

AUCUN DOCUMENT AUTORISÉ

Durée de l'épreuve : 30 min.

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PRÉNOM :

Referee who missed Thierry Henry's handball considered quitting the game

- Martin Hansson speaks for first time about 'turbulent' ordeal
- 'I asked myself if this job is worth all the humiliation'

[Jamie Jackson guardian.co.uk](#), Tuesday 24 November 2009 [Article history](#)

Martin Hansson **waves away** the Republic of Ireland's protests after France's equalizer.

Martin Hansson, the referee at the centre of the Thierry Henry handball furore, has **spoken at length** for the first time about his "turbulent" **ordeal** and **admitted he considered retiring** during the fallout from the affair.

The 38-year-old Swede failed to see Henry's double-paddle of the ball with his hand, which allowed the forward to then cross for William Gallas to head the extra-time equalizer which sent France to next summer's World Cup finals at Ireland's **expense**.

Speaking to his local newspaper, Sydöstran, Hansson said he hopes to return to high-profile officiating during the final round of Champions League group games next month.

"It has been a turbulent week. I cannot really comment anything about the match, and I'm not the one who decides that. That is FIFA regulations to protect the referees until the investigations are done," he said. "I asked myself if this job is **worth** all the humiliation I had to face.

"Thoughts like, 'Is this really what I want?' also came up in my head. **But now I realize, after all the support I've got, that it wasn't my fault.** It was an unlucky situation with big consequences for Ireland. But it wasn't our referee team's fault."

Of his return to refereeing in the Champions League on either 8 or 9 December, he added: "It is good to get a match so soon after all this [France v Ireland flak]."

Hansson also said that directly after the second leg of the playoff in Paris last Wednesday he and his Swedish assistants returned and were offered support. "[On] Thursday we went to Enköping where all Swedish referees had a meeting. There we were offered support. We talked a lot, which felt good. The group got to know what had happened."

The France coach, Raymond Domenech, meanwhile, has condemned the **backlash** against Henry, and said his country's refusal to offer the Irish a replay was correct. "It made me furious that Thierry can be treated this way," the France coach said. "I have not slept for two days and I am just starting to **get over it.**"

Henry has admitted he considered retiring from international football following the **uproar**, but Domenech did not believe that was ever **likely**. "No, I do not think so," he said. "But when I called, he was like all of us – surprised, **stunned**. I have **tremendous** respect for him as a man and a footballer. For months now, despite his injury, he participated in all our matches at the risk of being yelled at by his club, Barcelona. *Les Bleus* is his reason for living as a footballer."

I. Read the article and say whether the following statements are true or false. Circle T (for “true”) or F (for “false”).

1. Martin Hansson accepts Ireland’s objections and admits he made a mistake.
2. Martin Hansson refused to publicly talk about the whole issue.
3. Martin Hansson feels guilty and abandoned.
4. Both Henry and Hansson considered retiring.
5. Martin Hansson hasn’t refereed any other game since France-Ireland.

Answer below by circling your choice:

- | | | |
|----|----------|----------|
| 1. | T | F |
| 2. | T | F |
| 3. | T | F |
| 4. | T | F |
| 5. | T | F |

II – Here are words from the article. For each word, circle the appropriate definition in this context.

1) **Ordeal**

- a) a severe or trying experience

2) **expense**

- a) a detriment or sacrifice

3) **worth**

- a) the quality of something valuable

4) **backlash**

- b) objection or outcry

5) **uproar**

- c) tumult: a state of commotion

6) **likely**

- b) probable

7) **flak**

- c) intense adverse criticism

8) **get over**

- b) overcome

9) **stunned**

- c) amazed

10) **tremendous**

- a) fantastic