

Redditch Rumours

Thursday

21st May 2026

Issue #17

Become a football referee and join the Redditch Referees Association.

The Redditch RA is a group of current and previous referees, who meet monthly at Redditch Borough, here they discuss training, interesting experiences they've had, or last month was about promoting joining the RA. The group is mainly older men, with me as the only teenage girl, and everyone agrees we need more younger members to add another point of view into the meetings. The Redditch RA is an old association founded in 1925, one of the few still ongoing, as Bromsgrove RA is now non-existent, hence new generations of referees will aid the RA to flourish and it's a great way to gain more experience. For under eighteens, it's free to join for the first season therefore if you don't enjoy it, it's free of charge! However, you must already be a referee before you join, so any referees you know of please contact them or become one yourself either through the Central Warwickshire League, the Worcestershire League or any others

you know of. Becoming a referee gives you many life skills, for example confidence, dominating a football field, talking to older people and fun on the weekends. The job pays better than most part time jobs for £20 to £50 in just a few hours during Saturday or Sunday mornings, thus your whole weekend isn't taken up by a demanding job and refereeing will keep you in good fitness, with an average of 3-4 miles of running or walking. Refereeing has certainly helped with become healthier and self-assured, by getting up early in the mornings and meeting new people. The Redditch RA would really appreciate more youthful members as they will help you develop your refereeing skills, confidence in yourself and aid you into becoming young adults. Please have a look at the social media posts on Facebook and this will be expanded to more platforms soon, if you have any questions come find me in the sixth form common room, as I have links to how to apply to be a referee, the details of the chairman and any support for becoming a referee.

By Lydia Carr

WALKING FOOTBALL REFEREE FA COURSE

Friday 31st July 2026

10am till 5pm

Venue - Claines Lane, WR3 7SS

Price - £75 per person

Open to new and existing referees who wish to qualify as a FA Walking Football Referee

In conjunction with the Worcestershire Walking Football League



Email referees@worcestershirefa.com



**WORCESTERSHIRE
FOOTBALL**



UPCOMING REFEREE COURSES

COURSE JULY 2026

Thursday 23rd July (10am - 1pm)

Friday 24th July (10am - 6pm)

Thursday 1st October (7pm - 9pm)

COURSE AUGUST 2026

Friday 21st August (6:30pm - 9:30pm)

Sunday 23rd August (10am - 6pm)

Thursday 1st October (7pm - 9pm)

COURSE - ADULTS (FUNDED)

Thursday 24th September (6:30pm - 9pm)

Sunday 27th September (10am - 6pm)

Wednesday 9th December (7pm - 9pm)

COURSE OCTOBER 2026

Monday 26th October (10am - 1pm)

Tuesday 27th October (10am - 6pm)

Wednesday 9th December (7pm - 9pm)

INFORMATION:

- Course cost is £145 per person, cost includes a starter pack of; whistle, flags, cards & notebook
- Funded course only available to over 19s in Worcestershire
- All 3 dates in a course must be attended in full
- Venue for each course = Worcestershire FA, Claines Lane, WR3 7SS



**FOR
REFEREES**



**WORCESTERSHIRE
FOOTBALL**



Mclroy battles Augusta to make history with back-to-back victories.

It was a second consecutive green jacket for Rory Mclroy after a valiant display saw him take home the Masters honours for the second time in his career. The long-awaited career Grand Slam had been achieved last year when he overcame his Augusta gremlins to finally claim the elusive title, beating major champion Justin Rose in a tense playoff. Rory came into the tournament without blistering form behind him, but with the pressure off having conquered the course a year ago, he teed off in round one and proved very much that he was the benchmark for the field.

There were several names to look out for heading into the event, such as world no.1 Scottie Scheffler, former Masters champion Patrick Reed and the ever-entertaining Bryson DeChambeau, but Rory opened his week with an assuring five under par sitting tied at the top of the leaderboard with the impressive Sam Burns scoring his best ever round at the Masters. Rory said, "It's a great start but a long way to go" and backed it up saying he was feeling good in himself heading into Friday's round.

Scheffler, as ever, was keeping him honest though sitting pretty shooting a 70 on the iconic par 72 course. Patrick Reed showed his intent too, with an eagle on the 8th taking him briefly to five under before ending the day on a very respectable 3 under par. Rolling back the years was two time Masters

winner Jose Maria Olazabal, ending the day on two over using all of his experience and touch to navigate the notoriously challenging Augusta greens.

Day two was where Mclroy stamped his authority. The Northern Irishman finished Friday with an enormous six shot lead heading into the weekend, having shot a ruthless 65 catapulting him to a sensational twelve under. The reigning champ posted a flawless second nine, totting up six birdies after surviving Amen Corner giving him the largest lead after the opening two days ever seen in Masters history.

Always the bridesmaid never the bride, Justin Rose was doing his best to make sure he wasn't going to leave Augusta as the "nearly man" yet again as he sat tied fourth cementing himself as a challenger once more going into Saturday. Ryder Cup star Tyrrell Hatton also impressed having shot a career best 66. Ever the perfectionist though is Tyrrell, and despite his lowest score at the Georgia venue he said he "would've liked to have seen more putts go in." Either way, Hatton was on a charge and looking a threat to anyone. Behind it was a joyous Masters return for China's Haotong Li as he overcame sickness earlier in the week to equal Hatton on four under.

Another huge talking point, however, was that one of golf's biggest names was heading home early. Bryson DeChambeau, tipped by many to go all the way, ended Friday on a devastating six over, consequently missing the cut, meaning he had no further partici-

pation in the weekend's action. Bryson paid the price for too many wayward iron shots, leaving him in awkward places around the course, and across both days bunker woes would be heavily damaging to his scorecard. He was going home along with an out of sorts, Robert Macintyre, young gun Akshay Bhatia, and the promising early doors veteran Jose Maria Olazabal.

Saturday evening revealed that it was a lead too good to be true, as McIlroy ended up tied at the top with another American in Cameron Young. Rory still sat with a dazzling eleven under, meaning that Young had the round of his life beginning the weekend's proceedings eight shots back. The 2026 Players Champion didn't card a single bogey in his third round, a truly majestic session. Rory admitted "I know I'm going to have to be better if I want to have a chance to win," the nerves just starting to creep their way in.

The moment of the tournament was recorded in round three at the par 3 sixth as the passionate Irishman Shane Lowry yet again chased the ace at Augusta with a sublime hole-in-one. Lowry was now sitting just two shots off the leaders, and one behind Burns. It was also day three where Scheffler taught everyone that you write him off at your own peril, as he posted a magical 65 to put himself right back in the mix. A touch of class from the double champion, although you'd expect nothing less.

Finals day at Augusta is always a special one, and the whole golfing world waited with bated breath to see if Rory could bring it home.

It was a nervous front nine, which at one point saw Young race into a two-shot lead before an accomplished and composed final nine of the tournament allowed McIlroy to be crowned champion of the Masters for the second year running. In doing so, he joined Jack Nicklaus, Nick Faldo, and Tiger Woods as the only players to successfully retain the title. Exceptional company for Rory, putting him alongside the greatest the game has ever seen. As you would expect, he was a rather emotional and stunned Rory McIlroy as he sunk the winning putt on the 18th and in the following press conference, he claimed his resilience and perseverance over the years had paid dividends. "I just can't believe I waited seventeen years to get one green jacket, and I get two in a row," he said.

Scheffler finished one shot behind the eventual winner, showing not for the first time he is a master of his craft, and you can guarantee he will be in the hunt again in 2027. Four players ended the week tied third, two shots behind Rory, and they were Tyrrell Hatton, Russell Henley, Justin Rose and the disappointed Cameron Young having let his brief lead slip. Another strong performance from Rose with no result come Sunday, but he won't let that deflate him. When the experienced player was asked about whether he'd get any more chances at the title in the future, Rose didn't hesitate. "I hope so", he said. The fire just grows for Rose, and he'll undoubtedly be back for another title assault.

A special course, a special tournament, and an incredibly special player. Rory McIlroy

does it again and becomes the fourth player to win the Masters twice in consecutive years. Only one question begs: does the hat trick beckon?

By Freddy Pope

Study tip of the term

Start with the harder topics and subjects. You feel more refreshed at the beginning of a revision session than at the end; you will be more ready to challenge yourself at this point.

Revising something that you find easier afterwards may even feel more like a reward.

Word of the half-term

Somnambulant– sleepy or sluggish.

As the term ends, we are all probably being a little somnambulant.

Are the EU border controls going to ruin summer holidays?

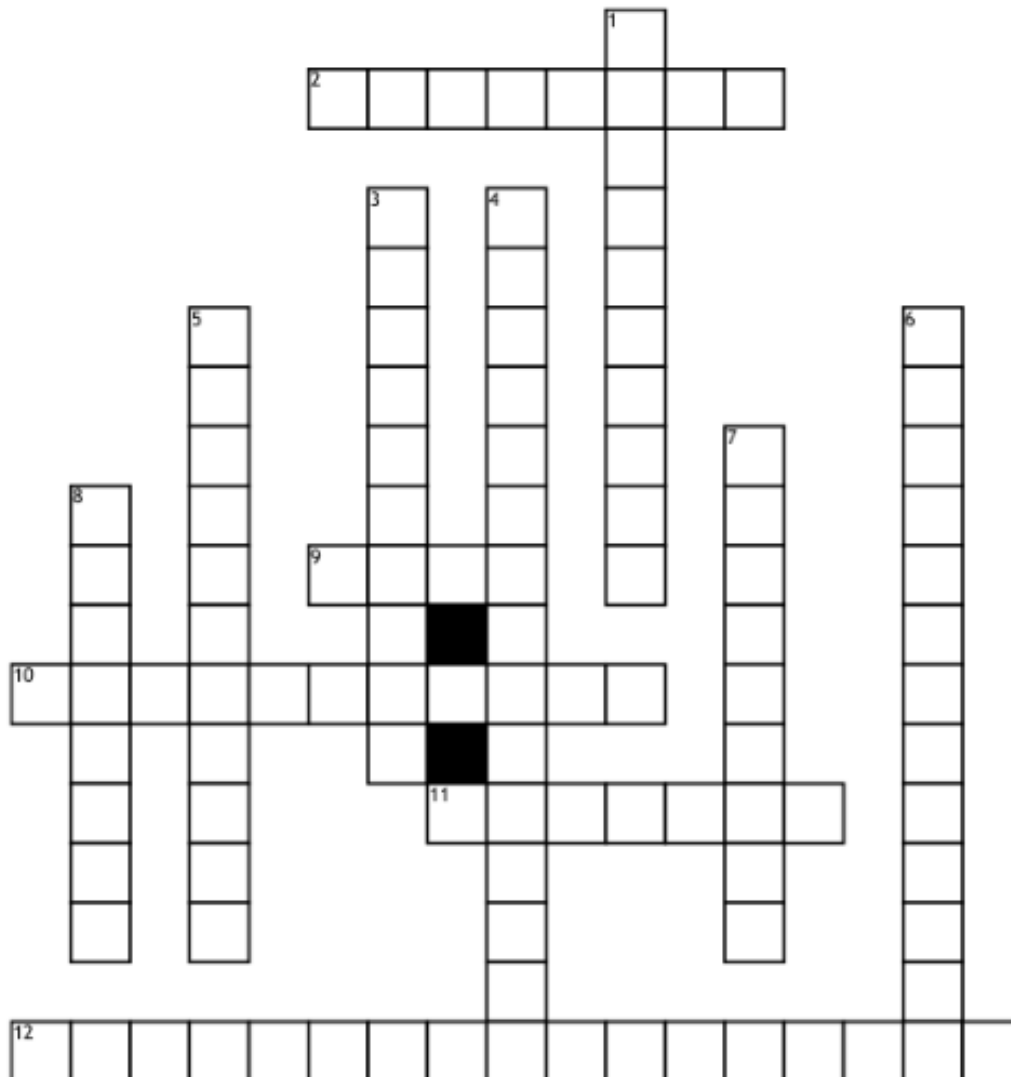
The EU border controls were introduced in October 2025 as a digital border system for non-EU citizens working as an Entry/Exit system (EES). The aim is to reduce illegal immigration and replace the old manual process of stamping passports with biometrics that are only valid for 3 years, including photos and fingerprints. This affects the Schengen area which has 29 nations involved, therefore the Government says common holidays to France, Spain or Italy will have serious delays of up to or beyond 3 hours. This causes more of a problem at airports, especially with return flights to the UK, as the Shuttle or ferries complete the system before entering the country and if the train/ferry is missed due to the long queues then another one will be waiting, particularly at the shuttle as it runs 24/7. However, at the airport this causes utter chaos, due to many passenger problems like fingerprints not being recognised and little guidance at kiosks, which caused flights like Copenhagen and Milan to depart without all the passengers on board.

For example, a flight from Milan to Manchester left without 30 people and they were stranded at the airport, due to the queues having 80-100 people still in front. This system has caused enough stress at non-peak holiday times and who knows how bad it will get during summer holidays, this worry even caused Ryanair to speak out and

wanting it dropped, as the border controls do not seem reliable as of now. Even though records can be stored and once you've been added the system it becomes slightly easier, but after 3 years you must repeat it over again and its not as easy as a passport which is done online and posted to your address. The EU border controls has caused lots of upset already, as there will be no more passport stamps and the anxiety of how much worse it may get during summer is growing closer.

By Lydia Carr

Pop Culture



Across

2. in the film Frozen, which character was adopted by trolls
9. Hidden Figures is about three Black women at what American program
10. Famous Starbucks drink

11. Writing feelings in under 140 characters app
12. What movie or play is about a village girl falling in love with a beast

Down

1. What is Rihanna's real name
3. Which musician sings "Ice Ice Baby"
4. Which game introduced Yoshi
5. Who is gossip girl
6. Which pop star burnt down her home gym with candles
7. What kind of animal was Baloo in The Jungle book
8. Who is the oldest of the Kardashian sisters