

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 the 16th of April 2009. To the time of going to print there is no speaker but we will be doing our best to get one for the evening. However please turn up as usual.

EDITORIAL

As we get towards the end of the Season, perhaps it is time to look back and see what irks us most individually. Following on from the excellent session on Offside by our Training Officer Stan Rosenthal last month, I indicated in my last Editorial that I wanted to try to sort out some things concerning the Law on the Drop Ball. This is MY irk of the Season.. Since the so called "Sportsmanship" drop ball came into existence (and it is difficult to tie down when this happened although it, may have been as a result of a World Cup Finals) the Law on the drop ball has in my opinion become one of organised chaos. As we know in yesteryear the Referee dropped the ball between two opponents of the competing teams and it was a contested re-start. As long as the Referee got out of the way of the ball so was not hit by it and also avoided the players, whilst also watching that the ball hit the ground before being played and saw that indeed it was the ball that was played and not an opponent, all was well. Thus the Referee was in charge of the whole scenario. Nowadays it is the players who tell the Referee who will kick the ball back to the other side and the only contest between the sides is who should do it. The main confrontation comes if the Referee suggests for the sake of fair play that there should be a "contested" drop ball. In my experience if that happens the players literally "won't play ball" with the "Ref" and insist on doing what they want too. It means the Referee's authority is both questioned and undermined and the Referee can do virtually nothing about it because of absence of either law or Directions on the point. As we discussed in a "match incidents" session some time ago the Referee is unable to tell players what to do in the circumstances. Is this really sensible? What happens if one side in kicking the ball back towards his opponent's goal actually scores? It is of course a goal and all hell will break loose whether it happens in professional stadia or on the parks and more so in the case of latter. There are recorded instances of this taking place in senior football and the other side have then stood back at the kick off and allowed the other side to run through and score un-opposed. Do we really need this nonsense? Really the only time that the Referee should re-start the game with an uncontested drop ball is if the goalkeeper is injured anywhere between his goal-line and the penalty spot and then he can drop the ball in front of the recovered goalie provided of course that play was actually stopped for the incident. Please let me know what you think of the above, your own match incidents or indeed whatever other Laws you would like to see changed (especially the one on impeding the progress of an opponent) if you were in charge of Law making

Ken Goldman

THE LATE DAVID DICKINSON – A REMEMBRANCE

Adrian Bland writes:-
DD remarkable man.

My fave DD story occurred when he was refereeing in a game I was playing. An opponent had been giving Dave a bit of backchat and DD gave the player a good talking to but as the player did not appear to be listening DD said he would show the player who was in charge.

The next time the said player got the ball DD gave a free kick against him, even though there was no foul, to show that he was in charge. He additionally said that he will keep on doing this. At this point the player, led by his Captain, humbly apologised and we carried on with a "normal" game.

Correct use of law 19 - common sense, or just correct use of DD

Peter Dace writes:-
Lads'

flicking through an old photo album last night I came across this picture taken at the NMRS AGM in May 1992 at Norseman. Dave Dickinson had just been made our President. He subsequently referred to himself as 'your wheelchair President' – how sad and I know we all still miss him.



ENOUGH TO GIVE YOU THE SHAKES

by Mick Osborn

It can be a sign of greeting, of congratulation, of affection, of good will, of letting bygones be bygones. Boy Scouts do it with their left hands. Some gentlemen do it with variations peculiar to their lodges. Peace envoys do it to show that they come unarmed. Deals are clinched with it. To do so with one's opponent is an unwritten convention in sport. The practise is almost completely international. A book on my shelf includes this quotation by the Scottish historian and thinker, Thomas Carlyle, (1795-1881), "A mystic bond of brotherhood makes all men one." I don't know if it was this he had in mind but it seems to fit. It is the good, old-fashioned handshake.

According to the new film, "The Damned United," animosity between the late Brian Clough and Don Revie all began with the latter not shaking hands with the younger man. At the time of writing, a lot was being made of Arsene Wenger's alleged refusal to shake hands with manager, Phil Brown, after the Arsenal v Hull match.

Think of the times we, as referees, shake hands. At the ground we shake hands with the welcoming official. Our assistants enter the dressing room and we all shake hands. Out to the centre circle, we shake hands with the captains. They shake hands with our assistants and then with each other. At the end of the match (if we had a reasonable game,) we all shake hands again. Some times even other players will shake our hands and the hands of their opponents. Having got our fee, we bid farewell to fellow officials, players and club representatives and, yes you've guessed it, shake hands again. It might be worth considering the influence this ritual can have.

From the moment we arrive at the ground, opinions are being formed, consciously or unconsciously, which will influence the effectiveness of our authority. The way we shake hands with club officials and players and they with us, can convey a lot. The handshake will be the first impression we give. Are we confident? friendly? decisive? Let's be proactive. Move towards the person we are meeting, a smile on our face and our hand extended. Hopefully, they will respond in like manner. Our handshake should be firm - not crushing, but firm. (Firm to a man may be crushing to a lady or child, so adjust the grip to suit the situation.) It's worth noting, though that we cannot insist on the captains shaking hands but it could be a warning sign of what sort of game we are in for if they don't!

In my early days as a new referee, two players clashed in a fair but painful tackle just a few yards from me. Through the red mist, they faced each other like fighting cocks preparing for the fray. Foreseeing a nasty situation developing, I forcefully blew my whistle, which stopped them in their tracks. Bringing the two of them together, I warned them about their conduct and suggested that they could save us all a lot of problems if, with the aid of a handshake, accompanied by a smile, they demonstrated to each other, the other players and the small group of spectators, that their animosity had been in the heat of the moment and short lived. To my relief, somewhat bemused, they agreed. I don't know whether an assessor would have condoned the action, but it worked and peace was restored. Afterwards a county representative at the game told me he liked the way I handled the situation. Praise enough! Oh yes. How did I restart the game? By dropping the ball - with rather shaky hands!

THE GOALKEEPER THE REFEREE'S FIRST LINE OF DEFENCE – By Ken Goldman.

One of the current questions being asked in football today is whether the goalkeepers are being over-protected or under protected. Obviously it depends on where you are coming from. If you are the loquacious Andy Gray that most knowledgeable of men when it comes to the Laws of the Game, then you will amongst strikers past and present, answer, no. If you are a goalkeeper or an aggrieved Manager the answer is bound to be, yes. But where should referees stand, especially quite literally at corners, if they are to make the all important decisions on the point.

In what are often described as “the old days” shoulder charging and barging the goalkeeper were commonplace. Indeed few of the era involving the 1950's and 1960's will forget two FA Cup Finals effectively decided by such incidents. Firstly there was the 1957 Final between Manchester United and Aston Villa when Peter MacParland of Villa charged Woods of Manchester United and broke his jaw. Although Woods later returned to play on the wing (there were no substitutes then) the game was effectively Villa's and MacParland went on to score the only two goals of the game. The next Season United were up against Bolton and Bolton's great centre forward Nat Lofthouse, barged United's keeper Harry Gregg over the goal-line with the ball and the “goal” was allowed to stand, giving Bolton victory. Even as late as 1995 the aforementioned Andy Gray went up to challenge the Watford keeper Sherwood and headed the ball through the keeper's hands whilst making firm contact with him. Again the goal stood and the Cup was Everton's.

Arsenal's Manager Arsène Wenger who has gained a reputation over the years as being as calm as the summer breeze, but who has also been known recently to “throw a wobbly” or two, feels that they are under protected especially his own goalkeepers and remarked so after a weekend sometime back that saw two Chelsea keepers, albeit accidentally, injured and carried off in one match.

Obviously barging the goalkeeper went out of both fashion and value when the goalkeeping Laws went under review. Restrictions on handling the ball, not being allowed much movement and finally the 6 second rule have all in their way contributed to the need for keepers to part with the ball early and thus not put themselves into the firing line of aggressive attackers. Whilst we all have our own views about the way the Law has been changed as to the goalkeeper not being able to receive the ball back into his hands in various circumstances and I for one would rather see him/her allowed to do so but for only 4 seconds nonetheless there had to be changes. I once saw Manchester United, s goalkeeper Bailey hold the ball for a count of 26 without any challenge which showed even then a disinclination to shoulder charge the keeper. However the pendulum could not be further swung the other way when it comes to corners. Here the keeper is in arguably the most vulnerable position he faces in a match. From the days in the 1960's when Leeds United's then Manager Don Revie sent England International centre-half Jack Charlton to stand in front of the opposition goalkeepers at flag-kicks, referees have been faced with a considerable problem as to what is fair and unfair play by attackers at corners. To illustrate that what is seen at professional level is mimicked in the grass roots game, I will recount what I learned as a player in a national Sunday League Cup Final. The game was refereed by a fine Official who was a participant in the 1966 World Cup Final in England. Mr George McCabe that day became a mentor for me not only at corners but for his general handling of the game by word of mouth. When the opposition attacker stood in front of our keeper a-la Charlton, George McCabe merely said to him “you won't do yourself much good there because I am watching you”. Sure enough the player blocked the keeper as the ball swung across and the referee blew for the free kick. He never did it again and when I have as a referee adopted the same verbal tactic I have found that obstructing the goalkeeper has immediately stopped. Only once did I have to blow up for a second occasion in a match and then the player's own team mates told him to stop as he was wasting everybody's time.

Having dealt with the general background and the occasional illustration, what of the practical implications of protecting the goalkeeper from harmful adversaries? As with most refereeing things it is a case of positioning, positioning, positioning. However especially at corners it is imperative not to slavishly take up the same position each time. Again resorting to the illustration of the Leeds team of the 1970's, their manager is reputed to have encouraged his players to stand in front of the Referee to block his view whilst his players on occasion quite literally stepped on the toes of the opposition goalkeeper. Thus the referee constantly varying his position at these set pieces should nullify being himself obstructed by attackers and any attempt to do this should become apparent and can be easily countered. Unfortunately it seems to me that these days a number of referees at the highest level are so concerned with keeping up with play and not missing something important if the ball is booted downfield by a defender at a corner, that they are not even venturing part way into the penalty area, but stand in or on the penalty arc. Since most of the problems are occurring in the goal area (I have often been cautioned against calling it the “6 yard box”) those referees taking up the distant position risk missing incidents that they could otherwise visibly see where the goalkeeper is receiving rough treatment and which should really be prevented. As goalkeepers often tend to react to rough treatment since they are concentrating on the ball in its flight, they can sometimes react badly to

bumping holding and pushing and as a result the aggrieved finishes up either receiving a yellow card for adopting an aggressive attitude or worse still a red one for retaliation. FIFA have given directions to the effect that they want to see less holding by players but both defenders and attackers do it at set pieces when the ball is tossed in and frequently the goalkeeper is also pulled about. This is especially so where an attacker is detailed to stand in front of the keeper as with a return to the Jack Charlton scenario. A referee can easily spot whether this is a ploy to block the keeper because if he/she moves so will the attacker; or he/she will constantly look over their shoulder to see if the keeper has moved position and will again look to attempt to interfere with the keeper. Blocking off in this way or other devices with attackers making late runs to edge the keeper off the ball should not be tolerated. It is often forgotten that tackling means tackling the ball and not an opponent and so jumping in the same way is jumping for the ball and not jumping to impede the goalkeeper. A fair attempt to head the ball is naturally alright but charging or nudging the keeper when his feet are off the ground is clearly not.

Just to check out what things were like in the "old days" I dug out my "Know the Game" the FA's illustrated handbook (2nd edition 1949 price 2 shillings). In reference to charging it indicates "a player may charge if the charge is made fairly and when the ball is within reasonable playing distance. A fair charge is one where the player fairly "shoulders" his opponent without using his arms as a means of pushing and which is not violent or dangerous." It also made clear that a goalkeeper could be charged only if he was obstructing when not in possession of the ball and within the goal area. Although the Laws have long since been recodified it is the more subtle and sophisticated types of pushing charging and blocking off these days that have to be detected and countered by the referee. Incidentally one should never let an attacker stand with his hand holding the goalpost as this is a sure sign of an intention to do something which will stop the goalkeeper or indeed other defenders reaching the ball.

As time has progressed hand and arm waving by attackers in front of the goalkeeper, deliberately standing in his path or tight on to his side so as to stop him kicking or throwing the ball have become outlawed. In the Questions and Answers to the Laws in the LOAF it states that it is an offence to prevent the goalkeeper from releasing the ball from his hands, whilst that and kicking the ball are deemed a single action. This is also important because there have been attempts and they often resurface of players attempting to kick or head the ball out of the keeper's hands either when on the ground having made or attempting to make a save or when he/she is in the process of clearing the ball. Two memorable instances of the former involved George Best in an England .v. Northern Ireland International; and Thierry Henry in a Premier League game. Confirming these wrong-doings, Decision Two of the International Board relating to Law 12 specifies "a goalkeeper is considered to be in control of the ball by touching it with any part of his hand or arms"; whilst in the Q & A section it states "In the spirit of the Law he would not be regarded as having released the ball from his possession."

Referees therefore must be both vigilant and diligent in stopping these various illegal practises in order to properly protect a participant who has been specially singled out as being different to any of the other ten players on the field of play.

ABOLISH THE OFF-SIDE LAW

The offside Law is probably the cause of more arguments than any of the other Laws of the game, and when you read Law 11 it is probably one of the simplest - on paper that is.

A player is in an off side position if he is nearer to his opponents goal line than the ball, unless

- a) He is in his own half of the field of play, or
- b) There are at least two of his opponents nearer their own goal line than he is.

He shall only be penalised, if in the opinion of the referee, the attacker is

- a) Interfering with play, or with an opponent.
- b) Seeking to gain an advantage by being in that position.

However, Law 11 then states that a player shall not be declared off side by the referee merely because of his being in an off side position.

Why then does this law cause so many problems?

At local grass roots level, it can be argued that as the referee normally does not have the assistance of two neutral assistant referees so his job is made difficult because he has to make a decision by himself. Also, he is not in the most ideal position to judge if a player is on side or off.

However, the vast majority, get it right most of the time and it is to their credit that they try to be in a good position to make a judgement, although this cannot always be achieved.

Referees can therefore be forgiven for the odd mistake when they are by themselves on a Saturday afternoon or Sunday morning on the local park.

If it is difficult for referees when they are on their own, then surely the problem is resolved when you have two assistant referees to assist you, as they will always be in line with the second rearmost defender and there will obviously be no arguments!

If only this was true.

Why then is the off side law so contentious?

Attackers believe it is so unfair, whilst defenders will always argue that opponents standing in an offside position must always be interfering with play because he will be seeking to gain any advantage going.

This argument has been raging for years and I'm sure it will continue for many years to come.

IS THE OFF SIDE LAW REALLY NECESSARY?

FIFA as we all know, issued directives at all the World Cup Competition giving any benefit of the doubt to attackers in order to encourage attacking play.

Why can they now go even further and abolish the offside law altogether?

How often do you see a player penalised for off side because he is in an off-side position. But he has not been trying to seek an advantage by being in that position, he just happens to have been slightly in front of the last defender when the ball was played. The defence had not been trying to play off side and they had not appealed for it. In this case the defender has obtained the advantage normally because the attacker has just strayed in an off side position. Perhaps the attacker has mistimed his run to receive the ball. Has there has been many occasions where excellent goals have been disallowed because of this and attacking flair being punished without the attacker trying to seek any advantage at all?

Using these arguments then, would the abolition of the off side law encourage further attacking play which is what FIFA are trying to achieve?

FIFA has informed referees that they should not penalise attackers who have challenged goalkeepers and have been caught in an off side position when the ball is returned into the penalty area, as the player is in a non active position and therefore not interfering with play.

Similarly assistant referees have been told that if they are in any doubt when judging offside they should give any benefit of the doubt to attackers to encourage attacking play.

Is it therefore feasible to abolish the off side law to improve the game or would coaches use it to their own advantage and spoil the game? I would argue that the recent changes over the last couple of years namely to offside, the deliberate kick to the goalkeeper's hands and to dealing with misconduct has certainly improved the game and has encouraged attacking play.

Do you agree or if not what are your views?

OBSERVER

Editor's Note: This is one of a series of articles we are running on the Offside Law and all are welcome to contribute on the subject and also on my pet hate the "drop ball" as it now stands. Likewise views would be appreciated on The International Board Decision to further experiment with two extra Officials, one behind each goal. Any views which actually favoured this nonsense would be of especial interest particularly as the developers of Hawk-eye which covers Cricket and Tennis have now said they will no longer experiment with technology for goal-line decisions because of the FIFA experiment. This seems a lost opportunity for progress even though it could only relate to the professional game.

HENRY TILLY LTD

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IFAB approves extension of additional assistant referees experiment

The International FA Board (IFAB) convened in Newcastle, County Down, Northern Ireland today, Saturday 28 February 2009, for its 123rd Annual General Meeting (AGM).

After having received a report on the experiment involving additional assistant referees conducted during UEFA U-19 European Championship qualifying tournaments in October and November 2008, the members of the Board gave permission for the continuation of FIFA's experiment with additional assistant referees, this time in a professional league.

Regarding Law 11 (Offside), the wording of the Interpretation of the Laws of the Game and Guidelines has been amended to clarify the situation where a defending player leaves the field of play placing an attacking player in an offside position. The new wording reads as follows: "Any defending player leaving the field of play for any reason without the referee's permission shall be considered to be on his goal line or touchline for the purposes of offside until the next stoppage of play."

In order to avoid unnecessary conflicts between fourth officials and coaches or other occupants in the technical area, the Board agreed that, provided they behave in a responsible manner, one person be permitted to remain in the technical area and no longer be required to return to their position on the bench after conveying tactical instructions.

Another item discussed at today's meeting relates to kicks from the penalty mark. The procedure has been clarified regarding the players participating in kicks from the penalty mark if one team has a greater number of players than their opponents at the end of the match. In such a situation, the Laws of the Game now state that this team must reduce their numbers to equate with that of their opponents. In order to clarify further the process, the following wording has been added: "Any player so excluded may not participate in kicks from the penalty mark."

Other items

- FIFA withdrew its proposal to extend the maximum duration of the half-time interval.
 - the Board agreed that the proposal to increase the maximum number of substitutions in the event of extra time should be discussed by the relevant FIFA committees.
 - the IFAB agreed that its technical sub-committee will discuss the procedure that applies when players leave the field of play after treatment.
 - it was agreed that the concept of "Sin Bins" would not be pursued further.
 - Law 1 has been updated to reflect the change of designation to the FIFA Quality Concept for Football Turf.
- Next year's IFAB Annual General Meeting will take place from 5 to 7 March in Zurich (Switzerland).

Taken from www.fifa.com



FIFA competitions, 6+5 on agenda

The FIFA Executive Committee, chaired by President Joseph S. Blatter, met in Zurich on Thursday and Friday, 19-20 March 2009, for its first meeting of the year. The agenda featured a wide range of topics, including discussions on the FIFA competitions that will take place in 2009, and other important issues such as the protection of minors and the 6+5 resolution. Less than three months before the FIFA Confederations Cup 2009, the FIFA executive was given an update on the current status of preparations for the "championship of champions", as well as for the 2010 FIFA World Cup™ in South Africa.

Other topics on the committee's agenda included:

- preparations for the other world football competitions of the year: the FIFA U-17 World Cup Nigeria 2009, the FIFA U-20 World Cup Egypt 2009, the FIFA Club World Cup Abu Dhabi 2009 and the FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup Dubai 2009.
- the Olympic Football Tournaments.
- presentation of the 2008 FIFA Financial Report.
- updates on the legal study conducted by the Institute for European Affairs (INEA) on the 6+5 resolution and its compatibility with European Community Law.
- a discussion of the measures adopted to protect minors in football.
- a review of pending cases related to member associations.

Finally, the executive received reports on the various committee meetings that were held during the week of 16-20 March, as well as those that took place since the last FIFA Executive Committee meeting held in Tokyo in December 2008.

Taken from www.fifa.com



Middlesex County FA County Cup Appointments Season 2008/2009

MCFA Sunday Junior Cup Semi Final

Broadwater United F.C. v Supreme Athletic Sports and Social FC	John Moblemunn	Referee
Broadwater United F.C. v Supreme Athletic Sports and Social FC	Steve Wildgoose	Asst Ref
Broadwater United F.C. v Supreme Athletic Sports and Social FC	John Stockman	Asst Ref



Middlesex County FA County Cup Final Appointments Season 2008/2009

Junior Trophy

Barry Kyriacou Reserve Official

Sunday Intermediate

Junior Grant Reserve Official

Sunday Trophy

Steve Reuter Referee

Under 18 Cup

Michael Mackey Referee

John Noblemunn Assistant Referee

Steve Wildgoose Reserve Official

Senior Youth Cup

Peter Smith Referee

Under 15 Cup

Barry Berndes Referee



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of North Middlesex Referees Society will be held on Thursday, 21 May 2009, 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 30 April 2009. 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 30 April 2009.

These must be proposed and seconded in accordance with Society Rule 9c, and must be assented by the Nominee.

10. To ELECT Honorary Auditors

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



In Days Gone By.....The Conclusion!!



The saga of the dressing room plaques came to an end on Saturday 21 March 2009 when Society Treasurer Gary Cobden presented a replacement plaque to Tottenham Hotspur.

Gary is pictured, left, handing over the plaque to Premiership Referee Mike Dean before Tottenham's recent match with Chelsea. Also pictured are Assistant Referees for the match Stuart Burt (far left) and Mike Mullarkey (back), and Reserve Official Lee Probert (right).



To recap, the Society originally presented three plaques - to Barnet; Arsenal; and Tottenham when the Society was responsible for providing Fourth Officials for these Clubs. The original plaque is still in situ in the Referees Room at Underhill. The plaque at Arsenal was misplaced when the Officials dressing room was moved at Highbury.

Arsenal replaced this plaque, and the replacement is now in situ at The Emirates. The wooden base of the original plaque at Tottenham can be seen affixed to the dressing room wall – behind Lee Probert - in the picture above. This will now be replaced by the new plaque.



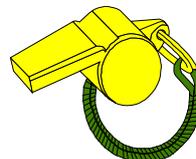
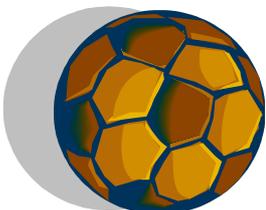
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Are again pleased to continue their support of North Middlesex Referees Society in Season 2008/2009



Membership Fees for Season 2009/2010 are now due!

Your membership subscription for Season 2009/2010 became due on 1 April 2009. Where the Society has an e-mail address on file, and you normally receive your magazine by e-mail, you should have received a Membership Form in this way; for everybody else, a Membership Form is included with this month's Normidian. As the Society is now unlikely to benefit from reduced postage arrangements it has enjoyed for many years, the NMRS discounted Membership Fee of £10.00 will only be available to members who choose to receive their Normidian by e-mail. If you choose to receive your magazine by post, then you will be asked to pay the standard Membership Fee of £12.00. The Referees Association of England has held its subscription by £15.00.

Membership Fees payable are as follows:-

- **Full Members - £27.00.** 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 you fee payable will be reduced by £4.00. However, should you wish to purchase insurance cover, this can be arranged on request.
- **Associate Members - £12.00.** 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 are shown on your personalised Membership Form. Should you wish to receive your magazine by e-mail, then the Adult Full and Associate Membership Fees may be reduced by £2.00. We currently have in excess of one hundred e-mail addresses for members on file, but only sixty members currently choose to receive their magazine this way

You are also reminded that you will not be covered by the Referees Association of England Insurance after 31 May 2009 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) where 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.

Gary Cobden
Honorary Treasurer



Hertfordshire County FA County Cup Appointments Season 2008/2009

Herts CFA Under 15 Cup Semi Final

Hadley Wood & Wingate F.C. U15 v St Albans City Youth F.C. U15 East Adam Yuchatel Referee

Herts CFA Senior Challenge Cup Semi Final

Stevenage Borough FC First v Leverstock Green F.C. First Paul Taylor Referee



North Middlesex Referees Society - 100 Club Season 2008/2009

The draw for March took place at the recent society meeting, and with 43 shares subscribed, the monthly payout this month is the total income for the month, £43.00, and the winners are shown below.

First	22	Malcolm Sonenfeld	£17.20	Second	42	John Faithfull	£8.60
		Third	1	Gary Cobden			£4.30

Winners cheques are enclosed with the magazine, or will have been posted if you receive your magazine by e-mail.



NORTH MIDDLESEX REFEREES SOCIETY

Minutes of Society meeting held on Thursday 19th March 2009 at the Holtwhites Sports Centre

Apologies: As per Society handbook

Minutes of the last Society Meeting: Held on Thursday 19th February 2009 was read as a true record.

Matters Arising: None

Chairman: The Chairman welcomed new members Joanna Bennett and Marc Nicklin to their first meeting having recently qualified on the Enfield Rangers Course, which had just been completed. Terry Hayne and Ken Goldman, & LVPs made a small presentation and wished them well for the future.

Secretary's Report: The Secretary informed the meeting that he still had a number of "Eve of Cup Final" tickets left and it was hoped the Society would send a party to celebrate the occasion. Members attending are Peter Dace x 2, Peter Allen x 2, Tom White, Terry Wilson, Vince Yeudall and Percy Brown. We have 2 tickets remaining at £10 each.

Members were reminded that the AGM will take place on Thursday 21st May 2009 and if any member wishes to stand on Council they must let the Secretary know at least 21 days before the AGM date. Also any new rule must be proposed and seconded, and the same for any rule revision.

Finally the Secretary was pleased to announce a recent decision by the Referees Association of England had endorsed the AFA & North Middlesex County RA nomination of the 20 years Meritorious Service Award to Mick Osborn.

The presentation can be arranged at the Referees Association Conference in July/2009 or can take place on a Society evening next season. The Secretary will liaise with Mick on the final arrangements. The Secretary on behalf all those present offered the Society's congratulations to Mick.

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer informed members that with the AGM approaching the accounts would show a loss this year. Mainly due to the decision of Society members to support and subsidised the 60th Annual Dinner this year to the sum of £700. It was also decided to maintain subscriptions at there present level. Any member of Council who have expenses to claim must do so before March 31st, 2009 as the accounts will be submitted at the next Council meeting on Wednesday 22nd April, 2009. The cost of postage will increase next season so it is hoped more members will request the alternative method by email, which will contribute to considerable savings in postage for the Society.

Editor's Report: Nothing to report.

Any Other Officers' Report: None.

Any Other Business: The next Society meeting will be held on Thursday 16th April, and the Secretary offered his apologies, as he will not be in a position to attend. The treasurer mentioned that the "Plaque" had now been installed at Tottenham Hotspur's Ground in the Referees dressing room. Thanks were due to Phil Sharpe who kindly arranged the presentation.

The meeting adjourned for a five minute break and our Training Officer Stan Rosenthal gave an excellent presentation followed by a discussion topic on every players/referee's favourite Law- "Offside", and showed DVD clips on Match Play incidents involving the subject.

The meeting closed at 10.20pm.

Chairman.....