

**April 2008**

**The next meeting of the North Middlesex Referees' Society will be held at Holtwhites Sports and Social Club, Kirkland Drive, Enfield at 7.30 pm on Thursday, 17th April 2008. Guest speaker is former Football League Referee, Premier League and FIFA Referee, Brian Hill.**

The Society's Annual General Meeting will be held at the above venue at 7.30pm on Thursday 15th May 2008. A full Agenda is included in this issue of the magazine – another bumper edition!

This month, we remember Society Life Vice-President, Owen Venning, who sadly died recently. Also, Middlesex County FA lost well-known local referee and administrator, Albert Whitelaw, who died on the 1st of March this year. Our condolences go to the family and friends of both of these fine servants of the game. Life Vice-Presidents Ken Goldman and Terry Hayne have written in this edition with their own personal memories of Owen, and Peter Clayton, Middx FA, writes about Albert. A further tribute to Owen, from his old friend and Society member, Ken May, will be included in next month's magazine.

Life Vice-President, Peter Dace, chronicles April special guest, Brian Hill's FA Cup Final day, first published in the magazine in 1988, the year Brian refereed the Final between Wimbledon and Liverpool. Peter has particularly fond memories of that day and his account of the occasion is revisited in this issue.

At the Middlesex Referees' Committee meeting held on 19th March 2008, the following two Society members gained promotion: Stephen Reuter, to Level 5 from Level 6 and John Noblemunn, to Level 6 from Level 7. Many congratulations to you both – all your hard work has paid off. Paul Watts has been appointed Reserve Official at the Under 18 International, England v Scotland, for the Centenary Shield at Wembley Stadium on Saturday 26th April. FIFA Official, Howard Webb is the appointed referee. Congratulations, have a great day, Paul! A list of County Cup games, including some Finals and Semi-Finals, are included in this issue together with the appointed officials. Congratulations to everyone who has been appointed. Without doubt you all richly deserve your big day – enjoy it!

The famous Eve-Of-Final Rally is in London once again, on 16th May. Tickets are £12.50 each. Full details, including how to obtain tickets, can be found elsewhere in this issue. Also included are extracts from the AFA ARGUS and the Chiltern Referee.

Gary Cobden reminds us once again that Membership Fees are due and reveals the winners of the March Society 100 Club Draw. We also publish a letter from Steve Wildgoose to Middlesex CFA regarding recruitment and retention.

Readers will recall that in March's Normidian we printed a contribution by Ken Goldman entitled "Whither Justice?" We are pleased that the London FA noticed Ken's article and Chief Executive, David Fowkes, has replied with, "Whither Justice?" – The Reply" which, as requested, we have ensured will be publicised as widely as the originally article.

Finally, I am retiring as editor of the magazine at the end of this season. Anyone interested in taking over should contact Secretary, Robin Jagot. Any help or guidance in editing the magazine will be freely given.

**Contributions for the May 2008 magazine by Monday 28th April, please.**

**We re-print an article produced in the September 1988 Normidian in order to commemorate the visit of this months Guest Speaker Brian Hill and the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his F A Cup Final between Wimbledon and Liverpool.**

**We're on our way to Wembley and.....**

Phone calls from the Referees Secretary of the Football Association which start “What are you doing on May 14<sup>th</sup>” should carry a Government Health Warning. Although such calls are not intended to damage your health inevitably they have an affect on the system, initially causing a violent shaking of the body followed by a visit to the toilet. I must admit that when Colin Downey posed the question to me I immediately went speechless (an unusual phenomenon) because I realised that May 14<sup>th</sup> was, of course, F A Cup Final Day. I already knew that Brian Hill, George Tyson, Mick Pierce and David Redshaw had been appointed to the Final so what then could Colin possibly have for me? My mind flashed back twelve months when I received a similar phone call from Reg Paine, then in his last few months before retirement from Lancaster Gate. Reg’s opening words were “Trophy Final” and the illusion created was immediately destroyed when he asked me if I could arrange for the F A mini-bus driver to have a plate of sandwiches when he brought the Trophy Officials to our Society Dinner Dance!! Well, it was, I suppose, an appointment from the F A but hardly one to enter in my Refereeing curriculum vitae.

Colin’s appointment for me was, however, real by any stretch of the imagination, and a chance to tread the hallowed turf of Wembley Stadium. Now I imagine that if you are on the Football League you expect the occasional visit to Wembley Stadium and such matters are taken firmly in the stride. If, however, you have not reached, or do not expect to reach this elevated status and if, like me, you are more likely to officiate at Hackney Marshes than Highbury or Wanstead Flats Playing Fields more than Wembley Stadium then my appointment was surely the ultimate dream of the park referee. A unique opportunity to appear before a crowd of 100,000 (indeed the last opportunity as seats are now being fitted behind the goals thereby reducing capacity to 88,000) and with live coverage of my game by Independent Television a possible world audience of 500 million.

Although it would be easy to write about the match alone the real memories started perhaps seven days before kick off. The phone often rang (usually me telling other people) and I had one card (thanks to Carlo Boggia). In returning my registration forms to the Hertfordshire F A Referees Secretary I mentioned my appointment and within a few days I received a complimentary Herts badge to wear on my shirt on the big day.

As a ‘dedicated professional athlete’ I decided there would be three golden rules for the week beforehand:-

- 1 No football in the garden with my Son – can’t risk pulled muscles
- 2 Double care walking down the stairs
- 3 No ‘naughties’. This was the easiest sacrifice following eighteen years of marriage.

On the night before the Final, together with several Society Colleagues, I attended the LONSAR Eve-of-the-Final Rally. As usual a marvellous evening and a chance for us all to honour Brian Hill and co. It was during the course of that evening that I saw my own game in a new light. So far it had just seemed a fun exercise but seeing all the Establishment Figures around me and who would be at Wembley the next day I felt a deeper sense of responsibility. Suddenly I realised that it was twice as important to look the part on the day and to put in a good performance. John Martin a FIFA Referee and old friend came up to me with his Cup Final programme and I signed it – not so much that he asked for my autograph rather that I gave it to him anyway. John then introduced me to Brian Hill and explained to him my own role for the next day. I graciously offered Brian and his colleagues the use of our dressing room at Wembley Stadium. On the way home Graham Liddle, Gary Cobden and I were afforded the ultimate experience – tea and toast (with Marmite of course) at Secretary Adrian Blands flat. With some difficulty I managed to avoid discussing his obsession for QPR memorabilia – on the walls, in bookcases and in the toilet!!

**Continued**

The great day dawned and I arranged to meet our Editor Sara Tustin and Adrian at Alexandra Palace Railway Station. Not for me a night at Whites Hotel at the expense of the Football Association. Had Brian Hill, I wondered been got up in the early hours to assist his two-year-old 'do a wee'.

Having parked illegally at Brent Town Hall, we made our journey down Olympic Way. For me a cup of tea in a local café but for Sara and Adrian a visit to the local off licence for the statutory liquids as required by all good British football supporters.

Sara, with her influence as Editor of the Normidian, had obtained her own Cup Final ticket whereas Adrian was there courtesy of my guest ticket and acting as my personal photographer – well you've got to have your picture taken at Wembley haven't you? I knew little of Adrians ability with a camera but I had great doubts when he took the first picture of me before the twin towers, as he adopted a most unusual position and, at that, one not recommended by Lord Lichfield – lying flat on the ground looking up at me. I could face no more and departed alone up the VIP staircase and into the safety of Colin Downey's kingdom. There I met my match referee Alf Grey who refereed the 1983 F A Cup Final between Manchester United and Brighton, together with fellow Linesman Colin Stupack, Referees Secretary of Middlesex County FA.

We again met the Match Officials of 'the other game' and all had lunch together. Personally I would never eat before a game but not wanting to be the odd one out I got stuck into fruit cocktail followed by chicken and a cup of tea. As we made our way out to the balcony to watch the crowds arrive, it was announced that Princess Diana (Guest of Honour and Presenter of the Cup) was about to enter the Banqueting Hall for lunch with the assembled VIP's. We politely stood waiting, after all Princess Di doesn't attend many of my games. Just before she entered, the Master of Ceremonies inaccurately announced her as the Princess Royal and I remember saying to Alf Grey that there was no worse mistake any of us could make at Wembley that day.

Our game was due to kick off at 2.15pm and all seven of us plus Colin Downey, together with a BBC Film Crew of three left the balcony for the ritual walking of the pitch ceremony. Yes it was definitely playable.

I should explain that our game was sponsored by Kaliber Lager to the extent of £25,000 and was between Jimmy Tarbuck's Reds and David Frost's Dons. Ten a side, eight minutes each way, no offsides and played on a shorter pitch with the penalty box line extended the width of the pitch. Alf Grey didn't need to give Colin and me instructions, we just kept pumping him for information. Lefts first half, rights second. Who would be senior linesman? Well Colin and I decided on the only fair solution – if Alf was injured we would fight each other in the middle of the pitch, one knock-out, two submissions or two falls to decide the winner.

We eventually got ourselves and our kit to the dressing room. This room is scarcely big enough for three (one toilet and two showers – an unusual combination) but with the 'big four', Mr Downey and film crew there wasn't enough room to swing an FA badge. The film crew I should add were making one of BBC2's Brass Tacks series, on the Cup Final Referee, and pursued Brian Hill wherever he went.

Despite arriving three hours before kick-off I still needed a quick change before going out to the pitch where all the players were assembled before the Royal Box. Television took over the proceedings and right on cue the players were individually announced before running onto the pitch.

TARBY'S REDS (wearing Liverpool strip) Brian Regan; Jimmy Tarbuck; Lloyd Honeyghan; Jasper Carrott; Terry Marsh; Bobby Moore; Chris Quinten; Dennis Taylor; Paul Usher; Rick Wakeman.

FROST'S DONS (wearing Wimbledon strip) David Frost; Nigel Benn; Nick Berry; Terry Neill\*; Tommy Cannon; Steve Davis; Eddy Grant; Rod Stewart; Tom Watt; Jim Davidson. \*substituting for George Best who failed to arrive!

A motley crew indeed and provided you like rock music, Eastenders and snooker you will probably have heard of them all.

**Continued**



Onto the pitch we went, assured we were all facing the television cameras for the toss-up ceremony and Alf whistled up both captains. Unfortunately for me I was standing nearer to David Frost and as match commentator Jimmy Greaves was making remarks at the time about Jimmy Tarbuck the close-up camera stayed on the latter together with rival linesman Colin Stupack.

The game itself, all sixteen minutes, passed too quickly and finished 1-1 with Tarby's penalty equalising a first half goal from Tommy Cannon. The teams, all members of the Lords Taverners, shared the trophy and we each received a small medallion presented by Gloria Hunniford.

Just time to rush back to the dressing room and then into our £30 complimentary seats along from the Royal Box. Yes, how thoughtful of the Football Association, not only had they staged our game but for the further enjoyment of the 98,203 crowd they were to put on another match, the 107<sup>th</sup> F A Cup Final, between Liverpool and Wimbledon.

What a wonderful day, surely the stuff dreams are made of. Only one further hurdle to overcome and that was to see if my Wife had pressed the right buttons on the video and hopefully a permanent record of my biggest match of all. "Did you see me on television?" I asked my seven year old Son, "Yes Dad, wasn't Steve Davis (his current hero) marvellous"!!

**Peter Dace**



## **22nd Century Visions – 19th Century organisations**

The recently published Orange Future of Football Report 2008 presented a vision of football in the future where technology transforms the professional game into something akin to a computer game. The predictions include interactive stadium seats (which vibrate to make fans stand up when a goal is scored!), stadium villages which could control their own micro-climate (would Northern clubs make it snow for their soft southern visiting clubs?), players wearing 'billboard shirts' on which advertisers can change a message during the game, and super athletes bred to run 50% more distance than today.

Fascinating as this creative brainstorming might be, the most interesting sections for referees are those predicting how decision-making would be improved through technology.

**The above is taken from "President's Viewpoint" by Patrick Morrissey, in the March 2008 issue of the AFA ARGUS. Ed**



## **Minutes of the Society meeting held on 13 March 2008 at Holtwhites S&SC**

The Meeting stood in condolence for Albert Whitelaw and Owen Venning the latter being given a short eulogy by Gary Cobden.

### **Apologies**

These were in the attendance book but members mentioned Percy Brown who was away refereeing and it was suggested that in future should this occur again the Supplies Officer should arrange for someone else to bring the gear supplies to the meeting.

### **Previous Minutes**

These were approved as read.

### **Matters Arising**

A sub-committee had been formed to look at the Society's 60th anniversary celebrations.

### **Secretary's Report**

In his absence his report was read by the Chairman to the effect that the April Meeting on the 17th of the month would feature Brian Hill who had been on the FIFA list and had refereed the FA Cup Final some 20 years ago. All guests are welcome.

### **Treasurer's Report**

He stated that there were 155 Full and 5 Associate members. The first of April was the expiry date for RA Insurance. There was a £2.00 increase in RA subscriptions but for the 10th season in a row subs were being held by the Society at a £10.00 level.

### **Training School**

Stan Rosenthal reported for 20 candidates there was 3 weeks to go before their examination and all of them had come from the Potters Bar United Club. There was a problem arising with a number of candidates not having officiated their required 6 games. When the courses become an NVQ there will be a requirement to cover 10 games. Nowadays 90 per cent of the trainees were under 18 and as a result fewer referees are being trained currently.

### **Magazine Editor's Report**

In his absence the Chairman read out that the Editor wanted to confirm that after a long stint he is retiring at the end of the Season and the Council has had an offer for the post for next Season.

### **Guest Speaker**

As there was none the Chairman welcomed the Society's own Stan Rosenthal who presented some short films on DVD from the FA's Learning series. The main topic shown and then discussed was Man Management. A number of animated questions occurred throughout the presentation, which Stan answered accordingly. Highlights included with the position when the Referee is challenged and how to consistently rebuff this. The main answer is what is now known as the "staircase approach", going from a quiet word to a red card. Remembering to talk properly to players when administering red and yellow cards and to effect personal control. Stan also showed glimpses of other DVD's to make further points as the subjects became wider.

The Chairman gave a vote of thanks for an enjoyable and stimulating evening's presentation.



**Owen Venning – by Ken Goldman, Life Vice-President**

I first met Owen around about 1970 when I took over the Lonsar Magazine for a year. He was extremely helpful and one of the reasons I subsequently joined the North Middlesex Society. He was one of the past Editors of the Normidian and so it gave me a great deal of encouragement when I took over the Society’s magazine. If memory serves me right, he was in conjunction with Ron Hounsell an expert on “Lining” and together they formulated some very important ideas as well as demonstrating them to various Referees’ Societies. He obviously moved away so from being a regular attendee at monthly meetings we only saw him occasionally thereafter but I remember him to be a very charming person who was full of integrity and a great believer in the Referees’ movement.



**Owen Venning – by Terry Hayne, Life Vice-President**

I joined the Society back in 1969 looking up in awe at our illustrious officers of that day, among them Arthur Pearce, Ron Tossell, Les Davis and, of course, Owen Venning, articulate and with that soft tone of a west country brogue. He had personality, was friendly and could laugh readily but most of all when it came to football and refereeing in particular, he was passionate.

As part of the driving force behind North Middlesex he could be outspoken and helped set many of the standards upon which the Society grew towards being one of the largest in the country. It was not just size that mattered but belief, not that our ways were right but knowing that they were – and proving it. Perhaps along the way some noses were put out of joint but, although within Society discussion was not always passive, thoughts were positive, certainly not stuck in a time warp and we had that belief.

The names of Venning and Pearce were coupled in 1968 when they presented the “Vennearce” report to the RA Conference, setting out to give refereeing a more professional approach and outlook as an organisation. Perhaps too advanced for those days and banners were not hoisted, nevertheless interest was stirred. It smouldered for fifteen years before the RA acquired new offices and appointed its first full-time, paid, General Secretary. How appropriate that it was Owen and how proud were “his” Society. Life was not an easy ride but the first hurdle of a huge task had been cleared.

Owen was so much a part of football, from his days on the Football League, then as assessor, officer, administrator and promoter. At the North Middlesex Society we have been privileged to have had in our midst many achievers both on and off the field. Owen must certainly rank high on that list.



**Albert Whitelaw – taken from an obituary written by Peter Clayton (MCFA).**

Albert was a greatly respected referee and football administrator having served on many leagues during a long refereeing career where he attained Class One before becoming a Level 5 in the revised grading system. Unfortunately, he suffered ill-health in recent years with bone degeneration in his back that forced him to give up refereeing, which was a great frustration and disappointment to him.

As a referee he was a real character and as a linesman, even more so! With a bark that was a lot worse than his bite, during play, he would ‘counsel’ players on their behaviour although it was questionable whether, with his broad Scottish accent, they actually understood what he said! However, it was very apparent that it had the desired effect! He would very often stand out when he refereed or lined wearing a baseball cap and reactive glasses when it was sunny but he maintained the respect of all he officiated.

**Continued**

**Albert Whitelaw** – continued

The Association was very fortunate to have the benefit of his services when he joined the MCFA Council as the Youth Division's County Cup Referees' Appointment Secretary in 2002 after having carried out the Referees Secretary's position for the Harrow Youth League from 1987 to that date when he was made a League Vice President in recognition of his work for them. As well as making appointments to hundreds – if not thousands – of County Cup matches in his years with us, he made it his cause to encourage and develop younger referees and many have benefited from his advice and guidance during the years. He was also Chairman of the County Youth Cups Committee.

He was a devoted husband to Irene and during past few years when she herself was very unwell, he managed to juggle work and football commitments around, quite rightly, looking after her as a priority.

Both youth football and also refereeing in the County owes a great deal to Albert and he will be greatly missed by us all, not only for his immense service but also for his irascible character, humour and the great fun he enthused us all with.

Albert's funeral was held at Golders Green Crematorium on Friday 14th March.



**Steve Wildgoose writes to the MCFA on recruitment and retention of referees:**

MCFA recently asked me for my opinions on the future of the game with regard to referee recruitment and retention.

My ideas were as follows:

1. Better protection of referees from clubs/players.

I feel that clubs seem to get dealt with leniently by the CFA's. I know the majority of the CFA's money comes from clubs but payers can't be dictators.

2. Clear and transparent reasons for referees' appointments to finals.

When I look at appointments for both adult/youth finals there's a rotating list of about 12 names that appear to referee all the county cup finals year in, year out.

3. Better understanding of referees' commitment to work.

I feel that certain people at the CFA's feel that referees have to treat refereeing as a priority over work. Unfortunately, work will always come first.

4. Referees not to pay to register with the CFA.

I feel that referees do not get anything from CFA's and I have always wondered why have to pay to register. Surely we are making the CFA's money when we caution/ send-off players. Recently, MCFA spent a fortune on match balls and gave them to clubs as a gift. I feel we give but never receive.

Thanks.

**Steve Wildgoose**



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## “WHITHER JUSTICE?” – THE REPLY

Thank you for the invitation to reply to the article in the March edition of “The Normidian”. The opportunity to give the County FA’s perspective on the matter is appreciated. I am also grateful for this chance to highlight best practice for referees. Hopefully my reply will be publicised as widely as the original article.

Please consider the incidents seen on television this season that have resulted in a player being sent from the field of play. Has the referee been completely correct on absolutely every occasion? Or have there perhaps been times when the referee has got it wrong? I am sure that you will have had your doubts about certain decisions and that you will think that others have simply been incorrect. If top level officials can get it wrong, then it must follow that referees on the parks can get it wrong too.

Justice therefore does not demand that a player must be guilty and punished simply because a referee has dismissed him from the field of play. The referee should not be the judge, the jury and the executioner. Instead, justice demands that there should be a procedure for a player to contest before an independent Committee a charge that he has been guilty of a sending off offence. Inevitably, this will lead to some charges being proved and to others being found not proven.

London FA’s disciplinary dates are set at the start of the season, for the whole year. Disciplinary commissions are made up of experienced volunteer Council members. It is impossible to ask every person involved in a number of cases – commissions handle several at a sitting – to give dates and expect a unanimous response with the same dates.

### Report Quality

In this particular case, the report read:

*“In the 47<sup>th</sup> minute of the match player “Y” made a rash tackle (for which he was subsequently cautioned by me). Unfortunately, “X” quite literally reacted violently to that challenge by attempting to strike his opponent although I could not see if the punch or punches landed. However, “X” also wrestled his opponent to the ground before other players separated them. The opponent was able to continue although somewhat shaken up. I sent off “X” for violent conduct.”*

Readers will appreciate that this report is not completely watertight. It does not report exactly what the referee saw. He was unable to say whether there was one punch or whether there were several punches; he also did not see whether any punch or punches landed: this begs the question as to whether he saw any punches at all. What did he actually see? Also, what significance should be given to the comment about the opponent being able to continue: why has that comment been added?

### Referee’s Demeanour

At a personal hearing, the Committee will be able to question the referee about any points that are not clear, such as those mentioned above, and about any different version of events that may be given by the player. The answers given, and the way in which they are given, will help the Committee to reach its own view as to what actually happened. Normally this is enough for the case to be upheld.

Continued

If a referee does not attend a personal hearing, then the Committee has lost the opportunity to clear up any queries and to assess the confidence with which questions are answered. It can then only base its decision on the written report (which might not may be watertight) and on the demeanour of the other witnesses.

Referees should not expect to be invited to personal hearings on a regular basis. In London, on average every referee will wait over 7 years between each hearing. Referees should therefore make every effort to attend when requested: if a referee cannot attend on a particular date and reasonable notice of this is given, then there should be an adjournment to an alternative convenient date. In fairness to players, there will not however normally be a second adjournment.

### Demeanour of the Player and Any Other Witnesses

When assessing the evidence of the player, the Committee will consider not only what is said by the player and by any other witnesses but also how it is said. In many cases, their evidence does not ring true and the charges are proved. There are however cases in which the player's evidence is credible: referees are human, can make mistakes and justice requires the dismissal of charges in those instances.

The Football Association memorandum for discipline handled by County Associations does recommend requests for adjournments by the player or match official be treated with sympathy although it does not specifically say all requests must be granted. I think Mr Goldman had a point here as it should perhaps have been an adjourned case.

Perhaps it would have been better to talk to me before going to print.

Best regards to the Normidian match officials.

**David Fowkes**

**Chief Executive – London Football Association Limited**



### **Angry Refs Call Off Protest**

Midland referees have called off further action over abuse by players. Matches in the Warley Sunday League, at the weekend, went ahead without referees after 40 officials withdrew their services. The refs, who receive £22 per match, said they were sick of the swearing, insults and threats hurled at them by players during matches week-in and week-out, which led to some games being abandoned.

Following a further meeting yesterday, Alan Tudor, the referee liaison officer with the Warley St. said that, although still very angry, the officials had decided against a further withdrawal of services. "There will be letters going to the Birmingham County FA and the league giving our recommendations", he said.

Mike Fellows, discipline secretary for the Birmingham CFA said today that he felt the weekend action by the referees was unjustified in the light of latest statistics. He also praised the Birmingham Mail's *Respect the Ref* campaign as instrumental in improving behaviour on the field...

**The above is an extract from the March 2008 edition of the Chiltern Referee – originally from Official Sports via the Woking Warbler, January 2008. Ed.**



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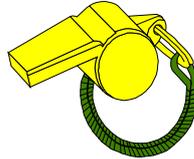
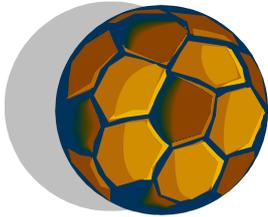
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#### **WATCH OUT FOR...**

Referees continuing to issue yellow cards to players who rush at them to contest decisions. The FA have indicated they will back their referees, Steve Bennett has set the tolerance level by dismissing Liverpool's Javier Mascherano for his persistent back-chat at Old Trafford last Sunday and now his colleagues must continue to earn the respect they crave.

Graham Poll – The Official Line. Daily Mail, Saturday, March 29, 2008



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of North Middlesex Referees Society will be held on Thursday, 15th May 2008, commencing at 7.30pm, at Holtwhites Sports and Social Club, Kirkland Drive, Off Holtwhites Hill, Enfield, Middlesex.

### 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 CONSIDER any changes to the Society Rules.  
Proposals for any Rule Changes must be submitted to the Society Secretary (Robin Jagot) no later than 21 days before the date of the Annual General Meeting - ie no later than 24 April 2008. Rule changes must be proposed and seconded in accordance with Society Rule 9d.
9. To ELECT Officers and Council for the ensuing year.  
Nominations for Officers and Council must be submitted to the Society Secretary (Robin Jagot) no later than 21 days before the date of the Annual General Meeting - ie no later than 24 April 2008. These must be proposed and seconded in accordance with Society Rule 9c, and must also be assented by the Nominee.
10. To ELECT Honorary Auditors (currently Ken Goldman).  
Note – Ken Goldman has indicated his wish to stand down. The Society is therefore looking for two new Auditors. Please contact Gary Cobden (Society Treasurer) if you are interested in assisting the Society by taking on this role, which involves no more than one evening per year.
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.

### Robin Jagot

Honorary Secretary  
24 Tiverton Road  
Potters Bar  
Hertfordshire  
EN6 5HY

**Note; a quorum of at least 20 members is required in order to hold the Annual General Meeting. Members are asked to make every effort to attend the AGM, which is an important event in the calendar of the Society.**



### **The 2007 FA Cup Final**

Each year the Society normally receives an allocation of FA Cup Final tickets. These are usually distributed amongst Society members who support the participating clubs, and are allocated by way of ballot. This year, with Barnsley; Cardiff City; Portsmouth; and West Bromwich Albion in the semi-finals, the Society has no members who support any of these teams. In the event that the Society again receives an allocation of tickets for the Final, and you would like to be considered to receive a ticket for the match at the new Wembley Stadium, please contact Society Treasurer, Gary Cobden by e-mail on [treasurer@northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk) or by telephone on 01992 469153.



## Middlesex FA – County Cup Appointments – Season 2007/2008

### Youth Division Appointments

#### Senior Youth Cup – Final

Northwood F.C. U18	v	Hillingdon Borough F.C. U18	Stephen Reuter (AR)
Northwood F.C. U18	v	Hillingdon Borough F.C. U18	George Grant (4th)

#### Under 18 Cup – Semi Final

Whetstone Wanderers Yth F.C. U18b	v	British Airways (Youth) F.C. U17	Stan Rosenthal (AR)
Whetstone Wanderers Yth F.C. U18b	v	British Airways (Youth) F.C. U17	Barry Berndes (AR)
Gladstone Rangers Youth F.C. U17	v	Yeading Wanderers F.C. U18	Stephen Reuter (R)
Gladstone Rangers Youth F.C. U17	v	Yeading Wanderers F.C. U18	Nicolas Nicolau (AR)

#### Under 16 Girls Cup – Final

Enfield Town Ladies Youth U16	v	Queens Park Rangers Girls U15	Barry Kyriacou (AR)
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#### Under 16 Girls Cup – Quarter Final

Enfield Town Ladies Youth U16	v	Denham United Wildcats U16	Barry Kyriacou (R)
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#### Under 15 Cup – Semi Final

Broadwater United Youth F.C. U15	v	Actual Soccer F.C. U15	John Noblemunn (R)
Broadwater United Youth F.C. U15	v	Actual Soccer F.C. U15	Barry Kyriacou (AR)

#### Under 14 Cup – Quarter Final

Whetstone Wanderers Yth F.C. U14b	v	Feltham Youth F.C. U14	Steve Wildgoose (R)
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#### Under 13 Cup – Semi Final

Omonia Youth F.C. U13	v	Hanwell Town Youth F.C. U13	Phil Bowman (AR)
Omonia Youth F.C. U13	v	Hanwell Town Youth F.C. U13	Daniel Webster (AR)

#### Under 13 Girls Cup – Quarter Final

Enfield Town Ladies Youth U13 Blue	v	Enfield Town Ladies Youth U13 Red	Barry Kyriacou (R)
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#### Under 12 Cup – Final

Broadwater United Youth F.C. U12	v	Park View Rangers F.C.	Barry Berndes (AR)
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#### Under 12 Cup – Semi Final

Broadwater United Youth F.C. U12	v	Park View Rangers F.C.	Kevin Wavell (R)
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#### Under 11 Cup – Semi Final

Broadwater United Youth F.C. U11	v	Actual Soccer F.C. U11	John Stockman (R)
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### Parent Body Appointments

#### Senior Challenge Cup – Final

Hendon F.C. First	v	Hampton & Richmond Borough F.C.	Michael Mackey (Jnr) (AR)
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#### Senior Charity Cup – Semi Final

Edgware Town F.C.	v	Hillingdon Borough F.C. First	Steve Conway (AR)
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#### George Ruffell Shield – Final

Peter Smith (AR)

#### Intermediate Cup – Semi Final

Park View F.C. First	v	Willesden Constantine	Stan Rosenthal (AR)
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#### Junior Cup – Final

Stedfast United F.C. First	v	North Greenford United F.C. 3rds or HFC First	Peter Jago (R)
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#### Midweek Cup – Final

Hounslow Post F.C. First	v	British Airways (Midweek) F.C. First	John Noblemunn (4 <sup>th</sup> )
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#### Sunday Premier Cup – Semi Final

Acton F.C. First	v	Sunbury Athletic F.C. First	Peter Jago (R)
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#### Ladies Senior Cup – Final

Denham United Ladies F.C. First	v	Barnet FC Ladies First	Stan Rosenthal (R)
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Ladies Junior Cup – Semi Final

Enfield Town Ladies F.C. Reserves v Colne Valley Ladies F.C. First Patrick Walsh (R)

## Amateur FA – County Cup Appointments – Season 2007/2008

### Parent Body Appointments

Junior Cup – Semi Final

Old Finchleians F.C. Third v Old Actonians Association F.C. Third Alec Holloway (AR)

Senior Novets Cup – Semi Final

Albanian F.C. Fifth v Old Salvatorians F.C. Fifth Les Kyprianou (AR)

Junior Novets Cup – Final

HSBC F.C. Eighth v Kew Association F.C. Seventh Les Kyprianou (R)

Middlesex/Essex Senior Cup – Semi Final

Old Aloysians F.C. First v Old Owens F.C. First Les Kyprianou (AR)

Open Veterans Cup – Semi Final

Met. Police (Chigwell) F.C. Veterans v Malden Veterans F.C. Veterans David Williams (AR)

## Hertfordshire FA – County Cup Appointments – Season 2007/2008

### Parent Body Appointments

Senior Challenge Cup – Final

Boreham Wood F.C. First v Ware F.C. First Ashvin Degnarain (4th)

Senior Challenge Cup – Semi Final

Ware F.C. First v Bishop's Stortford F.C. First Ashvin Degnarain (R)

Senior Charity Cup – Semi Final

Cheshunt F.C. First v Hitchin Town F.C. First Phil Sharp (R)

Veterans Cup – Final

Garston Veterans F.C. Vets v Harpenden Rovers Vets  
F.C. Veterans or Metropolitan Police  
Bushey Vets F.C. Veterans John Metselaar (AR)

### Youth Division Appointments

Under 15 – Final

Hitchin Town Youth F.C. U15 v Wormley Youth F.C. U15 Stuart Walden (AR)

Under 11 – Final

East Herts Youth F.C. U11 v Ware Youth F.C. U11 Clarets Julian Tovey (R)



### WANTED – TWO Auditors!!

As things stand at the moment, the Society only has one appointed Auditor, Ken Goldman, whereby we are actually required to have two. Ken has also indicated a wish to stand down at the end of this season. The position of Auditor is not an onerous task, involving no more than one evening of your time a year, usually during April or May. Ideally, you should have some knowledge of accounting, although this is not absolutely necessary. If you are interested in taking up this position, please contact the Society Treasurer, either by phone on 01992 469153 or by e-mail to [treasurer@northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk).



## Membership Fees for Season 2008/2009 are now due!

Yes ladies and gents, it's that time of year again. Your membership subscription for Season 2008/2009 becomes due on 1 April 2008. Membership Forms were distributed with last months Normidian; a further copy will be enclosed with next months magazine.

### Membership Fees payable are as follows:-

- **Full Members - £25.00.** This includes your Referees Association of England fee of £15.00 including the Insurance Premium of £4.00. If you are over 75, you are not automatically covered by the Insurance Premium, and your fee payable will be reduced by £4.00. However, should you wish to purchase insurance cover, this can be arranged for a fee of £8.00 making a total amount payable of £29.00.
- **Associate Members - £10.00.** You must pay your Referees Association of England fee through another Society, and this should be shown on your Membership Form.
- **Junior Members - £15.50.** Members under 18 years of age, including your Referees Association of England fee of £9.50.

Individual fees payable were shown on your personalised Membership Form. The Adult fees shown above are only valid until 31 July 2008; after that date they will increase by £2.00. You are also reminded that you will not be covered by the Referees Association of England Insurance after 31 May 2008 unless your fees have been paid to the Society by that date. Please complete and return your Membership Form as soon as possible. You need to bear this in mind if you will be refereeing late season or early pre-season games.

It would be appreciated if you could you all check your details shown on the Form, and amend any information that is shown incorrectly. Please also specifically check e-mail addresses shown carefully, as some that we have on file are resulting in bounce backs. Additionally, please check that the NPD Number (Registration Number) shown is correct, and complete it if it is missing from the Membership Form. The number can be found on your County FA Registration Form. If you are not currently registered with a County FA, please indicate on your form as Not Registered. Please also indicate where requested whether you are an Assessor; Examiner; Instructor; or Mentor.

As well as receiving a Membership Card from the Referees Association of England, this year every registered member will be given a 'commemorative medallion' as a gift to celebrate the centenary of the Referees Association.

**Gary Cobden**  
**Honorary Treasurer**



### NMRS 100 Club – Result for March 2008.

The draw was made at the March Society Meeting.

First	Second	Third
24 John Metselaar £15.20	17 Arthur Stewart £7.60	37 Martin de la Fuente £3.80

Winner's cheques are enclosed with this copy of the Normidian; if you receive your Normidian by e-mail, the cheques will be posted to you. Remember to include your renewal subscription in with your Membership Fee, and indicate how many shares you wish to subscribe for.

**Gary Cobden**  
**Honorary Treasurer**





*The Referees' Association of England  
is very proud to present:*



**EVE-OF-FINAL RALLY**  
**Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> May 2008, 6pm for 6.45pm.**

**The New Connaught Rooms Great Queen Street London WC2B 5DA**  
(Two minutes' walk from Holborn Station on the Central Line)

Following last year's return of the FA Cup Final to its spiritual home of Wembley Stadium, the 2007 Eve-Of-Final Rally also returned to London, and what a fantastic evening it turned out to be. This year's event promises to be just as successful, and will be held at the newly renovated New Connaught Rooms, very conveniently located in Central London.

The Rally is held in honour of the Cup Final Referee and his team and gives their fellow referees and peers the opportunity to pay tribute to them on their achievement of being appointed to the "match of the season". Delegates will get a chance to mingle with the officials before formalities commence and at half time when you can offer them your personal congratulations. During the second half of the evening, when the officials have retired to their hotel to get an early night to prepare for their big day, the entertainment will be provided by Bob Wilson, the ex-Arsenal and Scotland goalkeeper, who enjoyed a long and successful career as a sports commentator, and is a highly amusing and entertaining speaker.

Tickets for the Rally are now available, priced at £12.50 each, and you will receive a souvenir programme autographed by the four officials. We ask all ABSs to bring the Rally to the attention of their Membership, and applications can either be made individually or on behalf of your ABS – just complete and return the slip below with a cheque payable to "The RA" for the appropriate amount or a debit authorisation. Demand is expected to be high, so we recommend early application, which will be on a "first come/first served" basis, to avoid disappointment.

..... Tear off and submit as your postal application .....

***I/We.....(Association/Branch/Society) apply for ..... tickets for the Eve-Of-Final Rally on 16<sup>TH</sup> May 2008. Enclosed is my/our cheque for £..... - ..... made payable to The Referees' Association or please charge my credit/debit card as below:***

Please circle your choice    Mastercard / Visa / Maestro / Solo					£	
For credit and debit card payments				Please debit my account as below		
Card number				For all cards		For Maestro and Solo cards only
				Expiry date	Valid from	Issue No

*Please send my/our ticket/s to:*

.....

..... Post code .....

*Telephone or email address for any queries:* .....

PLEASE RETURN TO:  
THE REFEREES' ASSOCIATION 1 WESTHILL ROAD, COUNDON, COVENTRY, CV6 2AD