

April 2004

The next meeting of the North Middlesex Referees' Society will be held on Friday 16th April at the usual venue, Cockfosters FC, Chalk Lane, Cockfosters, Barnet, Hertfordshire. Guest Speaker is Mike Dennis of the Evening Standard. Note that this meeting has been put back a week due to Easter.

We are sorry to announce the recent passing of Helen Willis, the dear wife of Peter Willis, Current Past President of the Referees' Association. Our heartfelt condolences go out to Peter and family at this very sad time.

Joe Ross was guest speaker at the March Society meeting; a good crowd showed their appreciation for an entertaining evening. More about Joe's visit elsewhere – thanks to Peter Dace.

We are hopeful of having the great Bob Wilson as our guest at the September meeting – watch this space!

With Euro 2004 creeping ever nearer our thoughts are beginning to turn to one of the great football competitions for British fans. Our own Phil Sharp, as most will know, is one of the Assistant Referees selected for the event. Phil can be assured of the support and best wishes of all his friends and colleagues in the Society and elsewhere in football – what an honour following his World Cup exploits!

Congratulations to those who have gained promotion this season – you will certainly have deserved it for all your hard work and dedication. Usual commiserations to those who just missed out – your time will come! Also, more plum appointments are included in this edition – well done everyone. If anyone has been missed, please let me know.

The Notice for the AGM on Friday 14th May appears in this issue, along with a provisional Agenda – a full Agenda will be printed in next month's Normidian.

The Society's Annual Dinner Dance is on 15th May – the evening after the AGM. An advert for the D/D is included elsewhere and Mick Osborne is the person to contact – very quickly if you still haven't got your tickets. The necessary details are in the ad.

With the Dinner and Dance soon to be upon us, some will remember the 1977 'bash' when bow ties and dinner suits were still in vogue – as can be seen by the photo of that night (see 'A Blast From the Past' elsewhere). Some of the famous men pictured are alas no longer with us but a few are; can you spot them?

The eagle eyed will have noticed in the February Normidian that Peter Dace's reminiscences contained the word 'Reek', that of course should have read Rec – computer-spelling error! However, this new 'Reek' word has been absorbed as part of street-cred language to describe some of the Rec's around. Are we surprised!

Thanks to all this month's contributors, especially Peter Dace and Ken May – Mick Osborn has 'writer's block'. It's nothing serious and Grace says he should be OK for the Dinner/Dance!

Closing date for contributions to the next issue of The Normidian is 23rd April 04

PETER DACE REMINISCES – THE NORMIDIAN OF APRIL 1994

Guest Speaker – Terry Burton, Assistant Manager at Wimbledon F.C.

Editor Ken Goldman refers to Manchester United goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel's recent sending off in an F.A. Cup tie against Charlton and writes 'what is disturbing is that a goal-keeper once sent off in such circumstances can be replaced with a substitute keeper'

North Middlesex Council have decided that following requests from Members to honour in some way the life of Dave Dickinson, a 'North Middlesex Memorial Shield' should be commissioned. The Shield will also honour the names of Bill Huggett, Harry Barnard, Les Davis and Ron Tossell. Arthur Pearce penned a thumbnail sketch of each and added 'five examples of dedication and inspiration'.

Paul Herlity puts a personal point of view and asks 'video evidence (to be or not to be...used)'. Paul lists three major match incidents including Maradona's 'hand of God' goal and says he is sure all three incidents would have been better handled with the assistance of the video evidence.

Steve Palmer continues 'nearly 1,000 games old' and has now reached game 983. 'Back through to 1985 and my 6th season and what a gem of a game to start with – Enfield v Chelsea. I was told Chelsea would be bringing a full strength team and the forward line in the programme read Spackman, Nevin, Speedie and Thomas. It was a great experience. Superbly controlled by Emerson Griffiths with Peter Jago on the other line. Result 4-0 to Chelsea and game number 321 over'.

Secretary Adrian Bland posts the official announcement that the Society's' Annual General Meeting will be held at Wingate and Finchley F.C. on Friday 20th May.

In the review of our February guest speaker – John Lloyd, one of only five Welsh referees on the Football League list, we learn there would be no more after they retire because of the emergence of the League of Wales. John had briefly played professional football and during his talk had recalled many funny anecdotes also a discussion on whether professional referees might become a reality in the future.



50 Years of History – Charles Lifford

In 1999, a book relating to the 50 years History of the North Middlesex Referees' Society was published. Whether you purchased a copy is neither here nor there; what is important, and it should be to you, is that I have been keeping the History up to date.

What have you sent me since that date? Have you had a County Cup Appointment? Does the Society know? Have you done a local Cup Final during this period, about which you can send me details? Have you had a photograph taken whilst refereeing, or been part of a group photo of referees that may be of interest to anyone in the Society?

A full record has been kept of the 50 years up to 1999. If you don't do your bit –and it only needs to be a little bit – the History will not be maintained. Please send me as much or as little as possible.

Charles

Congratulations!

The following members are promoted, many congratulations to all. Well done particularly to the “Mackey”, father and son team – is this some sort of record?

Level 6 to 5

Michael Mackey Jnr.
Peter Smith

Level 7 to 6

Michael Mackey Snr.

More Plum Appointments

AFA

Essex Senior Cup Final	John Faithfull	Referee
Junior Cup Final	David Woolf	Referee
Open Veterans Cup	John Cooke	Referee

Middlesex County Football League

Junior Res. Div. Cup	Terry Wilson	Assistant Referee
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Spartan South Midland

Challenge Trophy Final	Ashvin Degnarain	Referee
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Terminology – Ken Grant

We question the use of the terminology “wrong decisions”. By the very laws on which we operate we are told, “Decisions of the referee regarding facts connected with play are final” (Law 5). This can only mean that by law the referee never makes the wrong decision. This may seem to be a trifle arbitrary but it is the law as laid down by the International Board.

Many of us will be pleased to learn from Graham (Poll) that a more moderate approach is now being made to the professional game and that the proliferation of red and yellow cards may be coming to an end or at least to some reasonable proportion.



Ken is the Editor of “YOU MUST BE JOKING REF!” the magazine of The Cheshunt & Waltham Cross Referees’ Society. Ed.



NMRS Monthly meeting at Cockfosters FC - 18. 3.04

Minutes taken by Peter Dace

Chairman opened meeting at 20.00.

President Ken Goldman presented a whistle to new member, Laurie Benson.
Chairman also welcomed Kouma (Dig) – a friend of guest speaker.

Minute of previous meeting approved, although Treasurer, Gary Cobden, emphasised he had not reported the balances that were shown, i.e. he had not mentioned any balances!

Secretary Robin Jagot on holiday, but Society needs to endorse him as delegate to RA Conference in Cardiff – unanimously agreed.

Mike Dennis next month's speaker.

Bob Wilson for September – hopefully.

Dinner Dance 15th May – members reminded.

Gary Cobden said RA fees for 2004/5 not yet known, so renewal forms will not be distributed before May.

Race night profit was £270 approx.

Society officers were reminded to claim any expenses for the season.

Guest Speaker, Joe Ross introduced by the Chairman at 20.09.



Guest Speaker – Joe Ross

Chairman, Tom White, introduced our guest speaker, Joe Ross.

Joe is a London FA Referee who moved up the ladder via Essex & Herts and then the Isthmian League before reaching the Football League in season 2002 -3.

With the use of video, Joe showed clips of some of his early games on Football League 2002 – 2003. His first game was Shrewsbury v Hartlepool, on which he shared some interesting moments with the audience before inviting questions and comments from the floor on his performance.

More games were shown, all refereed by Joe, and those present took every opportunity to give their views on the decisions made by our guest.

A lively question and answer session brought Joe's very enjoyable presentation to a close.

At 21.45, President Ken Goldman gave a vote of thanks to Joe for an entertaining evening of audience participation and presented him with a copy of the Society's 50th Anniversary Book, edited by Charles Lifford.



A BLAST FROM THE PAST!!!

The picture below, taken at the Annual Dinner in 1977 shows members of the Society Council. For those younger members – and the not so young – the names to the faces are – from left to right – Terry hayne; Alan dent; dave Dickinson; Peter dace; Bill Huggett; Ron Hounsell; George Basten; Owen Venning; Ken May (partially hidden); Ron Tossell; Chas Avis; Gino Grilli; R Dalziel



NOT THE NMRS ANNUAL DINNER AND DANCE ADVERTISEMENT

FOLLOWING RECENT RESULTS YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO THE

MANCHESTER UNITED END OF SEASON DINNER DANCE
(being held early due to unforeseen circumstances)

Menu

Main course
Humble pie
Lancashire hotch-potch
Tim Howard's Porto catch of the day

Dessert
Hard Cheese, and Sour Grapes

Wine
L'urine de Rio, Camngton 2003 (a hard-to-swallow sample vintage)

Guest speakers
Kevin Keegan and Arsene Wenger

Please note that the club's European Tour scheduled for April and May has been cancelled.

“Is There Life After Refereeing” – continued by Ken May.

BRING ON THE SUBS!

We referees are not renowned for admitting that we are wrong but I have to put my hand up on the issue of substitutes. I was very much opposed to their introduction in lower grade football, as it seemed to favour the better organised clubs whereas others might be hard pushed to put out the bare eleven. In addition, I did not support the idea of tactical substitutions when it seemed to me they were only intended for injured players.

Being a traditionalist, I also thought there was something heroic about the depleted side battling on with the bare ten players, or with the injured player limping along up front trying to make a nuisance of himself, or heading the winning goal despite being swathed in a blood-stained bandage.

I could not have been more wrong as the whole matter of substitutions resolved itself without damage to the game and also saved the injured players from making themselves worse by unwisely struggling along.

The biggest bonus came when I was involved with youth football as it meant that all three substitutes would get a game rather than clicking their heels in disappointment on the sideline. It certainly kept parents happy! I therefore vote substitutes as the most important law change in the last 40 years.

CLOSE THE ROUTE TO THE FLAG

I think most referees are not keen about tinkering with the laws, which generally speaking have stood the test of time remarkably well. However, there is one law change that I would like to recommend and that is to outlaw the habit of taking the ball to the corner flag with the aim of wasting time. Last season, in two Ryman League games I saw the practice lead to the frustrated attacker, desperate to retrieve the ball, clatter into his opponent and in each case a confrontation and cautions followed.

If this is not unsporting behaviour or time-wasting I don't know what is. There is little skill attached to the habit but it is extremely provocative and designed to frustrate.

Luckily, it has not caught on in park or youth football, which is a credit to all concerned at those levels. A caution for the perpetrator would soon put an end to this form of cheating.

To be continued. Ed.



Judge and Jury

A referee is allowed to have brains and there are many occasions during a game when he needs them.

He must go through the whole course of justice in a split second.

He is counsel for the prosecution and for the defence.

He is judge and jury and the case must be decided in an instant.

Players too are allowed to have brains, so remember association football must be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game. Remember, referees did not write these Laws but must enforce them.

From the “Whistler” – the Magazine of the Leicester & Rutland Society of Association Referees – Loughborough Branch.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of North Middlesex Referees Society will be held on Friday, 14 May 2004, 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 23 April 2004.

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 23 April 2004.

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 there from.
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 motions or rule changes put forward 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.

ANNUAL DINNER and DANCE

Saturday, 15th May

7.00pm for 7.30pm

At

THE APOLLO SUITE

127-129 Cockfosters Road, Cockfosters

Tickets: £26.00

**Please order tickets a.s.a.p. from Mick on 01707-650804 or e-mail
mickandgrace@mgosborn.freeserve.co.uk**

MEMBERSHIP FEES - SEASON 2004/2005

As mentioned previously, Membership Forms are usually distributed with the Normidian in March and/or April. However, I have still been unable to confirm the amounts required by the Referees Association for next season, so I am not in a position to issue the forms yet because I do not wish to issue them with incorrect amounts, as this would cause no end of problems. Additionally, at last years Annual General Meeting, a proposal was passed giving the Society the authority to increase Subscriptions for Season 2004/2005 by a maximum of £1.50.

As the Society Financial Year did not end until the end of March, I am only just in a position to recommend to Council whether or not it will be necessary to increase the Society Membership Fee by some or all of the abovementioned £1.50, and so the Membership Forms should now be distributed with the May Normidian.

However, what I can tell you is that currently Subscriptions only cover the cost of the Magazine, and I would ask you all to consider the receipt of your Normidian by e-mail as opposed to post. The Society has e-mail addresses for some 100 or so members, although only around 30 consent to taking their magazine by this method. If you would like to receive your magazine this way in the future, please let me know.

Gary Cobden
Honorary Treasurer



NORTH MIDDLESEX REFEREES SOCIETY 100 CLUB

The March 2004 Draw was made at the close of the March meeting. There were 48 shares subscribed, resulting in a total payout of £33.60. The winners are shown below, and cheques are enclosed with this month's Normidian - so, if you have thrown the envelope away, find it quickly!

1 st Prize	11	Gary Cobden	£19.20	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.
2 nd Prize	42	Geoff Jacobs	£9.60	
3 rd Prize	15	Malcolm Sonenfeld	£4.80	

Gary Cobden
Honorary Treasurer



REFEREES ASSOCIATION GRAND DRAW

In previous years, the Society has automatically issued members with two books of RA Draw Books to sell on behalf of the Society. This has meant the Society requesting nearly 500 books from the Referees Association, but regularly receiving only just over 100 sold book counterfoils back from Members. This year we have decided to try an alternative method to sell the books. If you would like the chance of winning a car – sadly not like this one – please let me know how many books you would like, and I will get them to you. For all books sold, the Society receives 50% of the proceeds. If you do take some books to sell, 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.

Thanks again for your support.

Gary Cobden
Honorary Treasurer





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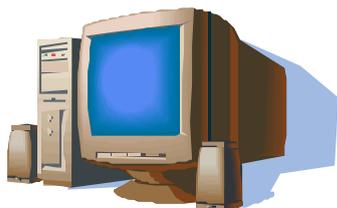
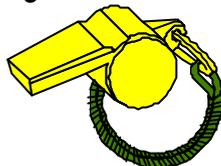
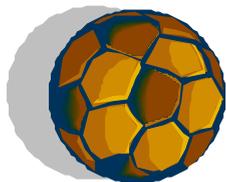
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Are again pleased to support North Middlesex Referees Society in Season 2003/2004



DO YOU HAVE A COMPUTER PROBLEM?

Has your PC stopped working? Does it need upgrading? Do you need a program or database written to help you carry out a task? Have you some new software that you do not know how to install? Your worries may be over. Give Gary a call on 07760 422223 for assistance.
Reasonable rates.



Want some Kit?

Our supplies Officer is Percy Brown: Telephone 01707 851365 or e-mail:-
brownfamily70@cwctv.net

Referees Kits
Matchday Accessories
Assistant Referees Flags
Socks
Other

Accessories

FAMOA DEVELOPMENT DAY

It occurred to Peter Dace that most of our members must also be FAMOA members and wonders how many have responded to the invitation to Development Day, 2004 – the nearest venue to us is the Waltham Abbey Marriott Hotel, Old Shire Lane, Waltham Abbey, Essex EN9 3LX. The event will be held on Saturday 3rd July. Timetable is as follows:

- 10.00 Arrive – registration
Display stands and the RA stand.
- 1030 Regional Manager welcome and opening remarks
- 1045 Skills of refereeing
- 1130 Comfort break
- 1145 Confrontation – how to deal with it
- 1230 Lunch (a light lunch is provided as well as refreshments upon arrival)
- 1330 Offside and how to recognise it
- 1415 Comfort break
- 1430 Head of Refereeing
- 1530 Closing remarks

To confirm your attendance you should post the reply card sent with the recent mailing from FAMOA.

Undoubtedly many North Middlesex colleagues will be in attendance.

Many thanks, Peter, for giving us this timely reminder of what could be a very rewarding and enjoyable day. Ed.



“What Would You Do” – with acknowledgements to The Chiltern Referee

Question You stop the game for treatment to head injuries, and decide to restart with a dropped ball. You ask for it to be played back to the ‘keeper since that was where it was going when you stopped play. But, the attacker goes for the ball, shoots and scores.

Answer. Allow the goal. He is quite entitled to play for the ball, even though he has said he wouldn’t. You cannot tell/ask a player what to do. Astute referees will recognise that this can occur (you can never trust players!), and take steps to avoid this pitfall.



QUIZ TIME – a little Wembley Trivia from The Middian, the Mid-Herts RA

1. What year was the first FA Cup Final held at Wembley?
2. What team has won the FA Cup at Wembley the most times?
3. How many Yorkshire clubs have won the FA Cup at Wembley?
4. Who scored the fastest goal in an FA Cup Final at Wembley?
5. What was “Billie”?
6. Who scored the first ever Wembley FA Cup goal?
7. What has been the highest official attendance at an FA Cup Final at Wembley?
8. What was the highest-scoring FA Cup Final and which teams were playing?
9. How many goals have been scored by Sunderland, in Wembley FA Cup Finals?
10. Which team won the FA Cup twice in the Thirties?

Answers to the editor of Normidian, by email, please – to have your name in print!