



Hobbies

Here's something you didn't know about me...

Name: Martin Forrester
Hobby: Football Referee
Job: Course Manager, Essex Golf & Country Club



How and when did you start referring football games?

"After some 15 years as a player, I had to finally retire due to a number of persistent injuries and constantly hobbling into work on a Monday morning in pain.

"I needed an objective to try and keep reasonably fit and also wanted to keep active within the game I have loved since a small boy. In 1991, I qualified as a referee and have since officiated over 600 games for various age groups and genders. I have also had the opportunity to officiate at a number of senior Essex grounds including Chelmsford City, Braintree Town, Billericay, Witham and Maldon."

What's your most memorable match?

"My biggest highlight was when I was 4th official at Roots Hall (Southend United, at present division One). The game was a boring 0-0 draw but

the atmosphere and the day it's self will one I will never forget, along with using, for the first time, the electronic board to make substitutions.

"To use the electronic board is an art in its self and when both sets of managers wanted to make a number of substitutions at the same time to say things got slight confused would be putting it politely but that's for another day."

What is it about being a referee that appeals to you?

"Like our Association, the Referee association has given me the opportunity to make many a friend and also meet the likes of Sir Trevor Brooking, Bob Wilson and Peter Taylor (then England Assistant Manager) along with those who know their match officials Ken Aston, Jeff Winter, Steve Bennett and Phil Sharpe.

"Finally to all you spectators, managers and players out there in our industry, next time you are at a match please give that person in the middle a chance. They are only human, will make mistakes and like us in our every day job will have to make decisions that will not please everyone (the golfers or committee member)."



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