

The next Meeting of the North Middlesex Referees' Society will be held at Holtwhites Sports and Social Club. Kirkland Drive Enfield at 7.30 pm on Thursday the 19th of February 2009 when the guest speaker will be Mr David Dixon the Referees' Development Officer for Essex County FA who specialises in fitness and diet.

EDITORIAL

The refereeing conundrum of the Season so far has been the corner kick taken by Manchester United in their home League match with Chelsea. Rooney walked over to the arc touched the ball and then Giggs trotted over, collected it, turned, sprinted and crossed for the ball to be netted. The "goal" was disallowed by Referee Howard Webb as we later were informed because no-one had sought permission and the Officials did not realise what was happening at the time. Just as important is the question of whether the opposition knew what was happening and whether in any event it was a fair move. On Sky's "The Last Word" Dermot Gallagher said he would have allowed it as being both alright and innovative. At our monthly meeting former Premiership referee Tony Ward said he would not because it was against the spirit of the Laws. I not only agree with Tony but like many others have had this happen to me. A team put to me before the match that they used the move and might do it and what would I do. I said I would warn the other team prior to the start it could happen but was told they did not want me to issue a warning. I said I could only allow it if I blew the whistle every time I awarded them a corner so that the other team knew the ball was in play. This was agreed and all was well in that game. If this is not followed I believe that the move becomes either a trick against the spirit of the Laws or even an unsporting behaviour offence akin to such things as the "donkey kick, jumping on your own player's shoulders to head the ball; running off the pitch to put an opponent offside; or shouting "leave it" to put an opponent off. Our Secretary and former Training Officer Robin Jagot has written on the subject in later pages but it would be good if FIFA could finally resolve this old "chestnut". Thank goodness Howard Webb disallowed the goal on the day as otherwise up and down the country on pitches from parks upwards, we would have seen this move replicated and chaos would have followed.

Another change which may be foisted upon us because Senior Referees are not doing their job properly comes from both Brazil and Argentina where they are spraying a white line at 10 yards (9.15 metres) for the defensive wall. The spray paint disappears after three minutes and FIFA appear to be considering this as a universal move. Whatever happened to Referees controlling this problem by insistent and resounding use of the whistle and if necessary the production of cards?

Finally, mentioning Robin Jagot leaves me to say what a success he and his "team" did in organising the Society's 60th Anniversary Dinner, which was a tremendous success. I am indebted to Gary Cobden for his full report with pictures on the function which again is to be found in later pages. That with last month's meeting with John Cartwright has started the new year with a terrific bang.

KEN GOLDMAN

Diamonds are Forever!!

On Friday 23 January 80 North Middlesex Referees Society Members; Guests; and Friends gathered at Old Owens Sports and Social Club for a Dinner to celebrate the Societies 60th Anniversary.



Master of Ceremonies Peter Dace (yes we dragged him out of retirement after his last performance in this role at the Societies 50th Anniversary Dinner) opened the proceedings by welcoming our President Terry Wilson and his wife, Mavis together with the Guests of Honour Derek Mennell, President of the Middlesex County FA, and his wife Sheila; Peter Clayton, Chief executive of the Middlesex County FA; David Miles, General Secretary of Arsenal and his wife Sue; and Bart O'Toole, President of the AFA and London Society of Association referees.

Following an enjoyable meal, Derek Mennell proposed a toast to the Society, except for the most important bit – he forgot to propose the actual toast, and Terry Wilson then responded on behalf of the Society.

After this Peter Dace rose again and reminded those present that the Society was founded by a group of twenty-five referees who got together at the Crown Public House in Southgate on Thursday 20th January 1949 as the North Middlesex Society of Association Football Referees. The name was changed to North Middlesex referees Society in 1969. He advised members that on Diamond Anniversaries, people normally get a telegram from the Queen. Peter then received a Special Delivery envelope which happened to contain a Telegram from the 'Queen' – which regularly referred to 'me and the Duke that I married'. Elizabeth and 'the Duke that she married' congratulated the Society on its achievements over the years, and she then bestowed four honours on Members for services to the Society. To Society Life Vice President George Basten she bestowed a Knighthood; to Society Chairman Tom White she bestowed a CBE



(Champion Bulls****r Extraordinaire); to Society Life Vice President Robin Jagot she bestowed an MBE (Memory Believed Extinct); and to Charles Lifford she bestowed an OBE (Other Books are Educational).

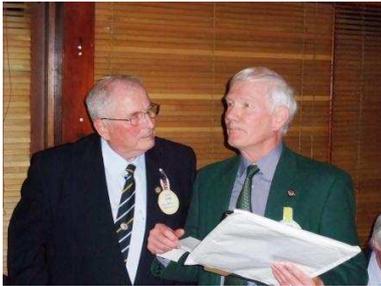
Pictured left are the 'Award Winners' (l-r) Robin Jagot 'MBE'; Tom White 'CBE'; Society President Terry Wilson; Sir George Basten; and Charles Lifford 'OBE'.

Derek Mennell was then invited to present a Football Association 50 Year Award to George



Basten. In response, George regaled stories as to how he got into refereeing; Peter Clayton was invited to present a similar award to Society Magazine Editor to Ken Goldman who is currently serving his third term in that post. Ken appeared taken aback, and almost lost for words.





Robin Jagot was then invited to present the Middlesex County FA Long Service Award for services as an examiner and assessor to Society County RA Delegate Charles Lifford. In response, Charles thanked his wife Betty for her support over the years and presented her with a bouquet of flowers. Society President Terry Wilson was then invited to present a plaque to Robin Jagot who had served the Society as Training Officer for thirty years. In response Robin, currently serving as Society Secretary thanked the Society for the award.



It was then time to draw the raffle – guests had deposited £5.00 in an envelope for the chance to win two tickets to the Arsenal vs Sunderland match at the Emirates on 21st February 2009. With the envelopes all safely collected, and the proceeds being donated to the Presidents



chosen charity, the Children Today Charity Trust, Sue Miles, wife of Arsenal General Secretary David, was then invited to draw the winner – and promptly drew her own envelope out of the box. Sue then asked for a redraw, and the new winner was former Society Secretary Adrian Bland who had written on his envelope ‘please auction the tickets if I win’. Peter Dace then commenced the auction, and the successful winner of the auction was Derek Mennell who donated a further £50.00 to the cause, making the total sum being donated to the Charity a marvellous £375.00.

President Terry Wilson then presented bouquets to Sheila Mennell; Sue Miles; and his wife, Mavis, pictured left.

Peter then ‘closed’ the formal parts of the evening, and invited those present to remain and socialise, reminding them that the premises must be vacated by midnight.

Pictured, right, are the Society Life Vice Presidents who attended the dinner, with Society President, Terry Wilson. They are (l-r) Terry Hayne; Robin Jagot; Terry Wilson; Tony Ward; Peter Dace; George Basten; Mick Osborn; Ken Goldman; and Brian Langstone. Our remaining Life Vice President, Arthur Stewart, is currently suffering a bout of ill health, and was unable to attend the evening. We wish him well.



Additional pictures from the evening are available on the Society Website at:-
<http://www.northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk/sixtiethdinner.html>

For information on the Presidents chosen charity, see <http://www.children-today.org.uk>

THE SOCIETY'S 60th ANNIVERSARY DINNER

Dear Robin,

I should be grateful if you would please convey our collective thanks to all those involved in planning and executing such a wonderful evening last night and for your kind invitations. Sorry we were late arriving but I managed to get lost on a train that finished up in Stevenage and Bart's progress by car was delayed by heavy traffic.

The atmosphere of the evening and the venue were excellent, the food very good, wine more than ample, members and their guests clearly enjoying themselves, the speeches and presentations were a perfect balance of courtesy, good humour and sincerity.

Peter Dace as MC did a marvellous job and HE Mr President T Wilson added a layer of authority, diplomacy and gravitas to the proceedings.

Many congratulations to you for a well deserved award for 30 fabulous years as Society Training Officer and to Charles Lifford for 20 years for services to referees' examinations.

Finally, but not leastly, congratulations to the NMRS on its 60th. Anniversary, from us all.

Best wishes,
Gordon Kirby JP,
Chairman AFA & LONDON Society of Association Referees,
100 Wellesley Road,
Chiswick,
LONDON W4 3A

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Dear Robin

I would like very much to echo Gordon's entirely appropriate words and to thank you for the very kind invitation to me as a guest at the dinner. It was an excellent evening, well organised, with good food, wine and company and great speeches bringing everyone together nicely at the end. I enjoyed the reunion with you and other friends at North Middlesex and was made to feel most welcome.

The speeches, tributes and thanks from recipients of awards were relaxed, engaging and friendly and the Peter Dace gave a first class demonstration of the role of MC, as Gordon (who is also an accomplished MC) points out.

Yours is quite clearly a happy and successful Society and I am sure will remain so for the long term future.

Thank you once again.

With kind regards

Bart O'Toole

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Hi all,

Congratulations to each of you all for the work you did at the 60th Anniversary dinner last nite - brilliant!

Terry
President

WHOSE OPINION IS IT ANYWAY? The Law of Offside - By Mick Osborn

Is the player in an offside position? It's a matter of fact.

In the Cambridge Rules of 1866 (prior to the birth of the FA,) offside was defined as any player being in front of the ball. In 1866 the FA decreed that players were no longer offside providing three opponents were between them and the goal. The number was reduced to two in season 1926/27. The idea behind these changes was to reduce the number of offside decisions and prevent sterile defensive play. In 1989/90, FIFA declared that a player level with the opposing defender would no longer be offside.

Is the player to be penalised for being in an offside position? Is he: Interfering with play? Interfering with an opponent? Gaining an advantage by being in an offside position? That's a matter of the referee's opinion. (The Law used to say that the player should be penalised if he seeks to gain an advantage. I cannot count the times I heard the view, if he's not seeking to gain an advantage, why is he playing? It seemed a fair enough question and good reason for change.)

My dictionary defines the word, "opinion," as 1, "a view or judgement not necessarily based on fact or knowledge," and 2, "an estimation of quality or worth." The first definition obviously relates to spectators, players and TV pundits. I would suggest that the second is more pertinent for us referees.

More and more our opinion is being moulded to appease the god of consistency. In the past, in borderline cases, we were advised to give the benefit of the doubt to the defending side. We were told that because the public wanted to see more goals the benefit should now be given to the attacking side. We have been reminded that football is played with the head, body and feet. If these are nearer the opponents' goal line, there is a potential advantage. There is no advantage to be gained if only the arms are in advance of the opponent. It has not stopped there. The interpretation of the Law is being littered with ifs, buts and howevers.

Having watched a few Premiership games on TV lately it seems to me that unless the offending player is offside by at least two yards, within a few feet of goal and blindfolds the goalkeeper before putting the ball in the net, (with a hint of handball,) the benefit almost always goes to the attacking side. Obviously, the advice our colleagues are receiving is to become more lenient in their upholding of the Law. Ergo, is Law 11 becoming obsolete?

I would like to see referees being allowed to use their own discretion again. The match between two third elevens in a minor league in the local park does not always need, or want, the interpretation of the Laws demanded in the upper echelons of our game. The referee's performance should be judged by how he controls the game within the spirit of the Laws in a manner that suits the players' reasonable expectations, not how he should perform in the multi-million pound show-biz world.

My dictionary also gives the meaning of the phrase, "a matter of opinion," as "something not capable of being proven either way," so, no change there then!

MATCH INCIDENTS

Hi Ken, Having listened to the points raised in “Match Incidents” last night I thought I might try to straighten out one or two issues that were mentioned and hopefully our members will understand the Law more fully when dealing with “Injured Players” which comes under Law 5 – Referees Duties and Powers.

- Play is allowed to continue until the ball is out of play if a player in the opinion of the referee, is only **slightly injured**.
- Play is stopped if, in the opinion of the referee, a player is **seriously injured**.
 - The referee must ensure an injured player is safely removed from the field of play
 - A player is not allowed to receive treatment on the field of play
 - As soon as the referee has authorised a physio/doctor to enter the field of play, the player must leave either on a stretcher or on foot. If the player does not comply, he must be cautioned for unsporting behaviour
 - An injured player may only return to the field of play after the match has restarted
 - When the ball is in play, an injured player must re-enter the field of play from the touch-line
 - When the ball is out of play, the injured player may re-enter from any of the boundary lines

As you can see the Law is quite clear when dealing with serious injuries and yes it may well put teams at a disadvantage if he/she is their No.1 penalty-taker or free-kick expert. It was introduced to avoid time-wasting tactics and deliberate cheating, which seems to be creeping in alarmingly in today’s modern game.

As with the other incident that was raised with the corner-kick, and why it was disallowed by Referee Howard Webb –“No clear signal had been given to allow the corner-kick to be taken”, which we must accept. Mind you this is what several press reports stated, and I would be very wary of how they see and report match incidents. Listening to the discussion at last night’s Society meeting several other issues were raised. For example the ball must be touched, was the ball within the arc, and a favourite with referees, in their considered opinion, and was it within the spirit of the Law, which can avoid a backlash of aggravation and problems for the referee, or does it?

Personally I consider the last statement, wide open to interpretation as the Referee’s opinion must be taken into consideration. We have to ask ourselves was there an infringement of the Law, did a clear act of cheating take place? My own opinion having seen the incident on TV replays is that the ball was not wholly in the arc and therefore must be retaken. As for the ball being touched, the Law clearly states that the ball is in play when it is kicked and moves. If there is no infringement of the Law, are we correct in Law to allow the kick to be retaken or take no action and continue play?

Robin/ Former Training Officer

LAST MONTH 'S GUEST SPEAKER

An enthusiastic but disappointingly low number of members attended last month's Meeting when the former England Youth Team Coach and Technical Director of the FA National School, John Cartwright spoke at length on a number of very relevant matters in the Game. He tried to associate these with the problems referees have on the field these days and highlighted the friction between those in the professional game and the Referees. This he felt percolated down to the lower levels and stated that football is a clear reflection of contemporary society which has broken down in relation to discipline and frequently does not give referees a forum to reply to criticism. Sometimes it seems people believe that referees' decisions are a matter of life and death. As a former player with West Ham and Crystal Palace he believed that players of yesteryear did not argue or have any real problems with the referees. What he wondered was the difference between then and now? He answered this by saying at the top level it is firstly the fear of losing because of the money considerations, then comes loss of prestige for the Club, their fans getting ridiculed which in turn leads to the demand for changes at Management or Board levels. That important factor of loss of discipline was now obvious at all levels of the game where everything was about winning and not often enough about enjoyment. Again he wondered why referees nowadays had to spend their time in a match controlling battles and respect for the referee was expected and not forced as it has had to be today. In his day he recollected the players were taught to tackle standing up and did not lunge feet first as they do now. He was also concerned that players were being taught techniques rather than the skills, by which the game should be played.

One of Cartwright's coaching themes which distinguish him from others is the belief that football is not a team game but should be about players as individuals playing together in combination in order to achieve results, Simplicity is not genius but only one of the options in playing the game whilst there could be no success if those at the top of the game did not have a vision as to how the game should be played. This was he felt a vital proposition. These themes were evidenced in the book which he has written entitled "Football for the Brave" copies of which were available at the Meeting and brought by another guest Cliff Moulder (the publisher of the Arsenal programme as well as the book) and a keen follower of grass roots football. The President gave the vote of thanks in his usual laid back witty style to end a very enthralling evening.

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FOUL LANGUAGE

Zero tolerance would work if it was aimed at players who use foul language for their own gratification. In other words referees should be instructed, if they do not already have the nous, to distinguish whether something is said in anger (send-off); encouragement (a warning); or frustration with themselves (a quiet word). In this way everything aimed at an Official, an opponent, a team-mate or even a member of the crowd in a way intended to be aggressive or deliberate would result in immediate dismissal. Unfortunately as with the idea of Captains only being allowed to speak to the Referee it will never work unless implemented at the top level first and then being supported by disciplinary committees at County level.

Perhaps as with most of football's ills it could be cured more simply by just introducing a "sin-bin" which incidentally has been officially codified in small- sided football, but that issue is too big to discuss at this juncture.

KG

Middlesex County FA County Cup Appointments Season 2008/2009

MCFA Youth Under 14 Cup Quarter Final

Whetstone Wand'rs Yth F.C. U14a v Pitshanger F.C. U14b/Pinnacle Yth F.C. U14 B Kyriacou Referee

MCFA Youth Under 13 Cup Quarter Final

Omonia Youth F.C. U13a v Chase Side Youth F.C. U13 N Nicolaou Referee

MCFA Girls Under 16 Comp Quarter Final

Enfield Town Ladies Youth F.C. U16 v Denham United Wildcats F.C. U16 B Kyriacou Referee

These Appointments are correct as at 19 January 2009



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North Middlesex Referees Society - 100 Club Season 2008/2009

The draw for January took place at the January society meeting, and with 43 shares subscribed, the monthly payout is £30.10 and the winners are shown below.

First	22	Malcolm Sonenfeld	£17.20
Second	7	Kevin Wavell	£8.60
Third	19	Phil Bowman	£4.30

Winner's cheques are enclosed with the magazine, or will have been posted if you receive your magazine by e-mail. For the February draw, the full 100% of the income will be paid out to winners.

Should you wish to join the 100 Club for the remainder of the season, please forward a remittance of £7.00 per share .to me at the address inside the front cover.

Gary Cobden
Honorary Treasurer



In Days Gone By (Part 3)!



Following on from recent articles, we now have photographic evidence that the 'Welcome' plaque presented to Arsenal now resides in the Officials Changing Room at The Emirates, after making its way safely from Highbury. Howard Webb is pictured (left) in the dressing room next to the plaque, pictured right.



However, further investigation has revealed that the current plaque is not the one that was originally presented to Arsenal, as the wording is slightly different. The original plaque went missing when the Referees Changing Room was moved at Highbury, and was replaced by the Club.

Our ongoing investigations have revealed that the plaque presented to Tottenham has gone missing from its wooden base, although the base is still mounted on the dressing room wall. The Society has written to Tottenham to establish if they would welcome the plaque being replaced, and we await their reply.

Gary Cobden
Honorary Treasurer





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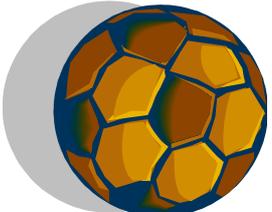
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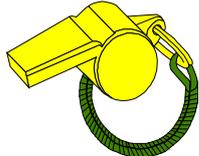
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Are again pleased to continue their support of North Middlesex Referees Society in Season 2008/2009











The Referees' Association of England presents
The EVE-OF-FINAL RALLY on Friday, 29th May 2009,
6.15pm for 6.45pm at The Hotel Russell,
Russell Square, London, WC1B 5BE

The Rally is held to honour the FA Cup Final Referee and his team and gives their fellow referees and peers the opportunity to pay tribute to them on being appointed to the "match of their lives". Those attending will be able to mingle with the FA Cup final officials less than 24 hours before the final itself, as well as having the opportunity to meet other top referees and former FA Cup final

officials. The highlight of the evening is when the Cup Final referee, after he and his team have received tributes and mementoes from the Chairman of the FA Referees' Committee and our President David Elleray, addresses all those attending. Tickets for the Rally are now available, priced at £10.00 each for adult members and £5.00 for members 18 and under, and you will receive a souvenir programme autographed by the officials.

Should you wish to attend, please contact Society Secretary Robin Jagot no later than 1 March 2009, and he will order tickets on behalf of the Society.



Society Dinner – 23 January 2009

The following e-mails have been received following the above event.

Received from Adrian Bland (former Society Secretary) on 24 January

Hi Gary,

Please pass my thanks onto the committee for organizing such a good dinner last night.

It was great to see so many old friends.

I thought it was an inspiration to have a raffle in aid of charity and must congratulate who ever had this idea. However, the prize was somewhat second rate and it's a pity the committee did not organize tickets for the main match on that day which is, of course, at Loftus Road.

I was a bit disappointed the auction did not produce a few more pounds; however £50 is better than nothing.

Many thanks again for a great evening.



Received from Charles Lifford on 26 January

Hi Gary

Just a short note to said thank you for everything on Friday evening

I will leave it there as THANK YOU says it all

Charles



North Middlesex Referees Society Meeting

Minutes of the Society meeting on Thursday 15th January 2009

Apologies: Percy Brown, Michael Mackey Senior and Junior, and Terry Hayne.

Chairman's Welcome: The Chairman welcomed members to the first meeting of the New Year and on a sad note reported the passing of Ken Grant of the Cheshunt Society and Cheshunt Youth League. The meeting then stood in silent tribute to Ken.

Minutes of the Last Society meeting: None

Secretary's Report: The Secretary was happy to report that the Society's 60th Dinner was a complete sell out and that a waiting list had now been introduced. Correspondence had been received from the RA and particularly highlighted the "Eve of the Cup Final Rally which was returning to the Russell Hotel London. The Society is hoping to make a group booking and members were asked to put their names forward if they wish to attend.

Treasurer's Report: Full Membership – 104 Associate Membership – 5 (September figures) Treasurer was happy to report that the finances were in a healthy state.

Editor's Report: The editor thanked those members who had provided articles for the magazine and he was hopeful that we continue to produce a 12-page edition.

Any Other Officer's Report: None

Any Other Business: None

Match Incidents: Two match incidents were raised and a lengthy discussion took place the first dealing with injuries of a serious nature on the field of play and the second concerning a recent match incident in the Chelsea v Man Utd Premiership league match with an unusual corner kick being taken.

A five-minute break was taken and our Editor Ken Goldman introduced our Guest Speaker John Cartwright who was given a very warm welcome by members present.

Chairman

We have been asked to bring to the attention of Members an AFA Meeting on the 12th March next, when Keith Hackett will be the guest at their Civil Service Centre Venue.