

April 2002

The next meeting of the North Middlesex Referees' Society will be held at 7.30 pm, on Friday, 12th April, 2002 at Cockfosters FC, Chalk Lane, Cockfosters, Barnet, Hertfordshire, EN4 9GL. Special Guest is Bart O'Toole

Joan, wife of Life Vice-President, George Basten, who has been ill and in hospital is now slowly getting back to normal, which is very good news. Best wishes to you both.

Life Vice-Presidents, Frank McNeil and Arthur Stewart are due to receive The Referees' Association 50 Year Award. Arthur will be presented with his Award by RA Southern Representative, Jim Jenkinson, at the Society's AGM, on 10th May. Frank's presentation has yet to be arranged.

I understand from Robin Jagot that John Cooke, Society member, FA Instructor et al, and author of the lively "Cookie's Column" in the AFA Argus magazine, will be 'assisting' our special guest, Bart O'Toole at next month's Society meeting. Bart is a lawyer and a Class 1 referee. He is also the Secretary of the AFA and one of the nine members of the Implementation Team, which is examining in detail the RA Management Consultancy Report of September 2000, which is to make proposals for new rules, at the RA Conference in 2003.

This year's Annual RA Conference is on 14/15th June. Robin Jagot is set to represent the Society again this year.

Treasurer, Gary Cobden, couldn't attend the last Society meeting as he is suffering from shingles – which is a rotten complaint! We hope you are soon on the mend, Gary.

Society guest speakers come in all shapes and sizes, and are OK; Good; Very Good and Excellent. March's guest, Joe Guest fell into the latter category. He was relaxed, quick thinking, knew his stuff and spoke with clarity and humour - the members present were given a treat! A report on Joe's visit is included elsewhere in this issue.

Congratulations to Andy Taylor, no stranger to North Middlesex, who was presented with a certificate to commemorate 10 years' work for the Harrow Sunday Challenge League at the January meeting of the Harrow Referees' Society. The presenter was the Chief Executive of the FA, Adam Crozier, described by President Gordon Isaacs in the Harrow Society magazine as, "A baby faced assassin, I think"! A crowd of over 50 attended the meeting.

Scottish referee, Hugh Dallas, made his first inspection of the Ibrox pitch, on the day of the recent Rangers v Celtic game, before 7 am. Famous Yorkshire cricket umpire, Dickie Bird, arrived so early for a County match he had to break in! Hope the doors were open for you Hugh – and what a great game you had between the two old rivals!

Don't forget the AGM is on Friday, 10th May - details are included elsewhere in this issue.

Closing date for the May, AGM, Normidian, is Monday 22th of April, 2002

WHAT WOULD YOU DO CHUMS?

by Mick Osborn

In recent months I was involved in incidents similar to the following. Names of teams and colleagues have been changed or omitted to protect yours truly!

The pitch inspection before the game revealed that the penalty marks were all but non-existent and there was no means available for rectifying the matter. The referee advised the managers of the situation but allowed the game to go on with their agreement that if a penalty kick was awarded and the mark had been completely obliterated, his decision as to where the ball should be placed would be accepted.

The result of the match had to be decided by kicks from the penalty mark. The referee paced the distance and indicated where the ball was to be placed. The goalkeeper who had to defend the goal first sauntered up to the ball as the kicker was placing it and made a big thing of whether it was actually twelve yards from the goal-line. After this charade, he strolled back to the goal-line and took up his position. All this time the kicker had been kept waiting to take the first kick. Having failed to save the kick, the goalkeeper proceeded at the same deliberately slow pace to take up a position outside the penalty area approximately level with the penalty mark. The Assistant Referee directed him to the proper place. Each time it was his turn to face a kick he went through a similar ritual with a few variations. For example, questioning whether the ball was actually at the midpoint of the goal posts and equidistant to them, taking a circuitous route to get to his position, kicking the far goalpost on the way, and twice standing on the edge of the goal area. On these last two occasions the Assistant Referee intervened again and told him to immediately take up his correct position. But not once did he come off his goal-line before the ball was kicked! It was apparent that he was indulging in gamesmanship. His team won by the odd goal.

If you had been the Referee or the Assistant Referee on the goal-line what, if anything, would you have done?

This second situation did not develop in the way described, but it could have done.

The scene: Blues, in the top half of the league, were at home to Reds, in need of a few points to save them from the possibility of relegation. At the pre-match inspection of the pitch the senior assistant drew the attention of the referee to the goalposts which, in his opinion, were unsafe. The referee noted this and asked a representative of the home team to rectify the matter. He was unable to do so and advised the referee that they had been playing with the goals in this condition all the season and no other referee had objected to them, the referee advised the managers and captains of both teams who all said that they wanted to play. He decided that the game should go ahead. The game ended without incident.

Here is the bit that could have been.... The game was eighty minutes old with the score, surprisingly, at 3-1 to the underdogs, when the referee was injured and could not continue. The senior assistant took over.

If you had been the Senior Assistant what, if anything would you have done?

DO YOU REALLY KNOW THE LAWS

March Issue

Q1 *May a Free Kick be taken by lifting the ball with a foot or both feet simultaneously?*

Yes. The ball is in play when it is kicked and moves.

Q2 *Although an opponent is only 4.5m from the ball a player takes a quick free kick. Is it permitted?*

Yes. Play is allowed to continue even if the opponent tries to intercept the ball

Q3 *The goalkeeper controls the ball with his hands in the penalty area, and passes it to a teammate who is also in the penalty area. The latter miskicks the ball towards his own goal. The goalkeeper touches it with his hands but fails to stop it entering the goal. What action does the referee take?*

The referee awards the goal

Q4 *A player throws his footwear at a person seated in the technical area. What action does the referee take?*

Play is stopped, the player is sent off for violent conduct, and play is restarted with an indirect free-kick taken from where the object was thrown.

Q5 *A player is charged in a fair manner, but the ball is not within playing distance. What action does the referee take?*

The referee will award a direct free-kick to the opponents

Q6 *When play is about to be restarted with a dropped ball the players of one team refuse to take part. What action does the referee take?*

Referee will simply drop the ball

Robin, Training Centre

March's Guest Speaker – Joe Guest

Ken Goldman introduced our special guest, Joe Guest, Referees' Officer at the Football Association. Similar to last month's special guest, Major Ron Roberts (Retired), Joe was formerly in the Services (RAF). A former Panel Referee, Joe took up his present role in the FA in 1999. Now in his 4th season, he has seen a number of very significant changes within the FA, among them the appointment of the first-ever foreign England Team Manager.

In our eagerness to become involved in the number of football competitions, which now abound, Joe said it was important to ensure that the game (s) in which we officiate are affiliated to the FA. Of his own position at the FA, he said one of the best parts of the job was appointing referees to games at the highest level and he congratulated all the North Middlesex officials who had been awarded the honour of being involved in one of this season's County Cup Finals.

The subject for the evening was TEAMWORK.

Cohesion and Cooperation. Our guest explained that his presentation would involve some participation on our behalf and he began by asking our views on when we thought teamwork between the officials begins. In discussion, it was decided that teamwork begins when we acknowledge our appointment, and that it was the referee who should take control by contacting his assistant referees and, if appointed, the 4th official. Possibly travelling to the match together was suggested and discussed – teamwork was already beginning to form and build, suggested our guest.

We were asked how we could continue to build our teamwork on arrival at the ground. "Be friendly", Joe suggested, "And as the referee, try to create an atmosphere of togetherness, and take the lead". Joe also suggested that if we happen to be the senior assistant referee, (we might even be 'senior' to the match referee); we shouldn't 'take over'. And if we happen to know the home club and its officials, Joe's advice was not to get involved in any rapport with them to the exclusion of the referee and other colleagues. "Decide on the kit to be worn and walk the ground together," suggested Joe. "And after changing, warm-up together; relax together and 'feel' the environment – especially important if there is a crowd". As the referee, we were also advised to 'project' ourselves to the managers of the clubs involved.

Our guest then asked us to consider the importance of instructions being given and understood before the game, taking into account the relative experience of our colleagues. He reminded us that having both assistants on one line before kick-off has happened before!

The necessary attributes needed by the referee and his assistants during the match were discussed. Primarily, these were considered to be **Communication, Mental and Personal Skills.**

Communication skills. Joe suggested that eye-to-eye contact is most important and gave examples of how we could use and develop this particular skill to our advantage. The clarity and acknowledgement of signals, consultation, disciplinary action and procedures were also covered and discussed. Joe suggested we try to remain on the same wavelength, particularly in regard to the attitude of players towards the referee.

Mental skills. Confidence, consultation, alertness and awareness were examples of the mental skills required during a match. Advice given by assistants has to be correct in order to minimise the risk of confrontation, e.g. is it a yellow or a red? Also, assistant referees should always know 'where the referee is', suggested our guest.

Personal skills. Man-management, technical skills, fitness, appearance and voice were some of the skills considered. A number of examples of how potentially difficult situations could possibly be averted by using our personal skills were discussed. Our guest suggested that half time always gives us a chance to reflect on the game so far, when we can confirm and record any actions taken during the first period of the game. It is also an opportunity to re-group as a team, and to discuss whether any modifications are necessary e.g. a change of diagonal by the referee if the sun is to be in the eyes of one of the assistants, any likely changes in players' playing patterns, the skill factor of players etc. all of which we should be aware.

Joe gave an hilarious account of when, in the Services, he dealt with an awkward problem during a match involving a Regimental Sergeant Major. The serious point was that our personal skills can be used to good effect in order to avoid or diffuse a potentially difficult situation.

Finally, our guest suggested that as referees we should **communicate** with our assistant referees, give **advice, support, and help and assistance** – **CASH** - easy to remember!

The usual Q&A session followed Joe's presentation. On 'FAMOA', our guest gave a comprehensive explanation of the purpose and reasoning behind the new body, and assured us that it is not, in any way meant to compete with The Referees' Association.

Joe then answered specific questions involving his own role at the FA, the task of appointing officials, and the roles played by other colleagues in the FA. He gave us a fascinating account of how referees are appointed at the top level and how computers now provide a degree of assistance. Joe was at pains to point out that the human element is still the most important factor in the appointment of referees by the FA. He also confirmed that amongst other things, officials at the top level are obliged to declare 'any conflict of interest'.

Phil Sharp gave a vote of thanks to our special guest, who accepted a copy of "North Middlesex Society – A Celebration of 50 Years of Football" from President Mick Osborn as a memento of his visit to North Middlesex.



The World Cup

Bon Voyage to Society member and FIFA Assistant Referee, Phil Sharp. He is one of 36 Referees and 36 Assistant Referees attending a seminar in the Korean capital, Seoul, on 20-23 March 2002, where directives relating to the excessive use of force during play and the outlawed tackle from behind will be covered in detail in readiness for the World Cup.

Another main topic will be how officials should recognise and penalise the feigning of fouls, as well as guidelines for cooperation between the team of match officials. They will also be set a comprehensive, coordinated fitness programme to follow in the build-up to the World Cup, making sure that they are at peak fitness for the finals. They will also have to undergo a medical examination and must pass the official FIFA fitness test

Go to it, Phil!



Peter Dace Reminisces – the Normidian of April 1992

Guest speaker – 'not known at time of going to press'

Letter from Andy Bishop in March Normidian complaining of being appointed to a Cup Final but not being awarded a fee provokes sharp responses.

Gary Cobden writing as Referees Secretary of Enfield & District Youth Sunday Football League says in his ten years as Secretary Referees have never been offered a fee or expenses. Gary adds "Referees should treat the receiving of this PLUM as an honour and privilege – it indicates they are the best in the League, I would seriously question the motives of any of the Referees on the Enfield League who were looking for cash as well as a trophy from League finals".

John Gregory writes to Andy "I trust you have resigned from the 'mean leagues' and applied all your good services onto the 'highest bidders". "I am bemused and wondering what your aims are. If it is to become a £millionaire££, take my advice and leave refereeing alone".

Carlo Boggia was 'saddened' as he has been a referee for 15 years, has never turned down an appointment even if at the time was not over the moon with them. Carlo says "I have 22 trophies to polish occasionally and look back on certain very enjoyable moments. I did not receive a penny for any of the finals I was lucky to officiate at. Surely the fees we receive during the season are not over the top but cover the expense of travel to referee a cup final, which for me there is no bigger honour from any league in which I officiate. I may be controversial with this but I felt I had to get it off my chest".

Secretary Adrian Bland posts official notice of the Society AGM to be held on 15th May.



Thanks to Life Vice-President, Ron Hounsel, for the following – brilliant Ron! Ed.

*A Ref who'd been chased for miles,
Carried Red Cards in neat piles,
Suffering cuts and bruises,
Is not what he chooses,
What's lacking today are his smiles.*

*As a ref he's no longer enthusing,
He does NOT find it amusing,
So from bottles and yobs,
He's changed over jobs,
Now he's into TIME BOMB DEFUSING.*



Oi! Refere~

A SiNple SOLUTION by Ken Goldman

There has been much criticism of late of Arsenal's disciplinary record with the number of red and yellow cards shown to Gunners' players. However other Clubs have also fallen foul of the authorities and certainly anyone watching Channel 4's Saturday morning coverage of Italian football will have seen their Referees being less tolerant and more stringent in administering cautions or dismissals than occur in the Premiership or Nationwide League.

As I mentioned last time, Referees are mandated to follow certain directions on such cautions and dismissals and so perhaps it is time to look at another swifter form of punishment. Certainly it cannot be right that a different team can benefit from the suspension of an opponent who transgressed in a match in which they were not involved. That makes both a lottery and a mockery of the system. The time has surely come now for the introduction of the Sin Bin, which has been used in Ice Hockey for countless years and was adopted in Rugby League a few seasons back. Surprisingly many years ago FIFA was poised to introduce the Sin Bin but were over - persuaded that it would not be appropriate in extreme climates of hot and cold. That was before the introduction of substitutes who would be now, quite literally in exactly the same position and also before the disparity which has occurred between the professional and amateur games.

The great advantage of the system of spending whatever time the Referee decides appropriate in the Sin Bin is that it is immediate and affects that rather than any later game. Unless certain more serious offences are committed the punishment would be served there and then and the administration and appeals against decisions to suspend virtually reduced.

The only two criticisms I have heard of this system are that firstly, and frivolously, fines paid to County Associations or the FA would be reduced. Secondly, but more importantly it is queried what would happen if more than four players were Sin Binned from one team at the same time which would mean the Referee abandoning the match on the basis that a game cannot continue with less than seven players in a team. Since being sent to the Sin Bin would be somewhat embarrassing for the player and bearing in mind that if the match was abandoned, the sanction would have to be a heavy fine and the loss of all the points. It would seem to follow, Managers; Coaches and the players themselves would avoid such a situation like the plague.

A simple example of how the system would improve things relates to the three aspects of encroachment, delaying a restart or showing dissent. All of these are cautionable offences and in the current experiment now in its second season in England (which is likely to be implemented in the Laws next season) means the ball being moved forward 9.5 metres or as we tend to express it .10 yards. If I am right and it is implemented, what a great way to further solve the problem by awarding ten to fifteen minutes in the Sin Bin and then forgetting the whole thing altogether, unless the particular offender re-offends in the same match.

An Evening Out Talking Football

Would you like to spend an evening in the company of Jack Charlton and friends, or perhaps with Jimmy Greaves, Pat Jennings, and Ron 'Chopper' Harris.

If you would, then look no further, because you can, courtesy of Broxbourne Borough Council. On Friday 19 September 2002, Jack Charlton and friends will be entertaining at the Broxbourne Civic Hall, and on Friday 6 December 2002, Jimmy Greaves and friends will be appearing at the same venue. Tickets are priced at £12.00 for the Jack Charlton evening, and £13.50 for the Jimmy Greaves evening.

If you would like to join me in making up a party from North Middlesex – I recently saw Jimmy Greaves at the same venue and it was very good (but the December event is a different show) – please send me a cheque – made payable to North Middlesex Referees Society – to cover the cost of the tickets required.

Gary Cobden

Honorary Treasurer

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Gary Cobden

Honorary Treasurer



Another ode from Ron Hounsel – how does he think them up? Ed.

*I couldn't believe what I saw,
When a football shirt knocked at my door,
Then I fell down,
When it gave me a frown,
And, POLITELY, it asked me the score.*



From Maxie Lea

- 1 Be reminded to send a passport photo with your registration number on the back to County HQ for your new registration card, which will enable you free entry to some local senior club's league matches.
- 2 For those who can't get to Society meetings to purchase The Football Referee, you can subscribe direct to The Referees' Association, telephone number 0204 76601701, for a copy of each of the eight issues for the season, posted to you direct from the printers.



A Footballing Quiz

The following Quiz – where all the clues led to team names taken from leagues in England & Scotland – was set last month. The answers are now revealed.

| | | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| Wild Dogs | Wolves | Car outside Spanish house | Aston Villa |
| Cowboys have them | Spurs | To put under ground | Bury |
| Professor on rollers | Doncaster | Famous President | Lincoln |
| Males meadow | Mansfield | Animal Car | Oxford |
| Dirty Water | Blackpool | Latest fort | Newcastle |
| Males together | Man Utd | Famous jockey | Leicester |
| Push Weight | Preston | Vital organs | Hearts |
| Steel city day | Sheffield Wednesday | Smashes things up | Wrexham |
| Always one hundred | Everton | Collection of arms | Arsenal |
| Famous for their buns | Chelsea | Organ on small lake | Liverpool |
| Cash service | Wimbledon | Bottom of a ship | Hull |
| A prison clock | Celtic | Not eastern beef | West Ham |
| Famous football brothers | Charlton | Greedy pig | Fulham |
| Lock the door | Bolton | Opposite of dull/off | Brighton |
| Fill the harbour | Stockport | 1 of 3 R's | Reading |
| Ask about ill parent | Motherwell | Harbour with a gorge | Port Vale |
| Brick after cotton factory | Millwall | A putrid pig | Oldham |

How many did you get?

Gary Cobden

*North Middlesex Referees' Society
End of Season*

Dinner & Dance

*on Saturday, 11th MA Y, 2002 at 7.00pm for 7.30pm
at THE APOLLO SUITE, COCKFOSTERS*

Guests of Honour

Philip and Debbie Sharp

Gentlemen: Dinner or Lounge suits please.

Ladies: Posh Frocks

TICKETS: £25.00

PLEASE ORDER AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE

From Gary Cobden, phone: 01992-469153
or e-mail: garycobden@nmrs freeserve co .uk
Or Tom White, phone: 020 8366 4703
Or e-mail: whithomas@aol.com

MEMEBRSHIP FEES - SEASON 2002/2003

Enclosed with your copy of the Normidian last month was a Membership Application Form for Season 2002/2003. The forms were completed from the details held about you on the Society database – please check the information is correct, making any necessary amendments.

As we are now in April, your cover under the Referees Association Insurance Policy has now lapsed; to ensure cover, you need to return your Membership Form and money to me as soon as possible. The Fees, which are unchanged from Season 2001/2002, are as follows: - Full Members - i.e. those who do not pay their Referees Association subscription through any other Society - £19.50 (aged 18 and above on 1 April); £12.00 (if under 18). If you are under 14 or over 75 on 1 April, deduct £2.50 for the Insurance Premium from these figures. Associate Members - i.e. those who pay their Referees Association subscription through another Society (which must be indicated on the Membership Form) - £10.00 (aged 18 and above); £6.00 (if under 18). These figures are shown on the Membership Forms, and are valid only if paid prior to 30 June 2002. Those members making payments made after this date will be liable to pay the Society Subscription at the full rate, and not the discounted rate – an additional £2.00.

There is an additional question on the Membership Form this year – would you like to receive your Normidian electronically. If you are prepared to receive your Normidian by e-mail, please answer Yes to this question, and keep the Society advised of your current e-mail addresses.

Gary Cobden
Honorary Treasurer

REFEREES ASSOCIATION GRAND DRAW



Enclosed with your Magazine in March you should have found either one or more books of RA Draw tickets. Whilst the First Prize may not look quite like the car on the left, it is still a car. Please use all your efforts to sell the tickets, as the Society receives 50% of the proceeds of all tickets sold. When sold, please ensure that you return all the

counterfoils to me - if you send them back direct to the Referees Association, we do not get our share of the ticket money.

If you are unable or unwilling to sell the books sent to you, could you please return them to me as soon as possible, as other Members have offered to sell more books than they were originally allocated, and will thus generate more much needed income for the Society.

Thanks again for your support.

Gary Cobden
Honorary Treasurer



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

I have to inform you that the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of THE NORTH MIDDLESEX REFEREES SOCIETY will be held on FRIDAY 10 MAY 2002 at COCKFOSTERS FOOTBALL CLUB, Chalk Lane, Cockfosters, Barnet, Hertfordshire, EN4 9JG, commencing at 7.30pm for consideration of the following Agenda.

If any Member wishes to stand for election for Office, either as an Officer or as a Member of the Council, Nominations should be made to the Secretary, duly Proposed, Seconded, and Assented by the Nominee in writing, and must reach the Secretary not less than 21 days prior to the Meeting, i.e. by 19 April 2002. Any Agenda Items, or any proposed Rule Changes, again duly Proposed and Seconded, must be made in writing, and must also reach the Secretary not less than 21 days prior to the Meeting, i.e. by 19 April 2002.

Martin de la Fuente
Hon. Secretary

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence.
2. To CONFIRM the Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting.
3. To CONSIDER any matters arising therefrom.
4. To RECEIVE a report from the Secretary.
5. To RECEIVE a report from the Treasurer together with the audited accounts.
6. To RECEIVE a report from the Honorary Auditors.
7. To RECEIVE any reports from the Council and Officers.
8. To ELECT Officers and Council for the ensuing year.
9. To ELECT Honorary Auditors (currently Messrs Langstone and Jacobs).
10. To CONSIDER any Rule Changes submitted in accordance with the timescale above.
11. To CONSIDER the following motion:-
That this Annual General Meeting places on record its thanks to the Officers and Council for their work during the past year, and express appreciation of the conduct of the affairs of the Society.
12. To CONSIDER any other business competent and urgent.



ON SALE NOW

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Order! Order!

At our last meeting we had the privilege of Joe Guest as our speaker. Joe is the Referees Administrator at the Football Association. Arguably, Mr Guest is one of the most important and influential people in football. He is certainly the most important in refereeing circles. Why then, do we treat such eminent people with downright rude behaviour?

Last month was no different to many other meetings. We had mobile phones going off, people talking and members strolling in without regard for the meeting already underway. This poor behaviour has not gone un-noticed. In fact, one member felt compelled to write to me.

Our Society exists for its members. As such we should always strive to ensure we have a social atmosphere and not be constrained by rules, regulations and protocol. It is important that new members always feel welcome and not frightened away by a very formal environment. It is vital that our meetings are as warm and friendly as possible. Also we should all have our opportunity to have our say. However, we should show at least a little common courtesy to our friends, colleagues and especially our guests. So gentlemen and ladies, a little politeness please:

- If you are late, you will always be welcome but take your seat with as little fuss and disturbance as you can.
- Turn off your mobile phone.
- Talk to the meeting, not amongst yourselves.
- Lastly, order your drinks early and perhaps one for sooner and another for later!

Order! Order! Gentlemen Please.

Martin

Gear Supplies Price List – Season 2001/2002

Matchday Kits

We can supply both Umbro and RA Kits. Both ranges are available with either long or short sleeves, and can be supplied with your County FA Badge pre-embroidered for a small additional charge. Socks are available with either plain white tops, or with hooped tops. Cushioned feet socks can also be supplied. Boots and Tracksuits are also available to order.

Prices are as follows:-

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Umbro Short Sleeve - £32.00 | Umbro Long Sleeve - £33.00 |
| Umbro Shorts - £23.50 | |
| RA Short Sleeve - £18.50 | RA Long Sleeve - £18.50 |
| RA Shorts - £12.50 | |
| White Topped Socks - £5.00 | Reinforced Foot - £5.50 |
| Hoop Topped Socks - £5.50 | |

County Badges added to Shirts - £7.25 extra on Umbro Shirts; £8.50 on RA Shirts
We are also able to supply Middlesex County FA Badges, and Referees Association Badges, for Kit use - £3.00.

Flags

Touchline Flags and Flagsticks are available in various combinations. Choose from Quartered or Super-Quartered, Plain, or Premier. Premier and Super Quartered are manufactured from high visibility solid warp knitted polyester yarn (125gm). Plain and Quartered are manufactured from high visibility warp knitted polyester yarn (52gm). Flags and Flagsticks are also available separately. Alternatively, why not buy a complete set with Flag bag. If your existing Flagsticks are damaged, and require replacement end-caps or inserts, these can also be obtained (in pairs). If you are looking for Flags, but do not wish to pay quite so much, the RA's own flags and sticks are also available- in quartered or plain styles.

Prices are as follows:-

| |
|--|
| Touchline Flags:- from £11.50 (Plain) to £15.50 (Premier) |
| Touchline Flagsticks (pair) - £14.95; singles - £8.50; End-caps - £2.25; Brass Inserts - £1.25; Flag Bag - £5.25 |
| Touchline Sets – Flags and Flagsticks – from £21.50 (Plain) to £25.50 (Premier) |
| Touchline Complete Sets – including Flag Bag - from £23.50 (Plain) to £27.50 (Premier) |

RA Flags Plain - £4.75; RA Flags Quartered - £7.00; RA Flagsticks - £3.00

Matchday Accessories

We can supply Match Record Cards and Holders; General Purpose Postcards; Red and Yellow Cards; Wrist Lanyards; a selection of Whistles including the ever popular Fox range, and some with finger grips. Pressure Guages are available to order.

Prices are as follows:-

| | |
|---|---|
| Match Record Pads - £0.70 | Match Record Pad Holder - £0.70 |
| Red and Yellow Cards and Wallet - £2.00 | Red/ Yellow Cards/Wallet/Pencil - £2.30 |
| All Purpose Postcards - £1.10 | Red and Yellow Cards (set) - £1.10 |
| Pencils - £0.10 | |
| Plastic Whistle With Grip - £1.30 | Plastic Whistle - £1.20 |
| Plastic Finger Whistle - £1.40 | Metal Whistle - £3.40 |
| Pealess Whistle - £1.30 | Lanyard - £1.60 |

Continued



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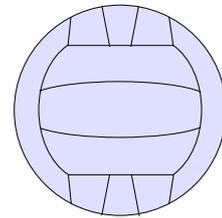
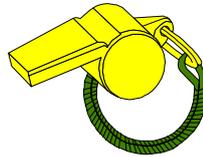
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Are again pleased to support North Middlesex Referees Society in Season 2001/2002



Supplies Continued

Other Items available as follows:-

Boot Laces - £1.15
NMRS Ties - £6.00
RA Tie - £5.50
FA Diary - £4.00
RA Baseball Cap - £5.00
"Football Referee" Magazine - £0.75
Coloured Shirts - £5.00

Sock Ties - £1.10
NMRS 50th Anniversary Tie - £7.50
LOAF (Referees Chart) - £3.00
NMRS Credit Card Holder - £3.30
RA Crested Holdall - £15.00
Coloured Shorts - £5.00

Christmas Specials

Christmas Wrapping Paper - Packs of 10 Sheets £2.00
Birthday Cards - Packs of 12 Cards £2.00

All Prices subject to fluctuation and change without notice.

Contact Percy Brown - 01707 851369 or 07801 985912

Minutes of the North Middlesex Referees Society
General Meeting Held at Cockfosters FC
08/02/2002

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were as recorded in the attendance book.

2. PREVIOUS MINUTES

Proposed, seconded and signed as correct. No matters arising.

3. CHAIRMAN

- i. Scott de Ia Fuente was presented with his inaugural whistle by our guest speaker; Ron Roberts
- ii. The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. He had nothing to report.

4. SECRETARY

- i. Secretary reported that sadly Norman Gould had passed away.
- ii. Minutes of the MRA meeting had been circulated.

5. TREASURER

1. 281 members + 11 associates
- ii. Raffle books should be returned to the treasurer, not to the RA
- iii. Elephant race night is 10 February.

6. MAGAZINE EDITOR

- i. Terry apologised for any offence caused by the report on last months training section.
- ii. Sony for poor reproduction of photos last month
- iii. Apologies for not proofreading Brian Fullers article, but at least he sent something!!
- iv All articles will be welcome.

7. TRAINING SECRETARY

- i. Brimsdown course underway (15 candidates)
- ii. We are hoping to run a closed season course.
- iii Chancellors course has completed (11 successful candidates)

8. GEAR SUPPLIES

There was discussion surrounding the new FAMOA badge on kits. It is not currently available

9. Youth Development

- i. Jeff introduced himself again and asked any young refs to call him
- ii. Young Refs prize donated by Phil Sharp was won by Tom Ladlam.

10. A.O.B.

- i. Our best wishes to Joe Walker who has been retired from work due to ill health.
- ii. Middx Schools FA have responded negatively to the Presidents letter regarding the payment of fees for officials.
- iii. One of the two 50 year awards will be presented at the dinner and dance.
- iv MCFA require 'Passport' photos from referees who register. They should be forwarded to the County Office for anyone requiring a new style registration.

There being no other business, the meeting was closed

Minutes of the North Middlesex Referees
Society Meeting held at Cockfosters FC
8th March 2002

Apologies

1. Chairman (In America), Treasurer (illness), Others as per the attendance book.

Previous Minutes

Signed as true and correct.
There were no matters arising.

Vice Chairman

1. Vice Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting
2. A reminder that the Annual Dinner & Dance is May 13th at the Apollo Suite.

Secretary

1. Minutes of the RA Southern Division were circulated.
2. Minutes of the RA Council were circulated.
3. Eve of Final Rally is the 3rd of May. Guest Speaker is Dave Bassett. Tickets are £10 each. Contact Secretary for details.
4. The RA requires a (voluntary) Public Relations Officer.
5. Details of Conference 2002 were passed to Robin Jagot.
6. Notice of Motion 2002 proposed by Southend RA regarding FAMOA.
7. Secretary to register NMRS as a 5-a-side team.
8. Secretary acknowledged the kind assistance of Charles Lifford in respect of the upcoming 50 year awards.
9. The next council meeting is Thursday 18th April, 7.45pm. 98 The Walk, Potters Bar.

Treasurer

1. RA raffle draw books and counterfoils to be returned to the Treasurer please.
2. All outstanding expenses for this year are required urgently.
3. Accounts for the year are currently being drawn up.
4. Renewal forms were sent out this month and should be returned to the treasurer

Editor

1. Closing date for next month is 18th March

Training Officer

1. Brimsdown course is underway with 12 to 15 candidates
2. Latymer course - 10 A level students

3. Next course will start after the May bank holiday.

Gear Supplies

1. We have had a bit of a run on socks! Replenishment stocks are on the way.
2. FAMOA badge is now available embroidered directly onto shirts.

MRA

1. See magazine for full details.
2. John Taverner confirmed that we will enter a 5-a-side team in the MRA competition.

Recruitment & Retention

1. We have been commended by MRA on our youth policy.
2. Youth Development Officer
3. We are continuing to develop our youth policy as reported last month

A.O.B.

1. Joe Walker wished to convey his thanks for good wishes he has received and help with his RA claim. Joe wished to convey particular thanks to Gary Cobden and Fred Kempton.
2. George Basten thanked everyone for good wishes following his wife's illness.
3. Gary Moore is looking for referees for midweek 5-a-sides.

Our guest speaker was Joe Guest. There being no other business, the meeting was closed.



Middlesex Referees Association

All Society members are invited to the

Annual Social Evening

Friday 26th April 2002

Hillingdon Borough Football Club

7.30 for 8 pm, start

Presentation of Awards for Long Service
Recognition of Successful Promotion Candidates
And MCFA Senior Challenge Cup Officials

Guest of Honour and Speaker

Patrick Barclay

Football Columnist of the Sunday Telegraph

Complimentary interval buffet – Cash bar

Smart dress please

North Middlesex Young Referees

IT'S ONLY A HOBBY

Remember that refereeing is a hobby and you should only continue to do it if you enjoy it. If it stops being enjoyable, give it up.

Did you have a miserable game on a Sunday morning?

Did you have trouble finding the ground?

Was the kick off late?

Was the game played in continual drizzle?

Was the pitch a quagmire?

Did the players wanted to kick each other rather than the ball?

Did every decision you made caused someone to complain?

How many cautions and sendings off did you have to write up?

YOU SWEAR YOU WILL NEVER REFEREE ANOTHER GAME.

But not immediately! Leave things for a few days. Talk it over with your colleagues.

Give someone ring and talk it through.

Think of the good games that you have had, of the brilliant advantages you have played and that have resulted in a goal, of the games when you have had complete control and everyone has shaken your hand and said, "Thanks ref"

Think of the pride and elation in being chosen to do a Cup Final by the County or the local League.

Think of the good times.

They will outweigh the bad ones and you will realise that refereeing is not a bad hobby.

IT CERTAINLY BEATS SHOPPING!

APPOINTMENT AS ASSISTANT REFEREE

A situation that is often seen at this time of year is the inexperienced Assistant Referee. Many readers will have been appointed as assistant referee for a Cup Semi Final or Final, without having previous experience in that role. It could be a nightmare for you unless you prepare. Contact the Leagues Referee Secretary to enquire if he can find you a couple of 'lines' to do before the Final. Study the LOAF on the section relating to Assistant Referees. Act as a club linesman/assistant referee if necessary to get the positioning and the flagging right in advance. It will make your day.

OBSERVER