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The Premier League season kicks off this weekend and inevitably there will be widespread interest in David Moyes' start as manager at Manchester United, and also to see how José Mourinho enjoys his return to English football at Chelsea. But this season will also be notable for the introduction of goal line technology – to adjudicate whether or not

the ball has crossed the line.

We remember the howlers – the most recent being the incident in Euro 2012 when a shot by Ukraine appeared to cross the England line before being cleared by a defender. When the television replay immediately shows that a goal should have been awarded it is very difficult to mount a sensible argument against introducing a simple system that eliminates such obvious errors.

I am sure the majority of football fans would welcome something that helps the referees, and brings about a fair result to the matches upon which so much depends. But you only have to look at cricket

to see how the implementation of technology has created controversy and rancour when it is supposed to have had precisely the opposite effect. The Decision Review System (DRS) has become a thoroughly unwelcome distraction this summer and, in my view, has spoiled this Ashes series.

Football's challenge is to ignore the calls to expand the system beyond the goal line until it is thoroughly reli-

able. This was cricket's mistake, rushing from the straightforward line decisions for run outs and stumpings to a full-blown umpiring machine, which now adjudicates on everything before the available technology is ready for such a giant leap.

The footballing argument is obvious – if goals are subject to review, then why not penalties? Once the

run of play is included, it won't take long before every decision is reviewed and the game grinds to a halt. Our experience in cricket suggests that technology's verdict would continue to divide opinion.

But goal line technology has two things going for it: Hawkeye will show what has happened (like it does in tennis) rather than predict the ball's track (as in cricket), and it will be free of any human contact. If you wonder why that is important, I have once seen a cricket umpire press the wrong button, and give a batsman out when he meant to rule not out!

'Football fans welcome a system that helps referees'