



THE NEW MIDLAND REFEREE

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Page 2: UK News

Page 3: BCFA News

Page 4: Officials

RESPECT THE REFEREE

A football league that is setting up a new competition in Linton has taken the lead in a new campaign to encourage better behaviour among the country's footballers.

Leisure Leagues has appointed Sanjeev Laxman as it's Respect Officer in its bid to give foul language and foul play the red card.

He has agreed to head the company's crackdown on poor discipline on and off the pitch for Leisure Leagues 200 leagues across the UK and Ireland, including the one about to start in Linton.

Haverhill Echo

MISTAKEN IDENTITY

At an end of season game player Ben Muirhead was handed a playoff reprieve by referee Tony Bates, despite being sent off by the Staffordshire official. After receiving a second yellow card the referee asked him to return to the field of play when realising it was a case of mistaken identity. The player said 'the referee thought I was Joe Thompson who had already received a yellow card earlier in the game'.

The Mirror

REFEREE BANNED

A referee in the Vietnamese football league has been suspended for four matches for awarding a goal and then changing his mind.

Referee Nguyen Xuan was reprimanded by the country's football federation for bowing to pressure from Danang,

whose players stormed off the field after conceding a goal. The Danang team returned 20 minutes later after the referee had reversed his decision and they went on to win the game 3-2.

In a meeting with the federation's disciplinary committee the referee insisted no one had influenced his decision.

He was suspended for four matches, and his assistants banned for three games for failing to mention the incident in their match reports. The Coach of Danang was fined \$495 and banned for four games for interrupting the match.

Reuters

REFEREE GETS YELLOW CARD

Recently Magistrates in Wales showed a towns Mayor the yellow card after he was caught refereeing football matches whilst claiming state disability benefits.

Kevin McNiffe was found to have officiated at 67 games over two seasons while claiming just over £9000 pounds in handouts for being too ill to work.

A court in Haverfordwest gave him a four month suspended sentence and ordered him to complete 200 hours unpaid community work. He will also have to pay back the money he had claimed illegally.

The by note to this story was that the prosecutor in the case for the Crown was Mr Alex Ferguson!

REFEREE HAS SUPPORT

Japanese officials have decided a referee accused of using abusive language during a J-league game, did not tell a player to die.

The Japan Football Association rejected claims by Oita Trinita's Taikai Uemoto that match official Yichi Nishimura had used the word die during a game.

Several players had backed Uemoto's claim, but the JFA insisted the decision to dismiss the players protest had come after a thorough enquiry.

REUTERS

ABUSE MARS CUP FINAL

At the end of a cup final between Bishop Castle Town and rivals Montgomery Town an incident took place where the referee was abused by a couple of spectators. This led to the three officials leaving the ground without being awarded their medals.

An investigation has been launched by the Central Wales FA referee's officer Bernie Jones, who commented that the incident marred an otherwise well contested and memorable final. He went on to say that the three officials are loyal servants of mid Wales football, who clock up hundreds of miles over a season for a pittance because of their love of the game. Mr Jones also said that the referee is now making a full report which will be forwarded to the central Wales FA.

County Times Express

LEVEL 5 DOES INTERNATIONAL

Ipswich based football referee Mike Hamilton maybe a level 5 official but at 61 he is still hitting the heights!

Recently he took charge of a game involving Antigua and Barbuda, who are warming up in the Suffolk area for their world cup qualifying games. Having acted already as fourth official in matches at Portman Road, Mike has far exceeded what many officials higher up the ladder will never do.

His position as match day security officer at Portman Road precludes him from taking charge of Saturday games, but it did lead him to taking the whistle for a friendly involving Antigua and Barbuda at Ipswich Towns Playford Road training ground.

While he was working at the ground he had a phone call 45mins before the kick off saying there had been a mix up and the referee had not turned up, could he do the game. The Antiguan side lost 4 – 2 to a Potters Bar and Bromley combined side.

Ipswich Evening Star

REFEREE'S RED CARDED

Recently the west Cornwall Referees' Society found themselves up against it in their annual clash with the east Cornwall Referees' Society, when they were beaten 7 – 1 in a Dave Gardner round robin charity game.

The East team contained some qualified referee's who are still playing senior football, including Falmouth Towns Brinton Nute, who helped himself to five of the goals. However, the major talking point amongst the men, who each week guard the integrity of the laws of the game, was actually the lack of discipline by the referee's who were taking part. Referee Rigas Gatzianidis was called upon to send off two of the players.

The Truro Packet

ARSENAL DOUBLE

While the men's Arsenal team miss out again this season on silver ware, their ladies team goes from strength to strength. This season has seen them clinch the league and cup double once again, with the ladies FA cup final being played at Nottingham Forest on 5th May, where they beat Leeds Utd 4 – 1. This followed on from them clinching the ladies FA premier league, which they have won for the previous five seasons.

FA.COM

POLL PROPOSES

Graham Poll says that referees who allow themselves to be verbally abused by players should face a three match ban. The former premier league referee says officials who fail to clamp down on the growing problem, should face action themselves after a season in which disrespect towards referees has hit an all time low. High profile incidents involving players from the premier league have only helped to highlight the issue and Graham feels the time has come to put a stop to it.

"I have a very simple solution" he said, "if there is clear abuse on a football field, you say that someone is going to serve a three match ban. It's either going to be the player guilty of the abuse or the referee who doesn't punish him. For referee's it will be their own choice, you or them".

Chris Powell, Chairman of the PFA, spoke about the problem during his speech at the annual PFA awards dinner.

The Times

EDITORS VIEW

Although we all wish to cut out abuse to referee's I find it hard to accept advice from a referee who allowed premier players to verbally abuse him throughout the game and shown on television, without taking action against those players.

DIVING NO PROBLEM

Diving has ceased to be a major problem in the premier league according to Keith Hackett, the General Manager of the Professional Game Match Officials Board. Despite numerous story's of theatrics on the field of play this season, Keith says that a poster campaign launched last season, has helped to get the situation under control, thanks to the help of both players and managers.

"Of course, it is a controversial issue, but it is under control and at present I don't see it as a major problem in our game, and credit for that must go to the managers and players".

According to official analysis from his department, in 100 top tier matches this season, there have been just two cases of referee's being misled.

"Ultimately trying to con the referee is a deliberate act of cheating and that has no part in football in this country", Keith said.

Other official figures put in to question Keith's statement because 18 players have been cautioned for simulation this season, compared with only 8 in season 2006/07.

Keith went on to say "the speed of action in the premier league has increased by around 40% over the last four to five years, which means it is very difficult for match officials to distinguish between a genuine foul and a cynical attempt to deceive the referee.

MINISTER DEMANDS REFEREE RESPECT

Culture Secretary Andy Burnham has called on the FA to back up their 'respect' campaign with tough measures to tackle abuse towards match officials. The FA want their initiative to raise standards of behaviour, which was supported by the PFA Chairman Chris Powell. Mr Burnham said that the FA were quite correct and hoped that the 'respect' campaign would help the behaviour of players next season, in all forms of the game.

Premier league Chief Executive Richard Scudamore, also has backed the campaign.

ITV

NEWS FROM THE BCFA

CONGRATULATIONS

During a season that has seen an overall decline in refereeing numbers, congratulations go to Burton RA who have shown an increase in membership of 21% on the previous year's number. This is the highest percentage increase in the Birmingham & Warwick's area and they were awarded the Wilf Eastwood Trophy for their achievement.

BCFA REFEREE APPOINTED TO PLAY OFF FINAL

Congratulations go to Stuart Attwell from Nuneaton, who was appointed the referee for the division 2 play off final between Rochdale and Stockport County.

PROMOTIONS

Senior promotions within the BCFA go to Peter Maton (Coventry), John Mayhew (Dudley) and Richard Patterson (Tamworth). All have been recognised by the FA for their hard work and dedication in the past season by being promoted to level 3 for season 2008/09.

CHARTER STANDARD

Hundreds of footballers from the Birmingham Black Country and Warwickshire areas all enjoyed a BCFA Charter Standard super festival day held on the 8th June at Rugby Town FC. The event was supported by McDonalds.

LONG SERVICE AWARDS

Congratulations go to the following referee's who have completed 21 years service on behalf of the BCFA and will be awarded their long service award during one of their RA meetings. They are Ron Frazer, Roy Kirbishley and Terry Roberts.

WELFARE OFFICER

For clubs running teams under the age of 18, a Welfare Officer must be in place for the teams to affiliate for the season 2008/09. Huge progress is being made in the welfare of young footballers. Every girls and boys football club in the BCFA region is now required to have a club Welfare Officer.

Peter Milne, the BCFA's newly appointed Welfare Officer, is keen to point out that this new requirement will be easily managed.

SUPPLY LEAGUES

Supply leagues for the Midlands area for next season are at the moment unchanged. These being the MFA, Midland Combination, West Midland Regional League and Leicester Senior League. This may change as the LSL may withdraw from the Midland pool.

Each County FA will provide assessors for their own areas. Referees will be promoted on assessor's marks next season with funding being available from the FA. The first fitness test for the Birmingham County has taken place on 8th June at Hadley Stadium. The second one takes place on 13th July at the Dell Stadium, Brierley Hill.

FA LICENSED INSTRUCTORS COURSE

This years Instructors course will again be at Staverton Park. The dates will be from the 19th – 25th July.

The County will have already received nominations for the course and consideration has been given for new Referee Development Officers who are not currently trained as instructors.

ALDRIDGE RA DISBAND

On the 2nd June Aldridge & District Referees' Association decided to disband due to dwindling numbers. The present members will now join other local RA's and continue to be part of the RA family.

The Aldridge Committee felt that with the numbers being so low it was not viable to carry on with the RA.

FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

The BCFA are looking to appoint a Football Development Officer with the specific remit of developing girls and women's football in the Black Country County Sports Partnership area.

Interviews for the job take place on 16th June 08. The position reports directly to the County Football Development Manager.

RESPECT THE REFEREE

The BCFA will continue next season in their support of local referee's with their 'Respect the Referee' campaign, supported by the Birmingham Evening Mail.

RA CONFERENCE

The BCFA Referees' Committee have again encouraged all participants in the School of Excellence and young promotion candidates to attend the Saturday RA conference on 5th July, which is being held locally at the St Johns Hotel, Solihull. They will be able to meet select referee's who can point them in the right direction.

FA YOUNG REFEREES' CONFERENCE

The FA held a conference at Staverton Park on 24/25th May for young referees' with plenty of promise. The BCFA had referees' from previous years attending, plus six new nominations for this year, they were Messrs Price, Billingham, Hands, Postin, Dadley and Fox.

CONGRATULATIONS ON THE FOLLOWING PROMOTIONS

The following referee's were promoted to the national list.

Phil Gibbs, Simon Hooper, Oliver Langford, James Linington, Craig Pawson, David Phillips, Chris Sarginson, Graham Scott and David Webb.

Phil Gibbs is the only referee from the Birmingham & Warwickshire area and Solihull RA has, for the first time, two referees on the national list.

Peter Maton, John Mayhew and Richard Patterson have all been promoted to level 3 referees.

The following referees were all promoted to level 4 and were accepted by the FA.

Messrs Billingham, Dadley, Fox, Hancock, Homer, Price, Postin, G Taylor, S Taylor and Walker.

Referees promoted from level 6 to 5 were as follows

Christopher Allen, Mark Bartlett, Shaun Bivens, Luke Brindley, Kevin Burke, Mark Halford, Michael Keane, Gerry Larkin, Craig Lewis, Peter Manuel, Steven Rushbury, Andrew Strachan, Grant Taylor, Andrew Underwood and Neil Underwood.

The following referees were successful in being promoted from level 7 to 6

Peter Adkins, Kevin Andrews, Richard Beckford, Christopher Beecham, Colin Beecham, Ken Boswell, Mark Brooks, Peter Collins, James Dempsey, Kevin Dyer, Peter Finch, David Furnival, Justin Gapara, Scott Gethen, Matt Gibblin, Wayne Harbut, Simon Hill, David Hughes, Michael Lowe, Brian Mole, Antony Schiller, Steven Scott, Andrew Thompson, Paul Wainman, Christopher West, Kevin Widdett and Andrew Woolley.

BIRMINGHAM COUNTY CUP GAMES

Birmingham Senior Challenge Cup Final

Referee

Anthony Horton, Ass John Mayhew, Richard Patterson. 4th Mark Howes FA Rep Michael Penn.

Midland Floodlight Cup Final

Referee, Nick Hobbs, Ass Ashley Lane, Antony Glazzard, 4th Andrew Stickley. FA Rep Nigel Genner.

Sunday Cup Final

Referee Steve McCarthy, Ass David Hanson, Matthew Homer. 4th Peter Durnall. FA Rep Leonard Chick.

Midweek Youth Cup Final

Referee Simon Brown, Ass Mangal Singh, Bill Collins, 4th Robert Pettipher, FA Rep Nigel Peck.

Sunday Youth Challenge Cup Final

Referee John Flavell, Ass Steven Bird, Neil Underwood, 4th Simon Rogers, FA Rep Michael Parr.

Sunday Vase Final

Referee, Harjender Singh, Ass Shaun Bivens, Andrew Underwood, 4th Anthony Lloyd FA Rep Michael Neal

Saturday Vase Final

Referee Philip Hardisty, Ass Zoltan Horvath, Paul Hands. 4th Barry Fox. FA Rep William Starkey.

All articles are welcome to be sent to the Editor for publication in future issues. Any article you wish to use please do so.

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