

A CHANCE TO PLAY

It was not the referees who made the game bad but the managers and players. Henceforth, skilled players who suffered as a result of weak refereeing can expect protection. Referees are clearly determined to make the foul so difficult to get away with, it won't be worth the risk of committing even a borderline one.

No doubt the criticism of the way the League precipitated the change is valid but the warnings have been there a long time and the action was not unpremeditated. Something constructive is being done and the objective is a praiseworthy one. Everybody should soon be able to go out and *play* football.

Sunday Times

MAIN ISSUE

The main issue is surely that at last, long overdue, a genuine, serious, concerted and conscientious attempt to stamp out evils in the game—and introduce universal interpretations of the laws—is being made. Now there is no longer any confusion about the price to be paid for dissent.

FRANK MCGHEE, *Sunday Mirror*

INTER - CITY ?

Referees made more bookings last week than British Rail.

DANNY BLANCHFLOWER, *Sunday Express*

BOSTON STRANGLER

Tough managers who were demanding all-out action against violence a couple of seasons ago are now as hysterical as the inmates of an old ladies' home who have heard the Boston Strangler is dropping in for the week-end.

FRANK BUTLER, *News of the World*

ALL FOR IT

I am all for the League's new get-tough refereeing policy. It penalises the tackle from behind and gives the skilful players more chance. Perhaps they are being a bit hard at the moment, but it will all iron out in the end.

HARRY CATTERICK, *Everton manager*

DIVERSE OPINIONS

The referee came up to me and asked: "Did it go in?" I replied that it hadn't. You've got to be fair in this game, haven't you?

I did wonder whether to be truthful or not, but it definitely wasn't a goal, and everybody else in the ground knew it wasn't a goal. With the state of football as it is at the moment, it would only have made matters worse if I had lied.

My team-mates were a bit choked, but the important thing is that I know I have done right in my own mind. If they want to win by cheating, that's fair enough by them; it's their business.

It's not so much being a great sportsman as your own personal opinion of the game. The main thing is that Forest would not have carried on with the game had the goal been allowed—at least, that's the way I would have felt about it in their position.

STEVE KEMBER, *Crystal Palace captain*

I know Steve was in a tricky position and the referee had really no right to consult him like that. When he did, the lad should have told him: "Don't ask me. You do the refereeing, I do the playing. It's up to you to make the decision." I shall tell Steve so.

Mr. ARTHUR WAIT, *Palace Chairman*

This boy comes out of the situation as a magnificent sportsman. Those who are always knocking footballers should remember what Kember did.

Mr. TONY WOOD,

Vice-Chairman Nottm. Forest

PLAYERS' ANGLE

We appreciate that something needed to be done to improve the game. But . . . we are getting away from commonsense and instead finding chaos and confusion. It is imperative that we get round a table and talk—and we must do it as soon as possible.

DEREK DOUGAN, *Chairman*

Pro Footballers' Association