

COMMENT

Referees have toughest job

COMMENTATOR and Wycombe Wanderers director Alan Parry has had his knuckles rapped and been fined £100 by the Football Association for his after-match row with a referee in a game against Macclesfield.

It was a heat-of-the-moment incident, for which Parry apologised almost immediately. With all things considered, the punishment more or less fitted the crime, although perhaps he should be considered lucky.

Yet, for the interest of sport, such incidents should not go without action. Referees have the toughest jobs around and they have to make split-second decisions which will not always be right.

It is not the job of players, club officials, or spectators to take the law into their own hands.

People who do are just bad losers. It is, after all, only a game. Dubious decisions won't always go your way, but there are times when they will.

The appalling display by certain French rugby players during Saturday's World Cup clash with England, coupled with the reported row in the players' tunnel afterwards, was not only disgraceful, but brought shame to the sport.

For the Rugby World Cup Committee to then not take any disciplinary action opens the floodgates for other rugby players and officials to spit at referees and call them cheats. If anyone was cheating, it was the French team.

But this is a case in point where a firm stand must be taken for the sake of sport. Without discipline, sports would become free-for-all fighting matches, with referees ending up victims.

Heaven knows what the World Cup semi-finals will bring on Saturday, but one thing is for certain – the referees will have to have great courage. When players start throwing punches, send them off. If they don't stamp their authority on the games, they will be trampled underfoot.

Blues director fined and reprimanded after outburst

WYCOMBE WANDERERS' director Alan Parry has been fined £100 and censured by the Football Association following last month's bust up with a referee.

Parry, an ITV sports commentator was hauled before the FA's disciplinary commission after he verbally attacked referee Roy Osborne after Wycombe's first defeat of the season in September's match against Macclesfield.

Parry apologised for his unruly actions after the incident which he said were made in the heat of the moment.

Referee Osborne was booed and jeered by Blues fans after he sent two Wycombe players off and allowed Macclesfield a controversial winning goal.

The FA could have banned Parry from every ground in the country.

Wanderers stay second in the Vauxhall Conference following Saturday's 2-2 draw against Boston but will go into pole position if they beat mid-table Kidderminster Harriers tomorrow.

ACTION

WYCOMBE Wanderers ladies had a rare old battle in a Bucks derby match against Aylesbury on Sunday. The Blues reserve team scraped through 3-2 at Hazlemere Recreation Ground with goals from Sue Hancocks (2) and Denise Smyth. They now top Division Four of the WFA Southern Region league.

STATIONS