

February 2003

The next meeting of the North Middlesex Referees' Society will be held at 7.30 pm on Friday 14th February 2003 at Cockfosters FC, Chalk Lane, Cockfosters, Barnet, Hertfordshire. Guest Speaker is Lorna Epsom, Physiotherapist, who makes a welcome return to the Society.

We were sorry to hear that Society member, Mike Neary, was taken ill whilst refereeing a Spartan South Midlands League match on 28th December. Mike was taken to a nearby hospital where he remained for a week. We are pleased to be able to report, Mike, that you are now resting at home and wish you a speedy and complete recovery.

We are very fortunate that we have regular contributors who send in articles for publication in the Normidian. This month is no exception: Mick Osborn has done a Quiz; Peter Dace reminisces on February 1993, and pays tribute to the late, great, Dave Dickinson, and Gary Cobden and 'Observer' have written as usual. In this issue we are pleased to print a letter from Paul Taylor, in response to an article in last month's magazine by Steve Wildgoose, plus the first of a series of articles by Ken May reflecting on life after refereeing.

We also include Secretary Robin Jagot's minutes of the last meeting; a list of the candidates who passed the most recent referees course and, for good measure, the 5th Interim Report on the structure of the RA. Items in other Referee Society magazines that have caught the eye are also included – with acknowledgements to those publications – and Robin Jagot features again – as he was Guest Speaker at the last meeting. On the distaff side, Vince has unfortunately lost his joke book – temporarily we hope!

The cancellation of the December social meeting was fully discussed at the January meeting – covered by Robin in the minutes. Chairman Tom White explained why it was necessary to cancel the meeting, which, after discussion, was broadly accepted by those present. However, it was pointed out by a member (on a less serious note) that the mince pies left over from last December's 'do', will remain stored and uneaten and "would they be still be OK for next year"? It was also murmured at the back of the hall that Vice Chairman Vince Yeudall's 6 month's worth of practice on his mouth organ, religiously undertaken for the occasion, was entirely wasted!

Also in this issue Mick Osborn, with his Social hat on, reminds us that the Society Elephant Night is on Sunday, 16th February at the Ellenborough Table Tennis Club, Enfield where it was successfully held last year. Mick needs to know who is coming, so if you wish to partake in this fund-raising, fun event, just ring him – his details are in the advert elsewhere and also on the inside cover of the magazine. All the drinks are much cheaper than usual and there is wide selection of crisps, nuts, chocolates, sweets etc for the kids; the date coincides with half term by the way so bring them along – we don't finish too late either. If you have not been to a Society Elephant Race Night before, you will have a great time with Paul Vosper and crew running the show. No smoking, please.

After the recent wet, icy, and generally unfit conditions for local, or even some professional football, it was a welcome change to get back into the swing again. However, pitches are now more often than not very heavy after the particularly bad weather we have been experiencing. If you are suffering the odd twinge, next month's special guest, Lorna Epsom, as a qualified physiotherapist, may be able to help.

Closing date for next month's magazine is: Thursday, 20 February 2003.

Peter Dace reminisces – the Normidian of February 1993

Monthly meeting held on a Thursday at Norsemen F.C. – guest speaker Dennis Lewis, Football League Assessor.

Robin Jagot writes obituary of our President Dave Dickinson who died on 9th January 1993. Included in the obituary Robin writes “the person who formulated the R.A. motto of ‘service before self’ could well have been thinking of our friend Dave when he invented it. Dave finally lost his fight against cancer after a long and sometimes painful battle. It was a battle he fought bravely and with the inevitable Dickinson determination. His funeral took place on Friday 15th January, and the attendance of nearly 400 people at the memorial service held in his honour was an indication of the esteem that all who knew him held him in.

One could argue that Dave’s many achievements however impressive do not compare with the sheer sense of fun and enjoyment that he threw into his refereeing. It would be fair to say that one never knew what was coming next when officiating with him. As a linesman, he once told his referee that he was leaving the field of play for a few moments to attend a call of nature at a crucial point in the game. On another occasion he was bitten by a dog when trying to remove it from the field, he was quite embarrassed by the incident, even more so when he made the headlines in the local paper. He was once asked by a referee not to show such exuberance when a goal was scored when acting as a linesman. The only time an incident had him lost for words was when a helicopter landed on the field just prior to an AFA Surrey Senior Cup Final with two of the players on board who were late for the game!

To those of us that were privileged to know Dave Dickinson as a friend, a light has been extinguished from our lives, the like of which can never be rekindled. We are saddened by the loss of our friend but the memories he has left us with are those of laughter and joy, surely there can be no greater accolade than that. Our deepest sympathies go to David’s Wife Val, his daughter Sarah and son Mathew”

Included in Dave’s ‘Happy New Year 1993’ message he said, “my goal is to see you all shortly but unfortunately I have been under the weather and been unable to come out and see all my dearest colleagues”.

Arthur Pearce pens ‘it’s been a long time since an amateur team won the F.A.Cup’ offering his views on the need for Professional Referees.



CHELSEA FC ACADEMY MATCHES



We are looking for a number of young or newly qualified Referees to join our regular panel of Referees who officiate at these games every Sunday morning. Age groups involved range from Under 9 through to Under 16, and there will also be the opportunity to act as Assistant Referees. At Under 9; 10; and 11, small sided matches are played, but all other matches are normal eleven-a-side games.

If you are interested, or would like further information, and can offer one Sunday morning a month, please telephone me on 01992 469153. If you do not have transport, so long as you are able to get to any junction on the M25, transport can be arranged.

Gary Cobden
Society Treasurer



Pictured below is the late, and well-remembered, Dave Dickinson – see Peter Dace’s ‘Reminiscences’ to learn more about Dave.



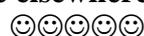
WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

by Mick Osborn

I thought you might like to exercise your minds this month, so I have put together a little quiz, hopefully for your amusement.

1. In what season were referees first given the discretion to play the advantage: (a) 1903-04, (b) 1949-50 or (c) 1973-74?
2. Why did the The English Schools FA change its constitution in season 1989-90?
3. What famous Liverpool landmark was demolished at the end of the 1993-94 season?
4. What was so special about the match between Arsenal and Everton during the 1936-37 season: (a) both right backs scored own goals in the 1-1 draw, (b) it was the first professional match to be played where an arc had been added to the penalty area, or (c) A film of the game was the first football match to be shown on television?
5. Three different players took the same penalty for Notts County against Portsmouth in 1973-74. True or false?
6. When did goal nets become compulsory under the Laws of the Game?
7. Who wanted to merge Oxford United and Reading into a single team called Thames Valley Royals?
8. In what season did the Football League first allow one substitute to be used provided only that it was to replace an injured player?
9. What far-reaching, important event took place at the Freemason's Tavern in London on October 26, 1863?
10. He was born in Dagenham, Essex, on 22 January, 1920. He signed for Southampton in April 1944, made his England debut on December 1, 1948, and joined Spurs in May 1949. He was appointed manager of Ipswich in 1955. What became of him in May 1963?

Answers are elsewhere in this issue

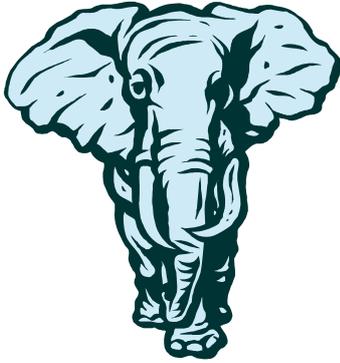


Elephant Race Night

Sunday, 16th February

at 7.30pm

at the Ellenborough Table Tennis Club, Enfield



**I might have big ears but I haven't heard
that you are coming!**

Phone 01707 650804 or

e-mail mickandgrace@mgosborn.freemove.co.uk

Tickets: £5.00 each includes supper.

Advance booking essential



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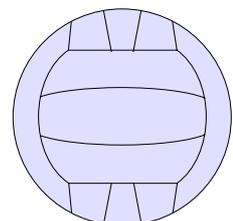
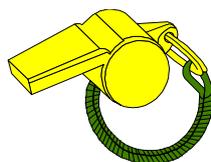
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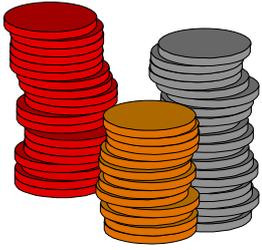
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**Are again pleased to support North Middlesex
Referees Society in Season 2002/2003**





NORTH MIDDLESEX REFEREES SOCIETY 100 CLUB

The December 2002 and January 2003 Draws were undertaken by Tom White and Robin Jagot respectively, at the close of the January 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!

December				January			
1 st Prize	39	Andy Dobson	£20.80	1 st Prize	9	Trevor Crouchley	£20.80
2 nd Prize	6	Mike Sibley	£10.40	2 nd Prize	41	Simon Bullock	£10.40
3 rd Prize	32	Robin Willis	£5.20	3 rd Prize	39	Andy Dobson	£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

REFEREES ASSOCIATION GRAND DRAW



Enclosed with your Magazine this month, some members will have found a couple of books of RA Draw tickets. Whilst the First Prize may not look quite like the car on the left, it is still a car. The Society would appreciate it if you could use all your efforts

to sell the tickets, as the Society receives 50% of the proceeds of all tickets sold. When sold, please ensure that you return all the counterfoils direct to me - if you return them back direct to the address on the ticket counterfoils, we do not get our share of the ticket money.

If you are unable or unwilling to sell the books sent to you, could you please return them to me as soon as possible, as other Members have offered to sell more books than they were originally allocated, and will thus generate more much needed income for the Society.

Likewise, if you have not received any books with your magazine, and feel you would be able to sell some, or if you have received books, and would like some more, please let me know.

Thanks again for your support.

Gary Cobden

The market trader said, "Do you want to buy these football boots, cheap, they belonged to Roy Keane?" "Why", said Percy, "What's wrong with them?" "Nothing" came the reply "He's just got too big for 'em"!
(Thanks Gary. Ed!)

Members have been asking, "What will happen to the current Overseas & Services Division?"

The Implementation Team wants to ensure that the current members of this Division are encouraged to remain in membership and propose catering for them in two separate ways.

The Football Associations of the Armed Services are effectively Football Counties affiliated to The Football Association so it is entirely appropriate that RA members who serve in the Navy, Army or Air Force are able to be members of the Referees' Association of England (RAE). You will recall that one of the key objectives is to develop parity between the National RAs and their respective FAs.

The Team has specifically incorporated this into the proposed Rules and wish to reassure members in the Armed Services that their needs are catered for and their unique administrative structure is understood. The Football Association has made its Regional Referees' Manager for the Surrey, Sussex and Kent responsible for the match officials in the Armed Services, so the IT has placed the Armed Services' Associations in the corresponding area within the RAE. This will ensure that all members of the Armed Services operating worldwide will still have direct representation through to the Board as at present. The various Services Societies around the globe will also be able to operate in the same way as before and the Armed Services Referees' Associations will all have the opportunity (no matter the size of their membership) to have a representative attend the regional communications meetings that we are proposing be held by 'their' Board member.

The Channel Island Referees' Associations will operate in the same manner though it is proposed that their representation will be through a region geographically closest to them in the south and west of England. As we indicated at Conference, whilst not part of the Overseas & Services Division, the Isle of Man will also be attached to its nearest mainland region in the north of England for representation purposes.

The other key body of members of the current Overseas & Services Division are those not normally domiciled in the United Kingdom. These members, some of whom are of very long standing, also need to feel they are not being discarded and the Team has considered their needs too.

As you will have gathered from previous information provided by the Team, we propose an overall 'umbrella' organisation (which will keep its name as "The Referees' Association" for various legal reasons). This will deal with all the corporate membership benefits such as insurance, supplies, the web site and the magazine. This is the most sensible organisation to cater for our colleagues from overseas and they will be able to take out direct membership with the RA in the same way they do now.

The Team has deliberately worded the proposed new Rules to allow the Board of The Referees Association to appoint Honorary Officers, should they so wish, to bring in expertise to develop specific functions. This might include the Editor of "The Football Referee" and also someone to liaise with the direct overseas members.

In closing this particularly focused Interim Report, it is only right that the Team pays tribute to Alan Robinson for the absolutely fantastic job he has done over an incredible period of time for the members of the Overseas & Services Division. His is one of the best possible examples of "Service before Self" and we are also indebted to him both for his clarity of explanation of how the Division works and his suggestions for our consideration. We earnestly hope that he, and many like him, will continue to enjoy serving the RA in some capacity under the proposed reorganisation.

Thanks to Gary Cobden for the above from the RA website. Ed.



CONGRATULATIONS

After attending a training course at Brimsdown F.C., Enfield, the following candidates successfully passed their examinations in January 2003.

Lee Addison, Daniel Aristidou, Joanne Barton, Daniel Bonner, Justin Dickinson, Keith Garber, Chris Gillman, Gareth Green, Mark Green, Kirsty Lambert, Christopher Meikle, John Metselaar, Fod Minas, Joe Morris, Kevin Partridge, Carl Randall, Martin Reader, Michael Riddle, John Roarty, Scott Roberts, Galal Sami, Aron Sharpe, Steven Sipple, Stuart Walden, Kevin Wavell and Stuart Wilson.

Each candidate was presented with a Certificate of Competence and the relevant County Associations advised.

The Council of NMRS offer their congratulations and welcome the new referees to the Society and hope to see them at future meetings.



Is There Life After Refereeing? (Calling it a Day, or a Dace) By Ken May

Peter Dace's moving tribute to himself in November's Normidian has stirred me to follow him into print as a contemporary who is already one season ahead of him in the "early" retirement game.

At the end of the 2000/01 Season, I reluctantly reached the decision that a persistent back problem was preventing me maintaining a standard that I could tolerate, even if the players could. Some of these gentlemen have a perverse habit of giving you a fair bit of aggravation during the 90 minutes but are invariably grateful for your participation once it is all over. I have long assumed that this is their way of admitting that under no circumstances would they do the job – fee and free tea making no difference.

A Double-Header Too Far – Peter was honest enough to admit that his decision to retire arose from the growing realisation that he was not enjoying his Saturday games. In my case, an end of Season double-header, on waterlogged sloping pitch in Hatch End, was instrumental in my calling it a day. I had always hated 'double-headers' and this one should not really have taken place at all as the pitch was unplayable. There would have been no opportunity to rearrange the game, so it had to be played. As with most AFA games, there were no Assistants so it was a 2-hour struggle through a worsening 'bog' with me becoming increasingly detached from break-a-ways and 'long balls'.

I completed 41 1/2 seasons since graduating from Ron Hounsell's excellent training classes at Arnos School. So Peter, you will be in your 70th year if you manage to emulate my service record with your "Never on a Saturday" performances. If the present Government is still in power they may choose you as a role model for their proposals to delay retirement. You certainly could not be more anonymous than the present, so called, Minister of Sport!

Oak Hill Park and Back – I made my debut in Oak Hill Park in January 1959, at the age of 19, in the old Barnet and District (Saturday) League. I'm sure the players then realised I was very inexperienced, but those were times when figures in authority, whether Teachers, Police, Priests and Bosses at work were all treated with a certain amount of respect. The same applied to Referees, so you had a chance to establish much needed confidence whereas in today's disrespectful and intolerant Society, newcomers finding themselves in charge for the first time are up against it in every walk of life.

I'm a great believer in coincidences, and after appearing at Oak Hill Park on just a couple of occasions in the past 30 years, my penultimate appointment took me back there!

It was a 4th XI game with little at stake but it took more refereeing than my debut all those years ago! I had to intervene to prevent retaliatory action by a seasoned player for a non-existent foul. This was behaviour typical of today's lack of self-discipline and over-reacting to a routine incident. In the closing minute a forward, whose side were comfortably ahead 4-1, was convinced that his shot at goal had been touched over by the 'keeper and persisted in complaining when I awarded a goal kick, despite my bid to defuse the incident. Strictly speaking both incidents were worthy of a caution but it had just not been that sort of match and I was determined to avoid disciplinary action so late in the game and at the conclusion of my career.

New officials and promotion candidates should ignore my non-intervention, as that is not the recommended way to referee. (To be continued. Ed)



MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY January 10th 2003 AT COCKFOSTERS F.C. CHALK LANE.

APOLOGIES: As recorded in the attendance book.

The Chairman welcomed members and guests who were here for the first time particularly those Members who had just completed a training course. The President congratulated them and our President Ken Goldman presented them with a Society whistle.

PREVIOUS SOCIETY MINUTES: The minutes of Society Meeting November 8th, 2002, were signed as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING: There were no matters arising.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: The Secretary reported that he had received Minutes from the Southern Division R.A. and the Minutes from the County R.A. which were available should any member wish to read them. The County Referees' Committee have sanctioned a Recruitment Day to take place on June 28th 2003 in the Enfield Shopping Precinct, which would be backed up with the F.A. Media Equipment.

SOCIAL SECRETARY: The Chairman reminded members and guests that the Society have organised an Elephant Race Nite on Sunday February 16th at the Ellenborough Table Tennis Club, Enfield, starting 7.30pm. This is a real fun family evening so please if you wish to attend contact Mick Osborn Tel. No. 01707 650804 as food and refreshments will be laid on. Members of Council are also asked to confirm. Another important date for the Diary is the Society Dinner/Dance on Saturday April 26th 2003, at the Apollo Suite, Cockfosters.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer reported that the membership stood at 271 members plus 11 associates and that the Society Finances were in a healthy state. Officers were reminded that if they have incurred any out of pocket expenses would they please let Gary know as we were nearing the end of the financial year. (MARCH 31st 2003)

TRAINING SECRETARY'S REPORT: The Training Centre was happy to report that Course 174 would be completed on January 13th with the final exams taking place on that evening - a total of 28 candidates completing the course. The next course will start on Monday January 27th at Brimsdown Sports Club and so far 16 enquiries had been received.

MAGAZINE EDITOR: The editor was happy to report that a number of articles were being received and asked members to continue on this theme, and thanked them for their support. The Editor reminded members that the cut off date for the next magazine is January 21st 2003.

M.R.A. REPORT: The MRA delegate informed the Secretary that no meeting had taken place in December.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT OFFICER: The Y.D.O. reported that he was hoping to arrange a match between the more senior members of Society and our Youth members. The Y.D.O. stressed how important it was to keep in close touch with our **youth** members, as they were the future of the Society. These sentiments were very much echoed by our Chairman. It was also hoped to arrange a 5-aside competition later in the season.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS: A society member raised the issue about why Council in their wisdom had decided to cancel the December Society Meeting and that he objected to receiving a clear notice of the cancellation. The Chairman stated that while it was regrettable it was in the interests of its members to take this decision and we were duty bound to notify our members accordingly. Previous meetings at this time of year had revealed very low figures of attendance. LVP Tony Ward informed the meeting it was a time of greater family commitments and that we should possibly consider cancellation at future December meetings. After lengthy discussion the Chairman was happy to inform the meeting that Council had acted wisely and would continue to do so in the interests of its members.

There being no other business the Chairman introduced our Guest Speaker, Robin Jagot, whose theme for the evening was Communication and Judgement of Challenges backed up with some Video Clips on recent International Games.

The next Society Meeting will be held at Cockfosters F.C. on Friday February 14th, 2003.



January's Guest Speaker – Society Secretary, Robin Jagot

Introduced by Chairman, Tom White, Robin said his presentation would be on 'communication' and 'the judgement of challenges'.

As a referee, being able to communicate is vital in controlling players and situations, Robin suggested - look the part, be able to assert your presence when necessary, and develop your own technique.

With the use of video, the meeting discussed a number of incidents that occurred during recent UEFA matches refereed by some of the World's top officials. Each incident highlighted was then discussed and opinions sought from the floor. Everyone then took part in an exercise, which gave an opportunity for each member of the audience to make decisions on the challenges highlighted, based on their own judgement – with interesting results.

Amongst lessons learned: **Don't touch players; Act early and apply sanctions where necessary; Calm players down – take your time; Admonish, but don't 'finger wag' – don't be demonstrative when showing 'cards'; Be understanding; Be seen to know '10 yards'; Don't be afraid to use Neutral Assistants.**

Richard Mickle thanked Robin for his excellent presentation, which had been both entertaining and educational. The audience showed their appreciation to Robin in the usual manner.



100 Club

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 £7.00 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 7 months; renewal details will be included with Season 2003/2004 Membership Forms.

Please return this completed form to Gary Cobden, Honorary Treasurer

Around the Societies – With Acknowledgements

From the AFA Argus Question. A player walks off the field of play after a verbal altercation with his teammate, sits on the touch line, takes his shirt off, lights a fag, and chats on a mobile phone. There is no substitute. What do you do as the referee?

From the Chiltern Referee KWIKTIP - Keep your red and yellow cards separate as it gets embarrassing if you bring out the wrong one.

From “You Must Be Joking Ref!!!” The Cheshunt and Waltham Cross R.S. Magazine

The wearing of gloves in the very cold weather will undoubtedly bring a chorus of condemnation from the sartorial purists in the refereeing fraternity, but is it not a case of comfort over looks? Surely, a referee who is warm in all aspects during the game is going to give a more efficient performance than he who suffers for the sake of so-called smartness.



North Middlesex Referees and “Promotees”

Wider and Deeper

HOW MANY TIMES HAS A PROMOTION CANDIDATE HEARD THIS?

The encouragement to move wider and deeper is usually given by Assessors to those referees who tend to adopt a restricted diagonal path of patrol and thereby create problems for themselves by not being in a position to see all THAT they might.

This refers particularly to those times when an attack is developing and there is a need for the referee to be able to adjudicate on whether an off-side situation has arisen or not, and eventually of course whether the ball crosses the goal-line or not.

If there is a neutral linesman, there will invariably be much help regarding off-sides, but the referee needs to be able to see him AND the action quite easily. BY ensuring he is ‘OUT WIDE’ the referee will find he has play between himself and his operative linesman, a situation which he should endeavour to create as often as possible. Particularly if he is operating without linesmen, the referee will find it useful, by means of good acceleration and sprinting, to position himself out wide so as to be able to look across the line of play to judge off-sides.

By going deep towards the goal-line, the referee operating alone will be favourably positioned to judge if the ball crosses the goal –line, for a goal or corner-kick. Hence, if the referee works hard at going wider and deeper he will penetrate areas like the penalty-area and that area alongside it near to the corner-flag and all this during open, or dynamic play.

You will need to be fit if you are to come into the category of referees who are invariably in the ideal position.

Note : - ASSESSORS. When advising a promotion candidate to go wide and deep, UTOPIA. PLEASE take into account as to whether the referee is fit enough to do what you are suggesting. Remember, if he is not fit enough suggest an alternative method to meet his requirements.

Observer

