

# The Referee's Alphabet

Half Man Half Biscuit

The A is for my authority  
which many players seem to question,  
thinking they're somehow going to make me change my mind

B is for babies  
which a lot of managers cry like  
after a decision has not gone their way

C is for the continual criticism I receive from the  
touchline  
get back in your technical area!

D is for the dunderheads  
who seem to think we have a conspiracy  
against their particular team

E is for the eerie silence that echoes around the ground  
after I've booked the home team's player  
and it's obvious to everyone that he deserved it

F is the farce into which most games would descend if  
we weren't there

The G is for the gnarled face of someone who's on  
£90,000 a week  
and reckoned he should have had a throw in

H is for handball  
which has to be intentional and very rarely is  
if only people would study the rules more

I is for innocence, pleaded by many a doe-eyed defender  
after they've just scythed down that tricky winger

J is for ju-jitsu, which I quite intend to display  
given a dark alley  
and some of the narky blerts I've encountered

K is for the kissing of the badge  
how ridiculous that looks 6 months later when they're at  
another club

L is for lip reading, at which you don't need to be an  
expert  
to see how odious some people are

M is for the mistakes we sometimes make  
surely a bit of controversy is part of the game's appeal

The N, the N is for the numbskull who during the boxing  
day game  
asks me what else I got for Christmas besides my  
whistle  
an afternoon with your wife mate

The O is for offside  
which many forwards tell me they simply could not have

been

The P is for the penalty shootout  
great drama and no pressure on me

Q is the quiet word i sometimes need to have  
with some of the more fiery participants  
i usually choose the word 'pleat'

R is for running backwards  
a difficult skill which the pundits never seem to  
appreciate

S is for the suggestion that i should have awarded a  
card of some sort  
to a player whos just been awarded a free kick  
sorry i got all that wrong the S again  
okay the S, the S is the suggestion that i should show  
a card to an opponent  
by a player whos been awarded a free kick  
he himself is more in danger of getting one for that

T is for the 21 man brawl  
whiuch is basically an embarrassing scene of pushing  
and shoving

U is for the umpire which i sometimes wish id been  
instead  
you never hear a cricket crowd shouting whos the  
bastard in the hat

The V is for vitriol vilification vendetta and volley  
of verbal abuse  
some good bird noises there by the way

W is for walter pidgeon  
whos mr Griffiths in 'how green was my valley'  
i may have started to sound like during this song  
'where was the light i thought to see in your eye'  
he says that to a young huw played by roddy McDowall

The X  
The X represents the sarcastic kiss planted on my  
forehead by the swarthy potugese center half  
who i just dismissed

The Y is for Yate  
the kind of town referees come from

And the Z  
Well the Z could be for Zidane, Zico, Zola,  
Zubizaretta, Zoff  
Even Zondervan  
but is in fact for the zest with which we approach our  
work  
without this zest for the game we wouldnt become refs  
and without refs, well zero  
See also Zatopek, Zeus  
and Zeal Monachorum  
I have a caravan there  
static naturally  
wouldnt it be fun if the gave the ref a gun