

**MILTON KEYNES REFEREES ASSOCIATION**  
**NEWSLETTER**  
***“Keyne Whistler”***

*May 2005*

**Thoughts of the editor.....**

Welcome to the May edition of Keyne Whistler.

There have been several high profile games in recent weeks where once again the spotlight has inevitably fallen on the officials. None more so than the second leg of the Champions League Semi Final between Liverpool and Chelsea, with what will become the second most controversial ‘did it cross the line or not goal’ in English football. Your standpoint on this is probably dictated by your allegiances, and for the next branch meeting I think we should all sit round in a circle, get Jon Bradshaw and Ernie Jennings in the middle and watch them argue it out. My own personal viewpoint is divided. Firstly, I think we will struggle to ever prove it conclusively one way or the other. Secondly, I think the referee may have been better to stop the play earlier and award the penalty, which would of course have resulted in a red card for the Chelsea goalkeeper. But it’s an exceptionally brave man that plays an advantage in the penalty area! And thirdly, I have heard it suggested that the assistant, aware that his colleague in the middle could really do with the ball entering the goal having played on from an obvious penalty (in fact actually putting the whistle to his mouth), might have taken it upon himself to flag when the ball maybe hadn’t entirely crossed the line. For the purposes of litigation, I should like to add the word ‘allegedly’ to the end of that sentence.

On a more local level, the fixture list in the UCL threw up an entertaining last fixture on Tuesday night. Cogenhoe played Potton with the winners being crowned champions. I wasn’t at the game, but I’m told it was an entertaining 2-2 draw which means that Cogenhoe finished top, and was played in front of a crowd of about 400.

I am writing this editorial on the morning of the last day of the Nationwide League season, and at the extreme risk of tempting fate, all the Cobblers need to do to make the play offs is beat Kidderminster at Sixfields, a team that are already relegated and will be playing in the conference next season. You would think this would be a fairly simple task, but having watched them for 15 years, I know I am in for a nervy and nail biting afternoon, where we will almost certainly concede a goal in the first five minutes and spend the remaining eighty-five battering the Kidderminster goal senseless. But of course, their goalkeeper will choose today to have the best game of his life before he goes back to being a postman next season. Colin will bring on 3 strikers at half time, all of which will have trouble aligning cows’ rear ends and banjos, and another season travelling to Rochdale on cold, wet Tuesday nights in January will be assured.

Gareth

## For next season.....

DARTs: The programme for level 6-3 will start at Bucks County Council Sports & Social Club, Aylesbury, with induction on August 25<sup>th</sup> 2005.

Proposed dates:	Induction	August 25 <sup>th</sup> 2005
	Meetings	October 20 <sup>th</sup> 2005 December 15 <sup>th</sup> 2005 February 16 <sup>th</sup> 2006
	Referee Clinics	November 17 <sup>th</sup> 2005 February 23 <sup>rd</sup> 2006

I believe 22 referees from this area have signed up for the programme and I hope looking at the syllabus that it will be a most interesting programme.

Also I have news for level 7 & 8 referees. At a meeting of the Referees Development Committee last week it was agreed that a course will be arranged for you in the near future. Topics under review will be Who's the Boss, Fitness, Tactical Awareness and Managing Set Plays. All level 7 & 8 referees will receive an application form in the post and the venue will be as per DARTs programme. It is proposed guest speakers will be attending these courses. I am sure these will be of great advantage to you.

There are also to be mentoring and examiners seminars arranged so if anyone is interested they can contact me or Mike Gardiner.

On another County matter, the other day I received an application form for Leisure leagues. Brian Moore reiterates as per his letter sent to all registered referees. This league is not sanctioned so must not be officiated on.

Congratulations to Gareth Viccars and Les Passey in gaining promotions and I look forward to the new set of applications for next season which I hope you are all getting in now so don't get caught out by applying late.

I hope that next season I will be able to attend more of your meetings and hope you all have a good "break" with no slacking on your fitness.

Bill Johnson

## **This time around.....**

Our next branch meeting will be held at Shenley Leisure Centre in the annexe behind the Clock Inn on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May commencing at 7.30pm. Our guest speaker this month really, truly, and honestly will be Pete Winkelman. For those of you who don't know Pete, where have you been? Anyone who has seen him speak at our previous meetings will know that he is one of the most enthusiastic and energetic guys you will ever meet. He will be bringing along his all singing, all dancing virtual reality presentation of the new stadium at Denbigh. I'm sure Pete, as always, will be extremely happy to answer any questions you may have, although anyone thinking of asking what it will be like to have to best stadium in the Nationwide Conference should be thoroughly ashamed of themselves. Pete is one of the best guest speakers we have had in recent times, and I'm certain an entertaining evening awaits all who attend.

## **Contact Points.....**

If anyone wants to contact me for whatever reason then I would heartily recommend that you use one of the following methods.

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Office: 01908 312623  
Mobile: 07880 710390  
Fax: 01908 311794  
E-Mail: [garethv2001@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:garethv2001@yahoo.co.uk)  
Address: 23 Lovatt Drive, Bletchley, Milton Keynes, MK3 7BU

Also, don't forget our fantastic website at [www.mkra.org.uk](http://www.mkra.org.uk)

## **Test your Maths.....**

Whilst flicking through an old NTFC fanzine, I came across the following article which I thought I would reproduce for you here, on the basis that I found it extremely amusing. I can take absolutely no credit for it, other than I have changed a couple of names to bring it up to date, as it appeared in the Man Utd cup game edition back in January 2004.

You will doubtless enjoy the release of the official MUFC Maths workbook, which covers sums for practising Key Stage Two maths for 7-11 year olds which has been introduced as part of the Governements' maths campaign.

1. Roy is 78 yards away from the referee at Old Trafford, and Rio is 65 yards away.  
If  
Roy can run at 21mph and Rio can run at 16mph, who will be sticking their vein-bulging forehead into the hapless whistlers' face first, assuming Roy does not

- stop to stamp on an opponent on his way?
2. If one minute of time is taken up in a game for substitutions and one minute for injuries, how much injury time will be added on by the referee if Man Utd are losing at home?
  3. Ryan is a Welshman. Express, as a percentage, the number of internationals he has missed on a Wednesday evening compared to the miraculous recoveries he made for the following Saturday?
  4. Manchester United are one of the giants of world club football. How many more European Cup Finals have they appeared in than Steaua Bucharest? For one extra mark how many more than Reims?
  5. Phil has 30 international caps. If you take away the number of appearances when he was the only adult male in England who could just about kick the ball with his left foot how many are left?
  6. You are the referee at Old Trafford. How near to a visiting defender does a tumbling United forward have to be to earn a penalty if he goes down in the box?(Note: Round your answer down to the nearest 20 metres).
  7. Chris lives in Guildford. How much does it cost for him and his two sons to travel to the Theatre of Dreams every other weekend, including limited edition match day programme, a few drinks and prawn sandwiches all round? How much could he save if he watched his local team instead? (Note: Round your answers down to the nearest thousand pounds).