

December 2007

*A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the North
Middlesex Referees' Society*

The next meeting of the North Middlesex Referees' Society will be held on Thursday 20th December 2007 at Holtwhites Sports and Social Club, Kirkland Drive, Enfield at 7.45 pm.

The meeting will be a social event with no formal business. A number of special guests have been invited including the President and Chief Executive of Middlesex FA, Tony Sharples of the London FA, and former Society stalwart Life Vice-President George Basten. Amongst items planned for the evening will be the presentation of "The 50 Year FA Award" to former auditor, Brian Langford, to celebrate his long and dedicated service to the Society. Wives, girlfriends and partners are invited to come along and share in the evening's entertainment. Secretary Robin Jagot asks if anyone can come a little early to help in setting out the refreshments it would be appreciated. See you there!

Included in this month's magazine is a copy of an e-mail sent to Secretary, Robin Jagot, from London Football Limited, which Robin thought readers might be interested in.

Also included is a copy of a letter from A. W. S. Smith General Secretary of the RA with information about the Centenary Celebrations to be held next year – further information can be had from the website, details of which are also included. The results of the election to the Board of Management of the RA of England are also published in this issue.

Last month's special guest was Roger Fox – a report on Roger's talk is included elsewhere in the magazine. Mick Osborn writes an article on players' footwear entitled Boot Camp and Observer contributes too.

As usual, Gary Cobden contributes a number of items including County Cup appointments for both Middlesex and the AFA and this month's 100 Club winners – congratulations to Malcolm Sonenfeld, Gordon Marshall and Steve Wildgoose. Gary also behoves us to support the Society by shopping on line through our webshop.

An FA Recruitment and Retention Taskforce has been set up consisting of members of the FA Referees Committee and representatives from the County FA's – more details elsewhere in the magazine.

Should anyone be concerned about cameras being used at matches involving children or young people, please read the short article on the subject in this issue.

Robin's minutes of the last meeting are included as usual and there are some snippets taken from the excellent Chiltern Referee. Last but not least, the Society is grateful for the regular support given by our main advertisers, Ackerman Group plc and Henry Tilly Ltd.

The next Society meeting will be held at the usual venue on Thursday 17th January. Contributions to the editor by Saturday 29 December, please.



BOOT CAMP

by Mick Osborn

I'm sure that you all inspect boots, (or to be correct, footwear,) before each match. What are you looking for? Law 4 states: "A player must not use equipment or wear anything which is dangerous to himself or another player...." Not difficult is it?

A copy of Law 4 as it was during the sixties and early seventies, came to my notice the other day. Those of my generation, and they need not own up, will perhaps recall the need to satisfy the examiner in their quest to become a referee, that they were fully cognisant with the requirements of this Law.

"Boots must conform to the following standard:" it proclaimed.

"(a) Bars shall be made of leather or rubber and shall be transverse and flat, not less than half an inch in width and shall extend the total width of the boot and be rounded at the corners.

"(b) Studs shall be made of leather, rubber, aluminium, plastic or similar material, and shall be solid and not less than half an inch in diameter. With the exception of that part of the stud forming the base, which shall not protrude from the sole more than one quarter of an inch, studs shall be round in plan. Where studs are tapered, the minimum diameter of any section of the stud must not be less than half an inch. Where metal seating for the screw type is used, this seating must be embedded in the sole of the boot and any attachment screw shall be part of the stud. Other than the metal seating for the screw type of stud, no metal plates even though covered with leather or rubber shall be worn, neither studs which are threaded to allow them to be screwed on the a base screw that is fixed by nails or otherwise to the soles of boots, nor studs which, apart form the base, have any form of protruding edge rim, or relief marking, or ornament, should be allowed.

"(c) Combined bars and studs may be worn, provided the whole conforms to the general requirements of this law. Neither bars nor studs on the soles or heels shall project more than three-quarters of an inch. If nails are used they shall be driven in flush with the surface."

The book, from which I took the above, continues with some advice to players. "Far too few soccer players devote enough attention to their boots. After all, boots are the equivalent of the cricket bat or tennis racket or golf club or hockey stick, and such articles of equipment are always purchased with care. So one of the first things a young soccer player should do is to buy himself a comfortable pair of boots, remembering that he will probably wear them over a pair of under-socks and thick stockings. Then apply plenty of grease or dubbin to keep the leather, except for the toe cap, soft and pliable. The work of maintenance is most important after a match, when all mud and dirt should be removed, by washing if necessary; but be careful to allow the boots to dry slowly, not in front of a fire. As comfort and service are the two major requirements, boots should be laced with those ends in view, not too tight and not too loose. Yet at the same time, a well-laced boot will give support round the instep, where the main propelling force is exerted. On the other hand, tight laces round the ankle will interfere with dribbling. So the aim should be a firmly fastened instep, a loose and supple ankle, and an over-all feeling of comfort and support."

Safety first - that's what I say. A merry Christmas and a happy new year.



CAN YOU MAKE USE OF THIS INFORMATION

The whole essence of a good match is that it is near continuous as possible. So any stoppages should be dealt with as quickly as possible. So with 'normal free kick' situations, unless they request "ten yards Ref.", 'give and go' must be your motto. The speed of taking up your new position will encourage the free kick to be taken promptly.

Organising the 'wall' without wasting too much time will come with experience. In the meantime, practise your estimate of ten yards. It's further than you think.

With injuries, the old adage that a player will not move if he is really hurt is generally true. As also with any head injury, get the trainer on quickly. Otherwise, the law requires that if a player can be moved, he should leave the field for attention then await your permission to rejoin the game.

Finally, you have the last word on all stoppages and alleged time wasting. Your watch should reflect this and time should be added. Needless to say, that after all your efforts to keep the game flowing, someone deliberately time wasting, will be cautioned.

Another problem is the lost ball. After a goal attempt or boot out of play it goes way down the hill or over the fence etc., what to do?

Do you add time or not? Your pre-match walk about will alert you to such local problems.

You have time enough now to prepare, extra balls checked, tested and ready for use, co-operation from the home side to retrieve the lost ones. This will help to have a continuous game with no extra time needed.

The 'advantage' is one of the most difficult decisions to make. I remind you that it is a decision and not a 'duck out' from making one. There is a lot of difference between talking your way through the game and shouting "Advantage". It is so good to see a perfect advantage played, but so often it happens that a player will be aggrieved because he believes the decision to be wrong. It is a must that the offended sees the offender spoken to as soon as possible after the incident.

It is a wise move in the earlier days of your career to give a foul and learn gradually the difference between a careless, reckless, or excessive force tackle. On the park the line between what players will accept and that which they won't is a fine one indeed - between a good enjoyable flowing game and one with continuous niggling and ill feeling. Having given your decision then let everyone know the players, spectators and the assessor. Use the correct hand/voice combined signals (See LOAF) and shout. It is essential that you let the linesman know his part in the match. Learn a set pattern of instructions that are as brief as possible, so that the pre match talk with them is not too long and they forget what you said first!

Try different diagonals for a few matches, and then use the easiest to run, always remembering you are supposed to keep the linesman always in view.

Having seen their signal, then you can either blow the whistle or acknowledge and play on. Remember it is you who give the decision and not the linesman, so do not point at him if someone argues.

Deal with the unhelpful as well as the over helpful as quickly as possible. The players expect you to be the authority. It may mean you having to dispense with their services. With neutral assistants, who are also referees, you should ask for, and expect to receive a lot more helpful co-operation.

OBSERVER



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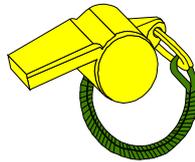
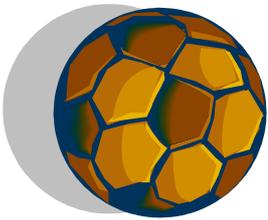
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**North Middlesex Referees Society
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Concerned about a camera? Tell the home club.



If you are refereeing a game involving children or young people, and are concerned about someone photographing or filming the match, it is not your responsibility to take action. You have enough to do. Please alert an official of the home club. It is their responsibility to manage situations which may give cause for concern. The FA does have guidelines notes

on this subject available as a download from TheFA.com at www.thefa.com/footballsafefilming. For background only, referees are encouraged to familiarise themselves with these guidelines.



All purchases through our webshop at
www.buy.at/nmrs
and help raise money for
North Middlesex Referees Society

November's Special Guest – Roger Fox, FA Panel Assessor

Chairman Tom White introduced our special guest Roger Fox who, he said, would be talking about assessing at grass roots level.

Roger began by explaining that he had started refereeing in 1971, taking the then Class 3 exam. He graduated to Class 2 in 1974 and became a Class 1 in 1977, eventually rising to the new Level 3.

He has been a County Assessor since 1979, then a Licensed Instructor before becoming a National Registered Assessor. In 2003 Roger became a Licensed Assessor Instructor and a Contributory League Assessor in 2006.

From the start, Roger involved everyone in discussion on all aspects of assessing refereeing and 'lining' up to Level 4, and in particular what an assessor was looking for in a prospective promotion candidate at different levels and the method of marking applied.

Those present were asked to decide on the level of importance assessors put on a referee's performance from a list that included: Application of Law; Positioning Fitness and Work Rate; Alertness/Awareness including the management of stoppages; Communication; Team Work; Advantage and Match Control. After discussion everyone was asked to select the two skills considered the most important. Not surprisingly, there was a wide difference of opinion from the floor, Application of Law and Match Control just winning the vote.

Roger then discussed the skills required by Assistant Referees on the promotion ladder. These included Communication and Hand Signals. How to use the flag effectively was widely discussed – which hand to use and when? Other skills discussed included: Alertness/Mental Alertness; Support to the Referee; Signals; Offside Judgements/ Active/Passive; Fitness and Positioning and Referees Instructions.

The importance of alerting promotion candidates to their strengths and development points and the necessity for accurate marking was covered in questions from the floor. Other subjects discussed included 'ageism' – should older officials move aside for the benefit of their younger colleagues? Robin Jagot raised the subject of the new Assessment Forms. The weighting of the marks awarded on the new forms were discussed and Roger clarified a number of points.

Situations arising from injuries to officials were actively debated. What happens if an Assistant is hurt and there is no substitute other than volunteers from one or both teams involved, and what are the referee's options?

Finally, Roger concluded his lively presentation, which was clearly enjoyed by the audience who applauded generously.

Chairman Tom White thanked Roger for his cheerful and enthusiastic presentation, which, he said, had dispelled the often-held view that referees did not like Assessors! Secretary, Robin Jagot, then presented our special guest with a "50 Year History of the North Middlesex Referees' Society" as a memento of his visit.





The Referees' Association of England

RESULTS OF THE ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT 2007

To
ABS & CRA Secretaries, Life Members & Board of Management

16th November 2007

Dear Colleagues

The votes cast for each of the candidates were as follows:-

Name of candidate	ABS of which the candidate is a full member	Electoral Region	Number of votes
Nigel Genner	Stourbridge	Mercia & West	4107
Colin Harris	Bristol	Mercia & West	3215
Ray Mallery	Croydon	Anglia & SE	3781
Eddie McGrath	Bootle	East M & North	2157

DECLARATION

I declare that the election process was carried out in accordance with the rules of the Referees' Association of England and that the votes cast were counted on Friday 16th November 2007 by RAE Board members John Harden, John Starkey and myself.

Nigel Genner received the largest number of votes of candidates in the Mercia & West region

Colin Harris & Ray Mallery received the largest number of votes Nationally

I am please to announce that these three members have been elected to serve on the Board of Management for a period of 3 years and will take office on 1st January 2008

Yours sincerely

AWS Smith
RA Head of Operations
(on behalf of the Board of the RAE)

LONDON FOOTBALL

Secretary, Robin Jagot, was passed the following from London Football Ltd and asked for it to be published in the magazine for anyone who might be interested.

Dear Referee,

I am writing to you as one of the League organisers for **LONDON FOOTBALL**. We are looking to add to our panel of referees and would like to know if you are interested in joining our team of match officials this season.

ALL of our Leagues are affiliated to the London FA and AFA!

We have many Leagues including:

London Football League:

Midweek (over 400 teams) – we have 5-a-side, 7-a-side and 11-a-side Leagues with matches from Monday to Thursday, with kick offs at 18:00, 18:30, 19:00, 19:30, 20:00 and 20:30 throughout the London area.

All our 11-a-side matches in our midweek League have three match officials and often we can give you two consecutive matches!

London Football Weekend:

11-a-side Weekend (54 teams) with matches on Saturday morning and afternoon throughout the London area. If you are available, we can give you up to 4 matches each Weekend.

Referee Agency:

In addition, we run a Referee Agency providing match officials for other Midweek & Weekend competitions throughout the London area.

What we are looking for!

We are looking for match officials that are reliable, enthusiastic and available at Weekends and not referees that blow out of their matches on Friday night!

In return, we pay up to £35 per match and ALL of our teams are nice, friendly and sporting people so you will not have any trouble as happens with other Leagues. For the reliable referees that give us their availability at the Weekends, we give them more matches during the week so you can gain experience as both referee and assistant referee.

Please respond ASAP if you are interested with your contact details.

P.S. Please accept our apologies if you have received this e-mail by mistake.

Regards,

Yours in Refereeing

Hany Ishak & Simon Johnson
Managing Directors

London Football Limited
You Just Pay & Play



North Middlesex Referees Society - 100 Club - Season 2007/2008

The November draw for the 100 Club – for which there were 38 shares subscribed - was made at the November Society Meeting. Details of the winners are shown below.

First	Second	Third
36 Malcolm Sonenfeld £15.20	25 Gordon Marshall £7.60	7 Steve Wildgoose £3.80

Cheques for the winners are included with the Magazine; if you receive your magazine by e-mail, the cheques will be sent under separate cover. If you would like to join the 100 Club, please complete the form below, and return it to me.

NORTH MIDDLESEX REFEREES SOCIETY 100 CLUB

I wish to purchase.....share(s) in the NMRS 100 Club at £1.00 per share per month.

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



FA Recruitment and Retention Taskforce

The FA Referees Committee has recently set up a task force to look into this important area, consisting of members of the FA Referees Committee and representatives from the County FA's. The Terms of References are as follows:-

The prime role of the Task Force will be to:-

Establish current and recent trends in referee numbers, recruitment and retention
Assess the impact on referee recruitment and retention of a variety of factors including:
CRB and CPT requirements
Lifestyle changes;Growth of midweek, small sided football; Televised football
Identify ways in which recruitment can be increased, and ways in which retention can be improved

Within these broad criteria the task force will focus on:

- o Different geographical areas
- o Young referees
- o Female referees
- o Referees from ethnic backgrounds
- o Former professional players

To establish a clear picture and determine possible future strategies the task force will take account of the views of:

- o Current referees at all levels



Open letter to all Referees Association members - 17 November 2007

Dear All

On behalf of our President David Elleray and members of The RA Board, I write to inform you that The Referees' Association will be celebrating its Centenary in 2008. The celebrations will include the Centenary Conference and Centenary Dinner which will be held at The Renaissance Hotel, Solihull on the 4th and 5th July 2008. Many prominent members from the world of football will be in attendance and during Saturday's Centenary Dinner Geoff Thompson, Pierluigi Collina and David Elleray will speak. Presentations will also be made to the officials of our domestic cup finals and the Community Shield. We do hope that you will put the date in your diary and make every effort to help celebrate the very special occasion. In addition to Pierluigi Collina, the FIFA Head of Refereeing Jose Maria Garcia Aranda has accepted our invitation to attend.

Should you require any further or additional information at this stage then please give me a call on 02476 601701 or email me at arthur@footballreferee.org.uk
Yours Sincerely

A W S Smith
General Secretary



RA/RAE Matters – taken from The Chiltern Referee

Every RAE member will receive a **commemorative coin** to mark the **100 anniversary** of our Association. It will be sent to societies with every 2008-09 membership card.

At July the RAE membership was 7253 – **an increase of 13%** compared with July 2006.

The RA Supplies sales at the end of July was just below £56,000 and ahead of budget.

The FA has apologised for omitting the RA Badge from the cover of the last issue of the joint magazine *Refereeing*.

There will be more RA content in future issues of *Refereeing*

The **FA Compliance Dept** has issued the following suspensions:

- a) 14 referees in relation to all football related activity involving children under 18
- b) 12 referees in relation to all football related activity involving children under 16
- c) 3 referees in relation to all football related activity involving children under 14

The loss of £1,924 on the Eve-of-Final Rally was offset by a generous donation of £5,000 from the PGMOL

The retained profit from the Grand Draw 2007 was £4,893



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

Youth Division Appointments

Under 18 Cup – Round 2

Omonia Youth F.C. U18b	v	Whetstone Wanderers Yth F.C. U18b	Peter Jago (R)
Omonia Youth F.C. U18	v	Gladstone Rangers Youth F.C. U17	Nick Rider (R)
Enfield Town Youth F.C. U17	v	Staines Town F.C. U18b	Tom White (R)

Under 16 Cup – Round 2

Lea Valley United F.C. U16b	v	Hampstead FC. U16	Nick Andrea (R)
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Under 15 Cup – Round 3

Enfield Town Youth F.C. U15	v	Hanwell Town Youth F.C. U15	Nicholas Nicolaou (R)
Park View Rangers F.C. U15	v	Pitshanger F.C. U15	Malcolm Creek (R)
Broadwater United Youth F.C. U15	v	Kensington Dragons F.C. U15	Cos Fernandes (R)

Under 14 Cup – Round 3

Finchley Revolution F.C. U14a	v	Charville Athletic Youth F.C. U14	Richard Martin (R)
Omonia Youth F.C. U14b	v	Staines Town F.C. U14a	Barry Berndes (R)

Under 13 Cup – Round 3

Watling Club F.C. U13	v	Kodak Youth F.C. U13a	Phil Bowman (R)
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Under 12 Cup – Round 3

Brimsdown Rovers Youth F.C. U12	v	Pitshanger F.C. U12	Kevin Wavell (R)
Carpenters Youth F.C. U12	v	Pinnacle Youth F.C. U12	John Noblemunn (R)

Under 11 Cup – Round 3

Omonia Youth F.C. U11	v	Hanwell Town Youth F.C. U11	Gary Haines (R)
Whetstone Wanderers Yth F.C. U11b	v	St Josephs Youth 88 F.C. U11	Jon Burnikell (R)
Whetstone Wanderers Yth F.C. U11	v	Harefield United Youth F.C. U11b	David Creed (R)

Parent Body Appointments

Sunday Intermediate Cup – Round 3

Belstone F.C. Reserves	v	Ashview Rangers F.C. First	Stan Rosenthal (R)
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Sunday Junior Cup – Round 3

Highgate Albion F.C. Reserves	v	The Stag F.C. First	Stephen Reuter (R)
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Amateur Football Association – County Cup Appointments – Season 2007/2008

Youth Division Appointments

Sunday Under 16 Cup – Round 2

Norsemen F.C. U16	v	Winchmore Hill Youth F.C. U16	David Williams (R)
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Parent Body Appointments

Senior Cup – Round 2

Alexandra Park F.C. First	v	Wood Green Old Boys F.C. First	David Williams (R)
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Senior Cup – Round 3

Old Minchendenians F.C. First	v	Sinjuns Grammarians F.C. First	Andrew Oughton (R)
UCL Academicals F.C. First	v	Polytechnic F.C. First	David Williams (R)

Intermediate Cup – Round 1

Latymer Old Boys F.C. First	v	Southgate County F.C. Reserves	Terry Wilson (R)
Bealonians F.C. Reserves	v	Wood Green Old Boys F.C. Reserves	David Williams (R)

Intermediate Cup – Round 2

Old Stationers F.C. Reserves	v	Merton F.C. Reserves	David Williams (R)
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Middlesex/Essex Intermediate Cup – Round 1

Old Manorians F.C. Reserves	v	BB Eagles F.C. Reserves	David Williams (R)
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Middlesex/Essex Intermediate Cup – Round 2

Old Edmontonians F.C. Reserves	v	William Fitt F.C. Reserves	David Williams (R)
Old Foresters F.C. Reserves	v	Wood Green Old Boys F.C. Reserves	Terry Wilson (R)

NORTH MIDDLESEX REFEREES SOCIETY

Minutes of the Society Meeting held on Thursday November 15th, 2007 at Holtwhites Sports Centre

Chairman's Welcome: The Chairman welcomed members and our Guest Speaker Roger Fox, LFA and local Society member.

Apologies: None

Minutes of the last Society Meeting: The minutes of the last Society meeting were signed as a true record.

Matters Arising: None

Secretary's Report: A brief report with the Secretary advising members that he will be attending an R A meeting which will be held at the Bloomsbury Hotel, High Holborn on Saturday December 1st, 2007. The question of the number of Christmas Draw books required by the Society was raised and it was decided that we would not take part in the Draw.

Secretary reminded members that the next Society meeting will be held on Thursday 20th December, and not as printed in magazine December 13th. We want as many officers, members, and friends to join us in celebrating the "50 year FA Award" to Brian Langstone our former auditor of many years as it will be very much a social event. **No official Society Business will take place.** If some members can arrive at 7.15pm to help prepare the tables and refreshments it would be appreciated.

Treasurer's Report: Membership Full - 146 Associate Membership – 4

The treasurer advised the meeting that one of our long-standing members had fallen into hardship and difficulties and that a donation had been made from the Benevolent Fund. The Chairman advised members that the case would be raised and discussed at the next Council meeting.

Any Other Officer's Report: None

Any Other Business: A question was raised about Referees Training Courses and what part the Referees Association /Local Society play. The true answer is no part at all in the actual training as from July 1st, 2007 it is fully controlled by the FA/County FA's

Candidates attending such courses are encouraged to join and become members of the RA/Local Society.

There was a five minute break and Lockie Bramzell introduced Roger Fox to talk about Assessing from "Grass Roots" football – Level 7 – Level 3.

Chairman:.....

Signed.....