Group has proven popular with various discussions initiated and, I am sure there will be plenty of match incidents to be dissected and clarified.

If you are interested send their mobile numbers to Jamie so that he can add you to the group - he can be contacted on 07450 681969 or at james.beal93@googlemail.com.

(Article by Stephen Maguire)

8. Surrey Membership

Don't forget to register your Surrey FA membership for the 2024/25 season either via the Whole Game system or using the link in the recent email from referees@surreyfa.com.

9. Ed's & tales

If you have any content (e.g. Anecdotes picked from previous games or your views on the game we love) that you would like me to include, then please email it to me by 22nd of the month which will hopefully then give me enough time to include it in the forthcoming edition. If you have any comments on the Ray, then please do let me know (I'm still pretty new to this, so anything will be gratefully received).

Steve Watson

Stephenwatson1616@gmail.com

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