

Match must-haves

QUESTION In the mid-Fifties, it was said there were six things a League football referee must take on to the field at the start of the match. What were they?

THIS is what a football referee would have taken on to the pitch in the Fifties: two watches, a notepad, a pencil, a whistle and, of course, the match ball.

Former referee Bill Clements, who was born in my home town of West Bromwich, once told me he used to have an extra watch, a couple more pens and even a spare whistle in his pockets. Bill refereed the 1965 FA Cup final when Liverpool beat Leeds United 2-1 after extra time.

The first football referee didn't appear until 1881. Before then, two umpires used to control matches.

In the summer of 1881, the Football Association announced: 'By mutual consent of clubs competing in matches, a referee shall be appointed whose duty shall be to decide in all cases of dispute between umpires.

'He shall keep a record of the game and act as timekeeper. In the event of ungentlemanly behaviour on the part of any of the contestants, the offender or offenders shall, in the presence of the umpires, be cautioned.'

The umpires were abolished in 1891 when the referee was moved from the touchline onto the pitch and empowered to give decisions without waiting for appeals. The referee was in complete control.

Demand for a ref's services increased so quickly that in March 1893 a Referees' Association was formed.

Tony Matthews, football historian, Ashburton, Devon.



Whistleblower: Fifties referee Denis Howell is well prepared

**ANSWERS TO
CORRESPONDENTS**
Compiled by Charles Legge

we reckoned a pair of off-course albatrosses at least.

*Tex Waite,
Stockport, Cheshire.*

QUESTION U.S. airborne troops in war films always have a coil rope attached

QUESTIONS

Q: Now the Duke of Norfolk, the Earl Marshal, no longer has a seat in the House of Lords, will he still have a role in coronation arrangements?

*Kit Bartlett,
Tonbridge Wells, Kent.*

Q: Several blond, fair-skinned mummies have been found in China and Peru, and a recent article about Bolivia reported a high percentage of births of twins who were blond with blue eyes. Could these be the descendants of Vikings?

Christine Henderson, Bristol.

Q: Forty years ago, my mother took me on trips on the Thames on a boat called the Bay Queen. Does it still exist?

Adrian Stuart, Manchester.

everything they needed. The toggle rope was used for carrying or dragging larger, heavier loads.

It was first issued to British airborne and commando units early in the war. Belgian, French, Polish, Canadian and Indian airborne units raised by the British were also issued with the ropes, as were SAS units and the Chindits.

U.S. airborne and Ranger units adopted the toggle ropes in 1942/3, after training with UK airborne and commando troops.

In all units, the rope was carried tightly coiled in a hangman's knot; the British version, made of hemp, was normally carried on the belt with combat dress. The U.S. version, made of nylon, was carried on the belt or upper webbing of combat dress.