

Man in the Middle

Mr. PETER WALTERS was born at Lifton, Devon. He started refereeing in Exeter in 1951, after giving up playing due to an ankle injury sustained in amateur and semi-pro soccer.

He progressed via the South Western League to the Football Combination, and then to the Football League line in 1962; he became a League referee in 1965.

In 1967 he was linesman for the quarter-final European Cup Winners Cup game between Gyori Vasas Eto and Standard Liege; in that year he also refereed the Wales v Ireland Youth international and the Semi-Final of the F.A. Youth Cup. In 1969 he was in charge of the F.A. Amateur Cup Final between North Shields and Sutton United, and was also "on the line" for the Chelsea v Leeds Utd. F.A. Cup semi-final.

Mr. Walters, an headmaster, is married with three children; two boys (Simon, aged 11 and Timothy, aged 7) and a girl, Venetia, aged nine.

His hobbies are cine photography and gardening (especially roses and dahlias).

Mr. Walters last officiated at Upton Park for the League game v W.B.A. in Aug. 1969.

Writing in the "Football League Review," Mr. Walters comments:

In each area there is a local Referees' Society, whose aims are to foster and encourage referees. Courses are held for potential referees and eventually, when they are successful in passing the examination, they officiate in local games.

There is no short cut to successful refereeing. It demands a deep knowledge of the Laws of the Game, the ability to apply those Laws fairly and a strong character. Last, but by no means least, it demands mental and physical alertness.

A really good referee can convince spectators and players alike that he knows his job, and is in command of all situations. An inferior referee can ruin a game.

Instead of turning our potential referees over to themselves and the local "wolves," we in Somerset have initiated a system whereby they are watched at least six times during their first season. This we hope will lead to an efficient system of refereeing.

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