

December 2002

The next meeting of the North Middlesex Referees' Society will be held at 7.30 pm on Friday 6th December (*not Friday 13th December, as published previously*) at Cockfosters FC, Chalk Lane, Cockfosters Barnet Hertfordshire. Please note that this is a change to the previously published date. The evening is planned more as a social event with official business kept to a minimum.

We wish all our readers, regular contributors and our printers, Kenmar of Tottenham, a Happy Christmas and a Healthy and Successful New Year.

Friends from the Uxbridge Referees' Society shared our Society Meeting at Highbury on Thursday 24th October. A full house turned up to listen to guest speaker, Arsenal and England physio, Gary Lewin, talk about World Cup 2002. Gary expertly illustrated his presentation with slides, giving those present a fascinating glimpse of the effort and expertise expended to ensure that everyone in the England party was as fit as possible for the great event. Gary's talk is covered elsewhere in this issue. Also included is a report on Edward's Stone's visit to our Society Meeting on 8th November. Edward is the FA's Regional Manager for London and he also gave an excellent presentation.

The Quiz Evening, scheduled for Sunday, 27th October, at Old Finchleas, was cancelled due to insufficient response from members. Turning up on the night, without first contacting Mick to confirm attendance, is simply not an option, as plans have to be made for food etc. So, please make a note in your diary and contact Mick if you wish to come to any of our Social functions. Don't forget the Elephant Race Night on 16th February 03. As well as lots of fun – you can also bring the kids as it's half term – and it is our main event for raising money for the Society.

Peter Dace, (hernia) and Jeff Till (knee) are recovering from recent operations. We send our good wishes and look forward to seeing both of them soon.

Jeff Till asks me to include a note to any young referees who may be interested in officiating the Enfield Ladies side, who play on Sunday afternoons at the Walkers Cricket ground. Kick off time is 2.00 pm. Please contact Jeff on 0208 364 5484 who will put you in the picture.

In this month's magazine we continue our search for interesting pieces from other Societies, and Vice Chairman, Vince Yeudall, has found a few more jokes. My thanks, as always, to Mick Osborn for his erudite 'scribbling' and to Peter Dace for capturing all our yesterdays, in his usual "Reminisces". Thanks also to Gary Haines for his piece on Players' Safety. If you would like to write in and have not yet done so why not have a go!

The surprise resignation of Adam Crozier, Chief Executive at the FA, who spoke so eloquently when he was a special guest at one of our Society meetings, hit all the sporting headlines. Apparently, Adam did his job too well! Whether we at the grass roots will be affected by Adam's leaving, only time will tell.

The closing date for the January 2003 magazine is 11th December.

Next Society Meeting will be at 7.30 pm on January 10th 2003 at Cockfosters FC

INNOCENT UNTIL PROVED GUILTY by Mick Osborn

If you have been a referee for any length of time it is more than likely that at some stage in your career you have been summoned by the appropriate authority to a personal hearing requested by a player you have sent off. For those of you that have not had that experience, the procedures for personal hearings, published in your county handbook, are worth a read – just in case.

In a nutshell, the county sends a copy of our report, together with a letter "offering a punishment," to the player via his or her club. If the player does not accept the punishment, a personal hearing to rebut the charge or submit a plea for leniency must be requested and the county will appoint a commission to consider the case. We will be asked to attend the hearing as a witness to the event that resulted in the player being dismissed. We are *not* prosecutors.

The appellant will probably produce a witness to say that we had got it wrong. On the other hand, in most cases the only evidence to support the charge will be our report. 2-1 in favour of the appellant and the Commission must consider if the charge has been proved! The witness will not be allowed in the room until called upon by the Chairman of the Appeal Board but am I being cynical to suggest that there has been ample rehearsal time? "He did not attempt to strike anyone - he only went to ruffle his opponent's hair." He did not swear at the referee, you must have misheard." "He did not deserve the second caution for dissent - he only asked you why you had disallowed his goal because he wanted to know where he had gone wrong." Natural justice demands that a person is innocent until proved guilty and far be it from me to advocate otherwise but how can our evidence be substantiated when we are invariably on our own with no one else to support the charge?

When our evidence has been heard and the appellant and the Commission have had the opportunity to question us, we will probably be advised that we are no longer required and we may, (a polite way of saying "should",) leave. We will not be advised of the outcome of the hearing but we probably have formed a good idea. We may think that it has been a complete waste of our time. We may vow not to bother to send anyone off again, or if we do, not to attend any subsequent hearing. We could be wrong of course and because we are responsible people, we will continue to do our duty. After all, we are referees.

Have I what? No, I haven't been to a personal hearing recently.



December again already! More problems! I don't know about you but it seems that I have only just taken the decorations down and I now have to go up in the loft to find the garlands and lights and things again. Should we get an artificial tree or put up with falling needles? When am I going to get time to buy that one present I have to get? Will all this worry affect my game? I'm a reasonable person and I know that there are lots of things that have to be done at this time of the year other than football but women *like* shopping and cooking and things like that, don't they?

Compliments of the season!



Society Meeting – Thursday, 24th October 2002 at Highbury – Guest Speaker Gary Lewin, England Physiotherapist.

Despite the fact the meeting was not held on a usual Friday night, and it was not our normal venue (Cockfosters FC) the turnout to hear Gary Lewin's talk on his experiences in World Cup 2002, was encouraging to say the least! Friends from the Uxbridge Society also helped to swell the numbers. Plans had been made for those who arrived early to have a look around the famous home of Arsenal FC. Ray Coventry, an expert on the history of the club and a very good friend of North Middlesex, conducted the tour.

President, Ken Goldman introduced our special guest in glowing terms. Ken said it gave him particular pleasure as Gary had taken the time to advise him personally on the treatment required for injuries he had sustained. Ken recalled an instance when, after a very long day Gary still had time to discuss a particular problem Ken had concerning his fitness – “a great guy and a great physio” he concluded.

Without much ado, Gary explained how it was for him at the World Cup and gave a fascinated audience a magical tour of the Far East from his personal perspective as the England team's physiotherapist. Using excellent slides, Gary commentated his way through the tournament from his own standpoint as England's physiotherapist, from arriving in Dubai through to Korea and Japan, and then to leaving after the defeat by Brazil in the latter stages of the competition.

Gary explained that nothing was left to chance as far as the well being of the players was concerned. Treatment rooms were set up immediately the party arrived at a new destination and no time was lost in converting a hotel room into a fully equipped medical station. Those present could hardly believe the amount of equipment that had to be transported – nor the dietary regime the players had to adhere to during their stay in the Far East. With the use of slides, Gary highlighted the involvement of the England players and the coaches in the training regimes showing how the intake of fluids was such a vital factor in maintaining the high level of fitness necessary. In between games the players' fitness was continually monitored and the slides gave evidence of how this was done on a daily basis throughout the tournament.

The audience appreciated seeing the impressive stadia where England played their matches, also the scenes showing the fervour of the Oriental fans towards the England players – and Beckham in particular!

After many months of preparation, followed by weeks of competition, it was over. “That was the World Cup”, said Gary in conclusion. So little time was left to relax before Arsenal's Premiership season was to begin and it was soon “back to normal”. But the World Cup 2002 had been an experience never to be forgotten.

Vice Chairman, Vince Yeudall, expertly conducted the usual Question and Answer session, which covered a range of topics including: time for holidays after the tournament; the players; the diet; the heat; preparation for matches: lessons learned; refereeing etc.

Both Societies present showed their appreciation of a good evening and Gary accepted a small gift from the Vice Chairman as a memento of the occasion. Vince thanked Arsenal FC for their hospitality and everyone else who had made the evening such a success. Gary Haines won the signed football in the raffle drawn by our special guest.

Society Meeting – Friday 8th November 2002 at Cockfosters FC. Guest Speaker Edward Stone, FA Regional Manager for London.

Secretary, Robin Jagot, introduced our special guest, Edward Stone, who, he explained has responsibilities that extend to Middlesex, Essex, London, Herts, and the AFA. Edward trained with Reading RA in 1990, moving to Coventry in 1992, gaining Class 1 status in 1996. He was appointed to a Contributory league – the Midland Football Alliance as an Assistant Referee and refereed on a supply league the season following. Edward developed an interest in training referees and joined the Coventry RA Management Training Sub-Committee in 1997 and attended an FA National Course for Referee Instructors in 1999. The following year he became a Licensed Instructor before being appointed County Training Officer for Birmingham CFA, and joining the Birmingham FA Referees' Committee with responsibilities for the training needs of some 1600 referees. In Summer 2001 he was appointed one of the country's ten, full time Regional Managers, all this whilst remaining an active Level 4 referee.

Our special guest opened his presentation, which he said would be on "Confrontation". He then pointed out that we as the audience would be expected to take an active role in the evening's proceedings – we did!

True to his word, the audience was asked by Edward to come up with as many types of confrontation as they could possibly expect at a football match. After much pondering, the suggestions from the floor included the following: *Player on Player; Player on Official; Manager on Official; Mass Confrontation; Spectator on Spectator; Spectator on Player; Referee on Assistant Referee; Club Officials on Match Officials and so on.*

A demonstration was then arranged involving an unsuspecting member of the audience who was asked to play the role of a referee (typecasting). "You are the referee" the "volunteer" was instructed, "Would you please award a corner kick in the usual manner". The correct signal was given, which gave rise to three raving lunatics – posing as "passionate" players leaping out of the audience to remonstrate with the luckless "official" who was instantly nonplussed! The row had to be heard to be believed! However, the referee quickly took control of the situation, and things calmed down and the appropriate action was taken. The question was then asked "Was the referee complacent?" Possibly. "Did he recover quickly to take any necessary decisions concerning the confrontation he faced, in a calm and dignified and efficient manner?" Arguably, yes.

A discussion followed the foregoing scenario, in which the audience participated fully. Almost everybody in the room had experienced something in a real game similar to the role-play we had witnessed. "Back off, then hold your ground". "Deal with each of the miscreants separately". "Above all stay calm and use strong body language". These were some of the actions the referee was suggested to take by those present.

A second scenario involved a "player" injured in a bad tackle in the penalty area. The "referee" and a nearby "assistant referee" were appointed by our guest, who also arranged for "club officials", a "physio" and two "warring players" to take part in what could have been a recipe for mayhem on a Saturday afternoon or Sunday morning game. Again, everybody took part with enthusiasm and not a little skill when given the go ahead to act out a possible outcome. The actions of all involved were then analysed by the audience, in particular those of the "referee".

Continued...

Our guest then led a discussion on how we as referees, and in some cases assistant referees and fourth officials, can best handle confrontation. “How do we deal with it and manage it effectively?” asked Edward. The audience was asked to split into groups to devise a general plan of action for confrontational situations. Amongst the ideas discussed by the groups were: Positioning – take a wide view; stay calm, be alert and look confident; identify offenders; know the laws and the options you have as a referee; record the actions taken; isolate offenders when taking appropriate action; be positive and continue to observe; suspend play, or abandon play if necessary – note, once a game has been abandoned it cannot be resumed. Remain flexible.

After Edward’s presentation, Vice Chairman, Vince Yeudall conducted the usual question and answer session. Topics included FAMOA and the RA, promotion and further training of referees and Edward’s role as Regional Manager.

Finally the audience gave our special guest an enthusiastic ovation and Vince thanked Edward for his contribution to an educational, interesting and enjoyable evening. Supplies Officer, Percy Brown, then presented Edward with a NMRS tie as a memento of his visit to North Middlesex.



Bob Wilson

Vice Chairman, Vince Yeudall is trying to get Bob Wilson as a special guest in future. Bob is currently extremely busy with his involvement in The Willow Foundation, his own particular Charity. However, Vince says Bob has not forgotten us and he aims to come and talk to the Society when his busy schedule allows.



Kit Supplies

All your necessary equipment can be purchased through our Supplies Officer, Percy Brown. Items include:

Shirts with affiliated badges

Shorts

Socks

Whistles

LOAFs

Match Record Cards

Red/Yellow Cards

Boots

Watches

Holdalls

Flags

Pumps

Anything Percy doesn’t bring to Society meetings can be ordered with a simple phone call – see the inside cover of the magazine. Prices on request.



Have YOU Rejoined Yet?

At the time of writing, there are almost 120 members from last season who have yet to rejoin for the current season. Are you one of them? If so, you will find a final Membership Form enclosed with this edition of The Normidian. This will also be the final edition you receive if you choose not to rejoin. Membership Fees, which are quoted on the Form are as follows:-

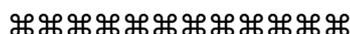
- Full Members - ie those who do not belong to any other Society, or pay their RA Membership through another Society - £21.50.
- Associate Members - ie those who belong to another Society, and pay their RA Membership through that Society - £12.00
- Junior Members - £12.00 if over 14 years of age and under 18 years of age.

What will you be losing out on if you do not rejoin?

- No Referees Association Insurance - which could cost you dear – the benefits were summarised in last months magazine.
- Access to some of the very best guest speakers at monthly meetings – this season we have already had Phil Sharp (World Cup Final Assistant Referee); with Gary Lewin (England Physio) this month; and Bob Wilson (ex Arsenal Goalkeeper) later in the season.
- Discussion forums at the meetings to discuss problems
- Training School 'educational' evenings.

So, come on, why not rejoin – see what you will be missing – all for the price of a match fee! If you choose not to rejoin, it would be appreciated by the Society if you could let me know why.

Gary Cobden
Honorary Treasurer



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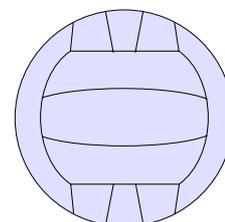
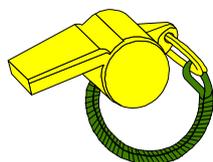
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office@ackerman.co.uk
sales@ackerman.co.uk
accounts@ackerman.co.uk

15/16 Hickman Avenue, Chingford,
London, E4 9JG, England

Tel: 020 8523 1321 (C)
020 8527 5050 (S)
020 8527 5020 (L)
Fax: 020 8527 6439
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**Are again pleased to support North
Middlesex Referees Society in Season
2002/2003**



Minutes of Society Meeting held on Friday November 8th, 2002 at Cockfosters F.C.
APOLOGIES: As recorded in Attendance Book

The Chairman was pleased to welcome four new members to the Society and asked our Guest Speaker Edward Stone the F.A. Regional Manager for Referees to present Society Whistles to Colin Bestor, Carl Johnson, Matthew Webster and Andrew Williams. The Chairman stated that it was good to see four young lads join us and hoped it would be the first of many.

PREVIOUS SOCIETY MINUTES: The minutes of the September Society Meeting were signed as a true record. There were no Minutes for the October Meeting, which was held at the Arsenal JVC Centre on Thursday October 24th, 2002 as no Society business took place. It is worth noting that over 100 members and friends attended to listen to a presentation by Gary Lewin, the Arsenal Physiotherapist. We were delighted to welcome members of the Uxbridge Society who also attended.

MATTERS ARISING: There were no matters arising.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: The Secretary was happy to inform members that the R.A. had approved unanimously the 50 year R.A. Award for former LVP, the late Frank Collins and that Council will advise members when the presentation will take place. There was no further business to report and Secretary was happy to deal with any issue members may wish to raise.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer reported that membership stood at 236 full members with 10 associates. This did not include the present Training Course, which will bring the total to 265 full members.

SOCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT: The Social Secretary expressed his disappointment at having to cancel the Quiz Night at short notice due mainly to the lack of interest shown by members. The next Social Event is the Elephant Race Nite and he urged members to support this event, as it is very much a family fun affair. The event will take place on Sunday February 16th, which is the start of the Half-Term-Week, so make it a firm date in your diary.

EDITOR'S REPORT: The message was simple; Please keep sending your articles.

TRAINING SECRETARY'S REPORT: The present course at Brimsdown Sports Club, Course 174 had 29 candidates attending which was keeping the Training Team very busy. We have 14 adults and 15 youth taking part and the course will be completed in early January/2003. The next course will take place at Brimsdown Sports Club on Monday January 27th, 7.30pm start, and 8 applicants have made enquiries.

M.R.A. DELEGATE'S REPORT: Our delegate had apologised for not being able to attend this evening but did attend the September meeting and the only issue of interest was that a second delegate might attend MRA meetings. A question was raised from the floor suggesting the Society should send a 2nd delegate if possible. Training dates for future courses had been advised to MRA. There will be no December MRA meeting.

GEAR SUPPLIES OFFICER'S REPORT: Nothing to report.

(Continued over)

ANY OTHER BUSINESS: *The Secretary advised members that the December Meeting will take place on FRIDAY DECEMBER 6th AT COCKFOSTERS FC, not the 13th. Members were also advised that Jeff Till, Y.D.O and LVP Peter Dace had entered hospital for operations. Best wishes for a speedy recovery were expressed from members present.*



Around the Societies - with Acknowledgements.

A humorous situation has arisen in Scotland. Referees, from next season, are to be sponsored by Specsavers, the optical company and will have the sponsor's name emblazoned on their shirts. This is part of a £4 million package deal with the Scottish FA. No doubt the spectators at Ibrox and Parkhead will have a field day when the first refs take to the field wearing their sponsor's logo. I foresee that there will be a demand in the English game for referee sponsorship, but I sincerely hope that it will never come to fruition.

The above is taken from the Ken Grant column in the Cheshunt & Waltham Cross Society magazine, "You Must Be Joking Ref".



Below is from the same excellent magazine as the above: the author is David Baker.

The identity cards had been checked, the toss-up completed, the club linesmen were instructed, we were ready to go; but hang on a minute, one of the players kicking off was standing in his opponents' half of the field. "Get in your own half" I ordered. The Beckham look-alike eyed me in amazement. "WHY?" he enquired. "Because it's the law", I said. The look-alike stood his ground. "But on the telly" he insisted, "they all stand in the other half, and the refs don't do anyfink". I paused for a moment there was no answer to that. "Would you mind standing in your own half please, the view is better from there, and we can all get on with the game?" I said through gritted teeth. The Beckam look-a-like eyed me once more, heaved a sigh of disgust, and reluctantly stepped back into his own half. "Why do our senior colleagues make my life so difficult?" I thought. The next time I meet a Premier official; I'm going to kick him up the b...

Editor, Ken Grant adds, "I am sure that Dave is not the only one to suffer this fault at the kick off".



In the AFA Argos, David Josse, a Grade 7 Referee, concludes an article entitled "How do you make decisions without Assistants" with the following plea:

"Returning to my main query, I really do need some advice as to how to deal with offside decisions in the absence of Assistants. I look forward to some constructive advice".



KWIKTIP – taken from "The Chiltern Referee"

Why not look at and start your watch **before** you actually whistle for the kick-off? So many referees miss the first few seconds of play by whistling and then starting their watch.



Peter Dace reminisces – the Normidian of December 1992

Dave Ackerman pens the ‘Chairman’s Christmas Message’ and firstly wishes Members a merry Christmas. His thoughts stray to what Christmas means, and peace and good-will to all men, although not much hope of the latter if his game the previous Sunday between The Flying Pig reserves and the Waddling Duck third eleven was anything to go by.

Editor Ken Goldman interviews Ken Ridden, the FA’s Director of Refereeing, we learn:-

His present role has expanded and he is now also the Director of Referees for the Premier League. Consequently education and training has extended into appointing Referees, Linesmen and Assessors for the Premier League. Colin Downey as Referees Secretary deals with the administration within the Referees Department. Ken’s aim is to produce training videos, booklets and other such aids for the purpose of turning good referees into better referees.

Full report on last month’s guest speaker – John Cartwright, current Youth Team Coach at Charlton Athletic and former England Youth Team Manager and Technical Director of the F.A. National School at Lilleshall. John started by saying he intended to pull no punches and in a forthright talk indicated that the game itself was involved with too many compromises and was now travelling down a bad path. He felt styles played by teams often reflected what the Referee was prepared to allow and aggression was to the fore, so when the brain stopped brawn took over and filled the vacuum of talent. John said referees were becoming clones, following coaches all being taught to coach the same way. At the end of a long talk John said he tells his players not to argue with the referee as to do so loses their own concentration and within the professional game they needed good referees rather than referees needing the game. Steve Palmer gave an excellent vote of thanks.

Dave Ackerman also writes ‘Assessors.. a help or a hindrance?’ In his opinion the assessors job is to firstly offer constructive advice to the referee and secondly provide a guideline to the relevant governing body as to the referee’s performance – arguably the first outweighing the second in order of importance. Offering constructive advice means trying to find aspects of the referee’s game that can be improved and pointing out a possible pathway to achieve that improvement, whereas the assessor should not ram home a pedantic point in a sarcastic or bombastic manner. Dave thanks Major Ron Roberts for helping to clarify points made in his article at the recent Suburban League Assessors meeting.



Laugh with Vince

“You’re looking worried, Percy” said his mate, Terence.

“Yes, the doctor told me I can’t referee”, said Percy.

“Oh, he’s seen you ref has he?” came the reply.

The North Middlesex Referees Society dinner/dance was in full swing when three strangers arrived and demanded admission.

“Tickets please”, said big Michael M, on the door.

“We haven’t got any, we’re friends of one of the referees” said the leader of the trio.

“Clear off” said Michael, “Who ever heard of a referee with three friends”.



PLAYERS SAFETY

I was allocated a fixture to referee at Mill Hill Village in the (then) Southern Olympian League.

The teams were Mill Hill Village verses UCL Academicals. When I arrived, I found that the pitch was too dangerous to play on and called the game off. However, the teams were unhappy about this and threatened to play the game after I had gone. I contacted the SOL Results Secretary and informed him of the situation, which I thought would be the end of the matter with the game being re-scheduled. However, I found out later that the game had been played and the league had allowed the match result to stand!

I am writing this article to ask fellow referees if they have ever come across the same situation, or any other situation where a league did not abide by its own competition rules, thus putting the completion of fixtures above the referee's concerns over safety.

The SOL has since merged with the OBL to form the Amateur Football Combination. Let's hope this new league will have more sense, and if the same situation happens again they will follow their competition rules so that as referees we know where we stand.

I have now joined the panel of the London Commercial Football League, where teams have to sign match cards before the game starts for it to be valid.

Gary Haines



MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS - SEASON 2002/2003

At the beginning of November, in excess of 100 letters were sent out to those Members who had failed to rejoin for the current season. The letters included a final chance to renew, and included a fourth Membership Form. These former members no longer have the benefits of the Society, and are no longer covered by the RA Personal Accident Insurance. So, next time you meet a colleague in a changing room who has been a Member in the past, check with him to see if he has rejoined for the current season, and if he has not, remind him what he is missing.

SOCIETY RULES

The Society Rules have not had a complete and thorough examination since the rewrite that was undertaken many years ago - for those members old enough to remember, Sara Tustin, then Magazine Editor, undertook the task. At a recent Council Meeting, a new set of draft rules was submitted, and it was agreed that a sub-committee be formed to look at them in detail. This would bring our Rules into the 21st century! The sub-committee consists of Life Vice Presidents Terry Hayne and Peter Dace, together with myself. The new rules will be referred back to Council, before being published in the Normidian, and proposed for adoption at the next AGM, in May 2003.

Gary Cobden

Honorary Treasurer



NORTH MIDDLESEX REFEREES SOCIETY 100 CLUB

The October and November Draws were undertaken by our Guest Speaker, Eddie Stone, at the close of the October meeting. For both draws, there were 52 shares subscribed, resulting in a total payout of £36.40, being 70% of the pool. The winners are detailed below, and cheques are enclosed with this month's Normidian - so, if you have thrown the envelope away, find it quickly!

	October			November		
1 st Prize	26	Peter Peters	£20.80	1 st Prize	36	Steve Wildgoose £20.80
2 nd Prize	28	Geoff Jacobs	£10.40	2 nd Prize	52	Frank McNeill £10.40
3 rd Prize	34	Tom White	£5.20	3 rd Prize	35	Carlos Goumal £5.20

If you would like to join the 100 Club for the remainder of the season, please complete the form below, and return it to me with your remittance of £9.00 to cover the remaining draws.

Gary Cobden
Honorary Treasurer



NORTH MIDDLESEX REFEREES SOCIETY 100 CLUB
Application for/Renewal of membership – Season 2002/2003

I.....wish to become a member of the North Middlesex Referees Society 100 Club, and subscribe to.....shares each month.

I agree to make payment by cheque/standing order – please delete as appropriate. (If you decide to pay by standing order, bank details will be provided).

The initial term of membership is 9 months; renewal details will be included with Season 2003/2004 Membership Forms.

Please return this completed form to Gary Cobden, Honorary Treasurer
☺☺☺☺☺

The RA Implementation Team has issued its Third Interim Report. Early in the New Year, a detailed analysis will be available for consideration by members.



Did they really say that?

“There’s a place for the press in football, but they haven’t dug it yet”. (Tommy Docherty)



North Middlesex Young Referees

Learning to Toe the Line

Scene: The changing room at a football ground.

Time: 10 minutes before kick-off time.

Present: The referee and ONE linesman.

Enter linesman No.2, saying, "Sorry I'm late, ref.!" No other explanation is offered. How many times has this happened in your experience, and which of the three characters are YOU?

The late arrival of the Linesman immediately puts the referee on the spot, for he will have little or no time to give his pre-match instructions. The offender will no doubt be more concerned that he is ready to look the part at the kick-off than that he is fully briefed for the game. The pre match instructions and discussions should be made when all three officials are mentally alert, with other problems already attended to. There will have been no chance at all for the referee and both his linesmen to go out and view the pitch and the physical conditions.

The late arrival of a match official must surely give the wrong impression to the officials of the clubs and also to the referee, or is it, dare we ask, the *right* impression? Is it yet another case of someone having gone to the game with the attitude "I'm *only* running the line today?"

Only, indeed? As if running the line were not of any importance, or in some way generally degrading to the official so appointed!

Any linesman who adopts an attitude like this is being grossly unfair to the referee, who, after all, is the final arbiter. What sort of assistance will the referee honestly be expecting from a man who has arrived casually only a few minutes before the start? The offender is also being grossly unfair and failing in his duty to the two teams. All this is bad enough in itself~ but perhaps the biggest tragedy is that he is being grossly unfair to himself, for let there be no doubt about it, lining is an art which is not easily learned. To throw oneself fully into the lining situation is the best way of becoming an effective, valuable linesman who not only wins praise from referees, but who also enjoys lining. Refereeing and lining are both jobs of the utmost importance, and to be executed properly they both demand physical ~and mental fitness, a thorough knowledge, determination, concentration and a desire to enjoy the job.

The linesman is not undertaking a second rate task, he is not being made to look inferior to the referee, so why should he ever step out onto the field thinking anything but the best of his job?

Observer

Note: For Linesman read Assistant Referee.