

## December 2003

**The next meeting of the North Middlesex Referees' Society will be held at 7.30pm on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December at Cockfosters FC, Chalk Lane, Cockfosters, Barnet, Hertfordshire.**

In no time it's Christmas – again! The Normidian team wish you all the Season's Greetings. December's meeting will be more of a social occasion, with Society business kept to a minimum. Robin has planned some video footage and some other interesting events will also be featured. So come along and enjoy a good evening – “nibbles” are on the menu!

Hoping for some refereeing kit in your stocking? You could do worse than hope for that new pair of socks you've been looking to buy, or a new set of flags perhaps, or even a complete new kit. Why not do what I did last year and give your wife, or partner or girl/boy friend, our Supplies Officer's telephone number, and then wait and see what Santa brings you – you never know your luck!

Our very welcome special guest last month was Peter Clayton, Secretary of Middlesex FA. A summary of his presentation is elsewhere in this edition.

Take a few minutes to think about poor old Peter Dace. Having completed his 'Reminiscences' (see elsewhere) and finished his official (paid) travelling duties for the year, he and his lovely wife Janet have gone off to Sri Lanka for the three one-day cricket internationals! Still, the dull, cold, rainy etc days will be around when they return! Seriously, we hope you both had a lovely time.

Also included in this month's edition is Mick Osborn's "The Players' View", a sidelong glimpse on how players interpret the laws, and Gary Cobden sends, "The Twelve Days of Christmas", from a referee's perspective. The latest 100 Club information is also included. Ken May continues his "Life After Refereeing" and Charles Lifford still asks for your input for the "50 Years of History".

Our friends in the Amateur Football Alliance are celebrating the election of their Chairman, Bart O'Toole, to the new National Board of the Referees' Association. An excellent speaker at our Society in the past, Bart polled over 6,300 votes and deserves every success in his new role, and our hearty congratulations! Details of the new structure are included in this edition of Normidian.

Through the Secretary, Robin Jagot, we received a letter from Susan Jenkinson whose husband Jim sadly died in October – see last month's Normidian. A copy of Susan's letter is printed in this issue.

Another local stalwart we recently lost is Ron Armsby, founder of the Enfield & District Youth Sunday Football League. Gary Cobden writes about Ron in an article entitled "Simply the Best". Our sincere condolences go to Ron's wife Maureen and all the family.

Not unlike other Societies, we have noticed a gradual downturn in the number of members attending Society meetings. If you have any ideas how we might encourage more people to come, please speak to a Council Member or write to the Normidian.

**The closing date for next month's magazine is Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> December 03.**

# THE PLAYERS' VIEW

By Mick Osborn

## Regarding Law 1

**WE**'ve only got nine men. The ground is frozen and dangerous. The game should be called off.  
**THEY**'ve only got nine men. There's nothing wrong with the ground. It's thawing out and it'll take a stud.

## Regarding Law 4

**I** am wearing a small religious medallion on a short thin chain, given to me by my grandmother on her deathbed.  
**HE** is wearing a dangerous, heavy necklace that could have someone's eye out.

## Regarding Law 8

**WE** are 1-0 up but under pressure in the closing stages of the game. Take your time with the kick, our goalie!  
**THEY** are 1-0 up but we are pushing for the equalizer in the closing stages of the game. Stop your watch, ref. Is he allowed to take this long to get the ball?

## Regarding Law 11

**I** was level when the ball was kicked.  
**HE** was five yards offside.

## Regarding Law 12

**I** nearly got my leg broken in that tackle. Send him off, ref?  
**HE** is a wimp. I got the ball – and, anyway, it's a man's game! Oh, come on, ref.....!

## Regarding Law 13

**I'LL** take the kick from here. It's near enough to where the infringement took place. Don't be so fussy, ref!  
**HE'D** moved the ball about eight yards forward, ref. I tapped it back to where the free kick should be taken.

## Regarding Law 14

**I** won a penalty.  
**HE** conned the ref.

## Regarding Law 15

You have awarded the throw in to **US**. Well seen, ref.  
You have awarded the throw in to **THEM**. You must be joking, ref.

## In the bar

**WE** won 1-0. We really played well.  
**THEY** won 1-0. It was offside and we should have had a penalty.  
**I know it is the season of goodwill but he was the worst ref we've ever had!**

**Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.**





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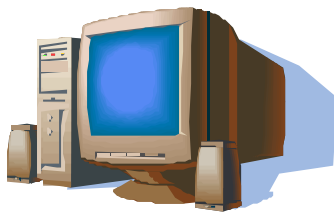
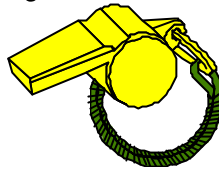
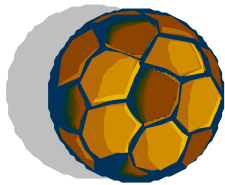
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### E-Mail Addresses

A number of Members have elected to receive their Magazines by e-mail; and others have advised us of their e-mail addresses – which will help the Society get in touch with you quicker if there is something that needs to be advised quickly. If you have an e-mail address, and have not yet told us about it, please let Gary Cobden know – e-mail [garycobden@nmrs.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:garycobden@nmrs.freeserve.co.uk)



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## **November's Meeting Guest Speaker – Peter Clayton**

Tony Ward welcomed our special guest, Peter Clayton, Secretary of Middlesex FA. Tony said he well remembered Peter lining for him in the South East Counties League in the 1970's – and what a good job he made of it. Peter rose to the Isthmian League line before deciding to take a fuller interest in the administrative side of referees and refereeing. Still a qualified referee and member of the Harrow Society, Peter is also a past editor of the Harrow RA magazine. He once appealed successfully against not being promoted to Class I, and in 1978 took up the post of County Secretary, now his full-time job.

Peter said he was glad to have the opportunity to meet North Middlesex members and to give us the opportunity of asking any questions about how the County organisation works on our behalf.

Having never played football to any degree as he went to a 'rugby' school, Peter preferred basketball – which is played indoors! He broke his arm at rugby and refereed 5-a-side football to get out of running cross-country. This appealed to Peter and at 17 years old he passed his Class 3 exam after being trained by North Middlesex legend, George Ruffell. Starting on the Hendon Sunday League (Division 3 of 8) Peter rose to the SE Counties "where the pitches were much better" and did a SE Counties Floodlight Cup Final. He completed 12 years on the Isthmian League before moving into Admin. Peter said he is grateful to be paid for doing his hobby.

Peter discussed the possibility of automatic suspensions being given for 'red card' offences, and the difficulty of monitoring any such system. He also said he deplored the fact that a very young referee had been threatened by a club manager, a subject previously brought up in 'match incidents', who he said was a poor role model and the type of person we just did not want in the game at any level. The new Child Protection Act could also possibly be used as a deterrent to this kind of behaviour.

Peter explained that he had not prepared a speech but with so much currently going on he thought he would invite those present to explore how Middlesex FA works, and to discuss any policy issues, which may be of interest.

Peter took questions on Appeals and the role of the referee at hearings. Some members wanted to know why they were not informed of the outcome of an appeal while others were content to know if the case was proven. In discussion, Peter said it is the job of the Commission to decide the outcome of an appeal and in Middlesex the referee is informed if the case is proven or not, as the case may be. Some members felt that they were victims at hearings. Peter said that given a good chairman, the referee should not feel in any way a victim when present at an Appeal Hearing and it was incumbent on the commission to be rigorous in finding out the facts.

In answer to another question, Peter explained that in the case of an assault on a referee by a player, the person committing the offence is suspended until the case is heard. A member from another County FA told how he sent a player off after being accused of being a racist. He was only told of the outcome of the hearing after phoning the relative County FA, which he thought very unsatisfactory. Peter reaffirmed that at Middlesex FA the referee is told the outcome of a hearing. Also, a player who appeals against a sending off has to pay £35 to hear his case heard.

Members wanted to know why Middlesex FA seemed to have fewer referees in the top echelons, compared with adjacent County FAs. One suggestion was that an increasing number of referees are no longer interested in promotion. Peter said that the situation

might improve when the proposed Academy scheme comes in, which may lead to fewer but better Assessments and so improve the chances of quicker promotion.

Peter Dace gave a vote of thanks to our special guest for coming to North Middlesex, and dealing so well with all the questions thrown at him by members present.



**From Susan Jenkinson**

Dear Robin & Members of North Middlesex Referees' Association.

Thank you very much for the letter and the kind words expressed on the occasion of my sad loss of my husband Jim. It is at times like this that it does help me very much to learn that so many family and friends are thinking of me.

Jim never complained. He fought with great courage and determination, but the last three months were very difficult for him.

I thank you also for the donation of £25, which will go to The Royal Bournemouth & Christchurch Hospital Charity Fund – Wards 10–11, the two Wards which Jim was in to help with the Cancer.

Once again many thanks and for the happy memories I have of visiting your Dinners.

Yours sincerely,

**Susan**



**From the Chiltern Referee**

**Q.** A 'keeper catches the ball and then walks to the edge of the penalty area alternately bouncing the ball and throwing it into the air. What would you do?

**A.** Nothing – it is not an offence. It is accepted that 'keepers bounce the ball or even throw it in the air and catch it again.

**Q.** You have kicks from the penalty mark to decide a cup-tie. Your Assistant, organising players in the centre circle, insists the teams give both names and order of players taking the first five kicks.

**A.** All the law requires is that each kick shall be taken by a different player. If the team has not (or cannot) decide the order, you should note the numbers and order as the kicks are being taken.

**Did You Know That?**

Several football clubs were formed to give cricket clubs something to do in the winter?



## **Peter Dace reminisces – the Normidian of December 1993**

In his fifth Chairman's Christmas Message, Dave Ackerman reflects how quickly time passes as he approaches his fortieth year. He writes, "the seasons now seem to flit by, whereas when I first qualified they stretched forward into the distance, and never seemed to end".

Editor Ken Goldman having delivered his considered opinion on 'obstructing the thrower' i.e. how to deal with defenders who stand immediately inside the touchline and thereby make the throw-in difficult, ends his editorial with 'the dire situation in which he now finds himself with regard to contributions for the Normidian'. Despite his ambition to produce a 12-page magazine and despite his pleas at the last monthly meeting, virtually nothing has been received for this edition.

Secretary Adrian Bland tells the membership the latest thoughts from Council on a Dave Dickinson Memorial. Having approached Society 'seniors' including George Basten and Arthur Pearce, Council propose a shield be purchased displaying the names of all deceased Members who have helped, in Dave's words, "make this the best Society in the world".

Apart from minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> November, no other article is produced from a Member. With one totally blank page the other 'fillers' are Referee Assessing by Dennis Lewis with acknowledgement to Hendon F.C. programme; and two pages reproduced from the UEFA Bulletin entitled 'uniform application of the Laws of the game'.

Guest speaker, Tom Watt, Actor (Lofty in "Eastenders"), Author, and Broadcaster



## **50 Years of History – Charles Lifford**

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

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

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

**Charles**



***Bill Hudson, RA Magazine Editor, says that sales of the RA Magazine must increase if the journal is to be saved. So order your copy now!***

## The 12 Days of Christmas

With the festive spirit in mind, colleagues up and down the country have been contributing to the RA Website, and the following have been extracted for your amusement.

On the twelfth day of Christmas my true love gave to me **twelve million watching, eleven players playing, ten penalty kick offences, nine extra minutes, eight mentors mentoring, seven assessors assessing, six subs a subbing, Five Golden Balls, four match officials, three blowing whistles, two coloured cards, and a World Cup match in Germany.**

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On the twelfth day of Christmas my true love gave to me **twelfth Law's a-pplying, eleven players playing, a ten paces wall, nine 'no-way' refs, eight late appointments, seven cautionable offences, six geeks a-playing, Five Named Subs, four corner flags, three FA Lions, two yellow cards, and a park pitch and a match fee.**



## MINUTES OF THE NORTH MIDDLESEX REFEREES SOCIETY MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY NOVEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup> AT COCKFOSTERS F.C.

**1 Apologies:** Apologies were as recorded in the attendance book.

The Chairman welcomed new member Cenk Akar to his first meeting and requested our President Ken Goldman to present a Society Whistle. In doing so our President wished him well with his refereeing future.

**2 Minutes of Previous Meeting:** These were signed as a true record

**3 Matters Arising:** There were no matters arising.

**4 Secretary's Report:** The Secretary reported that he had received a letter of thanks from Mrs Sue Jenkinson, wife of the late Jim Jenkinson, former Southern Division Vice President, for the kind donation received from the Society. The letter would be made available to members wishing to read her kind words of appreciation.

**5 Treasurer's Report:** The Secretary reported that the membership stood at Full membership – 240, and Associate membership 10. No details of the finances of the Society were submitted.

**6 Any Other Business:** The monthly 100 Club Draw took place and the numbers drawn were:

**First Draw: 6 - 29 - 39**

**Second Draw: 4 - 45 - 19**

A break was taken and the Chairman asked Tony Ward to introduce our Guest Speaker, Peter Clayton, Secretary of the Middlesex County Football Association and the County's Representative on the F.A. Council.



## **Simply the Best!!**

Many members of this Society will know of Ron Armsby – the founder of the Enfield and District Youth Sunday Football League. Unfortunately, Ron recently lost his year-long battle against cancer, and died on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> November, one day after his 69<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The EDYSFL was founded in 1971 and proved to be a solid grounding place for many of the newly-qualified referees of this Society, and many of those who subsequently progressed regularly still contributed one Sunday a month to the League. Indeed, I enjoyed an association in excess of 27 years with the League, as Club Secretary, League Officer, and Referee.

Ron was born in Islington, and, to those who knew him, he was a wonderful character with time for anybody. He would always be seen walking around Enfield Playing Fields on a Sunday morning, going from pitch to pitch, keeping an eye on what was happening in the League's matches, but always had time to stop and talk. His illness forced him to cut back his footballing commitments at the end of the 2001/2002 season, and, unfortunately, the League was forced to close at the end of last season, when both Ron and his wife, Maureen, were forced to curtail entirely their commitments to the League due to their ill health. The League saw many players go on to success in the Football League, and Premiership, and perhaps the most famous of current players to grace the EDYSFL and now playing in the Premiership is David Beckham.

The funeral, held at New Southgate Crematorium on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November was attended by several Society colleagues, and many other Referees who had 'plied their trade' at one time on the EDYSFL.

Ron is survived by his wife Maureen – herself another stalwart of the EDYSFL, but also suffering from cancer – his three sons, Gary, Glenn, and Graeme, and his daughter Debbie.

Ron – we all miss you, and owe you a debt of gratitude.

**Gary Cobden**



**IS THERE LIFE AFTER REFEREEING? By Ken May – continued.**

### **When Bookings Were Not the Rule**

It seems unbelievable to record that I did not issue a caution in my first few seasons of refereeing. But they were very much the exception in the early '60's and a sending-off was almost unheard of. What a contrast with my latter days in AFA football, which once had such a high reputation for sportsmanship that it was considered "too soft" for ambitious referees who were aiming to progress to higher things.

In my final season controlling 21 AFA games in various Divisions, I am sorry to report that I cautioned 30 players, which means 3 every 2 games! These were broken down as follows: Fouls 18; Dissent 2; Delaying restart of play 4; Unsporting behaviour 6. In addition, I sent off one player for abusive language.

This is not a record I am proud of, but even allowing for my diminishing refereeing prowess I consider that it says more about the state of the modern game and a minority of players rather than me or my fellow referees. In my view this aspect of refereeing represents the most significant change in the game over the past 40-odd years. Now it is



an achievement to get through any game without having issued a caution. Compare this with road rage; disruption in the classroom; unruly behaviour on the street and young men's liking for a macho lifestyle – plenty of evidence here that football mirrors life!

To be continued.



### **Did They Really Say That? The Nottingham Whistler**

Merseyside derbies usually last 90 minutes and I'm sure today's won't be any different  
**Trevor Brooking**

## **THE NORTH MIDDLESEX REFEREES SOCIETY 100 CLUB NEWS**

The draw for the October and November winners was made at the November meeting. Both draws had 48 shares subscribed resulting in payouts of £33.60. Winners for October and November are as follows:

### October

First 6 Trevor Crouchley £29.15  
Second 29 Andrew Withams £15.90  
Third 39 Michael Ward £7.95

### November

First 4 Peter Allen £18.80  
Second 45 George Panayi £9.40  
Third 19 Arthur Stewart £4.70

The new subscriber since the publication of the October Normidian is 48, Nick Ilott

**If you would like to subscribe to the 100 Club, please complete the form below, and return it with your remittance to me at the address on the inside front cover of the magazine.**

#### NORTH MIDDLESEX REFEREES SOCIETY 100 CLUB

**I wish to purchase.....share(s) in the North Middlesex Referees Society 100 Club at £9.00 per share**

**Please find enclosed my cheque/postal order for £...00 to cover the subscription for 9 months.**

**Renewal information will be included with next seasons Membership Form**

Name..... Signature.....  
Society Use - Numbers Allocated.....

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



## Are you treating players correctly?

At a recent County Training Team Meeting the question of how are we going to deal with the Treatment of Injuries this season was raised, the reason being is that there has been a change in ethos of how we as Referees deal with that aspect of Law 5. The Law was changed in 1998 and has been in force since then, however the correct application has not always been adhered. In fact even though we have seen it carried out at the very top level it has taken a long time to filter down to Local football.

Many of you will now be shouting we CAN'T implement it on a Sunday morning, as we haven't got the facilities to do it. Or it will cause additional confrontation, which we don't need.

A couple of seasons ago a directive went out to Supply League Level and above to get Match Officials to apply the Law correctly, as a result of which there has been a dramatic fall in the amount of stoppage time played. The majority of players when asked if they want treatment, decline the offer, as they know it will leave their Team one short for a period of time.

The procedure is quite simple, if a player is lying down you ask them do they require treatment, if the answer is Yes, you signal for the Sponge Person to come onto the field, they ASSESS the injury and then take the player off for TREATMENT. Once the player is ready, provided the game has restarted they can come on with your permission. Very simple, and designed to speed the game up.

So how are you the Local League Referee going to fare if you apply the Law correctly, first I have written to all Leagues within Middlesex highlighting the correct way that Law WILL be applied, that was the easy bit. The hardest bit is going to convince the majority of Referees that they have to change their style to comply with Law. I am not having ago at any particular person but there are a lot of people who are still using the Laws of the Game under which they qualified. Many of these Laws have changed quite dramatically since then, so it is up to ALL of you to ensure that you are applying Law correctly and upholding the standards.

Some of you will be saying that to apply this aspect of Law you will be asking for confrontation. I say you are wrong, provided we all do it correctly. Each week there are a number of you who do apply all Laws correctly, but receive the retort, "the Referee last week didn't do that", the question I would ask you, are you this weeks Referee or the one they had last week. If your honest answer is the latter, then I would ask you for the sake of consistency to become This Weeks' Referee. If not, not only are you letting yourself, your League, County FA and the FA down, but more importantly the Promotion Candidates and Recently Qualified Referees. The Promotion Candidates have no choice but to apply law correctly in all their games. The Recently Qualified Referees know no different, however they soon pick up bad habits from more experienced Colleagues. Unfortunately these are probably the same Officials who berate the Premiership Referees for not applying some aspect of the Law with comments like "How do you expect me to do that, when you don't see it on the Tele". Well with regards to the Treatment of Injuries you do see them do it right on the Tele.

I know when the issue was discussed at the Training Team meeting there were a lot of varied views, however the correct way to deal with it, is to apply the Law as it is written. Since then I know that some of you have discussed it within your Societies and again there has been good debate. It would be nice for the discussion to continue and at the end of the season we get comments like "Treatment of Injuries, I don't see why we were so concerned", "another Law Change that has benefited the Game".

I wonder?

I am quite happy to discuss any of my comments either as a group of Referees, in a Society meeting or League meeting or a group of friends or Training partners, all you need to do is contact me.

Andy Taylor CTO MCFA

Now to help you in case you have not been able to get your current copy of the Laws of Association Football (LOAF) 2003-2004, because of the high demand at your last Society evening, I have added the extracts that are relevant sections. Hopefully you will make sure you have a copy of it in your kit bag so that if you do get any problems during a game, you can give a copy to the Secretary/Player.

## **RA Management Board Election**

### **Result Notification**

**Page 1** – see [http://www.northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk/magazines/ra\\_mgmt\\_board\\_1.gif](http://www.northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk/magazines/ra_mgmt_board_1.gif)

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