

April 2026 - Issue 719

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## Chairman's Foreword



Welcome to the April 2026 Edition of the Ray. I have a number of topics this month, so I have separated them as follows:-

1. At the March meeting. Tim Lawrence provided a very entertaining and thought provoking meeting with his specialist topic – a full report is included later in this magazine.
2. The April meeting on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April (usual place and time) will have two main components –
  - (a) **David Crick**, as our guest speaker, on the subject of player management. David has had a prestigious career in football both on and off the pitch. Further details later herein.
  - (b) **David Crick** on behalf of the RA will be presenting **Geoff Turner** with an auspicious trophy for **50 years of membership** of the Referees Association. I hope that you can make an extra special effort to get to the meeting to celebrate his award with him.
3. Whilst we will be celebrating with Geoff on the evening, as you will all remember he is sadly retiring as Secretary of the Society at the end of this season. We are seeking a replacement for him and last month we formally advertised this role. Please would you consider if you are able to help the Society with this. Please talk to me or other members of the Committee if you would like to know what's involved. Thanks
4. Also later in this Ray, we pay tribute to those of our members receiving Cup Final appointments. **Well done from the Committee/Society** – we hope they all go well. If we have missed anybody out, please let Geoff or I know and we can include it in the next Ray.

*Happy Easter*



David Norman – Chair

## **Notice of the Society - Annual General Meeting**

The Society AGM will be held at 19.45 at the Croydon Bowling Club, Nottingham Road on Thursday 14 May 2026. **This is the 2nd Thursday of MAY.**

For those attending, there will be the offer of a free drink.

If you have any Committee/Officer nominations, proposals or Rule amendments, please get them to the secretary Geoff Turner before 11th April so that the Committee can consider them before the AGM.

The important position available is that of Secretary. Could you please let Geoff or Chairman David Norman know if you are willing to stand for consideration. If we are overwhelmed with applicants, we could appoint a Secretary and Assistant Secretary. All the other officers are willing to continue.

### **Standing orders for May's AGM**

a) At the Annual General Meeting the procedure to be followed for the election of Officers and members of the Management Committee will be as follows:

Officers - shall be elected by a show of hands

Members of the Management Committee – shall be elected by a written ballot. All names nominated will be listed on a voting form strictly in the order read out by the Secretary and members shall strike out the name(s) of those not being voted for.

In all cases, simple majorities will apply.

b) We usually receive 2 tickets from the Surrey FA for the FA Cup Final. The draw for these tickets will be made from the list of full members who have renewed their subscriptions from the previous membership year and have been full members for at least one complete season. The names of successful members will be subsequently excluded from the list for a period of three years.

Where there are more tickets available than members wanting them who qualify, other members who have renewed their subscriptions from the previous season can go in the ballot for the available balance.

## ***Report of the March Guest Speaker – Tim Lawrence***

At the March members meeting we welcomed Tim Lawrence back as our guest speaker who provided another insightful and thought provoking evening around the application of a “higher threshold in the penalty area” when judging challenges.



### **Laws of the Game test**

We began the evening with the Laws of the Game quiz. As Tim has set the quiz, the FA Observers have to take at the start of the season for a number of years he had a considerable repertoire to fall back on.

Yes, it was multiple-choice, but all were plausible answers if you rushed in to answer quickly (and as an FA observer myself, I did not take part).

### **Spring 2024**

To provide some context to the presentation Tim advised that promotion candidates from 5 to 4 were invited to a training event in which the latest thinking was disseminated and included highlighting the following:

- Football is a contact sport so some contact should be accepted
- Referees should not be penalising minimal contact
- A higher threshold is required when dealing with offences in the penalty area; and
- The emphasis should be on player welfare and safety.

### **Video clips**

Prior to showing a series of clips Tim asked the audience to consider the following questions when viewing the clips and arriving at a decision regarding the penalisation or not of the challenges shown.

These were:

1. What was the degree of contact?

Tim emphasised that it had to be a reasonable degree of contact in order to penalise the challenge.

2. What were the actions of the defender?

3. What were the consequences of that contact?

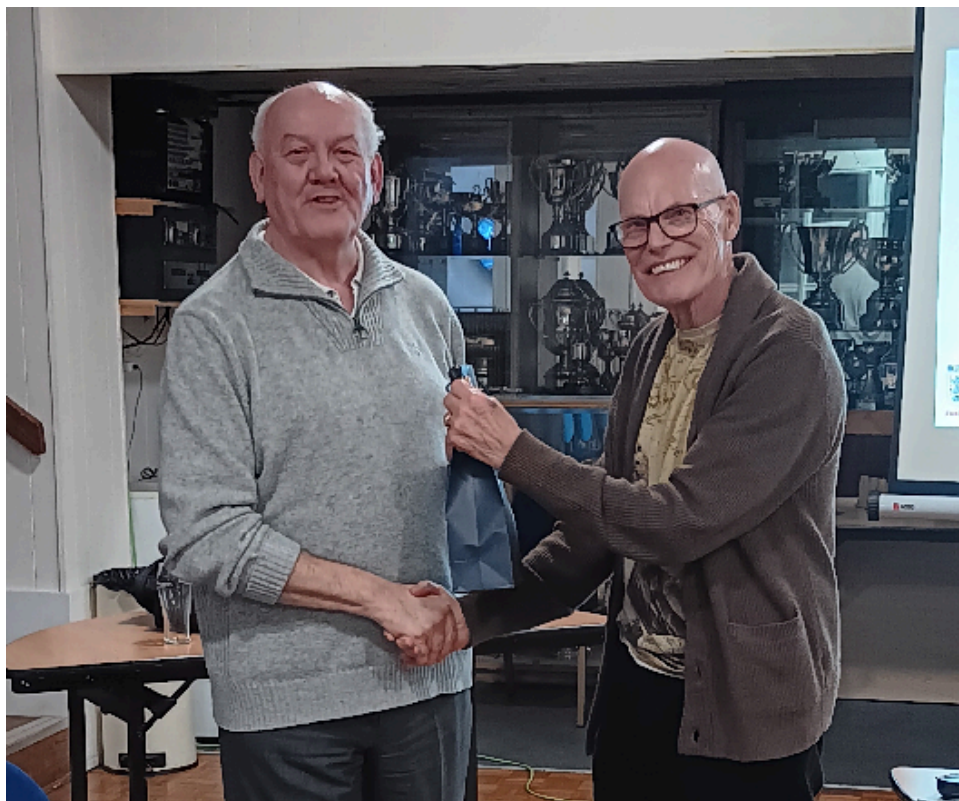
4. What were the motivations of the attacker?

Tim was able to show seven different clips put together by the FA and the audience had to gauge whether the challenges involved NFC (normal football contact) or did the level of contact go beyond that.

As the evening progressed it became clear that the common theme was that in many instances contact was initiated or deemed by the FA to be NFC. However, before reaching that conclusion in each case, there was a fair degree of discussion and disagreement along the way.

Another thought provoking evening from a very good guest speaker.

After a thoroughly enjoyable and engaging evening the vote of thanks was given by Geoff Turner.



*Article by Stephen Maguire*

## ***April Meeting - Speaker David Crick***

Our next meeting is on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April and we are very pleased to welcome David Crick as our speaker. His topic will be **player management**.

David currently operates as a National List (PGMOL) observer.

David was trained by Kingston RA and qualified in 1970. He made Class 2 by 1974 and Class 1 by 1977. He then officiated in the Spartan League, Suburban league and Isthmian leagues.

He was a football league linesman from 1991 to 1998. He refereed on the GM Vauxhall conference and Football combination from 1992 to 1998. He was a Premier league linesman from 1993 to 1998 and a FIFA linesman from 1995 to 1997. He was then a Football league referee from 1997 to 2004.



Following this he has been an Assessor, Observer and referee mentor.

David has officiated at many events including FA Challenge Cup final, FA Charity shield, Football league play-off final, Coca Cola Cup semi-final, Vauxhall Conference challenge shield and Isthmian league charity shield.

For Surrey FA he has officiated at Senior cup finals and a semi-final, Intermediate Cup final and under18 midweek Floodlit cup final.

For Kingston RA he has held a number of positions including Secretary, Treasurer and Magazine Editor and is currently their Website Editor and is a Life Vice President.

He has held positions on the Surrey Combination Football league, Surrey County FA and FA Referees committee.

David has been President of Surrey County Referees Association since 2021.

We look forward to an entertaining evening with David!

## ***Meet the Ref (No. 8) – Trevor Jolliffe***

I attended Heath Clark Selective Central School at the foot of Duppas Hill leaving at the age of 16 in 1960. I had been successful in my application for a job as a clerk with the Westminster Bank. I commenced work on 29th August at the London Bridge Branch, just outside London Bridge Station, which is now occupied by The Barrowboy and Banker pub. Male staff, in those days, were transferred to different branches spending, usually, no more than 3 to 5 years in each branch.

I Joined the Bank Sports Club Soccer Section immediately and within a month my footballing talent saw me descend to join the Bank's "H" eleven (this was the 10th team out of the 10/11 teams put out each week). Ten of the teams played in either the London Banks or Southern Amateur Leagues. We played in the SAL 6<sup>th</sup> teams section. The season didn't start until September and by the time I joined they had already lost the first two games. I had always played at right half (in those days we played with 5 forwards, 3 half backs & 2 full backs), however, I was informed that I would be playing at left full back!



We didn't win, or even draw, a game until two games before the end of the NEXT season!! Our goal scoring was abysmal (hardly ever!) but we were very good at conceding goals – quite often 5 or more! We never put out the same team in consecutive weeks as, being so far down the team pecking order any injuries or non-availability in the higher teams had a domino effect of the teams lower down. That being the case I did, from time to time, play for teams a couple of places higher, but was always returned to the "H's". SAL teams were from many different parts of London and the suburbs. Very few bank clerks owned cars in the early 1960's so travel to away matches was usually by train or tube. A fixture at High Barnet at the end of the Northern Line or Fairlop far away on the Central Line was always dreaded, especially if it was on the Saturday before pay day!

On Valentine's Day 1970, on a snowy pitch I suffered an injury when I fell with my left leg caught behind me. I tore a cruciate ligament and shattered the cartilage in my left knee. Obviously that was the end of playing for that season. I did try to play again in the two following seasons but could only manage every other week as the weeks in between were needed for recovery – there wasn't much in the way of treatment or rehabilitation from such injuries at that time.

At the end of the 1971-72 season I called it a day on my playing career. As only a very few of our games had ever had a referee I was well aware of the need for someone to officiate at this level of soccer. The usual thing was that the skipper of each team took the whistle for one half of the game. IF we had a ref it was regarded as a luxury to be enjoyed by all, and the result of the game was irrelevant!

I remember on one occasion we were playing an away match, on Lordship Lane Playing Fields in Tottenham, where the home skipper asked a young chap who was passing by, and had just stopped to observe the two teams lining up, if he was interested enough to referee that game? He said he was not too certain of the “rules” but was prepared to give it a go for us. We all accepted his decisions, even when we knew he was wrong, because it enabled us all to fully participate in the game. When the skipper handed him the standard fee for that level of game he was greatly surprised. His response was that he didn’t realise he would be paid, he thought he was just doing us a favour!

In June to July 1972 I embarked on the Referees Training course held at the YMCA in Croydon, which was led by “Polly” Flinders, Vic Wheal and Ray Hearn, amongst others. I was examined by Ray Thompson. I joined the Croydon Referees Society that September, Chairman at that time was Wally Strutt and Bill Dellow was the President. I remember the 50th Anniversary meeting which was held in the Croydon Liberal Club, Scarbrook Road, with between 250/300 in attendance (Croydon membership was in excess of 200 at that time).



Apart from a few Surrey Lower Junior and Junior Cup games nearly all the games I refereed were for NatWest Bank (the merger of National Provincial and Westminster Banks had taken place on 1 January 1970) mostly at the old Westminster Bank ground at Turle Road in Norbury with the others at the NP ground at Copers Cope Road, Beckenham, which is now the CPFC Training Ground. I usually refereed one of the bottom 4/5 teams, but never the same team more than twice in any 4 week period. All these matches were for teams in London Banks or SAL. All clubs playing in these leagues had to have exclusive use of a pitch and changing facilities as well as providing a meal for visiting opponents and officials. Fees were between £1.75 and £2.50 per match.

As most of the clubs had their own bar facilities and all participants in the game were invited to get together after the game I think this had a beneficial effect on the way the games were played – very little dissent, usually played in good spirit, even though there was plenty of physical contact (far more than is probably regarded as acceptable today). Each player (usually) respected the fact that his opponents had to turn up for their job the following Monday. The advantage of refereeing on the same ground most of the time was that I knew each pitch that these level of games were being played on as I had played on them myself, and was aware of the dodgy areas that may cause problems by certain weather conditions, be that rain, sun or wind. I was once complimented by one

of the skippers that, whilst he may not always agree with my decisions I was always consistent. He never did tell me which ones he disagreed with!

I managed to continue for 12 years before family commitments made it impossible to continue as an active referee. My Surrey FA registration continued as “non-active” for several years until they seemed to have a clear out of no-active guys and didn’t send me a renewal form, which I didn’t realise had happened until too late. So my £5 subscription was not requested.... or paid. A couple of years later they were appealing for donations to cover a shortfall in income!

In 1993 I accepted the offer of voluntary redundancy and left banking. I had taken, and passed the driving test for a PSV1 – double decker bus with manual gearbox. I obtained part time work with Epsom Coaches, and had the occasional “pleasure” of taking school sports teams for away fixtures of football and even rugby league – that was Leeds and back in the day (two drivers to cover the number of driving hours involved) when some of the accompanying parents thought that they could use the bus as a “grandstand” and keep dry as it was tipping down with rain!

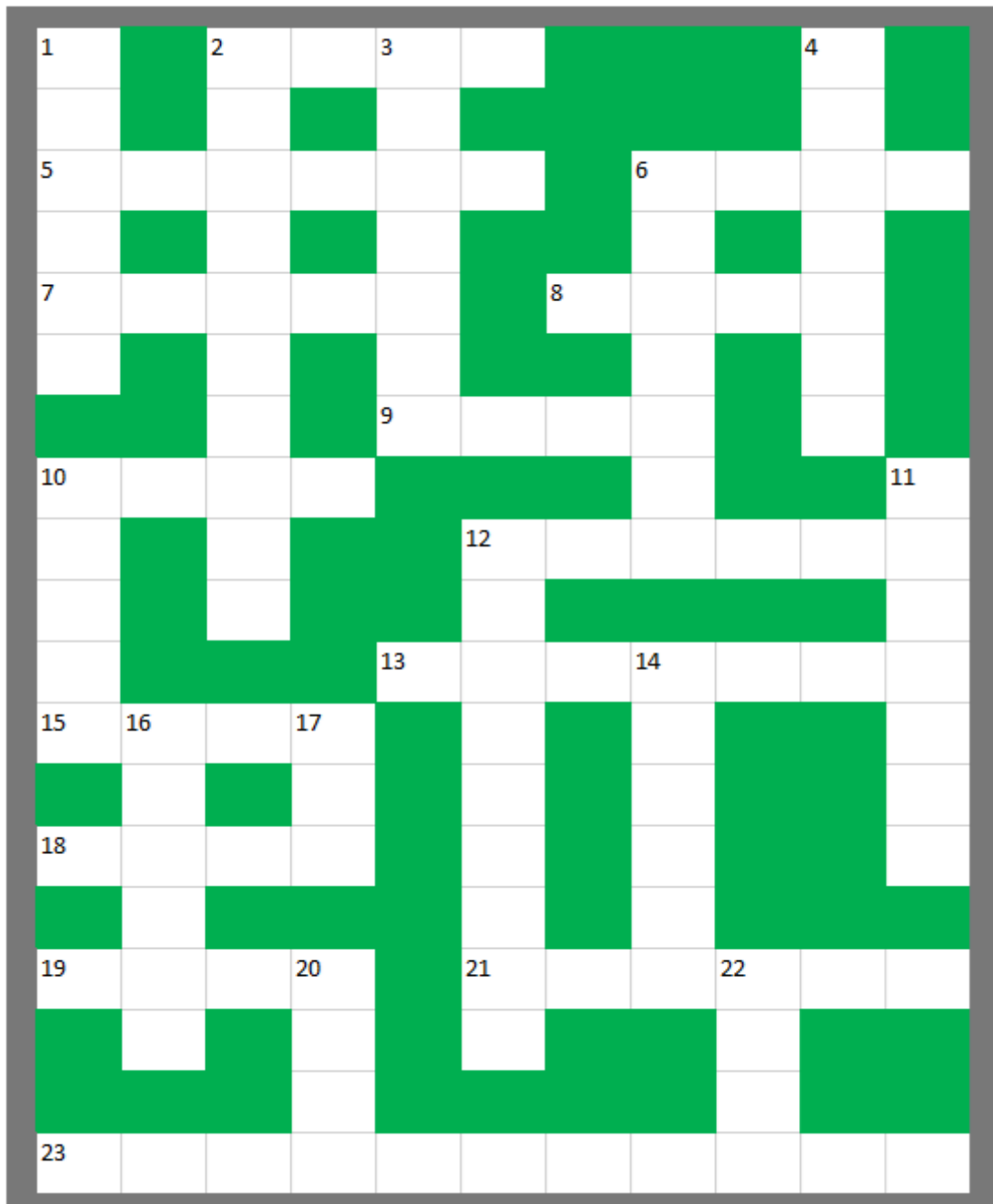
I also had the dubious honour of taking a local team to an FA Cup game against Hereford United. Hereford had had a fire in their kitchens during the week and couldn’t supply a meal for their visitors so I was requested to stop at the local fish and chip shop so that they could eat on the journey home. It took me two hours to clean the coach when I got back to the garage (it was expected that we could clean any coach, inside and out, in the one hour that we were paid for). Needless to say, I refused any job that was associated with that club.

In February 1994 I managed to secure part-time employment on the fuel forecourt at the famous Clacket Lane Motorway Service Area. I completed 15 years with RoadChef covering various positions, mainly as a forecourt cashier, sometimes as the forecourt cleaner washing and polishing the fuel pumps (there were 24 multiple fuel pumps and 4 commercial diesel pumps) and on occasions litter picking the whole site.



I was humbled to receive an award for completing 50 years membership of the Referees Association at the Society’s Centenary meeting in 2023. That just about brings us up to date in 2026!

**Puzzle Corner – Crossword**



## **Clues**

### **Across**

2. What you'd expect a goalkeeper to do with his money
5. Scored the quickest goal of the 1982 world cup finals (surname)
6. Formation of bricks to stop a free kick
7. A lord has come top and won this
8. Very rare now that a player is at just 'one' of them
9. Was in the 2006 England World cup squad but did not play a match (and 6 down)
10. Colours of the 1970 FA Cup winners
12. Supporters accompaniment banned in the 70's
13. Naval rank who makes football kit
15. City club founded in 1922, have been in tiers 3 and 4 but currently in the national league
18. Important to the modern day professional player
19. Can be chosen at the coin toss
21. Founded in 1881 and currently in EFL League One (and 16 down)
23. Free Kicks in the LOAF (2 words)

### **Down**

1. Until recently held the record for the most number of appearances in the premier league (and 10 down)
2. Player on the bench
3. Conduct worthy of a dismissal
4. He and a group of others have the closest seat to the pitch
6. See 9 across
10. See 1 down
11. Bobby \_\_\_\_\_ who had stints at Crystal Palace in the 60's and 70's
12. Manchester United nickname (2 words)
14. Every footballer's nightmare
16. See 21 across
17. A female squirrel might have this footballing attire
20. Type of kick from the penalty mark
22. We are told a referee judges this on their own

**A bottle of wine to the person with the most correct answers by the May AGM.**

## **Surrey FA Long Service Awards – 5<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

At this year’s Surrey Referees awards, the following Croydon members received Long Service awards presented by Farai Hallam (Premier league referee) and Chloe-Ann Small (who officiated at the 2023 Women's FA Cup final). **WELL DONE TO ALL !**

Daniel Fitzgerald      15 years



Peter Crichlow      35 years



Stephen Tyler      45 years

### **Plum Ties**

Congratulations to the Croydon referees who have the following Surrey FA Cup Final appointments:-

Sean Conlan - Surrey Lower Junior Cup Final Assistant Referee on 12<sup>th</sup> May



James Beal (second from left)

Surrey Saturday Intermediate Cup

Assistant Referee on 29<sup>th</sup> April



Patrick Jolliffe (second from right)

Surrey Senior Cup

Assistant Referee on 22<sup>nd</sup> April

### **Other League and other FA Cup Appointments**

<b>Referee</b>	<b>Competition</b>	<b>Appointment</b>
<b>Abi Oyeleke</b>	<b>FA Womens PGA U16 Cup Final</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Official</b>
<b>Abi Oyeleke</b>	<b>Isthmian League Cup Final</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Official</b>
<b>Juliette Joseph</b>	<b>London FA Adult Female Cup Final</b>	<b>Not known</b>
<b>Juliette Joseph</b>	<b>Capital Women’s Junior Cup</b>	<b>AR</b>
<b>Sean Conlan</b>	<b>SAL Challenge Cup Final</b>	<b>AR2</b>
<b>Reece White</b>	<b>AFA Junior Cup Final</b>	<b>AR1</b>

We are sorry if some have been missed out as there are no formal notifications by the Leagues/ FAs involved. If this is the case let us know before the end of April and we can include it in the Final edition of the Ray for this season.

## ***The Early Years of Football (Excerpt 5)***

It was around 1874 that Umpires were first recognised in the Laws of the Game to be able to send a player off who persistently broke the laws. Free kicks could now be awarded for offside and encroachment at free kicks. Shinguards were invented in 1874 by Samuel Widdowson who played for Nottingham Forest and England. Initially they were worn outside the socks. They were first mentioned in the rules in 1880.

**Port Vale** were formed in 1876 and played at Middleport, near Burslem. The club takes its name from a house in that area. They also played at Morland Road, Burslem before moving to the Cobridge ground in Stoke. Their next change of venue was to the Recreation ground, Bryam Street, Hanley. They were founding members of the League division 2 in 1892 and later became the first club to defeat all other 91 teams in the English professional pyramid. They currently play in League One (tier 3).

**Blackburn Rovers** were founded in November 1875 by two old boys from Shrewsbury school. They played their first match the following month in Church, Lancashire. In September 1878 they were one of 23 clubs to form the Lancashire football association. They played their first FA Cup match in November 1879 beating Tyne Association FC 5-1 eventually losing in the 3<sup>rd</sup> round to Nottingham Forest. Blackburn won the FA Cup in three consecutive seasons from 1884 to 1886. They were founder members of the Football League in 1888 finishing in 4<sup>th</sup> place in the inaugural season. They went on to win the FA Cup again in 1890 & 1891. Blackburn were League champions in both 1911-12 and 1913-14.



*FA Cup winners in 1883-84*

**Macclesfield Town's** origins go back to 1874 when Macclesfield FC was formed. They played at Bowfield Lane then moved to Moss Rose playing in the Combination league and Manchester league. They then joined the Cheshire county league in 1919 winning this league 6 times. Macclesfield were founder members of the Northern premier league in 1968, reaching the football league in 1997.

*Continued next month*

### **Answers - In What Year? (March's Puzzle Corner)**

How did you do last month? These footballing events occurred in:

- 1) National Referees Association formed? **1908**
- 2) The most recent time that Leicester City were in the FA Cup final? **2021 (bt Chelsea 1-0)**
- 3) Substitutes first used in the football league? **1965 (Aug)**
- 4) The Champions League (derived from the European Cup) started? **1992**
- 5) The (Football League) Championship started? **2004**
- 6) Nottm Forest won their first European cup final? **1979 (v Malmo)**
- 7) The first World Cup final played? **1930**
- 8) The last League Cup final contested between 2 teams of which neither was in the top tier of English football? **1986 (Oxford Utd v QPR)**
- 9) Since 2000, the FA Cup final that had the smallest attendance? **2020 (0 due to covid)**
- 10) Alan Mullery was the first England player to be sent off? **1968 (lost 1-0 to Yugoslavia)**
- 11) Taking a shirt off during a celebration now warrants a yellow card? **2004**

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## ***Ed's & Tales***

Some years ago I had an injury and was not officiating and I went to watch a new referee. It was a youth match (U16) on the Purley Way and I stood on the other side of the field of play to the spectators. The game had gone without any major incident until a few minutes from time when a player made a bad challenge. The fouled player retaliated and a melee ensued. Next both managers were on the field and getting physical. I hobbled around to try and give some advice to the referee and it was a good few minutes before all the non players were ushered off. The referee had been caught off-guard by the brawl and had not noted the shirt numbers and felt he couldn't issue any cards. He restarted with a drop ball and then blew for full time even though there was still time to play. Should he have abandoned the game? What would you have done?

The lesson there is to always get the shirt numbers of the most serious offenders.

If you would like to provide any content, then please let me (the Editor) have any articles by 27<sup>th</sup> April.

Have a good month.

***Steve***

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Scan this for the Croydon Referees Society Website >>>

