



Young Referees Support Group

Issue

Season Finale

22nd of April 2010

The Next YRSG Meeting Will be held on:

Thursday the 22nd of April 2010
At the Civil Service Recreation
Centre, Chadwick St, Victoria.

The YRSG Will be attending the
London Junior Cup Final on:
Saturday the 17th of April 2010
At Croydon Athletic FC

Starts 7pm.

AGENDA:

7 – 7:05: Welcome

7:05 – 7:50: Season Review

7:50 – 8: BREAK

8 – 8:45: London Junior Cup
Final Review

8:45 – 9: Q&A – END

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Welcome to the April Edition of the YRSG Newsletter. In this edition there will be another fascinating article by Matthew Day regarding Young Referees Abroad and a couple of topical articles by Paul Howard on Beating the Weather and Racism. There is also a review of February/March's meeting and as always a very intriguing insight into one of our own members, in our Members Profile section, and this time it's of YRSG Member Ashleigh Ainsley.

MEMBERS PROFILE...

This time it is the Profile of YRSG Member Ashleigh Ainsley...

Name: Ashleigh Ainsley

Age: 17

Level: 7

Refereeing Experience:

I Qualified in May 2007 at the tender age of 14 and quickly got into the rhythm of refereeing various levels of youth football from that at the Charlton athletic academy to my local Sunday youth league. I now am an assistant referee on the Kent League and currently still officiate at Charlton Athletics academy.

Since then I've been lucky enough to be appointed to F.A premier youth academy u18 games and have never looked back.

2 Aims for the coming season:

- 1) Progress into adult football smoothly and comfortably.
- 2) Become the fittest referee I can possibly be; because there is no excuse for me as a young healthy 17 year old not to be able to be putting in the tough sprints right up to the final whistle.

Team:

Arsenal- Currently a junior gunner I have been supporting the mighty Arsenal since I can remember.

Watching Thierry Henry, Patrick Vieira and Robert Pires in their prime during 'the invincible' era encapsulated why football is called the beautiful game and hence ever since I've been hooked through the highs and the lows.



Hopes and Ambitions:

That's a hard one. Initially thoughts of the world cup final spring to mind but to be honest, knowing I'm the best official I can be every game will do for me. I'd be lying if I didn't think that would be the best in the world but in my opinion you need a bit of self-belief and confidence to get anywhere so why not aim high.

Refereeing Heroes:

Phil Dowd. A job done with common sense, No fuss and a command of the game is a good job done and I regularly see this with Mr Dowd. A referee which gets on with what he has to do and does it in a manner which adds value to the game is hard to find and I believe Phil Dowd has these qualities in abundance. He earns the respect from the players he officiates and every time I'm lucky enough to watch him officiate I can't help but smile.

**PLEASE COME ALONG TO THE LONDON
JUNIOR CUP FINAL ON: SATURDAY THE 17TH
OF APRIL 2010 @ Croydon Athletic FC**

BEATING THE WEATHER

BY Paul Howard

The worst of the weather may have gone, but this is England and there's bound to be some more miserable stuff coming our way!

Players always want to play, the coaches will want you to play, and the league will want you to play because they are behind with fixtures, but there should only be one thing in your mind. Can you guarantee player safety on that pitch?

Make sure when doing a pitch inspection, you do it alone. The last thing you need is players or managers from both teams in your ears whilst you walk round, telling you it is definitely playable. It is YOUR decision, and your decision alone.

Waterlogged

Pitches can be heavy but still playable so standing water is the key thing to look out for. Will the ball roll true? Will the ball bounce properly? If not, players could be in danger from mistimed tackles because of this, and the game could turn into a farce.

The best way to demonstrate the pitch is unplayable whilst doing a pitch inspection is to ask one of the teams for a ball before you do your inspection. Whilst doing the inspection, find the worst area of the pitch and throw the ball up in the air. If the ground is waterlogged the ball will hardly bounce, if at all. This will sell your decision to everyone on the

sidelines, awaiting your decision why you are postponing the game. You could also get the ball and attempt to roll it through the water, again proving the pitch is unplayable.

Frozen. You can tell when a pitch is frozen when the ground is iced over. Sometimes this can be very clear as the ground is like concrete all over, and other times it is harder to spot as it is only in a certain area (shaded by trees or the like) Again the priority is player safety.

If you suspect the pitch may be frozen due to an icy night or a freezing cold morning, then check the pitch all over. Make sure the ground is not rock solid or like an ice rink in places. Just by walking over the pitch you will be able to tell if this is the case. If you do find an area of the pitch iced up, consider the area of the pitch and how big the area is before you make your decision. Think about whether it could change the game (ie. in or near the penalty areas) and also think, will the players be safe on this pitch. If the answer to either of those questions is no, then you should seriously consider playing the game. Remember, if someone gets injured, who do you think the team will blame?!

Happy refereeing, and remember to always play safe!

Preview of the Next Meeting...

The next YRSG Meeting will be held on Thursday the 22nd of April 2010 at the Civil Service Recreation Centre, Chadwick Street, Victoria.

This meeting is intended as a follow-up from the previous Saturday's London Junior Cup Final, held at Croydon Athletic FC on Saturday the 17th of April, where the group will attend to watch the game, and more importantly the performance of the officials.

Please do not miss this opportunity. It will be a fantastic day out for everyone and the game will be exciting and may throw up some interesting examples of when a referee needs to act or do something. You will learn a lot.

Then the following Thursday we have our end of season meeting. This is an opportunity for you to bring up the issues that you noticed during the previous Saturday in the London Junior Cup Final, where we shall discuss and debate them and say what we would do if we were in the officials place.

We shall also have an end of Season Review, which is like an open forum and you can discuss anything that you have noticed during this season. We will also look at the future, not too far in the future mind, just forward to next season.

Can't wait to see you all there.

DISNEY SOCCER SHOWCASE

BY Matthew Day

Another highlight of the tournament year is my annual voyage to Orlando, Florida just after Christmas. The Disney Soccer Showcase, sponsored by Chelsea no less, takes place from 27 December – 3 January every year and with the American season ending at the same time as the calendar year, this is a 'showcase' of the best youth talent in the country.

Only American teams are invited – but at the same time only the top teams from each state are able to participate. This means refereeing the best of America's youth across eight days, with the first half of the tournament exclusively boys football and the latter half solely girls.

The tournament's attraction for European referees is not just in the quality of the event. Orlando boasts temperatures of nearly 30 degrees Celsius even in late December, so it's a great opportunity to escape the freezing British weather and enjoy the wonderful warmth of Florida.

I have just returned from my third year at the tournament (and come back as a newly-registered referee in the United States too!). It is an extremely interesting experience to meet referees from all over the United States and beyond while every single game also has at least three officials, so you learn from others and benefit from having assistants of your own. All games are full-length but each referee will usually only do one middle and one line each

day, so there is plenty of free time to enjoy yourself!

Officials are paid \$50 per middle and \$25 per line, along with \$100 travel allowance, so the total rings up to around \$700 – usually enough to cover your flight there. The tournament of course also pays for your accommodation, either in a hotel or you are also able to share a house with other referees, something I have done over the last couple of years, leading to a lot of fun but a lot of mess too!

The level of pay means this tournament is a fantastic chance to try refereeing in another continent without emptying your bank account! Plus there is the added incentive of being able to pick up a nice tan while having a swim in the hotel pool...

Every year a group of European referees make the trip, one of them being me, so if any referee is interested in coming please don't hesitate to contact me: mail@tournamentsabroad.info / www.tournamentsabroad.info



Review of the Last Meeting...

The last YRSG meeting was held on Thursday the 11th of February 2010, at the Civil Service Recreation Centre, Chadwick Street, Victoria.

At the start of this meeting there was a big discussion on Law 11 – Offside and there were a few examples of good offside decisions and bad offside decisions – led by Sarah.

Then after the break Paul took the group through a step-by-step routine/guide to the procedure before the Toss.

This was extremely useful, as this is something that is not actually written into the Laws of the Game. It also helps because it gave group members the chance to practice this and get their

Routine right in a no-pressure environment, which will only help to improve their game.

After this Paul went through what sorts of kit we are expected and that we need to have as match officials.

All of these things mentioned and discussed aim to help us become better officials.

Thanks goes to all of you that attended this meeting, and we hope to see you all at the London Junior Cup Final on Saturday the 17th of April, and also at the next meeting on Thursday the 22nd of April.

KICKING RACISM OUT OF FOOTBALL...

BY Paul Howard

The issue of eradicating racism from football is high up on everyone's list involved in football.

The FA and London FA are committed to driving racism out of football: all of us will no doubt agree that racism should not be allowed to play any part in this great game. Referees have a part to play in this drive.

What is meant by racism? The FA defines it as:- (a) the belief that race accounts for differences in human character or ability; (b) the belief that a particular race is superior to others; (c) discrimination or prejudice based on race.

Although this article talks about race, the same principles apply to sexism, homophobic behaviour and any other forms of abuse.

A key point that needs to be made is that referees need only identify an act of racism and what was meant by the offender, not whether the offender achieved what he intended to achieve. If, for example, an individual victim of deliberate racist abuse is not actually offended by it, action must still be taken.

Referees are of course already fully familiar with this concept: a tackle made with excessive force designed to maim or injure an opponent is a sending off offence, irrespective of whether the opponent is in fact maimed or injured – it is what was intended that is the offence.

There is no place for individuals to set their own tolerance levels. It is impossible to list comprehensively what is and what is not racist language but referees will recognise it when it is used. For example, in some circumstances the words “You lot make me sick” will be racist and in some circumstances they will not. Matters that are relevant in identifying racist language are (i) the actual words or gestures, (ii) the manner in which they are said or made and (iii) the context in which they are used.

It is not the role of the referee to make a judgment as to whether or not a person is racist: the referee needs only to judge whether the language and/or behaviour is racist. Acts of racism need to be dealt with quickly and effectively: failure to deal with the initial incident may well lead to retaliation, thus undermining the referee's control of the game. Potentially, racism can upset large numbers of people, e.g. other players (irrespective of their ethnic origin), club officials, spectators, etc. Referees need to enforce the Laws of the Game and racist incidents committed by players during the game should be

punished in the normal way under section S6 of Law 12: a sending off offence for the use of offensive or insulting or abusive language and/or gestures.

Offences by club officials, spectators or players after the match should be reported as “Misconduct” under Law 5 rather than as sending off offences under Law 12. Misconduct Reports should be submitted in the usual way with a full description of the incident, quoting the actual words used, also describing the manner and context in which they were used. As always, a copy of all Misconduct Reports submitted should be kept for your own records.

Punishments imposed by the FA and by County FA's for offences which are aggravated by a racial element are far more severe than the punishments for straightforward offences.

It is possible that a referee will be told of an alleged racist incident that has not been witnessed by the referee – perhaps a racist comment made to an opponent whilst out of earshot of the referee. Such complaints need to be taken extremely seriously: failure to deal with them can lead to similar problems to those mentioned above if racism has been witnessed but is not dealt with quickly and effectively.

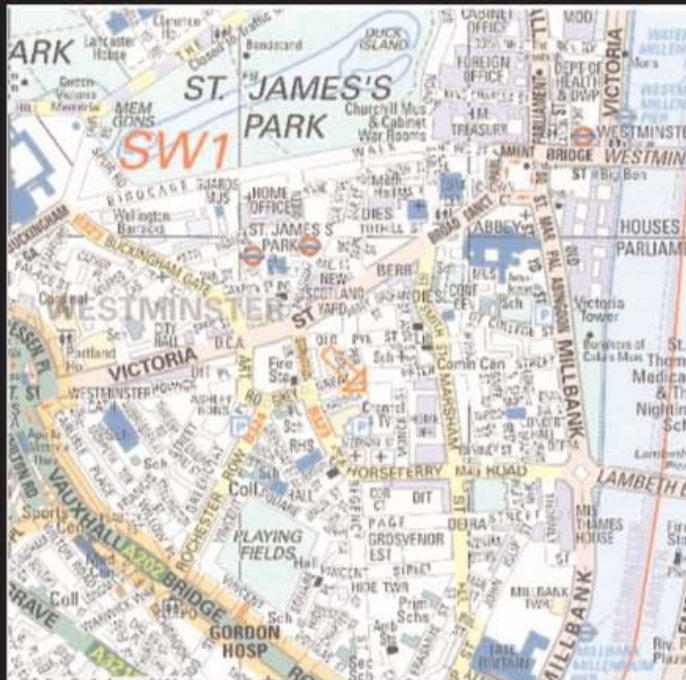
Obviously the referee cannot take disciplinary action by sending off a player for something not witnessed by the referee but the person who tells the referee of the incident must nevertheless have his/her concerns treated sympathetically. He or she should be told to report the full facts to the County FA or to use the FA's free phone number: 0800 085 0508.

After the match, the referee should prepare a report of the events as described to him/her and of the advice given by him/her to the person who described the incident. That report should be forwarded to the County FA if requested by it as the report will be very relevant to the investigation that will be conducted.

Racism does of course also contravene the law of the land and as a criminal offence might have been committed it may also be appropriate to report incidents to the police. Tensions are likely to be running high after a referee has dealt with an incident of racism. Extra vigilance is therefore required in case of further problems in the aftermath.



Directions to Meetings...



To get to Chadwick Street the nearest National Rail Station is London Victoria. The nearest tube is St James or Victoria. Then a five minute walk from the stations. There are loads of Buses as well: 11, 24, 148 and the 211.

If you need anything else then you can either contact myself (Sarah Hobbs) or Paul Howard our details are below...

Sarah Hobbs: jag_1011@hotmail.com

Paul Howard: paul.pwhoward@btopenworld.com

Or you can contact one of the London FA Referee Development Officers (RDO's) on:

Andy Porter: andy.porter@londonfa.com

Adrian Shorter: adrian.shorter@londonfa.com