

April 2003

The next meeting of the North Middlesex Referees' Society will be held on Friday 11th April at Cockfosters FC, Chalk Lane, Cockfosters, Barnet, Hertfordshire. This will be the last meeting before the AGM on 9th May at the same venue.

This issue contains much of the detail concerned with the Annual General Meeting of the Society. If you have never been before, why not come along and have your say on how you think the Society should be run?

Last month's speaker, Alan Robinson, gave us a very entertaining evening – a report of Alan's talk is included in this issue. And Vice Chairman, Vince Yeudall, writes thanking everyone for their good wishes following his recent heart operation

Among other articles included in this month's magazine are Peter Dace's look at the Society of 10 years ago, plus we have more humour and pathos from Ken May on his past life as a referee. President Ken Goldman writes an article entitled 'Liner Might', about the difficulties facing today's Assistant Referees; and look for the opportunity in this issue to vote for the next Vice President of the RA Southern Division. There are two outstanding candidates for this important post and the details of each candidate are included in this magazine – see the minutes for the Council's view but you can ignore their stance if you so wish. Democracy!

We print a reply from Middlesbrough FC, to the manager of the Rose & Crown FC who you may remember from last month's issue wrote to a number of clubs offering some of their players on loan. Bryan Robson was still Boro's manager – what a sport! Thanks again to Paul Taylor for this.

Law Changes for next season are included – and no you can't 'add 10 yards' in your local league just yet – not until the professionals are sure it works!

The 6th Interim Report of the RA's Implementation Team is also here as are a few of Vince's jokes to lighten things up. The name of the overall winner of the Elephant Race Night, held on 16th February, has just been unearthed; it was Mike Geary, who took over as 'champeen' from last year's victor, Lee Banks. And, for those who don't know, Gary Cobden is leaving his job as a computer analyst. He has already had job offers but in the meantime he is offering a service to anyone who owns a computer and who needs help. See Gary's advert elsewhere.

Hopefully, next month we will be able to publish the names of those referees who have been successful in the promotion stakes. The staff of the magazine wish everyone involved the best of luck. The Assessors and Mentors deserve credit for their sterling work and involvement in the promotion scheme throughout the season – not forgetting those valuable friends and family members who willingly share in discussions with promotion candidates after each and every match.

The closing date for contributions for the May AGM magazine, the last of the season, is Thursday 17th April 2003.

Peter Dace reminisces – the Normidian of April 1993

Guest speaker, Keren Barratt (Coventry) due to referee the FA Cup Final, Arsenal v Sheffield Wednesday

Former Secretary Graham Perry introduces 'The Refs Line' 0891 500 237 and invites all Referees to listen to the line and let him have their comments, for or against. The Refs Line exists to give a referees perspective. It is a rallying point for disenchanted referees. It has an inter active element when you can give your own point of view, anonymously so if you wish.

List of MCFA Cup Final appointments listed. Plums go to society members Mick Beswick; Tony Bastyan and Romeo Ferrari. Also N J Ilott and C R Allard.

Report on January guest speaker John Moules indicated he visited not only as a Football League Referee but also as a Training Officer and F A Coaching representative. During an excellent talk John felt Law changes should only take place after experimentation in lower senior football; and he was firmly against the 'two referee system'. Vote of thanks by Mick Osborn

Report also on March guest speaker Dennis Hedges. In an incredibly humorous evening Dennis bemoaned the considerable lack of humour in the game as it was played today. The theme of his talk was that incidents at top level can and do cause considerable problems on the local parks. In illustrating match incidents Dennis continually changed things to add or subtract an element so there was a constant need to make different decisions. This was achieved by posing questions throughout to members of the audience, and the audience participation was in some measure the reason why the evening was not only so successful but also so humorous.

Formal notice of Annual General Meeting to be held at Norsemen F C on Friday 7th May.

Robin Machell, writing as Secretary of Middlesex County Youth Football Association (MCYFA) says 'if you have been asked to referee 5, 6 or 7-a-side tournaments over the next few months, do check that the competition is affiliated and that it has been sanctioned. Especially query any age groups below 9 years of age. A competition that is running under 9s, 8s or even 7s is almost certainly breaking FA regulations, as only the FA can sanction such competitions, and they have to be community-based, like the Brentford 7s



Ken May writes – Where have all the Saturday Leagues Gone?

Dwelling on Barnet Playing Fields causes me to also reflect sadly on the demise of the local Saturday league. When I started out there were not just the Barnet & District, but also Finchley & District, and Wood Green, Southgate and District Leagues. Referees' Secretary for the latter was Frank Collins, a great servant to football whose death in 2002 we were all sorry to hear of.

Now on a Saturday afternoon there's just Old Stationers in action by Barnet Lane, whereas the rest of the playing fields are invariably deserted – a melancholy sight.

Vince Yeudall writes:

Thanks for all your good wishes in last month's Normidian. Everything seems to be going well after the heart by-pass operation and I'm feeling better day-by-day. Also, thanks for all the 'get well' cards and phone calls.

If all keeps goes well, I should be fit enough to referee again next season – if you need a fast linesman – just ask!!

Once again, thank you all for your good wishes – I am lucky to have so many good friends in the Society.

Vince



From, Middlesbrough FC - in reply to the manager of pub team, Rose & Crown FC, Stuart Purton

Dear Stuart,

Many thanks for your recent letter.

It is most kind of you to offer the services of the players of Rose & Crown FC to us on loan here at Middlesbrough. Our current squad is crap and they're 3rd Division drinkers to boot. Paul Morley could fit the bill there and we'll take the other lads as well.

We look forward to hearing from you.

With best wishes,

Bryan Robson
Manager



Laugh With Vince

One wag to another, “ I hear you've got a new job”
“That's right, it's one of the easiest I've ever had”
“What do you do, then?”
“I keep goal for West Brom.”



“It may have just been going wide, but nevertheless it was a great shot on target”

TERRY VENABLES



Congratulations

Peter Smith has been appointed as Assistant Referee for the Barnet Sunday League Senior Cup Final at Potters Bar FC on 13th April. Peter has also been appointed as Assistant Referee in the Middlesex County Sunday Junior Cup Final on 27th April.



March's Guest Speaker – Alan Robinson

President Ken Goldman introduced our special guest who he has known for many years. Alan was making a welcome return to North Middlesex after his first visit during Season 1985/6, when we were at Norseman FC. Secretary for many years of the RA's Overseas Division and the Southern Division and still President of Portsmouth Society, Alan was a top referee officiating in many high profile games at home and abroad, including the FA Cup Final in '86 between Everton and Liverpool.

A retired Civil Servant, Alan now has a little more time to catch up on old friends and colleagues and enjoy his grandchildren!

Our guest thanked Secretary, Robin Jagot, for his hospitality and said he brought the good wishes of the Portsmouth Society to North Middlesex. An Assessor on the Premiership until last year, Alan said he felt he was in a good position to pass on his views on a number of issues, some of which might be considered controversial. Alan said his theme for the evening would be 'cheating'.

Correspondence Don't cheat yourself on this issue said our guest and discussed how important it is to deal with correspondence quickly and efficiently and he suggested that promotion could well depend on how well you cope with your correspondence. Alan discussed the importance of having good Assessors and Mentors to help young referees and questioned whether there are enough to satisfy the present 2-tier situation. The Portsmouth Society Mentoring scheme includes group visits to see League referees in action.

Training "Are you cheating yourself in this important area?" questioned Alan. He mentioned the benefits that can be gained by attending one of the many Athletic Clubs and Gyms available, besides Football Clubs where fitness can be maintained by doing 'a little and often'. Alan discussed his own experiences having been 5 years on the International list and doing FIFA fitness tests.

Injuries "Are we cheating ourselves into thinking we are fitter than we are?" Alan asked. And when we are controlling a game, are we mindful of the injuries likely to be inflicted on one player by another. We should not pre-judge teams or players, however, but should protect all players, good and bad.

Arrival "Be fair to yourself and others", suggested Alan. He reminded those present of the pressure that can be felt by colleagues and players alike when, as the referee, you're not in good time for a match.

Continued over

Complacency “Are you cheating yourself by thinking you have an easy game, then trouble breaks out” said Alan. “The player without shin pads gets kicked, trouble erupts and suddenly you have a problem to deal with that could have been avoided”.

Mental Preparation Alan recounted his own experience when in America in 1986 he unknowingly had a heart attack. How much of that experience, now thankfully remedied, had been down to stress and could it have been avoided if he had not cheated himself into feeling he was fitter than he was? He also told of instances where it had been necessary to be brave in order to deal with difficult situations.

Concentration “Always try to maintain a high level of concentration” said Alan. “Don’t cheat yourself”. He pointed out the dangers of trying to fool an Assessor instead of concentrating on the game. He suggested that situations required our utmost concentration, and that we should ensure we followed our diagonal, penetrated the penalty area, used dead ball time etc.

Cheating others Alan discussed how often we make a distinction between fouls in the penalty area and those outside, and whether we use ‘advantage’ as a ploy for not giving a foul? And do we always penalise the player who dives to get a free kick or a penalty? Do we caution rather than send off a player deserving a red card? Are all red and yellow cards followed up with the necessary report – a must! Are we cheating when, as Assistant Referees, we don’t chase balls to the goal line? And do we protect our Assistants enough by ignoring the language used against them? Alan suggested we watch senior colleagues at every opportunity, keeping the good things we see.

Our guest then invited questions from the floor, which covered:
Impeding – where there is bodily contact it is a direct free kick.
The difficulties of refereeing without assistants.
Alan’s worst experience as a referee – a particular game in South Africa
Best experience – the 1983 Cup Final.

Alan concluded his talk by saying how much pleasure refereeing has given him over the many years he has been involved in the game. He also spoke of the many places he had visited and never saw – other than the inside of the stadium or hotel room – something he now intends to rectify with his wife, Gwen who also retires soon.

Charles Lifford gave a vote of thanks to our special guest who he said had given us all much food for thought with his words of wisdom. He wished Alan a thoroughly enjoyable retirement before presenting him with a copy of The History of North Middlesex Referees’ Society, 1949-1999 as a memento of his visit.



Laugh With Vince

Two friends were strolling through a graveyard, “Look”, said one “That tombstone says, “Here Lies a Football Manager and an Honest Man”.
“I didn’t know they were allowed to bury two people in the same grave” came the reply!



LINER MIGHT by Ken Goldman

I was very fortunate to be given the opportunity to run the Line in a recent behind closed doors friendly match between Arsenal's First Team squad players and a full strength Luton Town team. I was not quite so fortunate in pulling a hamstring muscle just before half time and having to be replaced for the second half by Assistant Manager Pat Rice.

However the purpose of this article is not to discuss my medical condition but to give some first hand views on various of the problems that today's Assistant Referees (still called Linesmen, Lino or Liners by all and sundry) come up against in the course of a match. The modern game is so fast and the players so astute that the role of being a Referee's assistant is becoming more and more confined to solely judging off-sides. The need for the Assistant to be aware of the last defender, save for the goalkeeper, takes up so much time and energy that spotting other than "ball in and out of play" and the most obvious fouls in his/her "quartile", as it is called, is extremely difficult. This is because defenders will go forward, drop back and then go forward again in order to catch out attackers. Clever forwards such as Thierry Henry or Francis Jeffers will hang on the shoulders of defenders or even slightly goal side of them, suddenly move momentarily towards their own goal, spin and chase towards their opponents goal, any ball knocked through or over the defenders. How much easier therefore is it for TV pundits with their "slow mo" action replays and anything up to twenty six camera angles to detect whether a player was level, on-side or off side at the moment the ball was played. Whilst I have written before that "Assistants" should be all quick sprint merchants and not old fogies, like your correspondent, nonetheless if the spotlight is to be turned on them so often and so cruelly, then it is time to consider alternative methods of control. It is hardly surprising that Assistant Referees do miss fouls since the old theory that it is better to give a "dodgy" off—side rather than a "dodgy" goal is now regarded as being extinct, certainly in theory if not always in practice.

Furthermore scientific studies have established that it is actually impossible when running the Line to see a ball kicked from the left and a player move to the right (and vice versa) all in the same split second. As a result human error is inevitable. Again I have written profusely about the two referee system, with one Official in each half and the standard two Assistants on the lines. FIFA's experiment on this system proved inconclusive and has been abandoned more's the pity. Their current idea of placing an Assistant behind each goal would inevitably prove pointless. Certainly without doubt the two greatest areas of controversy are the ball crossing the goal-line and off-side. In respect of the former, technology in professional football will lead to the salvation of the problem as experiments are taking place on a "magic beam" to be effectived between the posts. Unless we return to the acceptance of yesteryear that decisions even themselves out, that the liners might get it right more times than wrong and it is best to leave well alone, the latter can only be solved by something as far reaching as that two referee system.



Suspended for Kissing Ref

An amateur Dutch soccer player has been suspended for kissing a referee. The player was sidelined for eight games by the Dutch soccer association after planting a kiss on the mouth-of a referee who had given him his-marching orders during a game in Hengelo last month. The player, who was awarded a second yellow card, was punished for inappropriate behaviour.

From The Chiltern Referee



Law Changes – A Brief Summary

The International Football Association Board held its 117th AGM on Saturday 15th March 2003 in Belfast. FIFA was granted permission to experiment with the use of a two-way high frequency radio communication system between match officials. It is likely that the first test of the system will be at the FIFA Confederations Cup in June 2003 in France.

FIFA withdrew its request for an experiment with goal-line assistants.

The decisions of the referee, and in particular factual decisions related to the result of a match are final – no use of video evidence to alter refereeing decisions.

Disciplinary aspects of video evidence referred to the FIFA Committee for Legal Matters for further consideration.

Football jerseys must have sleeves. Regulations relating to advertising on players' equipment are withdrawn and will be dealt with under the regulations for each competition.

In the procedure used to determine the winner of a match with penalty kicks, the team winning the toss now has the choice of whether to take the first or second kick.

Referees to be reminded to apply the Law correctly in cases of infringements by players entering the penalty area before the ball has been kicked or goalkeepers moving off the goal line before the ball has been kicked.

The IFAB reconfirmed its support for artificial surfaces and mandated FIFA to draft procedures for its use that shall be valid for the whole world.

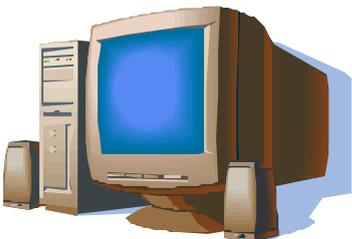
An IFAB Sub-Committee will consider the need for uniformity in the procedures used to determine the result of a match.

The Board reaffirmed its decision, taken at the last AGM, that temporary expulsion of players at all levels in the game should not be permitted.

In the professional leagues, the experiment of moving the ball forward 9.15 metres if a free kick is delayed by a player failing to respect the required distance or by showing dissent to continue one more year.



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NORTH MIDDLESEX REFEREES SOCIETY

Minutes of the Society Meeting held on Friday March 14th at Cockfosters F.C. Chalk Lane

Apologies: As recorded in Attendance Book

The Chairman welcomed members and guests who were here for the first time particularly those members who had just completed the recent training course.

Previous Society Minutes: The minutes of the Society Meeting held on Friday February 14th 2003 were signed as a Due record.

Matters Arising: There were no matters arising.

Secretary's Report: The Secretary reported that he had received minutes from the Southern Division and Middlesex Referees Association which were available should any member wish to read them. The Secretary had also received notice of a pending election for Vice President of the Southern Division RA.

Council had been informed of the election and had recommended to members that we support the nomination of Mr. Robert Hannison of the AFA Society. The Chairman allowed discussions to take place and agreement had been reached to publish an Election Notice in the Society Magazine to give all Full Members the opportunity to vote the nominee of their choice. Nomination slips for the post of Vice President for the Southern Division of Referees must be returned to the Secretary at least 7 days before the closing date of April 30th, 2003.

Social Secretary's Report: The Social Secretary reported that as of today he had received 52 bookings for the Dinner/Dance. A number of members had expressed an interest on their renewal forms but for various reasons have not responded or made any commitment. The Social Secretary recommended that we go ahead with the event which was supported by the members present Finally he would like to hear positively from more people by the 1st March, 2003.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer requested those Council members who have any outstanding expenses to be settled would they please do so as soon as possible as the financial year ends on 31st March, 2003.

Membership stood at 271 full members plus 11 associates.

Editor's Report: Very happy to report on the number of articles being received from members and hopes the trend continues.

Training Secretary's Report: We were now coming up to the F.A. examinations of Course 175 with an attendance of 25 candidates being present. The next Course at Brimsdown Sports Club will start on Monday May 12th Two clubs who use the facilities at Old Owens Sports Club have indicated a wish to run a course which we hope to start on Thursday April 25th 2003. Number of possible candidates attending 25.

Gear Supplies Officer Report: Nothing to report

M.R.A. Delegate's Report: Not in attendance. The next meeting of Middlesex Referees Association will take place on Monday March 31st, 2003 our delegate informed the Secretary that he will be in attendance.

Youth Development Officer's Report: The Y.D.O. reported that he had attended a Recruitment & Retention meeting Mentioned also was the Latest position on arranging a football match with the aim of an U21 squad of members competing against the more senior members. No firm date had been fixed yet.

Any Other Business: The Secretary informed the meeting for the benefit of Council members that the next Council Meeting will take place on Tuesday April 15 .2003 at Old Owens Sports Club starting at 7.30pm.

Our Guest Speaker was then introduced by our President Ken Goldman who was then given a warm welcome.

ELECTION OF VICE PRESIDENT FOR SOUTHERN DIVISION

NOMINATION SLIP

Please mark with an (X)

I would like to nominate Mr Alan Nathan for the post of Vice President: ()

I would like to nominate Mr. Robert Hannison for the post of Vice President ()

Please return your nomination slip to the Secretary by post to 24, Tiverton Road, Potters Bar, Herts, EN6 SHY to be received by Tuesday April 22~K1, 2003 the latest.

You may wish to hand your nomination slip in at the next Society Meeting on Friday April 11th, 2003. You will find a C. V. presentation on both candidates in the April issue of the Society Magazine.

Secretary

THE REFEREES' ASSOCIATION

1 WESTHILL ROAD. COUNDON. COVENTRY. WEST MIDLANDS CV6 2AD

TELEPHONE: (024) 76601701 FAX: (024) 76601556

e-mail: ra@footballreferee.org web site: www.footballreferee.org

ALAN NATHAN

Currently in 1st year as Vice President of the Southern Division

Executive Committee Member London for over fifteen years

Currently Chairman of London County Referees' Association. Held this post for over fifteen years.

Chairman of LONSAR for approximately ten years.

Fifty years a member of LONSAR, now a new member of Fulham and District Society.

Fifty Year Membership of The Referees' Association approved December 2002.

Long and Meritorious Service Award presented at the Birmingham Conference 1985.

ROBERT STEPHEN HANISON

Qualified as a referee with the A.F.A. in March 1973 and is still an active Class 5 referee.

Has been a member of the A.F.A. Referees' Society since 1973 and has served on the Committee from 1976 until 2003 holding the following positions

Secretary	1976-1983 and 1992-1993
Social Secretary	1983-1986
Committee Member	1986-1987
Vice-Chairman	1987-1993
Representative on A.F.A. Council	1990-1998
Chairman	1993-1998
President	1998-2003
Referees' Association Delegate to Southern Division	2001-2003

REFEREES ASSOCIATION GRAND DRAW



Enclosed with your Magazine over the last couple of months, members will have found books of RA Draw tickets. Whilst the First Prize may not look quite like the car on the left, it is still a car. The Society would appreciate it if you could 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 direct to me - if you return them back direct to the address on the ticket counterfoils, 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 the unsold books to me as soon as possible, as I have a waiting list of other Members who have offered to sell more books than they were originally allocated, and will thus generate more much needed income for the Society.

Likewise, if you have not received any books with your magazine, and feel you would be able to sell some, or if you have received books, and would like some more, please let me know.

Thanks again for your support.

Gary Cobden
Honorary Treasurer



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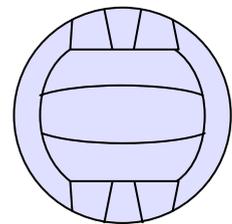
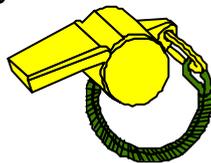
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Are again pleased to support North Middlesex Referees Society in Season 2002/2003



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of North Middlesex Referees Society will be held on Friday, 9 May 2003, commencing at 7.30pm, at Cockfosters Football Club, Chalk Lane, Cockfosters, Barnet, Hertfordshire, EN4 9JG.

A provisional Agenda is shown below; a full Agenda will be published in the May Normidian. However, 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 18 April 2003.

Any Agenda Items, again duly Proposed and Seconded, must also be made in writing, and must reach the Secretary not less than 21 days prior to the Meeting, i.e. by 18 April 2003.

The Meeting will also be asked to consider the adoption of revised Society Rules, a copy of which were published in last month's Normidian. It is some considerable time since the Society Rules last underwent a major overhaul, and therefore a sub-committee was formed to discuss and formulate the proposed new rules. If any Member has any specific point relating to the new rules that he would like to be considered as an amendment at the AGM, such proposal needs to reach the Secretary, duly proposed and seconded, not less than 21 days prior to the Meeting, i.e. by 18 April 2003. If you have mislaid your copy of last month's Normidian and would like a further copy of the proposed new rules, please contact the Society Secretary.

Robin Jagot
Honorary Secretary
24 Tiverton Road
Potters Bar
Hertfordshire
EN6 5HY

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 the adoption of the proposed new Society Rules, and any 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.



EXCESS POSTAGE CHARGE

Council are aware that a number of Members have again been inconvenienced by the Post Office placing a surcharge on some Normidians over the last couple of months. We are at a loss to explain this, as the magazine weighs differently on different scales in the Post Office, and not every copy in any particular area is levied with a surcharge! To alleviate any further inconvenience this season, all copies will bear additional postage for the remainder of the year. If any member requires reimbursement, will they please let me know. Council will be looking at alternative formats for the Normidian during the Summer months.

Gary Cobden
Honorary Treasurer

MEMBERSHIP FEES - SEASON 2003/2004

Included with last month's Normidian was a Membership Form for next season. Many of you have already returned these, however, for those of you that have not, this is a gentle reminder. At this stage it is not planned to increase Society fees for the coming season; however, there has been a slight increase in the RA Insurance Premium, which has increased from £2.50 to £2.85. Therefore, in summary, the amounts due – which are shown on the Forms – are as follows:-

Membership Class	Society Fee	RA Fee	Total
Full Members (Over 18)	£10.00	£9.85 (If over 75, deduct £2.00)	£19.85
Junior Members (Under 18)	£6.00	£6.35	£12.35
Associate Members	£10.00		£10.00

Associate Members must pay the RA Fee through another Society which must be shown on the Membership Form.

The Forms have been completed from the details held about you on the Society database – please check the information is correct, and add or amend as necessary. These figures are only valid until 30 June – after this date there will be an increase of £2.00 in the Society Fee.

This season a number of Members agreed to have their monthly copies of the Normidian sent to them by e-mail, thus helping to reduce the Society's printing and distribution costs. If you would like to receive your copies this way during the forthcoming season, please mark your Membership Form accordingly.

Gary Cobden
Honorary Treasurer



NORTH MIDDLESEX REFEREES SOCIETY 100 CLUB

Incorrect information was included in last month's Normidian relating to the February 2003 Draw. There were 52 shares subscribed, resulting in a total payout of £52.00; however, the names and amounts shown were incorrect. The correct winners are detailed below, together with the March winners – 53 shares; payout of £37.10 – and cheques are enclosed with this month's Normidian - so, if you have thrown the envelope away, find it quickly!

		February			March	
1 st Prize	51	Steve Wildgoose	£28.60	28	Geoff Jacobs	£21.20
2 nd Prize	6	Mike Sibley	£15.60	22	Gary Cobden	£10.60
3 rd Prize	14	Michael Mackey	£7.80	8	Robin Jagot	£5.30

If you would like to join the 100 Club for the remainder of the season, please let me have your remittance of £5.00 to cover the remaining draws through until August.

Gary Cobden
Honorary Treasurer



Laugh With Vince

Geordie, "Sunderland's 'keeper would be good but for two things".

"What's them then?" said his mate.

"His hands" chortled Geordie"



THE REFEREES' ASSOCIATION

Implementation Team

25 February
2003

SIXTH INTERIM REPORT

Since we outlined our proposals at last year's Conference, the greatest concern voiced by members has been that of financing the changes. Fears have been expressed that we shall be moving towards an even more expensive operation. This report has been put together to dispel members' worries.

Over the past three years, the Association has managed to accumulate a surplus of some £40k. It is realistic to estimate that, under current circumstances, a £10k surplus should be achievable each year before any exceptional expenditure. During the current year, the surplus has been necessarily and wisely invested in, amongst other things, the increased security at Head Office. Last August, Council kindly provided the Team with a detailed breakdown of spending shown below. Below that is the team's forecast of revenue expenditure comparing current with future. A net saving in operating costs of £17,000 p.a. is achievable. So, rather than increasing costs, the changes would show a significant benefit to members, as the Consultants predicted, generating an even greater surplus than the current £100k p.a.

RA Expenditure for the financial year 2001/02

	President	Council	EC	Div Mtgs	Office	Total
Travel	3397	9733	947	5132	1177	20386
Postage	44	5091	49		5601	10785
Telephone	389	850	16		4687	5942
Printing/Stat	4	802	61	282	7825	8974
Conf Accom & travel	119	2077	4416		250	6862
TOTALS	3953	18553	5489	5414	19540	52949

Forecast Annual Expenditure of RA and RAE

Office operations					19540	19540
President of RAE	400					400
Cost of Boards (@ £ 1k each)		14000	0			14000
Other meetings		1000*		1000#		2000
TOTALS	400	15000	0	1000	19540	35940

* A budget for attendance at FA Referees Committee. # A budget for RAE regional liaison meetings.

We have left the Office expenditure figure as it was, as the function will continue either by the RA or the RAE. An Honorary President of the RAE, would incur reduced costs as the workload would be less onerous. Whilst it is the case that joint travel is undertaken now by members of Council, it is still true that each member costs around £1,000 to 'service'. With travel to and from Wales and Northern Ireland decreased and