



Meet the Referee

#007 [AP445]

Q1 - Name (including any nickname)

Chris Fordyce (Dycer)

Q2 - Category

Cat 1 Dev

Q3 - Why did you become a referee?

About 18 months after getting back playing following a triple leg break, one of the breaks opened up again, so had to stop playing or risk a wheelchair....and I certainly wasn't clever enough to go into coaching!! So refereeing gave me a chance to stay involved in the game. Then I realized I actually enjoyed it.

Q4 - What challenges do you find in refereeing?

All 4 kinds: Fair, Careless, reckless and excessive :) One of the biggest challenges for me personally is reigning in the amount of advantages I play. I get a lot of stick for it from peers etc. as I do (believe it or not) like to keep things going wherever possible as I feel it's to the benefit of the game generally. This can be a bit of a risky strategy for a referee though from a match control perspective, especially in certain areas of the park or in certain types of game...but sometimes I just get too caught up looking for ways to keep play moving when I should maybe be that bit more "conservative" in my approach.

Q5 - What's your most positive memory within refereeing?

For a single "defining" positive memory, I once received a phone call from John McGlashan when he was Dundee Violet manager. The night before I'd refereed their match, had sent one of their players off and awarded 2 penalties against his team....and he was calling to say he thought I handled the game (a relegation crunch match) tremendously well given the stakes and that he liked my style of refereeing and respectful approach to players even when it's not being reciprocated. It was just such a lovely, unexpected touch from an absolute gentleman who's sadly no longer with us and not something that happens very often in this job!! I did also play a triple advantage once that led to a goal....that felt pretty high 5 yourself awesome ;)

Q6 - What's your most prestigious appointment?

I was appointed to a Scottish Junior Cup Quarter Final when I was at Category 2 Development, which is apparently not something that commonly happens so that felt pretty special....unfortunately I laddered my tights the week before and had to pull out the game with a hamstring injury. Also I was fortunate enough to be appointed to the East of Scotland v South of Scotland League Play-off final at the end of last season...and was fit enough to turn up this time thankfully!

Q7 - If you could change any Law within football, what would it be?

I'm going to sit firmly on the fence here and remain politically correct by saying that I wouldn't change any as they're made up by folk way cleverer and better equipped to do so than I am....but if pressed for an answer...the goaly 6 second one as I think the only actual purpose it serves is to let folk on the other team prove they can count to 6 (and beyond if they're really showing off) every time a goaly is standing with the ball in his hands. That and sock tape, no explanation required on that one!!

Q8 - What's your secret talent that no one knows about?☐

By definition answering this question makes it no longer a secret....however believe it or not I can confirm that my eyes are in fact NOT painted on, they are real, and I actually do have a clue what I'm doing...I just like to hide it so no one can see it :)

Q9 - Who is your role model within the refereeing movement?

I'm gonna get mushy here. He's one of my closest pals but I have to say Mike Rom-Com. As a role model he's the ultimate example of what hard work, dashing good looks and a beautiful gazelle-like running style can accomplish. I just hope that I'm half as fit and active as he is when I reach his age! Seriously Mike is the benchmark. So annoyingly consistent and always available for support (and brutal honesty) when things don't go quite according to plan.

Q10 - What is your ambition within refereeing?

To work as hard as I can, keep learning and improving, and try to reach the highest level I possibly can within my window of opportunity. And in general just to try and have a positive influence on the games I referee by being in the right place to get decisions right. Even if the decision isn't a popular one, if it's the right one then that has to be positive, and at the end of the day I'm only doing this because I love football.

