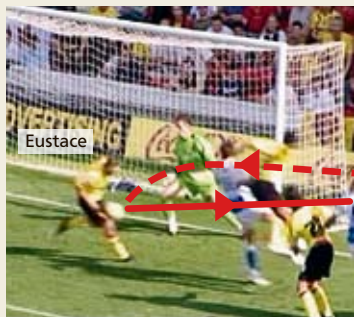


Knowing the score how to take the lead without putting the ball in the net

Reading were awarded a goal against Watford even though the ball was four or five feet wide of the post when an assistant referee believed it had crossed the goalline



Stephen Hunt's corner for Reading strikes the thigh of John Eustace, of Watford, and the ball heads towards the byline



Noel Hunt, of Reading, cuts the ball back from the byline, at which point Nigel Bannister, the assistant flags for a goal



Andre Bikey heads Noel Hunt's cut-back against the crossbar



The rebound has fallen to Jem Karacan, of Reading, whose shot seems to hit Bikey, but the referee, Stuart Atwell, had blown his whistle shortly beforehand



Atwell appears to indicate a free kick for Watford in the belief that his assistant has spotted an infringement, and no Reading player has any inkling of the fact that they will be awarded a goal



A few seconds later, Atwell is called over by the assistant, who delivers his bizarre verdict