

TOWN CHAIRMAN Denis Mortimer expects to be ordered to attend an FA disciplinary hearing after an astonishing final 20 minutes of the season at Wrexham on Monday.

The drama of a disallowed penalty, a Town player sent off, and the chairman being booked in the ref's dressing room tended to obscure another poor team display which confirmed the Town's away record as the worst in the Second Division.

The season was quietly dying, unmourned by most of us who have suffered the long grim battle against relegation, when a refereeing decision brought an eruption of anger.

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The upshot could be that Mr Mortimer will be in disgrace with the FA, and may even be banned from his own beloved club's ground for a spell.

The Town were trailing to a first-half goal and showing little sign of forcing their way back into the game when they should have had a penalty in the 72nd minute.

A rare move of pace and accuracy carved open Wrexham's left flank. It was started by Paul Price, carried on by Brian Stein, and continued by Ricky Hill.

His next backheader might have set up a chance for Bob Hatton, but ex-Liverpool defender Joey Jones palmed the ball clear of danger.

Almost everyone saw it, including Wrexham's players and officials. But referee Colin Seel missed it, and even more strangely, so did linesman Mr J. L. Godfrey.

Mark Aizlewood foolish-

ly called the ref a cheat, inserting a rude adjective, and was sent off for abusive language. David Pleat went close to being booked for complaining to the linesman.

Four minutes later Wrexham scored again, and at the end of the game Mr Mortimer went to see the ref. Mr Seel kindly invited him into the dressing room then booked him after Mr Mortimer said that Mr Seel was the worst referee he had ever seen.

In view of some of the officials currently operating it was indeed a serious insult, and Mr Mortimer now expects to be charged with bringing the game into disrepute.

Aizlewood faces a one-match ban when the new season starts.

Town manager Pleat said: "We played as though it was the end of the season, and the referee played as though it were his last game. I don't condone Mark Aizlewood's action, but he only said what the rest of the lads were saying.

"There could have been a lot of trouble if promotion or relegation had been at stake."