



# Isle of Man Referees' Society (1937)

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25 August 2011

To: Football Managers and Club Officials

It has been brought to the attention of the Referees Society that match officials are once again being subjected to foul and abusive language, insults and aggressive behaviour from players, managers and spectators. This sort of behaviour is not acceptable and must be eradicated as a matter of urgency.

The island does not currently have the ideal number of match officials. The decline in numbers is due to various factors including referees retiring, the reduction of newly qualified referees entering the game and in particular those leaving the game due to the lack of respect given to them. If the present trend of lack of respect shown to officials continues there will be little or no chance of additional people prepared to give up their time to officiate at football matches. We are sure you will agree that this situation cannot be allowed to continue.

Dissent from the players can be stopped immediately by the managers and club officials. It is the manager's responsibility, together with their captains, to control the players that make up their teams. It is clear in some cases this is not happening. The club officials are responsible for the behaviour of the supporters. In some cases spectators are being allowed to abuse referees without any action being taken by the club officials.

The referees believe that not enough is being done to assist in this area. If the situation continues it won't be long before more matches are being postponed due to a lack of officials.

We would like to make it clear that most people connected with football at all levels enjoy the game for what it is. It is the minority that have created the current situation that is unacceptable.

We would ask that as a matter of urgency you raise this issue with all those connected with your club and advise that the current situation cannot continue. It would be preferable to resolve this matter quickly and at local level.

Any suggestions on how you believe the situation could be improved would be appreciated, please send details to: Mark Stevens President of the IOM Referee Society. (Email: [pipedream@manx.net](mailto:pipedream@manx.net))

This letter will be appearing on the Referees Society website, FA website, Radio and newspaper and it would assist matters if you place it on your club website. We will also be asking the media to bring this to the attention of the public.

Yours sincerely

Mark Stevens

President IoM Referee Society



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