



October 2026 - Issue 722

Officers & Committee

President - D.Roper

Patron – G.Turner

Life Vice Presidents -, A R Day, P L Gauntlett MSA, L Johnstone, D J Norman MSA, V K Skilton MSA, G Turner, S Tyler MSA, S J Maguire MSA

Vice Presidents – A J Hook, D Roper



Chairman	Dave Norman	07977-498273	dnorman54@gmail.com
Vice-Chairman	Tony Sheppard	07763-135078	tonysheppy1@gmail.com
Secretary	Gareth Mays	01372-744094	gmays2458@hotmail.co.uk
Assistant Secretary	Dane Johnston	07506-347712	dane.johnston@hotmail.co.uk
Treasurer / Membership Secretary	Stephen Maguire	07808-481278	stephenjmag36@gmail.com
Training / Social Media	Jamie Beal	07450-681969	james.beal93@gmail.com
Editor / Webmaster / RA Delegate	Steve Watson	07791-112583	stephenwatson1616@gmail.com
Social Secretary	Dave Roper	0208-6545510	djr5725@googlemail.com
RA Delegate	Peter Crichlow	07305-929848	ppcrichlow@yahoo.co.uk
Committee	Steve Tyler	07796-554350	tyler672@aol.com

Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and on our [Website](#)

Chairman's Foreword



Well, the last month seems to have been dominated by whether Gianni Infantino (FIFA President) can or cannot be saved and the “correctness” of some VAR decisions.



In the first case he certainly knows how to survive so far... but to me it is now only a question of time as he wriggles to avoid his own departure. Our English FA Chair – Debbie Hewitt who spoke to us at our Centenary celebration in 2023 has sensibly proposed an independent review into both the private investment plan with Trumps relatives and FIFA’s handling of US striker Folarin Balogun’s suspended ban after an intervention from Donald Trump. Let’s hope it doesn’t take too long - Go Debbie!

On the VAR issues, the refereeing body Pro Ref (the successor to the PGMOL) has admitted that Erling Haaland’s winning goal for Manchester City against Manchester United should have been disallowed. The 1-0 victory at Old Trafford was secured despite City playing with 10 men following Phil Foden’s first-half red card. VAR had allowed the goal after determining Haaland was onside, but failed to recognise that offside teammate Enzo Fernandez interfered with play. Pro Ref acknowledged

an error of judgement for not recommending an on-field review and apologised to Manchester United following the match. I am sure it's a lot easier to make this call with the benefit of the time to fully evaluate what happened. In the heat of the moment with thousands of emotional supporters there are going to be errors.



What is good is that on balance the number of errors is hugely down! Overall that has to be good for the game.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Society meeting on Thursday 1st October, Croydon Bowling Club – 19.30 for a 19.45 start.

Also, I would like to congratulate all those members getting “prestigious” appointments during the first few weeks of this season.

David Norman

Chair

Report of the September Meeting

With Jamie Beal late availability, out Patron Geoff Turner and Chair Dave Norman stepped into the breach to deliver an off the cuff presentation on the law changes for the forthcoming season.



With Dave on the tech and using some slides provided by Jamie and content from the Surrey FA website, Geoff on the stage provided a very enjoyable evening with lots of discussion and audience participation.



The main changes discussed were:

There is now a 10 second limit for players to leave the field of play when being **substituted**. If the time limit is exceeded, then the substitute cannot enter for either another minute or the first stoppage in play. (Law 3)



Players who receive assessment or treatment on the field of play or who cause play to be stopped due to an injury must leave the field of play and remain off the field of play for one minute after play has been restarted. (Law 5)

There is now no caution (Yellow card) for a **DOGSO** offence if the advantage is played and a goal is scored. (Law 12)

The Referee can now use a 5 second visual countdown when a team is seen to be delaying a **throw in**. If the time is exceeded, the throw is awarded to the opposing team. (Law 15)

The Referee can now use a 5 second visual countdown when a team is seen to be delaying a **goal kick**. If the time is exceeded, a corner kick is awarded to the opposing team. (Law 16)

For details of every change, check out either the FA website (shown below) or the IFAB website.

LAWS OF THE GAME



2026/27 Law changes explained

Read more details
about the changes
for the season ahead



IFAB® THE INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION BOARD

The International Football Association Board (IFAB)

See the latest
updates on the laws
of the game from the
IFAB



We thank you for a great turnout for the first meeting of the season.

October Meeting – Steve Hughes

Our next meeting is on Thursday 1st October 2026 at Croydon Bowls Club, 7.30 for a 7.45 start.

Our speaker is Steve Hughes and he is currently in his 16th season as a referee and this season is his 9th as a level 2. He is the longest serving referee at this level. He referees on the National League South and operates as a 4th official on both the National League Premier and Football League. He was 35 when he started refereeing as he had previously played football at a competitive level and also rugby into his early 30's.



Steve's presentation will be about "player management and communication" and will of course include some clips of matches.

Puzzle Corner – The start of the Premier League



Can you name the 22 inaugural members of the Premier League, held in 1992/93?

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 12. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 13. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 14. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 15. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 16. _____ |
| 6. _____ | 17. _____ |
| 7. _____ | 18. _____ |
| 8. _____ | 19. _____ |
| 9. _____ | 20. _____ |
| 10. _____ | 21. _____ |
| 11. _____ | 22. _____ |



Name Length Clues:

7 letters x 3, 9 x 2, 10 x 1, 11 x 4, 12 x 1, 13 x 2, 14 x 2, 15 x 2, 16 x 3, 18 x 2

The Early Years of Football (Excerpt 7)



Middlesbrough FC were formed in 1876 at the Albert Park Hotel playing their first match at the old Archery Ground in Albert Park. They were nomads for a few years before settling at Linthorpe Road from 1880. They turned professional in 1889 and then back to amateur status in 1892 as they had big money problems. Boro won the Amateur Cup in 1895 and 1898. They were also Northern League champions in 1894, 1895 and 1897. They became permanently professional in 1899 and voted into Division II. After 3 seasons they were promoted to Division I. In 1913-14 they achieved 3rd place their highest ever position.

Wolverhampton Wanderers started as St Lukes FC in 1877 and first played at Goldthorne Hill. Several players also played cricket at a nearby cricket club Blakenhall Wanderers. The two clubs amalgamated in 1879 as Wolverhampton Wanderers. In 1881 they moved to Dudley road their home until 1889. They became one of the founding members of the Football League in 1888. They moved to Molineux in 1889, and success followed soon. They were losing FA Cup finalists in 1890 to Preston by 4 – 0 but then winners for the first time in 1893 beating Everton 1-0. Their next FA Cup triumph was in 1908 and as a second division club beat Newcastle Utd 3-1 played at Crystal Palace Park.

Crewe Alexandra FC were founded in 1877 some eleven years after the cricket club was formed. The club was named after Princess Alexandra who was to be married to Edward VII. The club played at the Alexandra Recreation ground in Crewe adjacent to Crewe railway station. The club's first success was winning the Crewe and District Cup in 1887 and that year also won the Cheshire Senior Cup. That season they also reached the semi-final of the FA Cup losing 4-0 to Everton. Crewe joined the new Football Alliance as professional in 1889. In 1891 the football club split away from the cricket club. In 1892 they became founder members of the new Division II. In 1897 they moved to the first Gresty Road ground. By 1896 they were not re-elected and it was not until 1921 that they invited back to play in the new Football League Third Division North.

Continued next month

STANDARD BUILDING SERVICES – Established 1985

All building work undertaken:-

Plastering	Carpentry
Bricklaying	Electrical
Plumbing	Roofing
Painting & Decorating	
Extensions	
Kitchens /Bathrooms fitted	

Free Estimates, Insurance work undertaken, **NO JOB TOO SMALL**

Discount for Croydon RA Members

Contact PETER CRICHLLOW at our Society meetings
or telephone 07305 929848
or email Peter at Standardbuildingmaintenance56@gmail.com

Ed's & Tales

For my first run out this season I had plenty of use of the countdowns for the restarts. I had cause to blow for 2 infringements, one a corner that took too long and the other a player leaving the field at an amble, so the substitute could not come straight on.

No issues with the throws, all taken within the 5 seconds. However lots of wasted time with teams just walking to get the ball (which was a long distance away) for a throw and also at least two occasions where they kept changing the thrower. Still I ended up playing plenty of stoppage with the winning goal being scored with the final touch.

Steve

Stephenwatson1616@gmail.com

Scan this for the Croydon Referees Society Website >>>

