

# CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
Introduction and Acknowledgements	4
Sources and Notes	5
Referees 1888 to 1900	6
Referees 1901 to 1939	15
Referees 1946 to 1979	30
Referees 1980 to 2004	47
Referees 1888 and 1889	55
Available match officials 1942-43	58
League Cup Final referees	61
Play-off Final referees	62
Full Members' Cup Final referees	63
Associate Members' Cup Final referees	64
F A Cup Final referees	65
Rules for League List appointments	67
1886 advice to referees	68
Match fees	69



## BY THE SAME AUTHOR

Tranmere Rovers 1881-1921 A New History

ISBN 0 9518648 0 7 (1991) (out of print)

Dixie Dean of Tranmere Rovers 1923-1925

ISBN 0 9518648 1 5 (1992)

Tranmere Rovers 1921-1997 A Complete Record (& 1998 Update)

(co-author Steve Wilson)

ISBN 0 9518648 2 3 (1997) (out of print)

IN RESERVE Tranmere Rovers in the Cheshire County League 1919 to 1970

ISBN 0 9518648 4 X (2000)

# AUTHOR'S INTRODUCTION & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In early 2004, Steve Wilson, my co-author of the *Tranmere Rovers Complete Record* (1997), agreed we would add to our knowledge who was the referee for each of Rovers' league and cup games since joining the Football League in 1921. That was quite a task but we got there in the end. But, whatever the problems of just doing that, it was complicated by the erratic way that programme editors, journalists and typesetters recorded (or, more like it, mis-recorded) referees' names and home towns.

The classic was when T Seymour of Wakefield in the 1950s was transformed into T.C. Mour in one match report. Then, some towns like Blackburn and Blackpool, and Barnsley and Burnley, seemed to be randomly inter-changeable. And, of course, referees did move home now and again and there was no way of knowing quite when this might have been.

The details of the referee, whether in programmes or match reports, was subject to the vagaries of the process and pressure of getting the information from something handwritten, often via the telephone, into the final typeset format for printing. The opportunities for error abounded.

Thus was born my search for a comprehensive and reliable list of referees. It was a surprise to discover that there is no single publication which brings together this information. So, I decided to set about creating one of my own thinking it would be easy - after all, the Football League offices in Preston are just a few miles from where I live. It seemed all I needed was access to their archive of Football League Handbooks in which, every season, are listed their referees and linesmen.

Except they do not have such an archive and nor do the Football Association or the Referees' Association. I even tried several League founder members but they had none either. So, I had to do it from scratch using whatever sources I had of my own and could be unearthed elsewhere.

Fortunately, the National Football Museum, also in Preston, came up trumps with a collection of Handbooks from 1960 onwards. Not only that, they have useful collections of early soccer annuals such as those published by Athletic News, Gamage's and the Sunday Chronicle. Additionally, they had several League agm minutes from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and some annuals published by the Nottingham Journal which also helped fill some gaps.

For my part, I began to build a collection of Football League Handbooks through eBay, bookshops and postal auctions. From my contacts with fellow club historians, came lists from their own collections of soccer annuals. The final season I needed to complete the project was 1930-31 and it was Gordon Small, the Hartlepool United historian, who came up with that list from the Northern Echo Football Annual.

Having got this far, I thought others might find my list a useful reference and I am grateful to Tony Brown of *SoccerData*, Nottingham, for putting it into the public domain. There are 1,536 referees from the founding of the Football League in 1888 up to the present season, 2004-05. As well as showing the seasons they operated, I have included information about the referees of the major cup finals from the Associate Members' Cup to the World Cup. However, not every Football League game has been refereed by these 1,536 referees - it is within the League's regulations to appoint, *in extremis*, a listed linesman to take charge of a game.

The 1888 and 1889 lists are not official lists as none were published. The Athletic News' extremely long national lists of referees have been used to select intuitively the referees most likely to have been called upon in those two seasons. So that no-one gets left out, all the referees in those two lists have been included in the section on pages 55-57.

The 107-season list is for the peacetime seasons, as they are known, viz they exclude 1915 to 1918 (The Great War) and 1940 to 1945 (Second World War). So far as I could establish, no lists were published during the former and, during the latter, the Handbooks contained a "List of Officials who are Available for Appointments". As an example, on pages 58-60, I have included that for 1942-43, which includes linesmen as well as referees.

On pages 61-66 are details of various League cup finals and who refereed them. Also, for the record, F A Cup Final referees back to 1872.

As my introduction above relates, I would not have completed this project so quickly, if ever, without some wonderful help. Most of all, I am so grateful to Peter Holme, research officer at the National Football Museum, Preston, for the huge amount of material he provided from the handbooks and annuals in the Museum's collections, the foundation of my project.

I acknowledge, alphabetically, the valuable contributions of Pat Brown (Football League, Referees Department), Tony Brown (*SoccerData*), Sarah Collins (Referees Department, PGMOL). John Cromwell (Tranmere fan in Reading), Gordon Small (Hartlepool United historian) and Geoff Wilde (Southport historian) - not forgetting the many helpful Local Studies Librarians and eBayers I contacted.

And, finally, my thanks to Nick Sample for the cover design and to Simon Topman for kind permission to use the Acme Whistle copyright images he provided from the company archive.

Gilbert Upton  
February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2005