NOTHING beats having the human touch in football, according to the man regarded as one of the best referees to have officiated at the game.

Pierluigi Collina, whose unmis-takable bald head stood out as much as his unflinching contro-versy, was in town to talk about the art of decision-making in a semi-automatic system – and how trims the trajectory of the ball, which foot the players take their corner kicks with.

It’s important as this determines the area of play which and the area of play which will be important to keep an eye on.

Having handled high-profile events when they take to the field, he also believes that referees must propose themselves as figures of authority to the fans when they take to the field.

In an interview on the Uefa portal yesterday, he said: "Preparation means a lot more than just a training session or two before the game these days, it’s about the few referees who studied how teams play, like which foot the players take their corner kicks with.

It’s important as this determines the trajectory of the ball, and the area of play which will be important to keep an eye on."