

## UEFA Champions League 2012 / 2013

Round of 16

(GER) FC Schalke 04		2:3		Galatasaray (TUR)
12 March 2013, 20:45 CET – Veltins Arena, Gelsenkirchen, Germany				

Match Officials	Name	Origin	Mark <sup>1</sup>	Mark <sup>2</sup>	Difficulty <sup>3</sup>
Referee	Jonas Eriksson	SWE	7.9	8.3	Challenging
Assistant Referee 1	Mathias Klasenius	SWE	9.0	---	Normal
Assistant Referee 2	Daniel Wärnmark	SWE	8.4	---	Normal
Additional AR 1	Stefan Johannesson	SWE	7.8	8.0	Normal
Additional AR 2	Markus Strömbergsson	SWE	8.0	---	Normal
Fourth Official	Stefan Wittberg	SWE	8.0	---	Normal
UEFA Referee Observer	Charles Agius	MLT			
Blog-Referee Observer <sup>4</sup>	Nik Askitopoulos	ENG			

<sup>1</sup> Final mark according to evaluation scale. Expected level for AARs and fourth official is 8.0, crucial mistake 7.9 as usual!

<sup>2</sup> Mark if the final mark had not been influenced by a crucial mistake (only in case of a crucial mistake, to be held empty if no crucial mistake occurred).

<sup>3</sup> Difficulty has to be integrated into the final mark. Levels of difficulty are: "normal", "challenging" and "very challenging".

<sup>4</sup> Blog-Referee Observer =Inofficial referee observer appointed by the blog administrator.

Evaluation scale	Description of the Marks
9.0 – 10.0	Excellent.
8.5 – 8.9	Very good. Important decision(s) correctly taken.
8.3 – 8.4	Good. Expected level.
8.2	Satisfactory with small areas for improvement.
8.0 – 8.1	Satisfactory with important areas for improvement.
7.9	One clear and important mistake, otherwise 8.3 or above.
7.8	One clear and important mistake, otherwise 8.0 – 8.2.
7.5 – 7.7	Below expectation, poor control, significant point(s) for improvement.
7.0 – 7.4	Disappointing. Below expectation with one and clear important mistakes or a performance with two or more clear and important mistakes.
6.0 – 6.9	Unacceptable.

**Description of the match:** The match was normal overall; but of course, in the context of a Champions League second round, there was a challenging element to the game – especially as both sets of fans contributed to a feisty atmosphere. In this sense, the refereeing team excelled – keeping tight control of the game and making it absolutely clear to the teams and club officials who were in charge. At times, due to the slack tactical nature of the game, it was very much end to end – but after the Altintop goal, Schalke eventually exerted their dominance, focusing particularly down the left side with the attacking promise of Draxler. There was only 3 cautions in the game, though there was scope for Eriksson to issue 1-2 more of course.

## Referee

<p><b>I. Knowledge, Application and Interpretation of the Laws of the Game, Disciplinary Control and Technical Management of the game with special reference to the situations and the minutes when they occurred.</b>  <b>(Crucial decisions, if available, have to be explicitly mentioned in the grid and highlighted).</b></p>	
<p><b>Comments:</b>                  Eriksson refereed the game in typically relaxed fashion, but was of course firm where required. Throughout his career there has been criticism of his non-directive style of refereeing, often choosing to 'let the game flow' where some referees may blow for a foul (this is typical of the Elite referee category – think Webb, Kassai, Skomina, Cakir. Tonight was no different, and in the main he was consistent. However there was some inconsistencies detected, which is a shame because his overall control was good. The push in the penalty area on Droba may well have been given in the lead up to the opening goal; and Howedes might have been cautioned for a late challenge. The crucial decision in the match however, came in the 69<sup>th</sup> minute when Yilmaz clearly moves his hand to shield the ball from being centered. The AAR1 should really assist the referee in this situation, especially as the arm has moved from the player's side to a 'high' and 'not expected' position.</p>	
Minute	Description of the situation
27	If the earlier caution for Hoger is awarded, then why not here? Reckless foul.
69	Yilmaz clearly handballs right in front of AAR1. His hand was *not expected* in this position and in fact there is movement towards the ball. Penalty and yellow card should be the decision here at a crucial juncture in the match.
Overview	<p>2. Defensive foul awarded for slight nudge in back. Sets a precedent.</p> <p>6. Big no penalty call by Eriksson, but correct in my opinion. Striker draws foul and goes down ever so slightly before contact.</p> <p>10. AR1 Good no flag on Gala counter attack.</p> <p>13. Another good no flag by AR1. Uchida tugs slightly on forward jersey but not enough for a penalty claim.</p> <p>14. Hoger shown a yellow card for pulling the shirt of Drogba on the half-way line. Correct call.</p> <p>16. Slightly generous foul call on Gala defender.</p> <p>17. Great corner call by AR2. Schalke score from the set play, 1-0 though Gala players complain of a push on Drogba. Not sure if Eriksson has enough evidence here of defensive foul (or can even see?), as this is typical of a 'busy penalty area' - but one thing can be said: his early award of a foul for a similar incident does not do him any favours.</p> <p>19. Block by Riera. Good positioning at set pieces so far, and movement at the corner.</p> <p>23. Schalke left back accidentally slips into a slide challenge. Correct action taken in just speaking to the player – especially because there was minimal contact anyway. Good body language by the Swede.</p> <p>24. Foul given against Farfan though ball was won. But again, correct call as studs follow through. Eriksson is making both sets of players aware of his attentiveness prior to the freekick being taken.</p> <p>27. Surprisingly the referee chooses not to caution the Schalke captain for a late challenge from behind (as Sneijder was turning) around 20m outside the penalty area. The foul could be interpreted as reckless (though it must be remembered that this is the approach of the big Swede in general).</p> <p>32. Missed foul by AR2 on Farfan as he seeks to play a 1:2 with a colleague. Easy one to</p>

- call; though perhaps Eriksson informed via the mic that contact was not enough.
39. Good assistance by AR2, alerts referee to foul on Schalke player in an attacking area.
40. Correct foul call given after needless Uchida foul. Altintop scores from resulting freekick.
42. Good non foul call on Schalke left winger. No real contact.
45. Great no flag call by AR2. The Gala centre half was playing the left forward outside.
- 2nd Half**
49. Soft foul given on Drogba. Great positioning though so benefit of doubt given.
49. AR2 good offside call, excellent delay on the raised flag.
50. Good player management, speaks to Altintop and left winger after 'handbags'.
55. Missed freekick, late foul on Schalke forward – no advantage signalled either. No replay, so perhaps there is minimal contact as the referee is well positioned again?
63. 2-2 - Was there a foul on goalkeeper in the build-up to the home side's equaliser? The replay actually suggests that Pukki makes contact with the ball and then withdraws the foot. An excellent decision by the refereeing team here. It must be mentioned too that AR1 contributed fantastically well – keeping the flag down on a tight offside, called correctly.
66. Correct offside call AR2, but a comment on technique: The flag was held too long in a vertical position (alerting the referee); in signalling the position of the offside, this was done rather sloppily with furled flag and only held very briefly.
69. Yilmaz clearly handballs right in front of AAR1. His hand was \*not expected\* in this position and in fact there is movement towards the ball. Penalty and yellow card should be the decision here at a crucial juncture in the match.
76. Missed head injury - but in fairness very hard to spot (would have followed play) as Drexlar accidentally catches him with head as he takes on the defender.
84. Drogba cautioned for halting a promising counter-attack. Correct call.
86. Seems to play advantage as home team in attacking phase, but no arm signal again.
90. Just about the correct offside call by AR2. Gala striker head is offside – but would not have been wrong had he kept the flag down and gave the benefit.
92. AR2 signals offside even though the ball is cleared by the defence. Not sure the striker interfered by position here. Eriksson waves him down.
95. AR2 busy in the last few minutes, great non-flag as Gala striker goes through the middle to secure the game.

**II. Tactical approach and its Degree of Consistency, Personality, Match Control and Management of the Teams and Players with special reference to the situations and the minutes when they occurred.**

**Comments:** Eriksson has a 'big personality' and this is used effectively in most of the games he referees. He is calm yet authoritative and a key strength tonight was management of players – and indeed Terim. He uses his body language well, indicating with his arms when the tempo should be lowered, and also alters the whistle tone according to the nature of the foul and the situation. His manner with players is clear and is able to alter his level of communication where appropriate. One development area would be the use of the advantage signal – he did not 'play' this once in the game – or he did not use the correct arm signal if he did.

<b>Positive Points</b>	1.	Player and coach management
	2.	Calm, non-fussy demeanour
	3.	Whistle use and tone
<b>Points to improve</b>	1.	Advantage
	2.	Keeping clear tactical approach (see AoL)
<b>Minute</b>	<b>Description of the situation</b>	
86	Seems to play advantage as home team in attacking phase, but no arm signal again.	

**III. Physical Shape, Stamina, Positioning, Movement as well as Mental Awareness, if needed, with reference to the minutes when they occurred, always in case of a “-“.**

**Physical Condition (very good, good, average, poor):** Good stamina and condition displayed, allowing him to be in the right place at the right time. Slightly slow to predict the swift counter attacks, but this was largely because the home side was dominant in the second half.

**Further Aspects:**

+	Expected	-	
X			Always close to play, follows play at all times with a flexible diagonal system and impedes interference with play
X			Efficient positioning (at set pieces e.g.) and movement to be ready to take a (crucial) decision (specially in the box; be able to enter the box in some cases when it is necessary)
	X		Shows awareness and is able to anticipate the action

**IV. Teamwork (co-operation with (A)ARs and fourth official with reference, if needed, to special situations and the minutes when they occurred)**

**Comments:** Good communication throughout; helped by excellent lining.

**V. If needed: General comments or advices for improvement; explanation of the chosen mark; further matters (can be let empty).**

**Comments:**  
 His tactical approach was in the main good, but there were occasional inconsistencies displayed which led you to believe he was either not able to keep a ‘working memory’ of decisions as game developed, or that he was not assisted in the appropriate manner (with regards to foul calls) by AR’s and AAR’s. The missed penalty by AAR1 and missed foul on Farfan in the first half by AR2 are examples of this. He must improve on the advantage signal, though again, this appears to be a trend at the top level – i.e. to ‘not signal’ if not ‘clear and obvious’ foul. The observer would like to see this trend halted! His fitness and anticipation were excellent, but may want to predict counter-attacking phases more accurately – e.g. he was largely in position to the left of Schalke attack due to influence of Draxler, but Gala countered many times on the opposite left diagonal. Overall, handled the game very well, but will probably be very disappointed with the replay of the Yilmaz handball incident. How will this be officially observed ...

## Assistant Referee 1

**Assistant referee's performance** (please mention some important decisions either by integrating them into a coherent comment or mentioning them in the grid below; mandatory if a "-" (negative point) is selected)

**Relevant Aspects:**

+	Expected	-	
X			Correct offside decisions by means of a good application of the "wait and see"-technique
X			Good positioning and movement
X			Mental alertness and reaction to incidents in his area of vicinity
X			Reasonable degree of co-operation with referee (not flagging too much / too little; being able to support referee in crucial decisions)
	X		Efficient control at set pieces

**Comments:**

An excellent game with offside and foul detection a particular strength.

Minute	Description of the situation
10	Good non-flag on Gala counter attack.
13	Excellent non-flag again.
62	Superb non-offside call again in lead up to goal.

## Assistant Referee 2

**Assistant referee's performance** (please mention some important decisions either by integrating them into a coherent comment or mentioning them in the grid below; mandatory if a "-" (negative point) is selected)

Relevant Aspects:			
+	Expected	-	
	X		Correct offside decisions by means of a good application of the "wait and see"-technique
X			Good positioning and movement
	X		Mental alertness and reaction to incidents in his area of vicinity
X			Reasonable degree of co-operation with referee (not flagging too much / too little; being able to support referee in crucial decisions)
	X		Efficient control at set pieces

**Comments:**  
 Overall a very good performance, and clearly a great future. There are some aspects for improvement: technique at times, being bold in offering assistance to referee; and waiting to see whether the striker does indeed interfere with an opponent before signaling offside.

Minute	Description of the situation
17	Tight corner decision correct.
66	Flag held too long in a vertical position (alerting the referee); in signalling the position of the offside, this was done rather sloppily with furled flag and only held very briefly.
95	Great non-flag as Gala striker goes through the middle to secure the game.

## Additional Assistant Referee 1

**Assistant referee's performance** (please mention some important decisions either by integrating them into a coherent comment or mentioning them in the grid below; mandatory if a "-" (negative point) is selected)

Relevant Aspects:			
+	Expected	-	
		X	Good positioning and movement
		X	Mental alertness and reaction to incidents in his area of vicinity based on a reasonable degree of co-operation with referee
	X		Efficient control at set pieces

**Comments:**

Minute	Description of the situation
69.	Clear handball missed within one meter of the official. Should have signaled to Eriksson a penalty call. Arm clearly moves from side to head level to block ball.

## Additional Assistant Referee 2

**Assistant referee's performance** (please mention some important decisions either by integrating them into a coherent comment or mentioning them in the grid below; mandatory if a "-" (negative point) is selected)

**Relevant Aspects:**

+	Expected	-	
	X		Good positioning and movement
	X		Mental alertness and reaction to incidents in his area of vicinity based on a reasonable degree of co-operation with referee
	X		Efficient control at set pieces

## Fourth Official

**Fourth official's performance** (reference to technical management like substitutions or signalling of additional time, dealing with benches in case of conflicts)

**Comments:**

Handled technical areas well and managed the substitutions well.