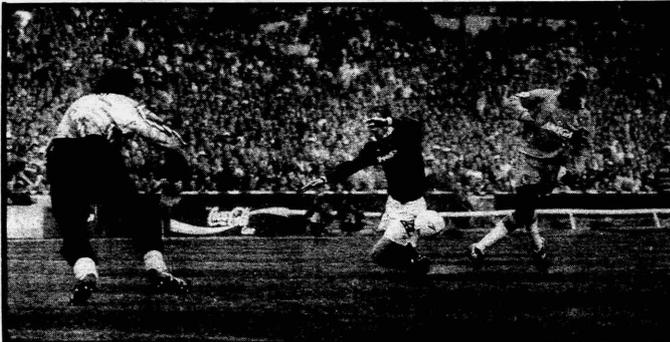


SPORT

Taylor made for exhibition appearance

FORMER World Champion and one of Northern Ireland's favourite snooker personalities, Dennis Taylor, is making a special exhibition appearance at Cricklewood's Broadway Snooker Club on Wednesday June 1 at 8pm. Always versatile and extremely humorous in addition to being a talented snooker player, Dennis - who won his World title in a dramatic never to be forgotten final against Steve Davis - will be assured of a generous reception at what promises to be fantastic evening's entertainment.



● Andrei Kanchelkiss goes tumbling after Frank Sinclair's Cup Final challenge.



● Referee Elleray points to the spot - and the protests begin. Pictures by Gareth Beard.

Ref David in a spot of cup bother

But his Harrow School pupils stay loyal

REFEREE David Elleray may have received a less than rapturous reception from Chelsea supporters after his controversial penalty decision in Saturday's FA Cup Final at Wembley, but happily for him there was no similar reaction when he returned to Harrow School, where he is the Druries House master.

The 39 year old official's spot kick award - his second in the space of six minutes - when Chelsea's Frank Sinclair was ruled to have fouled United's Andrei Kanchelkiss, changed the face of the game and was the big after-match talking point.

At Harrow School the verdict went emphatically in Mr Elleray's favour. "All the boys said they thought I was right - even the Chelsea supporters," he said. "They're a very loyal lot at Harrow."

Having now had the benefit of seeing action replays of the incident, Mr Elleray remains convinced that his decision was

correct. "Virtually everybody I've spoken to said their initial reaction was that it was a penalty, although some were less sure after seeing the replay. At the time there was little anti reaction to the decision.

"If you watch Sinclair, at no time does he play the ball or appear to play it. Kanchelkiss did play it and when Sinclair moves Kanchelkiss out of the way, they collide, Sinclair's arm comes out and pushes Kanchelkiss off the ball.

"Although the linesman was nearer, he had a side on view. The important thing was that I had an angled view and was able to see the arm coming up. I had no doubts that it was a penalty.

In what could have been deemed a goalkeeping situation, many observers felt that if he believed it was a penalty, it should also have been a sending off for Sinclair. "It did occur to me after giving

the penalty," he said. "But if Kanchelkiss had got the ball he would probably have gone to the byline and crossed. The law says that it's a sending off if it's an obvious goalkeeping opportunity. It was a possible one, but not an obvious one."

Mr Elleray was full of praise for Chelsea manager Glenn Hoddle's after match comments. "He was obviously disappointed but said that the referee had made an honest decision. It was a very magnificent thing for a losing manager to say."

After all the controversy Mr Elleray's plans now are "to keep my head low for a few days." Next month he is back in action, refereeing the Holland v Hungary international in Eindhoven.

Phil Don is England's representative at the World Cup Finals in America but Mr Elleray hopes to get his chance in four years time. "I shall work hard towards making it to France in 1998," he said.



● Chelsea skipper Dennis Wise gets in a flap over the decision but Mr Elleray remains unmoved - although his hand begins to stray strategically to his notebook.

The Observer's verdict on the controversial Cup Final penalty decision

John Comfort (Observer Sports Editor and class two referee who was in charge of the Middlesex County Youth FA under-15 Cup Final this season in which he also gave two penalties - neither of which were disputed, or so he says): "My first impression was that it was a valid shoulder to shoulder challenge. Having seen the incident

numerous times since, I still think there is some doubt that it was an illegal challenge or that it actually occurred inside the area. You only give a penalty if you are 100 per cent certain, therefore I have to say in my view it was a harsh decision. But I sympathise with David - he had to make an instant and honest decision without the aid of the action replay."

Gareth Beard (Observer chief photographer, who was on duty at the match): "The ref was dead right. Although Kanchelkiss made a mess of it, the Chelsea player challenged the player rather than the ball and I thought it was a penalty."

Toby Porter (Observer's Wembley news editor and self confessed United fan): "The referee's decision

was technically correct in that Sinclair used his arm and did not seem to be going for the ball. But it was the kind of challenge players get away with all the time. Mr Elleray's marred veneration for the law seems to have got the better of him. But Chelsea's tight defensive system, having held for 60 minutes, had already collapsed. Anyone would think

Chelsea were a goal up at the time of the second penalty to hear the way they have winged about the ref wearing a red shirt."

Tony Clark (Observer property advertising executive and avid Chelsea supporter): "It beats my understanding as to how the referee could give the decision when he was 40 yards away while the linesman

was a lot closer and saw nothing wrong. Replays have proved beyond doubt that the first contact was outside the area and even then it was debatable as to whether it was a foul."

"Whatever happened to the shoulder to shoulder charge? Football is a contact sport, or have the FA changed the rules."

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Deritis to quit as Edgware chairman

POPULAR Edgware Town Football Club chairman Vince Deritis is set to step down because of ill health.

He was rushed into Edgware General Hospital last week with a blood disorder but is progressing well and it is hoped he will be out in time to attend the club's annual dinner on Saturday.

However, his future in the role of chairman is now seriously in doubt. He took over the post from John Cook five years ago and has been on the club committee for seven years. He has proved a very active chairman, who can always be seen hard at work at tasks around the club's White Lion ground.

An announcement to confirm the resignation of Mr Deritis is expected this week. He will almost certainly be invited to take on the less demanding role of club president.

Current president, Mick Flynn, the father of Edgware midfielder Eugene Flynn, is to take over as the new chairman.

His appointment is one of several changes which are expected amongst the club's officers.



● Vince Deritis.

Sevens sickener for sad Wasps

WASPS' hopes of retaining the Middlesex Sevens crumbled in the first round of the finals at Twickenham on Saturday when they lost to Saracens.

A try from Andy Gomersall was their sole consolation in a 17-5 defeat. Wasps did go on to make the final of the plate competition where they lost 22-12 to Northampton.

Double for Tracy
PARKSIDE Ladies AC's Tracy Bishop claimed a sprint double at the Middlesex Championships at Enfield on Saturday. She won the under-17 100 metres in 12.6 secs and the 200 metres in 26.6.

Unhappy exit
ALAN Merison's hopes of leaving his job as manager of Northwood on a winning note were sent crashing on Friday as the former Harrow Borough reserve team boss watched his side lose 4-0 to Staines in the final of the Middlesex Charity Cup at Epsom.

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