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**The Magazine of the Blackpool, Fylde &
Wyre Districts Referees' Association**

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New Season

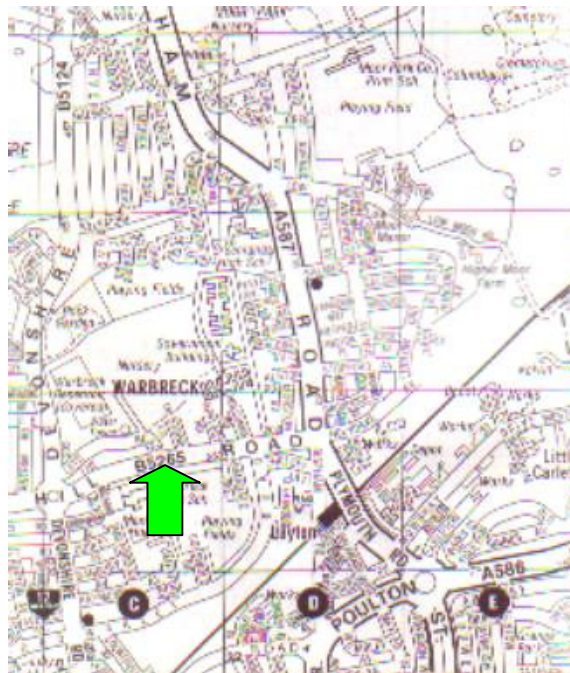
New Meeting Place

Last season we changed our meeting place to Marton Institute. This was because it was costing too much to stay at Collegiate School. But once again the cost there has gone up so much, that we are changing once again.

We will meet in the Business Section at **Unity College**, Warbreck Hill Road. This was the old Beacon Hill High School.

The meetings will start at 7pm as usual

The first meeting will be on **Monday 5th September**



Two to Level Two

The close season brought outstanding news to two of our members, **SCOTT OLDHAM** and **ALAN YOUNG** have both been told that they have been promoted to Level Two. This is great news for both of them and moves them up yet another rung on the promotion ladder.

They are both enthusiastic and regular attendees at our meetings, so it goes to show that if you want to keep moving upwards, the society is there to help.

Many congratulations to both of them we shall all be watching their futures with great interest.

Sadly a short World Cup for Natalie

Of course we were all over the moon when our own Natalie was chosen as the sole English representative at the Fifa Ladies World Cup Finals in Germany during the summer. It was a just reward for the hard work and high standards she has achieved over the years.

It was a pity then when she was only allowed to take part in one game, Australia –v- Papua New Guinea. Natalie was the non operative assistant when a deliberate hand ball incident occurred in the Papua penalty area. Both the ref and the nearby assistant failed to see it and despite the screams from Natalie and the Fourth official, who had seen it, play was allowed to continue. The ball immediately went to the other end of the field and Papua scored. Fortunately the Aussies eventually went on to win the game.

The incident was caught on the telly and replayed time and time again. The post match discussion must have been uncomfortable, but the end result was that all three officials took no further part in the tournament and went home early!

But what of the Fourth Official, German Bibiana Steinhaus? For some strange reason her part in the controversy was overlooked and she was allowed to stay on. Bibiana is a professional referee in the second division of the Bundersliga and as such is something of a star in the German football scene. As it was she was able to referee two games in the competition and then popped up in the middle for the Final itself.

A German referee for the final in Germany? Nice co-incidence, perhaps nice to have someone looking after your back.

Sometimes you just have to wonder!

Just a few days after he had got back down to the touchline again after his justifiable ban for abusing referee Martin Atkinson, Sir Alex found himself in hot water again with the FA. This time it apparently was for remarks he made about Howard Webb who was the referee for the vital League game against Chelsea. Ferguson on hearing of Webb's appointment, is alleged to have commented, "*We are getting the best referee, there is no doubt about that*" (but then came the comment causing the trouble and no doubt added on with the usual touch of minds games) "*But (getting a bad decision) is our greatest fear*"

The FA, taking offence, reminded everyone "Pre-match comments concerning appointed match officials are deemed by the FA to amount to improper conduct." The Press quickly pointed out that both the Chelsea manager Ancellotti and Stoke's Tony Pulis has also made complimentary comments which had gone unnoticed by the authorities.

A couple of days later, the FA must have seen sense as they brushed the matter under the carpet, issuing a reminder the managers and said no further action would be taken.

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As it turned out Webb and his World Cup team of Mike Mullarkey and Darren Cann performed to their usual high standard. Strangely this game was the first time the trio had worked together since the World Cup Final last summer!!

A most unusual award

The Professional Footballers Association took the most unusual step of awarding our World Cup trio **Howard Webb, Mike Mularkey and Darren Cann** a medal in recognition of their achievements in officiating at the World Cup Final and the European Champions League Final in the same season, which is quite unique.

At last FIFA is doing something about goal line technology

Following the long debate about the lack of goal line technology and the continuing list of 'goals' that weren't, including Frank Lampard's 'goal' against Germany in the World Cup Finals, At last Fifa have bowed to the inevitable and announced that the Internal Board Meeting in February 2012 will make a decision, provided that the equipment is working correctly.

You may remember that FIFA has experimented with technology in an World Under 17's competition and the equipment was registering goals when the ball had passed high over the cross bar!!

UEFA has also tried posting extra assistant's on the goal lines to help the referees, but that hasn't been a spectacular success either.

When a decision is made the English Premier League is raring to go and if possible would like the equipment to be installed before the start of the 2012/13 season.

FIFA is looking at two systems Hawkeye, already being used in tennis and cricket and the Cairos System being developed by the German firm Adidas.

The Hawkeye system uses cameras and needs to be referred to the Fourth Official who will watch and then inform the referee.

Cairos uses sensors contained in electronic cables, which signals instantly to the referee whether the ball has crossed the line. The ball contains a microchip held in the exact center of the ball by 12 suspension points. Hawkeye is slower and costs about £250,000 per stadium. Cairos costs about £120,000 but it was a version of this that was so unreliable in the first trial.

IFAB includes four representatives of FIFA and one each from England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. Six votes are necessary for approval. Prior to the 2010 World Cup, the Welsh and Northern Irish backed Blatter by voting to keep technology out of football.

Did you know ?

A Referee on average makes between 500 to 550 decisions per game, over 90 minutes that equals a decision approximately every 10 seconds.

A Film To Look Out For

A documentary film has been made called *The Referees* has been made by Belgium director called Yves Hinnant and it had its premiere at the Locarno Film Festival.

It follows Howard Webb around some of his games and the camera has been allowed access to behind the scenes of a referee's life. It is on limited release from 5th August.

One review says this, "Not for Hinnant the received image of the men in black as strutting martinets, drunk on authority after failing to carve out careers as players. He discerns fallible and yet noble figures, divisive yet human, and with a cause championed no more adroitly than through the whistle of Howard Webb."

One to look out for.



A twist on penalty taking

A penalty always has the potential to cause trouble, from the moment it is awarded. The reactions of the players, before, during and after it is taken have to be watched intensely.

But once again soccer had come up with something new. During a 'friendly' between the United Arab Emirates and Lebanon, a penalty was given when UAE were 6-2 up. Theyab Awana stepped up to take it and then cheekily back-heeled the ball into the net.

The goal stood of course but his manager wasn't too pleased, "I think it was disrespectful". Punishment for Awana is likely to follow.

Football Hooligans Strike Again

Towns and cities around the country used to and occasionally still do, quake at the sight of armies of youths in various club colours rampaging around. But now research by Huddersfield University has found that there doesn't even need to be a live game for the juices to start flowing with some of our mindless citizens. They will be presenting their findings in a report to the British Psychological Society's annual conference.

Switching on the computer can bring out the worst in some people. You would think that the extreme computer games such as Grand Theft Auto or Call of Duty would be the sort to bring out the violence. But no, give them a football game, which apparently they think is nearer to 'real life'!!!! Conceding a foul or a goal apparently produces more emotion than killing half of the Russian Army.

Some people ought to get a life. Maybe someone should persuade them to run out on a real pitch and kick a real ball for 90 minutes – then they would be too knackered to think about fighting with anyone else.

FIFA bans for match fixing officials

FIFA has banned seven match officials for life after an enquiry into games played in Turkey in February. Estonia drew with Bulgaria and Latvia beat Bolivia. All seven goals were scored from the penalty spot.

It's just not cricket

As the prize money in cricket increases, so does the pressure on the players to win. We sadly know from our own sport's experience that this also leads to more gamesmanship, dissent and bad behavior.

It comes as no surprise that halfway through the summer a record number of players had appeared before the authorities on charges. Captains are also being summoned to explain why they are not keeping their teams under control.

There are apparently four levels of offence rising in severity from time wasting and excessive appealing (level one) to intimidating the umpire, racism and violence (level four). Player get three penalty points for each offence and if they reach fourteen in two years they may be suspended.

The ECB say "There is no place in cricket for bad behavior and this initiative is designed to help teach the next generation of players about the importance of showing respect to your opponents, match officials, scorers and spectators". But inevitably there were some mealy mouthed excuses from some "If standards have slipped a little maybe its because modern society in general is a little less respectful of authority"

Just stop there! Soccer has been making the same excuses for years and look where it's got us. If referees and team managers were more ruthless in dealing with bad behavior right from the most junior teams and at the same time ridiculing the antics of the so-called role models at the top, then our game could be improved.

END OF SEASON FINALS

Ladies World Cup Finals in Germany – June – July

Assistant Referee – **Natalie Walker**

Northern Premier League - Play Off Final

Colwyn Bay – FC United

Referee - **Scott Oldham**

Assistant Referee – **David Underwood**

Under 16's Inter League Final – East Lancs –v- Barrow

Assistants **Elliot Swallow** and **Jake Morrison**

Vodkat Final AFC Liverpool – Atherton Collieries

Referee **David Underwood**

Blackpool and District Youth League - Hogan Cup Officials

Under 16 AFC Blackpool v Lytham Juniors

Referee... Lee Timothy

Assistant Referees... **Graham Nixon** Paul Armistead

Fourth Official... Tom Molloy

Under 15 Blackpool Rangers v Lytham Juniors

Referee... **Jake Morrison**

Assistant Referees... **Elliott Swallow** Ben Clarkson

Fourth Official... Tom Johnson

Under 14 South Shore Youth v YMCA

Referee... Alex Hart

Assistant Referees... Steve Morris Steve Cowell

Fourth Official... **Peter Brown**

Under 13 Blackpool Rangers v YMCA

Referee... **Cameron Robson**

Assistant Referees... Christian Draper **Andrei Rhodes**

Fourth Official... Liam Beck

Under 12 FC Blues v Foxhall

Referee... Lee Kerry
Assistant Referees... Daniel Pickard Adam Drew
Fourth Official... Spencer Kilpatrick

Under 11 Foxhall v YMCA

Referee... Alex Porter
Assistant Referees... Fergus Kent Tom Cartmell
Fourth Official... Mick Wilsdon

HOGAN PLATE FINALS

Under 11 Fleetwood Town v Lytham Lions

Referee... **Brian Street**
Assistant Referees... Christian Lane Joseph McManus
Fourth Official... Steven Wilson

Under 13 Blackpool Rangers Whites v Layton Clarets

Referee... Paul Finnigan
Assistant Referees... Jack Clifton Ryan Fisher
Fourth Official... Robert Griffiths

Under 12 Lytham Blues v Lytham Maroons

Referee... **Anthony Jackson**
Assistant Referees... George Flanagan Leah Wilkinson
Fourth Official... Adam Blair

Under 14 Fleetwood Town v Poulton Youth

Referee... Steve Morris
Assistant Referees... Spencer Kilpatrick Sam Fielding

Australian Rules player sent off because of 'dangerous haircut'

Nathan Van Someren, who plays for Victorian side Simpson Tigers, was told to leave the field in the third quarter of their match against Otway Districts.



Tigers co-coach Leigh Walsh told Fairfax Radio the reason given was "because his hair was too dangerous" and might have poked another player in the eye. Van Someren said he had played with the hairdo for three years without a problem. "I was just standing there and (the umpire) came across to me and goes, 'I thought I told you you couldn't come on the ground'," Van Someren told Fairfax. "I sort of just looked at him like 'what?' and he's like, 'no, I told you you couldn't come on the ground with that hairstyle, you have to go off'."



The Whistler got it wrong

In the May edition The whistler announced the sad demise of 'Cheese rolling' in Gloucestershire because of the dreaded 'Elf and Safety'. Well we got it wrong. People power triumphed and the event did take place when the locals just ignored the official advice. But take a look at the picture and if you want to join in, we can put you in touch with the organisers of the mental health department.

“Rebel cheese rollers defy the weather to take part in a bizarre competition of chasing an 8lb piece of the dairy product down a steep hill. Hardcore thrill seekers staged their own unofficial event after

the world-famous Cheese Rolling was cancelled for a second year running. The race had been advertised on social networking sites with a page set up on Facebook and people posting messages on Twitter. There was a large police presence at entrances to Cooper's Hill, at Brockworth, near Gloucester, but the event went ahead..."

Shock news: Researchers discover that referees are fitter than players

By Derek Hunter, Writing in The Mail on Sunday

The pre-season slog is nearly over and the stars of the Premier League are ready for battle. And as the multi-millionaires run out for next weekend's big kick-off, many fans will be asking whether they really do earn their enormous salaries.

Now scientifically collected data suggests that the hardest workers on show when Saturday comes will not even be the players - but the referees.



Fitter than Rooney?: Referee Lee Mason (centre) covers more ground in a match than most footballers

Research for the Premier League shows that the much-maligned officials are just as fit and fast as the players they have to control, if not more so.

The average Premier League player would leave rugby stars trailing in his wake in a foot race, with a top speed of 21.6mph - although pace merchants like Theo Walcott move even faster than that.

A study of players in the top flight of rugby league in Australia showed they run shorter distances than their 15-man equivalents, although backs in the 13-man code are more explosive runners, but still not as quick on average as Premier League footballers.

University of Chester research for rugby union's Premiership shows that even rugby backs like Jonny Wilkinson manage just 3.98 miles at top speeds of 18.7mph.



But the men in the middle in the Premier League, who earn about £70,000 a year, run further and more often at high speed than the players, many of whom earn that in one week.

And while the fastest players can still outstrip referees for sheer pace, the officials do just as many full sprints per game as the players.

So perhaps the next time Wayne Rooney feels like giving an official a volley of abuse, he will pause and show more respect. Then again, maybe not.

South Korea's football league is introducing lie-detector tests to battle corruption in the sport.

A match-fixing scandal among the country's top players was uncovered recently, and has continued to spread through the industry. Players from six teams are now under investigation. The K-League is taking a carrot-and-stick approach to tackling this huge scandal, introducing new sanctions but also raising the players' minimum wage.

All players suspected of wrongdoing will now have to take a polygraph - or lie-detector - test.

There will also be sanctions for clubs found guilty of match-fixing and a series of seminars on preventing corruption. It will compulsory to attend the seminars and any player who misses them will be suspended.

But there is a sweetener too: the K-League said it would double the annual minimum wage for players, apparently in an attempt to remove temptation. The minimum wage is currently around \$11,000 (£6,900) - less than half the national average income.

So far 46 players and 11 gambling brokers have been charged in the match-fixing scandal.

Prosecutors allege the players took money in return for making deliberate mistakes in at least 15 matches last year. Ten players have so far been given lifetime bans.

In the future this could lead to making life easier for the refs

It can't be too long before they make a portable device that the refs can carry during games.

Here's some random questions to be programmed into the machines:-

Was that a dive?

Wasn't that a deliberate hand ball?

Did you really try to break his leg?

Why did you put your hand up when you knew he was offside?

Can you really not speak more than two words without swearing?

* * *

They might even develop an advanced model for FIFA committee members asking "Where's the money?" On second thoughts don't be silly - that would be banned immediately

Football Pitches

A couple of Whistlers ago, there was a picture of an unusual location for a football pitch – in the middle of Singapore Harbour.

This time round there is a picture of the world famous Hackney Marshes in the east end of London. This is the largest collection of pitches in Europe. The picture was taken around the 1960's when there was around 100 pitches played on every Sunday!

The new Olympic Park has taken up some of the land for the forthcoming Games in 2012, but they have promised to restore most of the ground back to football.



Of course there are some of us, if we had been refereeing a game there, would always have been put on the pitch furthest away from the changing rooms!

Whenever changes are proposed to the Laws, the legislators always have to bear in mind how they would be interpreted “down at Hackney Marshes” or in other words will the changes be right for ‘ordinary’ football.

A Grand Day Out at the Seaside

At the end of last season **Scott Oldham** and **David Underwood** drove to the Welsh Coast. But before they got out their bucket and spades, there was the small matter of the North Premier League Play Off Final between Colwyn Bay and FC United



The only three men wearing ties for ten miles around



Time get things rolling



Bottom twitching time



Get up you big numpty! If my Dad had kicked you, we'd have had to send for an ambulance



Ground capacity was only 2000, The 500 extra fans who turned up watched from a nearby hill!