

The Normidian Magazine

NORTH MIDDLESEX REFEREES' SOCIETY



February 2010

COUNCIL 2009 - 2010

PRESIDENT

Terry Wilson 25, Brookside Crescent, Cuffley, Hertfordshire, EN6 4QW 01707 889585
E-Mail - president@northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk

CHAIRMAN

Tom White 82, Graeme Road, Enfield, Middlesex, EN1 3UT 020 8366 4703
E-Mail - chairman@northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk

VICE-CHAIRMAN

Vince Yeudall 2, Churston Gardens, New Southgate, London, N11 2NL 020 8245 5695
E-Mail - vicechair@northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk

SECRETARY

Robin Jagot 24, Tiverton Road, Potters Bar, Hertfordshire, EN6 5HY 01707 651461
E-Mail - secretary@northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk

TREASURER

Gary Cobden 2, Chapel End, Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire, EN11 8DN 01992 469153
E-Mail - treasurer@northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk

SOCIAL SECRETARY Position Vacant

MAGAZINE EDITOR

Ken Goldman 17, Green Walk, Hendon, London, NW4 2AL 020 8203 1376
E-Mail – kengoldman@btinternet.com

TRAINING SECRETARY

Stan Rosenthal 40, Slades Hill, Enfield, Middlesex, EN2 7EE 020 8367 2579
E-Mail - training@northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk

GEAR SUPPLIES

Percy Brown 33, Cotton Road, Potters Bar, Hertfordshire, EN6 5JT 01707 851369
E-Mail - supplies@northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk

COUNTY RA DELEGATE

Charles Lifford Address Withheld Withheld
E-Mail - cra@northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Martin De La Fuente 7, De Soissons Close, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire, AL8 6YX. 01707 321502
E-Mail - councilone@northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk

Michael Mackey (Snr) 46, Latymer Road, Edmonton, London, N9 9PU 020 8807 4898
E-Mail - counciltwo@northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk

Michael Mackey (Jnr) 46, Latymer Road, Edmonton, London, N9 9PU 020 8807 4898
E-Mail - councilthree@northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk

MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS: Please send to Ken Goldman – by e-mail if possible.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Please notify Gary Cobden

HONORARY AUDITORS 2009-2010

Jim Taylor 020 8560 8262 Tim McGowan 07793 402610

LIFE VICE PRESIDENTS

George Basten	Peter Dace	Ken Goldman
Terry Hayne	Robin Jagot	Brian Langstone
Mick Osborn	Arthur Stewart	Tony Ward

Visit the North Middlesex website at:- www.northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk

THE NORMIDIAN is the Official Publication of North Middlesex referees Society, and is published nine times during the football season, between September and May.

The next Meeting of the North Middlesex Referees' Society will take place at Holtwhites Sports and Social Club, Kirkland Drive, Enfield Middlesex at 7.45pm on Thursday the 18th February 2010 when the guest speaker will be the FA's Janie Frampton making a very welcome return visit to the Society.

EDITORIAL

With the Europa Cup about to restart after its winter break it might be interesting to discuss the "Additional Assistant Referees" experiment in that competition, As this brainchild of Michele Platini could become law soon after the forthcoming World Cup Finals in South Africa although it's specified that it won't be utilised in that tournament. However in order to look more closely at it as I do here it is important to have the full details which I have produced later in this magazine from FIFA's background paper on their website with due acknowledgment. Obviously all the opinions expressed in this Editorial are of course my own but I would welcome any feedback from members or readers on this subject.

Firstly it seems to me that this system is something of a "cop-out" because FIFA are dead set against what most "refs" in the professional game would like to see namely goal-line technology. Therefore we now have the spectacle of two further Officials who are given greater powers to enter the field of play than do their official Assistant colleague. This although the memorandum states that there is no change in the Laws. Next these Additional Assistants seem to be able to wear tracksuit trousers whilst again their other colleagues wear shorts, which put them out of kilter with their fellow Officials, quite apart from upsetting the sartorial balance of the "team". Whilst the object is to help control the match, as they can only move along one side of the goal-line their view is necessarily limited and there has been some criticism involving mistakes at Fulham where one such Assistant was apparently unable to distinguish who had committed what was an important foul and there was virtually a case of mistaken identity.

Surely with 4 Officials in the "pro" game a better system than this could be devised. The two-referee system i.e. one referee in each half was experimented with and dropped but without any clear explanation why that was and why it was supposed to have failed. Your Editor and the Society's esteemed biographer Charles Lifford managed that system perfectly well without any complaints some years ago and whilst we were not on the "elite panel" and the games were not professional although we refereed professionals, nonetheless produced evidence that the system does work. Then if there are to be 4 Assistants why not have them along each touchline with a flag rather than this hotch potch methodology. One of the things that especially worries me is one of these extra Assistants being on the pitch gets in the way of a player's path, collides with a player or the ball strikes him with unexpected results.

Several people have expressed to me over the years that Assistant Referees (or then as Linesmen) do not currently have enough powers. That old adage of being an assistant and not an insistent. Rather than contemplate the "Platini protocol" why not contemplate something even more radical but nonetheless labour saving and more effective .By this I mean making all 3 Officials referees in the game each with a whistle and each responsible for a third of the pitch. Even though there no such pitch markings and I am not advocating them being new pitch markings, nonetheless there are numerous references to thirds of the pitch in coaching and other spheres. I am

happy to explain how this would work in a future edition of the magazine. Remember when the game first started there were two referees and one umpire, all actively involved in some form or another. It certainly works well in American football. So let's hear from you on what some may think is a hair brained scheme.

Ken Goldman
Editor

LETTERS PAGE

Keith Hiller writes-

I have to say that I thoroughly enjoyed the last meeting. I found the guest speaker interesting and the DVD I felt was excellent. It made me feel I was actually at a disciplinary meeting. The dialogue was 'spot on'.

During the evening we mentioned Jack Taylor being an English referee for a World Cup Final. Then someone mentioned Phil Sharp being an Assistant Referee at a previous World Cup. I honestly thought they were the only two until it was mentioned that us Brits have had a total of ten match officials on the actual Finals.

Being inquisitive I began extensive research to find out more. So here were my findings -

1950 Uruguay -v- Brazil Englishman George Reader was the Referee with Arthur Ellis(England) and George Mitchell from Scotland the two Linesmen

1954 West Germany -v- Hungary William(Bill) Ling (English) was the referee with Welshman Mervyn Griffiths on the line.

1974 West Germany -v-Holland This is the one we normally remember with Jack Taylor in the middle.

1988 France -v- Brazil Englishman Mark Warren was the Linesman.

2002 Brazil -v- Germany Hertfordshire FA Referee Phil Sharp was one of the Assistants..

Noticed I said there were ten Brits involved yet I could only find eight. I am sure our members can complete the set and find the details of the other two.

It was interesting to find that when George Reader refereed the Final in1950 he was 53 years and 236 days old.

(Editor's Note –Although we cannot offer any prizes for the “missing two” it would be nice if one of our members or readers could fill in the gaps. A full mention in the magazine can of course be promised for the informant

Additional Assistant Referee experiment in 2009 – 2010 UEFA Europa League

Objectives of the experiment

The objectives of the introduction of two additional assistant referees are:

- To enhance the control of the match in accordance with the Laws of the Game in key areas of the field of play (particularly inside and near to the penalty area) by adding an extra pair of eyes near to each penalty area:
 - to support the referee
 - to identify infringements
 - to reduce match-changing errors
 - to deter players from committing infringements
- To improve the game.

Important: The introduction of the two additional assistant referees does not imply any change to the Laws of the Game, which continue to apply in their entirety.

Duties of addition assistant referees

Two additional assistant referees will help the referee to control the match in accordance with the Laws of the Game, particularly inside the penalty area or when the additional assistant referee has a better view than the referee.

The final decision is still always taken by the referee.

The additional assistant referees will be positioned on the opposite side of the goal to the assistant referee – to the left when viewed from the centre circle. This set-up has been chosen to provide the widest possible cover of the penalty area by match officials (referee, assistant referees and additional assistant referees).

An additional assistant referee may enter the field of play, but never enter the goal area or pass the level of the penalty area line or the player nearest to the goal line (usually the defending goalkeeper).

Each additional assistant referee may move sideways along the goal line when play is inside the penalty area in order to create the angle with the best view.

Signalling and communications

The additional assistant referees will use a radio communication system and not flags to communicate decisions to the referee.

The additional assistant referee will wear the same jersey as the referee and the other assistants.

Phil Sharp Reaches International Retirement –(Reproduced with thanks)

11:36 AM, Tuesday, 12 January 10. By Editor Refereeing

After a successful career being a FIFA Assistant Referee, Phil Sharp officiated on his final game as a FIFA Assistant Referee on Wednesday 9th December 2009.

Being one of the most successful Match Officials in football he has retired from International Football due to age legislation as a FIFA Assistant Referee after reaching the retirement age of 45.

Phil took up the whistle on 1st June 1981 through the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme in order for him to complete the Service in the Community component of the course. He officiated on his local leagues and gained promotion through the Hertfordshire Senior County League where he was promoted to the middle on the Southern Football League.

Promotion to an Assistant Referee to the Football League came in 1993 and after a very successful start officiated in the Premier League.

Phil was appointed Assistant Referee to The FA Challenge Cup Final in 1999 between Manchester United and Newcastle United at the old Wembley Stadium, Manchester United won the game 2-0 with an attendance on 79,101 at the ground.

He was nominated to the FIFA list of Match Officials on 1st January 1997 being appointed to his first International fixture in Budapest between Hungary v Norway. His progression internationally was exceptional where he took part in the 2000 European Championships co-hosted by Belgium and Netherlands where he reached the Semi Final of that tournament.

He also took part in the 2002 FIFA World Cup where he officiated on five games, one being the World Cup Final between Germany and Brazil, Refereed by Pierluigi Collina (Italy), Assisted by Philip Sharp (England), Leif Lundberg (Sweden) and Hugh Dallas (Scotland) as Fourth Official.

The first Club international Phil was appointed to was Panathinaikos v Legia Warsaw with his last Club international in December 2009 between Standard Liege and AZ Alkmaar in the UEFA Champions League.

Some of his greatest achievements were to represent Great Britain at the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens, Euro 2004 in Portugal and in 2006 went to the FIFA World Cup hosted by Germany.

On 18th October 2008 Phil was infamously struck by a coin thrown by a spectator at a Premier League game between Aston Villa and Portsmouth where he was Assistant Referee. This resulted in the game being stopped to allow him to receive the required treatment which resulted in him continuing the game and the incident being reported

to the authorities.

Phil will continue to officiate where he has been so successful as an Assistant Referee on the Barclays Premier League as International duty does not affect his ability to continue domestically and we wish him well for the future both as an Assistant Referee and in his role as Referee Development Officer for Hertfordshire FA.



LAST MONTH'S GUEST SPEAKER

We were fortunate to have Doug Douglas from the Middlesex FA come to talk to us on the subject of Disciplinary Hearings. Although during the Society's last AGM it was mooted that we would hold a mock disciplinary hearing, in the event it was decided to invite our very experienced speaker and allow him to decide how to run the evening. This was of course made clear in the Notice of Meeting at the head of the January edition of this magazine. Although this may have upset one or two people in point of fact those who attended the meeting not only appreciated that the procedure adopted was more advantageous than a physical mock hearing, but were treated to a most enjoyable evening. The procedure actually adopted was to show in cartoon form what actually takes place at such a hearing and being one who has attended am able to vouch for its veracity and accuracy. The faults that these Hearings throw up was dramatically illustrated especially as the Referee is called a witness but is the one who is not protected as the Hearing Panel and the Player and his often disingenuous witnesses are given massive leeway in order to show the fairness of the Hearing. Doug indicated that were talks afoot to provide for a proper prosecutor so that the Referee was in no way any longer cast in that dual role. The system adopted on the night had the advantages of the video being able to be stopped and comments or questions from the floor on procedure dealt with. This the Speaker did admirably. The question of Appeals was dealt with in relation to cautions as well as dismissals. Doug pointed out that 30 years ago any player could apply for a Personal Hearing for a caution but that this has of course now been refined to a "Tick-box" method for these offences. Incidentally he re-affirmed that there can be no Personal Hearing for a player receiving two cautions in the same game resulting in a dismissal. Doug also recommended to all referees when intending to dismiss, to note down for the necessary report, the time, the player's number and his/her name in full. The Referee should acknowledge the receipt of the Hearing date and although currently never given details of the result of the Hearing, this may in fact change. The Referee should for the Hearing always dress smartly as it gives the best impression. Your Editor gave the vote of thanks for what was another excellent evening.

The Adventures of Willy 'The Whistler' Woodwork

I refereed a match a few weeks ago and like all referees incidents occur during matches that are not always as straight forward as they seem. I called upon my great friend and wonderful referee Keith Hiller and he suggested I write to the readers of the magazine for their thoughts and advice.

So there I was at Hackney Marshes pitch number 165, surely you know it? Anyhow in the first minute the Reds Rovers forward was tripped exactly on the line of the penalty area. I immediately blew my whistle and gave a direct free kick. "Penalty" shouted the player who had just been fouled. "Don't be ridiculous" answered the defender who had committed the offence, "How can the ref give a penalty if the offence was committed outside the penalty area?" I thought that sounded reasonable so I awarded a direct free kick right where the offence occurred which was right on the line. I assumed that was correct.

One minute later the same defender tripped the same opponent and with great confidence I awarded a penalty and also told the Cockfosters City player that I would caution him if he committed another foul. To my amazement as the forward kicked the ball it burst. In all my years I had never seen that happen before.

Of course I just told the player to take the penalty kick again. No one argued because they all knew it made perfect sense to do so.

The Reds Rovers number two persistently argued with every decision I made against his team. "I am the captain" he said, "I am allowed on behalf of my team to talk to you". He then said "Ref, if I say you are a rubbish referee will you book me?" "Yes of course" I replied. The defender went on "Am I allowed to think that you're a rubbish ref". "No harm if you think it" I said. The player then said "In that case I think you're a rubbish referee!" Having warned this player now four times to stop showing dissent I told him he was to be cautioned. "You are so wrong, I am only talking to you. You cannot book a player for that", "Okay" I said and put my note book away.

In the fifth minute of the match I was just about to award an offside decision when the Reds Rovers number two run over to me and spat in my face.

I of course immediately knew I had to send him off. I knew this was one of the penal offences which meant it was a red card offence so the restart had to be a direct free kick to the opposing team. Then I hesitated, is it still a direct free kick if the offence is against the referee? Maybe an indirect free kick but then I thought I would take the easy option and restart with a drop ball which would

please everyone. I had to be right after all I was the referee and what I decide must be right!

Play went on nicely until the seventh minute when the Reds Rovers number ten continued to argue with one of my decisions. Of course I showed him the yellow card. I asked for his name and he replied "Mickey Mouse". Three times I asked for his name and each time he gave the same answer. I produced the yellow card a second time followed by a red card. "First yellow card for dissent and the second for giving me a false name. Yellow and yellow equals red so off you go".

In the ninth minute a Cockfosters City player kicked the ball over the touch line. I awarded a throw on to Reds Rovers. The Rovers player walked a fair distance to collect the ball. When he was approximately ten yards from the touch line he took the throw. I blew my whistle and awarded the throw on to City. "How was that a foul throw" I was asked. "It was a perfectly good throw, but you cannot take a throw in from that distance away from the field of play. We do not have any assistants but if we did how could they see if you have lifted one of your feet off the ground". The player said he had never heard of that in his life and would like to see that in the rule book. I tried to explain they were laws and not rules but he had already turned his back on me and walked off the pitch for a drink of water. He did not ask for my permission but he only wanted a drink so no harm done there. It was obvious what he was doing so I knew law number eighteen would apply here namely common sense so I did not caution him.

Ten minutes played and there was no doubt I had total match control here. What an eventful first ten minutes.

I am sure there is enough here for you all to discuss and we still have another eighty minutes to play! (Bet you can't wait to read what happened next!).

Maybe we can discuss my performance so far at the next society meeting.

Keep on whistling

Regards

Willy 'The Whistler' Woodwork

NORTH MIDDLESEX REFEREES SOCIETY

Minutes of the Society Meeting held on Thursday 19th January 2010 at the Holtwhites Sports Centre

Apologies: As signed in the Society Handbook

Chairman’s Welcome: The Chairman wished all present best wishes for the New Year and welcomed three new members who had recently completed their Referees Course. The Chairman also welcomed our Guest Speaker Doug Douglas –Chairman of the Middlesex Referees Committee to our meeting. Before the formal business of the meeting started the Chairman asked our Guest Speaker if he would kindly present the F.A. certificates on behalf of the County FA to our three new members.

Secretary’s Report: The secretary reported that the December MSA presentation evening had been very well attended with over fifty members and guests in attendance to see Mick Osborn receive his award from the Referees Association.

Members were reminded that the Guest Speaker for February will be Janie Frampton and that arrangements were being made to confirm a speaker for March/2010. The Guest Speaker for our April meeting will be none other than Jack Taylor who was the referee appointed for the 1974 World Cup Final between Holland and Germany.

Treasurer’s Report: Membership – 158 Full – 100 Trainee – 54 Associate – 4

Editor: Our editor Ken made a strong appeal for further articles so that he could ensure a 12-page edition for the remainder of the season.

Training Officer’s Report: Our training officer Stan reported that a course had just started with 19 candidates attending. Such was the demand with further candidates applying it has been decided to hold a further course in April./2010. Stan reminded those who could help with examinations planned for the morning of Saturday February 6th 2010.

Any Other Officers Reports: None

Any Other Business: Only one issue was raised from the floor relating to our Guest Speakers and their chosen subjects. The Chairman felt as the question related to certain individuals it was clearly inappropriate to have any further discussion on the subject. The Chairman then moved on to “Match Incidents”

The meeting then had a five-minute interval and our Guest Speaker was introduced by our Chairman Tom White.

Chairman



E-mail:-

office@ackerman.co.uk

sales@ackerman.co.uk

accounts@ackerman.co.uk

15/16 Hickman Avenue, Chingford,
London, E4 9JG

www.ackerman.co.uk

Telephone:-

020 8523 1321 (Office)

020 8527 5050 (Sales)

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FLAGGING UP ITEMS

There is a distinctly North Middlesex Society flavour in the latest edition of the "Refereeing" magazine in that there is a mini-biography of our own Phil Sharp who not only appears in a photo on the front cover but also in several other action photos in its pages. With a nice piece on Phil written by David Elleray, the current Chairman of the FA Refereeing Committee and President of the R.A. of England.

He pays tribute to the success that Phil has achieved. This of course includes lining on the Final of the World Cup in Japan in 2002 and the Final of the Olympic Games in Greece 2 years later. Other of Phil's Finals mentioned include the FA Cup Final in 1999, The UEFA Cup Final 1997, the FA Vase 1997 and the FA Community Shield in 2009 the last named being not a Cup Final as such.

We also reproduce an article on Phil Sharp flagged up by Peter Dace who has collared Phil to attend a meeting that Peter has arranged with World Cup Referee Jack Taylor. **This will be the April monthly meeting and the date for your diary is the 15th of April next**

The AFA & London Society will be holding their monthly meeting on Thursday the 11th March next at the Civil Service Centre SW1P 2EP when the guest speaker will be John Norbury who will speak on "Assessing at the Highest Level".

Other items in the aforementioned "Refereeing" magazine include "A Guide to Disciplinary Hearings" by Maurice Armstrong which was of course the subject of our last Society Meeting details of which appear in an earlier page and an article by Janie Frampton our next monthly speaker.

Referees wanted for US tournament

Apply now to officiate in the Schwans USA Cup in Minnesota.

Schwans USA Cup will be holding its 26th year of competition this July and English referees are invited to join over 400 officials from around the world for two great tournaments. In the past 25 years, the Schwans USA Cup has hosted teams from 35 US States and countries such as Austria, Bermuda, Brazil, Columbia, Denmark, England, Hungary, Ireland, Japan, Russia, Scotland, Sweden and many others.

The Tournament is played at the National Sports Centre, the world's largest premier soccer complex with over 50 full size grass fields, near Minneapolis in Minnesota. It provides excellent competition and a cultural exchange that is an experience to be remembered forever with games run all day across the two tournaments – The Schwan's USA Cup Weekend Tournament and then the Schwan's USA Cup Tournament.

To apply for the tournament, referees need to have completed one full season as a referee, along with reasonable assistant refereeing experience, as you will get at least 50 per cent assistant referee appointments in the tournament. Applications will need to be made by 1 April 2010. Referees must inform their County FA that they wish to attend and full permission will be granted by The FA through co-ordinator, Trevor Wing.

For more details on the event and the application process, please contact Trevor by e-mailing him at trevor.wing@northridingfa.com; write to him at North Riding County FA, Broughton Road, Stokesley, Middlesbrough, TS9 5NY; or phone him on 01642 717773.

www.thefa.com

Thursday, 21 January, 2010



Three new referees who recently undertook the FA Training Course, and, having completed their initial six games and attended a Module 5 Workshop attended the January meeting were presented with their FAMOA badge and folder of documents by Doug Douglas, Middlesex County FA Vice President, and Chairman of the Referees Committee. Doug is pictured (left) along with, from left to right, Onur Doldur; Aidan Kelly; and Chris Palmer.

We wish them all the best in their future refereeing career.



Middlesex County FA – County Cup Appointments – Season 2009/2010

Under 11 Youth Cup – Quarter Final

Whetstone Wanderers Youth F.C. U11a	v Broadwater United Youth F.C. U11	Paul Watts (R)
Whetstone Wanderers Youth F.C. U11b	v Harrow St Marys Youth F.C. U11a	Michael Mackey Snr (R)

MCFA Womens Senior Cup – Quarter Final

Enfield Town Ladies F.C. First	v Brentford Womens F.C. First	John Stockman (AR)
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**North Middlesex Referees Society
One Hundred Club - Season 2009/2010**

The results for January are shown below. With 43 shares subscribed, the total amount payable is £31.30, and the numbers were drawn by Doug Douglas, the Guest Speaker at our January meeting.

1st 27 Peter Peters £17.20 2nd 26 John Faithfull £8.60 3rd 20 Tom White £4.30

One additional share has been subscribed for the remainder of the season, number 43 has been allocated to Phillip Carroll.

If you would like to join the 100 Club for the remainder of Season 2009/2010, please complete and forward 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**



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Premier League Quotes – 2009

"I'm sure there is a long list of people speaking very highly about him and rightly so, but you could go round and speak to anybody and nobody will have a bad word to say about him. You can't say that about too many people."

Former Newcastle United striker Alan Shearer pays tribute to Sir Bobby Robson who died of lung cancer. Robson was a legendary figure in football, winning trophies as a manager in England, Spain, Portugal and Holland. He also took the England national team to the 1990 World Cup semi-finals.

"Even my missus Sandra could have scored that one. You will never get a better chance to win a game. Even David James had given up on it and was walking backwards into his own net."

Harry Redknapp comments on a spectacular Darren Bent miss against Portsmouth. The match ended 1-1 but Bent should have won it when he looked to head in a cross from David Bentley but inexplicably put the ball wide.

"I want to talk about facts. I want to be clear; I do not want to play mind games too early, although they seem to want to start. All managers need to know is that only Mr. Ferguson can talk about the fixtures, can talk about referees and nothing happens. We need to know that I am talking about facts, not my impression. There are things that everyone can see every single week. Are they under pressure? Maybe they were not thinking that we would be at the top of the table in January. But we are at the top of the table and they are nervous."

Liverpool manager Rafael Benitez makes it clear he believes his Manchester United counterpart Sir Alex Ferguson has a little too much power in the English game.

"I'm going down the apples and pears, into the jam jar, down the frog and toad into the rub-da-dub-dub, and I'm going to have pig's ear."

West Ham United manager Gianfranco Zola was asked by the club's website if he had learnt any Cockney phrases. The Sardinian appeared to be getting to grips with the local lingo very well.

"It's just the two of us. We'll probably ride out in the sunset together."

Sir Alex Ferguson on his relationship with his Arsenal counterpart Arsene Wenger. The pair were renowned sparring partners during Wenger's first few years in England, but their relationship has mellowed considerably in recent times. Since Wenger arrived in 1996, many managers have been and gone, but these two have lasted the course.



When Sebastian Bassong prepared to make his grand Anfield entrance only to discover he had forgotten to put his shorts on, Harry Redknapp may just have suspected it was not Tottenham's night.

And so it proved. Quite how Bassong overlooked this crucial item of clothing - think standing at the bar for two hours with a pair of polka-dotted underpants on full display - is as inexplicable as Spurs' performance.

From Phil McNulty's blog on www.bbc.co.uk on Thursday 21 January 2010.



INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR SOCIETY

The Referees' Association (RA) is the national body for referees and delegates its operational powers to the Referees Association of England (RAE). The RAE is independent of, but works closely with, County Football Associations to ensure that matters affecting referees are discussed and resolved. These include law changes, current interpretation, assaults and other problems affecting referees nationally.

North Middlesex Referees Society (NMRS) Is one of some 350 local Referees' societies that are spread all over the country; some are referred to as Societies, others as Branches, Associations, or Clubs. They often work closely with local leagues to aid recruitment, and to ensure that any parochial problems are resolved to the satisfaction of all parties. NMRS meets on a monthly basis throughout the season; Guest Speakers are invited; training sessions are held; social events arranged; and local problems - including Match Incidents - are discussed.

So what is the link between the Society and the National Body? All Societies must be a member of a County Referees Association (CRA). North Middlesex, together with the AFA and London Society of Association Referees, form a County Referees Association known as the Amateur Football Alliance County Referees Association (AFA CRA). This Association operates with Officers and a delegate from each Society who, like the Officers and Committee of this Society, are elected annually in a democratic manner. The Society send a representative to AFA CRA who meet as requested locally. The RAE hold Area Liaison Meetings each year, generally in December. The Referees' Association Board meets four times a year. All delegates and officers of NMRS, together with those of the County and Referees Association Committees are elected annually in a democratic manner.

The National Structure for the Society is:



As a full member of NMRS you are a member of the RAE, and, in turn, the RA

The Objects of The Referees Association and The Referees Association of England are clearly defined in their rules, and include:

- provide insurance, and financial support for members
- improve the status and reputation of referees.
- protect members from injustice or unfair treatment.
- promote, educate, train and develop referees in general.
- promote the best interests of the game of Association Football.
- provide guidance and support for members of local Societies.

What are the Benefits of RA Membership?

Insurance - The major benefit is the Personal Accident Insurance Policy. For a small amount, the insurance policy covers you whilst actually refereeing; travelling to and from a match; attending meetings (including travelling to and from home); attending organised training; and loss or theft of kit whilst at a match. Full details are available to members on request, as it is now no longer a requirement that each member who has paid the insurance premium is supplied with a copy of the terms of insurance. A range of increased benefits are also available - for an additional premium - and members should contact the insurers direct if they wish to

take up these benefits. Additionally, active referees who are over the age of 75 can now be covered by the Insurance subject to an additional premium being paid.

Supplies - A full range of equipment is available from The RA - and often at a lower cost than if you bought it from a local sports shop. By purchasing equipment in bulk, the RA is able to pass the cost savings on to its members. Publications by top names are also available, along with "The Referees' Association Manual of Guidance" which gives advice to the referee on such varied subjects as diet, law queries, training, pre-match preparation, match control and lots more. "The Assessors Challenge" is another book that forms essential reading for every referee and assessor. It deals with every aspect and quality required for promotion. All items are available from the Society's Supplies Officer - although kit may need to be ordered. The Society's Supplies Officer is also able to supply you with kit and other refereeing items from a range of suppliers to make your purchasing requirements easy.

Refereeing is a joint publication of the Football Association and the Referees Association. It is published four times a year, and is mailed direct to all registered referees by the Football Association. The magazine includes features and updates from the Football Association and items of FAMOA and RA news.

Benevolent Fund - It is hoped that you never have to apply for assistance from the Fund but, sadly, some of our members do fall on hard times through sickness and other reasons. The NMRS Fund is available to all NMRS members, and the RA Fund is also available to full members.

Why do I receive two different Membership Forms each year? You will receive Membership Renewal Forms from both NMRS and the CFA with which you are registered, although not necessarily at the same time. The CFA form will also show the 'three lions' badge of the FA, as the FA now has overall responsibility for the registration of all referees, although you will still be parented by a local CFA. When you successfully completed your six matches, following your completion of the Referees Examination, you were automatically registered with a CFA appropriate to the area in which you live, and this is most likely to have been either Middlesex; London; Hertfordshire; Essex; or the AFA. During your training, you will have been invited to take up Trainee Membership of NMRS. If you want to continue with your refereeing, then registration with a CFA is a compulsory requirement. This registration automatically enrolls you in the Match Officials Association run by the Football Association - FAMOA. However, the CFA's and FAMOA are unable to offer you the benefits available locally through NMRS. Whilst your membership of NMRS is entirely voluntary, it is strongly recommended as you will be able to participate in regular meetings held throughout the season - on local territory with the opportunity to discuss relevant local matters; meet and hear Guest Speakers; and receive regular training updates, along with the other benefits outlined above.

Note

Abbreviations that are commonly used in magazine articles or in reports at meetings.

AFA	Amateur Football Alliance
AFA CRA	Amateur Football Alliance County Referees Association
CFA	County Football Association
CRA	County Referees Association
FAMOA	Football Association Match Officials Association
LFA	London Football Association
MCFA	Middlesex County Football Association
R.A.	Referees Association
RAE	Referees Association of England

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Are held on the third Thursday monthly (except December 2009 - second Monday),
commencing at 7:30 pm, at

Holtwhites Sports and Social Club, Kirkland Drive, Holtwhites Hill, Enfield, Middlesex, EN2 0RU

Telephone: 020 8363 4449

Dates for Season 2009/2010:- September 17; October 15; November 19; December 14 2009; and January 21;
February 18; March 18; April 15; May 20 2010



*The venue is passed by Bus Route W9 direct from Enfield Town, and Enfield Town;
Enfield Chase; and Gordon Hill Rail Stations are only a short distance away. For fuller directions and
how to get to the venue, see our website. See also www.tfl.gov.uk;*

www.nationalexpresseastanglia.com; and www.firstcapitalconnect.co.uk.

*If anybody has difficulty reaching the venue, and would like assistance, please contact one
of the Society Officers – whose details are on the inside front cover.*

OPINIONS EXPRESSED IN THE NORMIDIAN EDITORIALY, OR BY CONTRIBUTORS, DO NOT
NECESSARILY REPRESENT THE VIEWS OF THE NORTH MIDDLESEX REFEREES SOCIETY.

ARTICLES SUBMITTED FOR INCLUSION IN THE MAGAZINE MAY BE AMENDED BY THE
EDITOR IN ACCORDANCE WITH EDITORIAL POLICY.

PERMISSION IS GIVEN TO REPRODUCE MATERIAL WITH A SUITABLE ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

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