

December 2008

The next Meeting of the North Middlesex Referees' Society will be held at the Holtwhites Sports and Social Club, Kirkland Drive Enfield on Thursday the 11th of December 2008. Please note the change of date from the third Thursday in the Month to the Second Thursday. Social is the keyword for the Meeting which will start from 7.30 onwards and will consist of a small buffet, entertainment of our own making and plenty of socialising. This is a chance to meet old friends and hopefully make some new ones.

EDITORIAL

As returning Editor I have to say that I have to say that I have been gratified by the response I have had with contributions. That is the up side. The downside is that it is the older members and the ones who supported me before, as well Terry Wilson, who are the current scribes. Therefore in order to promote some controversy I am throwing out three points for consideration. These in no particular order are-

- (1) Should we just say, because of the confusion from parks to palatial stadia, over what is or is not a punishable hand ball that whenever a hand/arm and ball meet and greet a free kick should result and just forget about accidental hands?
- (2) Should we give an indirect free kick for impeding the progress of an opponent and not even give a direct free kick when contact is made as it is not named as one of the specific direct free kick offences?
- (3) Although Arsenal scored a quite legitimate goal following a drop ball in a European Champion's League tie which caused controversy it highlighted a problem. Therefore even though teams and players want to be sporting, should not the current trend of non competition at the drop ball be forgotten and all drop balls save for a goalkeeping injury become again contested ones?

I look forward to getting a few replies on the above especially if there is disagreement on the same.

It has been very pleasant to see the number of attendees at our last two meetings which have been higher than some of last season's. Although we will be having a Social this month we return with a fine guest speaker next month John Cartwright who has been a supporter of Referees over the years in which he was England Youth Team Manager and Technical Director of the FA's National School at Lilleshall. This will be a return visit as he was able to speak to us several years ago. He will be well worth listening to and hopefully therefore we will have another bumper attendance.

Finally the Council would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy and prosperous New Year.

Ken Goldman

November's Special Guest – Alan Poulain

The AFA's Bart O'Toole, introduced special guest, Alain Poulain, to an enthusiastic joint NMRS and AFA/LONSAR audience. Chairman of the RAE for 4 years, Alan said he is still actively refereeing – although he thought some might not agree! A Board Member for 5 years, Alan said he was also the Secretary of Hunts. RA. He has responsibilities for the RAE Website, Supplies, and Publications and for Commercial aspects – he is also a Committee member of R&GP and EAC Conference. If all this was not enough, Alan is also a Licensed Instructor with the FA, is County Respect Lead Officer, Charter Standard Lead Officer – and has a full-time job as Football Development Manager at Hunts FA.



Alan said his presentation was about the benefits of RAE Membership and he reminded everyone that the Referees' Association had celebrated its 100th birthday at this year's sell-out Annual Conference at Solihull.

He suggested that benefits of RAE Membership were both *visible* and *invisible*. The visible benefits were FA Representation; Conference; Eve of Final Rally; Supplies; Website; News Digest and the Joint RAE/FA Magazine. Invisible benefits were Insurance, Support, Encouragement, Advice and the Benevolent Fund.

The benefits of RAE Membership for Societies, Branches, Clubs and

Associations were, Visible: Meetings after games; Friendship, Support and Advice; Training; call on experience; Magazines; Mentorship; Supplies; Social activities and Awards. Invisible benefits were: Representation on CFA, and Leagues committees; Support; Encouragement and Representation of individual members upwards to CRA and RAE.

Developments within the Association were: Conference (including the Centenary); commemorative Coin and First Day cover; Website; RA Supplies including the new kit; Closer ties with the FA (e.g. HMRC tax); Recruitment DVD; Training and Marketing DVD's PGMOL; Liaison Meetings. Recruitment Initiative (voucher); Refereeing magazine; National Museum of Football. A South Bedfordshire Notice of Motion proposed that there should be "ONE RA". Consideration is underway with discussion with Wales and Northern Ireland.

Under "Developments of the Association – What do I want from it..." Alan discussed: Greater recognition; Greater knowledge of the Association; Better communication (down); Direct emails; Membership via incentive scheme; Better branch meetings. And all this leading to... 100% membership of Referees.

Alan ended his presentation with a "Chairman's Rant," asking CRA Secretaries, "What are they doing?" "How are meetings being formulated?" "Do they attract members to come?" "Is there too much business?" "Are the right things discussed?" "Are we driving them away?" Concluding with, "The RA is not being proactive enough". After Questions, everyone showed their appreciation in the usual way before Chairman, Tom White, asked Stan Rosenthal to give a vote of thanks to our special guest for his excellent presentation. Stan did so, and said that in Alan Poulain's hands the RA would celebrate another 100 years!

Finally, President Terry Wilson presented Alan with a copy of the Society's 50th Year Anniversary Book as a memento of his visit to North Middlesex.



In Days Gone By!

Many moons ago, when the Society provided '4th Officials' for matches at Tottenham; Arsenal; and Barnet, North Middlesex Referees Society presented plaques to each club to be placed in the Referees Changing Room. We believe the plaques at Tottenham and Arsenal are long gone, but, on a recent visit to Underhill, the Society's eagle snapper took the picture below:-



Pictured below are, left to right, Terry Clover; Terry Flack; Peter Dace; Sir Robert Bellinger Chairman of Arsenal; Terry Hayne; Graham Perry; Adrian Bland; and Colin Downey. The picture was taken at Highbury in 1986 when Terry Hayne presented a similar plaque Arsenal. Graham Perry and Peter Dace were linesmen for Colin Downey in David O'Leary's testimonial match against Celtic with a crowd of just under 40,000 - the 2nd highest crowd of Peter's (journeyman) career! Celtic won 2-0. Terry Flack refereed the warm-up game with Adrian and Terry Clover.



If anybody has a picture of the presentations of the plaques at Tottenham and Barnet, please let us know.

Peter Dace reports on “Game 2,900 – and counting.....”

In January I wrote in the Normidian part 5 of “the continuing career of a journeyman Referee” and detailed some thoughts between my games 2,751 – 2,850, and now here with the December edition I find, somewhat to my surprise, I can briefly add further thoughts having reached game 2,900 on Sunday 9th November.

Was game 2,900 a ‘major plum’? Well no, not really but nevertheless I was grateful to be asked and to contribute to the future of some very young and talented footballers. I attended at Myddleton House in Enfield and refereed the under 9 game between Spurs and Watford. Although a different format is used elsewhere, at Spurs they have two under 9 games played on mini pitches alongside each other. A total of four periods of twenty minutes but after the first two sessions the home team moves to the next pitch thereby playing against the other Watford team of six and vice versa, both Referees keeping to their original pitch.

The game itself passed without incident and resulted in two wins for Spurs (and without any good influence from Harry Redknapp). During a moment of reflection I estimated the ages of people around me and what a sobering thought to realise I was over seven times older than any boy on the pitch, probably twice as old as any Parent, and no doubt older than any watching Grandparent!!

I first started refereeing such games thirty years ago at the old Spurs training ground in Cheshunt (now residential housing known as Hotspur Wood) and how many excellent young players I have seen in that time. I often wonder how many made the grade and played at Premiership level but I can guarantee at least ninety percent fell by the wayside through all sorts of distractions, lack of commitment and injuries. Indeed I often feel that much as the players are being tested so too is it a test for the Parents who have to take their boys to training twice a week plus the game on Sundays whether home or away.

So as I pass game 2,900 (plus 27 games not included where I acted as fourth official on Football league matches), and with a distant ambition to get to game 3,000, I feel rather more positive today than when I wrote my previous article where I bemoaned the poor standard of behaviour of players, team officials etc. Not that I necessarily feel anything has improved but there is a ‘Respect’ campaign out there somewhere which appears to have brought some improvement at the highest level and hopefully will filter through to the Parks, although with all twenty-two players contesting even a throw-in on the half-way line I have to reflect once again on what a strange old hobby we have taken on!



Trivia

On Saturday (22 November) Spurs Under 18’s entertained Coventry City Under 18’s in an FA Premier Academy League Group B match. Spurs and Coventry are both flying high, with Spurs having won seven of their last eight fixtures and only one defeat in their opening 12 league fixtures.

However, Saturdays result was a six all draw, with poor Spurs debutant goalkeeper Mirko Ranieri – an Under 16 Italian Youth International – on the receiving end.

Your question is – who was the last Spurs goalkeeper to concede six goals on his debut.



With Christmas approaching fast, don't forget to visit the North Middlesex Referees Society Shop to buy from your favourite retailers and help the Society at the same time at no extra cost to yourself.

Just enter www.buy.at/nmrs in your browser, and continue to shop!!



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Every purchase made at www.buy.at/nmrs will result in a donation to [North MiddlesexReferees Society](http://NorthMiddlesexRefereesSociety), don't forget every purchase counts.

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Middlesex County FA County Cup Appointments Season 2008/2009

MCFA Sunday Junior Cup Round 3

Shadwell F.C. First v Queensbury Park Rangers F.C. First J Stockman Referee

MCFA Youth Under 18 Cup Round 2

Whetstone Wanderers Youth F.C. U18 v Omonia Youth F.C. U18 J Noblemunn Referee

MCFA Youth Under 16 Cup Round 3

Muswell Hill Youth FC U16 v Staines Town F.C. U16 P Fuller Referee

MCFA Youth Under 15 Cup Round 3

Gladstone Rangers Youth F.C. U15a v LNER Youth F.C. U15 J Burnikell Referee

Omonia Youth F.C. U15b v Lea Valley United F.C. U15a N Nicolaou Referee

Whetstone Wanderers Yth F.C. U15a v Old Isleworthians Yth F.C. U15a B Berndes Referee

Broadwater United Youth F.C. U15 v Omonia Youth F.C. U15a B Kyriacou Referee

Whetstone Wanderers Youth F.C. U15c v Wealdstone F.C. U15 J Vyras Referee

MCFA Youth Under 13 Cup Round 3

Magix Yth F.C. U13 v Whetstone Wanderers Youth F.C. U13a P Bowman Referee

Broadwater United Youth F.C. U13 v Pinner Albion F.C. U13 M Breen Referee

Hampstead FC. U13b v Sandgate Youth F.C. U13a N Ngoma Referee

MCFA Youth Under 12 Cup Round 3

Lea Valley United F.C. U12 v Whetstone Wanderers Youth F.C. U12b J McCaig Referee

MCFA Youth Under 11 Cup Round 3

Ridgeway Rovers F.C. U11 v Northwood Youth F.C. U11a T Rose Referee

These Appointments are correct as at 21 November 2008



Its Coming Home!!!

Dateline - Friday 29 May 2009.

Venue - Hotel Russell, Russell Square, London.

Yes, at last, the Eve of the Final Rally is returning to its spiritual home, the Hotel Russell in London. After several years absence in Cardiff, and two not so successful events at Wembley and the Emirates, by popular request the Eve of the Final Rally will be returning next year to its previous popular home. This is an evening of entertainment, and the opportunity to meet the following days FA Cup Final officials, tickets are priced at £10 for adults, and £5.00 for under 18's.

On previous occasions at the Hotel Russell several members of the Society would attend. If you would like to attend in 2009, let me have your remittance, and the Society will obtain tickets for you.

Gary Cobden

Honorary Treasurer



North Middlesex Referees Society - 100 Club Season 2008/2009

The draw for November took place at the November society meeting, and was drawn by our guest, Alan Poulain. With 43 shares subscribed, the monthly payout is £30.10 and the winners are shown below.

First	34	Tony Ward	£17.20
Second	30	John Metselaar	£8.60
Third	14	David Chapman	£4.30

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

Should you wish to join the 100 Club for the remainder of the season, please forward a remittance of £9.00 per share, accompanied by the form below.

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 10 months.

Renewal information will be included with next seasons Membership Form

Name..... Signature.....

Society Use - Numbers Allocated.....

Gary Cobden
Honorary Treasurer



The Club that has always been good at Crosses

A friend Peter Ephgrave has asked me to point out and I am happy to do so, especially as many of our members will have refereed their games, that CROUCH END VAMPIRES are celebrating their 125th year of existence having been started in 1883. Originally they were simply Crouch End but merged with the Norbury-based Club Vampires FC in 1897. Recently they played The Southern Amateur Football League Representative Team in confirmation of this wonderful achievement, they being founder members of that League. The Club runs eight teams and are now expecting to expand by adding youth and women's teams shortly. During their existence the Club has in its spheres of operations won numerous Trophies and Championships



Youth Games.

After reading the reply to my item in the October Normidian, I felt compelled to write in reply.

If Stewart Walden honestly believes that I said that eight youth games a season entitles me to a County Youth Cup final then he really should take a closer look at what I wrote.

I have for many years refused County Youth Cup final appointments on the grounds that I don't referee a sufficient number of youth games throughout a season to warrant such an appointment and my point was that most of those who bend over backwards to get out of youth appointments during the season would all gladly accept an appointment County Youth Cup final

He has also taken my comment regarding the low standards of play in youth football completely out of context as I said that it was no excuse for anyone to "cop out" of youth games.

Once again when this subject is broached, people look no further than their own interests and open, sensible debate is forgotten as people "go off on one" and look no further than the end of their noses.

I would ask that Stewart Walden and anyone else that reads this magazine, to look once again at what I wrote, take on board what it says and then give a balanced, considered response rather than a knee jerk reaction. I won't however be holding my breath.

Len Wilcock

EDITORS NOTE : Anyone wishing to use the Magazine space for a response will receive full leave and licence although it would be preferred if the language could be kept modified.



THE THINGS THEY SAY

Passion is inversely proportional to the amount of real information available – Benfield's law of controversy. – No point in arguing with the Referee on the Laws of the Game.

If you don't have a dream – how you gonna have a dream come true –Oscar Hammerstein –(South Pacific) – FA Coaching scheme for the development of players.

Imagination is the beginning of creation. We imagine what we desire. We will what we imagine and at last we create what we will. – George Bernard Shaw on "creation"- The dream player?

My dad used to referee me when I was a kid. – I remember him "booking" me and asking my name – Coventry's Kevin Kyle.-Proves referees believe in blind justice.

I've just been invited to be President of Raith Rovers supporters club which I shall accept. I think they want me to finance the team from the Budget – Scottish Prime Minister Gordon Brown when Chancellor of the Exchequer – a case of a "profit" being with honour in his homeland.

I have this saying- 5% less effort means 50% less effectiveness. – Lennie Lawrence when Manager of Luton – Worth advocating in pre-match team talk.

The easiest team for a Manager to pick is the Hindsight X1 – Craig Brown – Scotland Manager in 1998.- Defies comment.

Winning doesn't really matter as long as you win – The ubiquitous Vinnie Jones – Truly a dismissed manager's heartfelt lament.



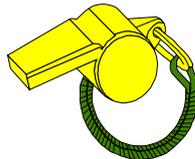
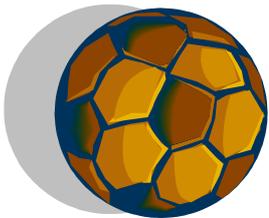
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**PAUL DAVIS (the former Arsenal Player)
DISCUSSES HIS ROLE WITH THE PFA**

Currently I am involved with two areas of the game these days. With the PFA I am working with the Coaching Department where my job, along with others, is to go into the Premiership and Divisions One to Three and talk to players who are interested in coaching and who want to obtain qualifications in it. For example we could be working with a Club's 17's or 18 year olds at scholarship level and encourage them to try to get the basic awards first and how to go about it. Indeed it does not stop there since we also work with senior players and even ex-players who want to become involved in the coaching scene or to actually improve the qualifications they already have with a view to going on to the highest awards.

This I find a very enjoyable aspect but I am also occupied on the equity side which deals with the promotion of the concept of bringing more ethnic minorities into coaching at all levels of the game. This extends to both management and administration, where like coaching at the moment, there are not too many of the ethnic minorities at the top end of the game in those spheres. So we have to question why that is. Perhaps it is because they do not want to get involved, or they are not getting the opportunities but what ever it is, the last two or three seasons have brought up a number of issues which suggest a lot of work still has to be done on these matters. The job with the PFA is very rewarding and I am pleased to say it is an exceptionally good organisation of which to be part.

The other thing that the PFA are helping with is the campaign to stamp out racism. It is particularly heartening to see so many footballers from the ethnic minorities, particularly black players currently in top Premiership and Football League Teams. The ratio is now a base of twenty to twenty five per cent of players from the minorities, which is fantastic because when I started, it was a very low percentage. Now it means it is a true representation of Society and those figures reflect that. As some of those players, near the end of their careers, they are looking to become involved with coaching. Thus one of my jobs at the PFA is to help them find the opportunities in the forthcoming months or years, which may not always be there at the moment. It is currently a bit of a see – saw with the upside being the playing aspect and the downside the lack of progress on the managing, coaching and administrative areas.

There has been however a sensational improvement in the attitudes of the crowds to black players over the last ten years. In the early 70's and 80's when I was involved there were grounds and places you really would not want to go to, especially with the adverse chanting.



NOVEMBER MEETING

The committee are happy to confirm that last month's Meeting was well attended. However there was no formal business transacted and the joint meeting with the Society, LONSAR and the AFA were happy to listen to the guest speaker Mr Alan Poulain.

Our esteemed Secretary wishes to remind members that there are some ten places left for the Celebration Dinner in January but he asks that those who have booked but not yet paid should perhaps now consider doing so. All queries on booking or payment to Robin Jagot please.

The Referees Association

On behalf of the Society Membership I felt it pertinent to raise the following to our guest speaker Alan Poulain at last months meeting.

How, in a time of falling membership, can the Referees Association justify increasing membership subscriptions by in excess of 25% (or £2.00) twice in recent seasons, when we, as a Society are also suffering falling membership but continue to maintain subscriptions at the same level, and could they not looked at other areas to make savings.

Alan gave a full and frank answer to the question, and the points mentioned included:-

- Membership fees (excluding the insurance premium) had been at £7.00 for several seasons.
- The time had come where the continuing losses could not be maintained any further.
- The Association had already cut its cost to the bones, and only employs two full time members of staff, and two part time members of staff.
- It owns its own Headquarters, and costs continue to rise.
- In hindsight, they should have managed the rises better, and they should have been increased earlier to a more realistic level.
- It is expected that, in the current climate, fees will remain static for a further two seasons.

Gary Cobden
Honorary Treasurer



Stranger in the Night??

Some Society members questioned who the 'man in the suit' was at our recent November Society meeting. More frequently seen in casual attire of a track suit and t-shirt, and often with a clipboard or notepad, our former Magazine Editor and current President was spotted in a more formal attire of a suit and presidential chain. Terry is pictured, left, with Chairman Tom White.



Trivia Answer

The answer is current Premiership Referee Mark Halsey who spent a period of his twelve year playing career at Tottenham. During his career, he played one game— for Barnet – in December 1984, before joining St. Albans City, and taking up refereeing in 1989.



AFA & LONDON SOCIETY OF ASSIATION REFEREES SOCIETY MEETING THURSDAY JANAURY 8 2009

AFA-LONDON Society of Association Referees extends a warm invitation to all referees, instructors, mentors, County FA officials and assessors from throughout the Home Counties

on Thursday 8 January 2009 at 1900
at the
Civil Service Recreation Centre, Chadwick Street, London, SW1P 2EP

for an evening which includes:

- **Refereeing Academy**: match incidents, points of law, queries etc (with John Cooke, AFA Referee Development Officer and Society Vice-Chairman and Training Officer);
- **Society raffle and 100 Club Draw**;
- **Sales of kit and equipment at discounted prices**;
- **Howard Webb, Premiership Referee** speaking about his experiences refereeing at the highest level.

Please come along as everyone will be welcome and a good evening is promised. The Bar will be open before and after the meeting; meet old friends and make some new ones. The meeting begins at 1900 and will be over by 2130.

I look forward to welcoming you on the night,



Gordon Kirby, JP
Chairman