

*The Normidian
Magazine
Season 2010/2011*



THE
REFEREES'
ASSOCIATION



February 2011

COUNCIL 2010 - 2011

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) 62, Morley Hill, Enfield, Middlesex, EN2 0BG 020 8367 6509
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 2010-2011

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 7.45 pm on Thursday the 17th of February 2011 when the guest speaker will be our own Stan Rosenthal (who was inadvertently billed for this spot last month) who will talk on the "Spirit of the Game".

EDITORIAL

So the New Year and the second half of the season has not got off to the best of starts with England failing in their bid to be awarded the 2016 World Cup. The so called 3 Lions representing the "Three Lions" namely Prince William and the two David's Cameron and Beckham certainly braved FIFA's own Dens (of iniquity some have alleged) and cannot be criticised. Perhaps the comment of David Dein President of the England World Cup bid and therefore heavily involved in promoting the bid, sums it up when he said "in football sometimes even the best team does not win". We have probably not heard the last of the bid process and similar problems since there appear to be rumblings against the organisation from amongst others, UEFA its European counterpart. Criticism has become rife following the suggestion that the 2022 World Cup Finals could be played in the winter rather than the summer owing to the adverse heat conditions, a fact that was entirely obvious when Qatar was awarded the Finals. To these criticisms FIFA President Sepp Blatter felt it incumbent to counter the increasing unease by stating "We have the power and instruments to go against any attacks that are made". However he has given hope to those who would like to see goal-line technology introduced by confirming that he is in favour of it, so we will see what happens at the next meeting of the IFB when they discuss in March the various potential Law changes.

Nonetheless let us clearly state that FIFA's record when it comes to appointing British World Cup Final Officials has been outstanding, albeit because the National Teams never reach the Final itself. In these pages we have often recorded the number of Referees, Linesman and Assistant Referees who have received the ultimate honour. Domestically a number of our own members are soon to receive their own honours so definitely watch out for the information in this magazine about these happy occasions.

Not so happy was the recent strike by Scotland's Premier Referees. Whether it improves things we will have to wait and see, but I remember interviewing Denis Bergkamp when he first arrived in England and he was impressed with what was achieved behaviourally when Italy's Referees threatened a similar strike. He pointed out that the behaviour of players improved enormously when their Clubs were concerned about such a strike, for both financial and other reasons. Hopefully the "Respect" campaign will ensure that even at grass roots levels it will not be necessary for English Referees to similarly mute their whistles and stand down their flags although it does not help in Premier League Referees do not send off players for swearing at them especially if it is apparent from television pictures. When the dust settles there will a chance next month to discuss the repercussions of the Gray/Keys outrage involving Assistant Referee Sian Massey mentioned shortly hereafter. Members' views would be appreciated..

Ken Goldman
Editor

Below we set out a Christmas Message from the RA Chairman which has caused some controversy and which has been replied to by the Society as shown on the next page. If members would like to express their views please send them to the Editor.

A Seasonal Message from the Chairman

As we reach the end of another year on the calendar, we have to remember that in football playing terms we are midway through the season. Referees seeking promotion are nearing the end of the marking season and may be hindered if bad weather continues to hit us, and for those at the higher levels it is a particularly busy time with extra matches over the holiday period. We must not forget the assessors and others who will be out supporting them.

For the RA, more importantly only a quarter of the membership year remains. A year of tremendous progress; with the RA-FA partnership, the unveiling of a bold new emblem, a move to new office premises and above all the tremendous achievements of three members representing us on the greatest football stage – the World Cup Final. It is therefore disappointing that we are not able to show a growth in our membership.

It is a well known fact that football is a game for young people and it needs the aims and outlook of those younger people to take the Association forward. We did this at the top some years ago and changes have been made, so now it is the turn of the branches to do the same. I have been saying for some time now that we have to change the way we think, the way we act, because some of our branches are NOT encouraging new younger members to stay in the Association. Yes, you may do well to get them to join, but it is a proven fact that retention due to old habits in (some)branches have meant that many have not rejoined, hence the continual turnover. It is these very people who have been driven away in their early years of refereeing who have not and will not rejoin whilst the old brigade are still running things the way they always did. Move over, work with them, but let the younger ones take over, this is our future.

Please remember that through RA-FA, all qualified referees are now associate members of the RA. It should now be easier to sell to them the benefits of being a FULL member, in order to assist their development towards becoming the Howard Webb of the future.

I would like to close by wishing you and your families' health and happiness at this festive time of the year. I would also ask you all to spare a thought for our colleagues who are members of the Armed Forces serving the country at this difficult time.

Alan Poulain

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Phil Retires

The Society has received some sad news insofar as one of our most famous members Phil Sharp has retired from Lining on the National List. His County Hertfordshire has written a fitting tribute which will be reproduced with thanks, in the next magazine. So watch out for that.

NORTH MIDDLESEX REFEREES SOCIETY

Secretary: ROBIN JAGOT
24, Tiverton Road
Potters Bar
Hertfordshire EN6 5HY
Tel: 01707 651461

Please reply to:
Secretary

Web: www.northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk
E-Mail: secretary@northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk

7th January 2011

Dear Arthur,

First of all may I offer you our Society's good wishes for the New Year to you and all the staff at Head Office. Unfortunately though, I have to say along with my colleagues at North Middlesex Referees we are rather disappointed with the RA Chairman's seasonal message, combined with emotional and negative remarks on poor RA membership figures.

To look at your message of goodwill closely we would argue this has not been a year of 'tremendous progress with the RA-FA partnership. Evidence indicates that no progress has been made in fact, particularly when one looks at the present membership and the 7,000 members we have lost over the last six years. He also highlights the creation of a new emblem, but I don't believe this achievement will help bring back these members and while it pains me to say it, I have to wonder how much longer the RA can survive as an independent organisation for the benefits of referees.

It is not my intention to upset anyone, but to emphasise the seriousness of our current situation. You may recall that when the RAE was formed in the year 2004 the RA membership stood AT 17,500 members; we have been informed that the latest membership figures are just below 10,000 – 9,979 to be exact. This loss of over 7500 members has to be focussed on and contradicts the suggestion that we've had a year of tremendous progress. In fact, it's a year of embarrassment and it's my belief that the Chairman and his Board members must take responsibility for the dramatic decline in RA membership over this period.

You also refer to the partnership with the FA but I am not convinced this will resolve our declining RA membership problems. As an example, the introduction of the new FA basic referees courses in 2008 have been one of main causes for individuals thinking twice about involving themselves in refereeing. You only have to look at the total number of Level 9 referees nationwide. The FA figures for registered referees at all levels reflect this also.

The total number of referees registered with the FA: – 2010 - 26,692 of which we have at Level 9, Trainee Referees the total number at present is well over 6000 Trainee Referees nationwide. In our own County we have 160 trainee referees who still need to complete the course they entered well over 12 months ago. It would be interesting to know how many level 10s we have nationally and why are the FA/RA reluctant to reveal the numbers? I am sure the majority of them are dedicated R.A members. Could they be part of the 'Old Brigade' referred to in the seasonal message?

Having taken into account the total number of registered referees and the R.A. membership level, this actually represents a paltry 35% of the total refereeing fraternity, a figure the Chairman cannot be happy with.

But this is not simply about looking at the current status, what we really would've benefited from in the Chairman's message was a vision for the future. To infer the six-year decline is due to "Bad Habits and the Old Brigade" seems a negative approach and when our Chairman was elected at the first RAE AGM, he stated together we could reach 100% membership. What is he doing to help us achieve this?

Our own Society decided to take action to deal with our own falling membership and in 2008, when the new Referee Courses were set up, we agreed to offer our "Trainee Referees" Associate Membership when they joined a County Referees Course. We also ensure that it was only when they complete the course they were given the opportunity to become fully registered RA members. Our rules were updated to accommodate this move. I note the RA have now decided to follow our lead, and our Society has decided to continue with our existing scheme as we feel it will be far more beneficial for the candidate to join through the local Society and not direct as an associate member of the R.A as suggested by your Board.

I have to conclude that the Chairman's seasonal message is anything but in the spirit one associates with this time of year and that a more positive approach for the future is paramount to prevent the demise of the RA.

Yours Sincerely

Robin

LAST MONTH'S GUEST SPEAKER

It was nice to welcome back an old friend in Keith Hill the Middlesex Referees' Development Officer and National List Official who was making his 3rd speaking attendance at our Society.

He spoke on a number of matters relative to the running of the game especially in his own County and indicated he would prefer to train a smaller number of referees and keep them than to train a large number and lose many of them. He also felt that the biggest drop out is before they reach their second year and this was not only overall but was typical of his County as well. However there were many 14-16 year olds who want to be trained up and that is possibly distorting the figures of how many active referees there are. Often these young referees drop out early but come back when they are about 26-28 years old. He further advocated that he was hoping to develop as much as possible the "Incentive Scheme" in his County. After dealing with various administrative matters Keith opened up the meeting to the floor for us to raise any other points and explained that that most assaults occurred in youth football. He also said that personally he was in favour of a sin- bin system of instant on-field punishments especially as he felt himself to be a person who preferred solutions to problems. This then brought up the vexed question of Referees on the Premier and Football Leagues not sending off players for swearing at them and the recent situation with Wayne Rooney. Naturally this was a very hot potato especially as Graham Poll had apparently criticised the referee for failing to do so but some years back had himself failed to send off Rooney for the same thing. Keith indicated it was not in expectation at that level to which there were several dissenting voices. It all led to a very lively end to a meeting where we had been spoken to, in what proved to be a lively enthusiastic and humorous presentation.

The vote of thanks was given by Vice Chairman Vince Yeudall.

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The Biter bit and the Keys to the Door

We now know that Andy Gray has had his contract terminated by Sky Television and that Richard Keys has done the decent thing and resigned his position likewise at Sky. Gray is of course the man who has caused controversy over Referees since taking up his post, and who has criticised Officials, albeit with the help of 26 cameras at each match and is generally known to be weak on the Laws of the Game, unless he feigns that for effect, had the audacity along with Keys to practically defame Assistant Referee Sian Massey, indicating she was unlikely to understand the Offside Law (rule as they called it) because she was a woman. Bearing in mind that the woman in question has passed exams in the Laws, has been constantly assessed and is required to attend regular meetings to update herself how presumptuous of the pair to have made the suggestion especially as Gray has not been involved in officiating and was only a player although a robust one with talent whilst Keys has been only a watcher of the game so far as is known. Coupled with other sexist remarks especially also with their touchline reporter, who has also been suspended, quite rightly proved too much for his employers. Arguably most referees will be delighted with this outcome because not only were the remarks inappropriate against someone who would not be in her position if she had not earned her place, but also to get rid of a man who along with a couple of others has brought nothing but problems onto the heads of referees at the top level and as a result similarly onto the heads of referees at grass roots level. Hopefully whoever replaces Gray will be more respectful of and to women officials in particular and referees and refereeing in general.

OBSERVER QUERIES ARE YOU PULLING YOUR WEIGHT?

The best referees are, in the main, the ones who make the least mistakes consequently they will please the clubs, and the competition concerned and that's all that really matters. Therefore these successful referees are both accurate in decisions and have the courage to implement the laws of the Game.

But are they brave enough, indeed, are the majority of men-in-black-uniform brave enough to do just that?

The biggest scourge of the game, is fashionably- termed 'industrial language'.

I suggest that too many of you turn a (cowardly?) deaf ear to too much of this foul language.

Do you not have a duty to the players who do not use such language?

Locally, and doubtless throughout the land, we hear of junior (and not so junior) Clubs threatened with loss of their 'home' pitch by their local council landlords, who have in turn received complaints from adjacent residents about the loud/foul expletives invading their domestic premises.

Of course, Clubs should put their own 'house' in order and reprimand/dismiss such playing members but, if they have taken this action, it seems generally to have had little effect.

Simply, players have been allowed these sanction-free 'verbal pollution's' by WEAK (that word hurts, doesn't it!) refereeing. To repeat that hurt: WEAK REFEREEING.

So when are YOU, if an active referee, going to begin to consistently take the action you know is sorely needed?

So as to 'break the ice' and give unsuspecting players notice. Why not, at your very next fixture and at the very first high volume 'naughty' (obviously not directed at you) you immediately stop the game. Draw the offender's attention to his indiscretion, at the same time over elaborating your 'language mime' so those distant players readily get the message, and very loudly state that a repeat of similar foul language on 'your'(!)... yes, 'your'... pitch, WILL MEAN DISMISSAL.

Obviously if an action replay of this scenario occurs YOU WILL take the threatened action.

If you choose not to, you deserve all that you WILL get.

In this Millennium, let us extend goodwill to 'Association Football' with, in one's own small way, our contribution to an improvement of its image.

Soccer pays your fee readily enough, so please pull you weight!

Editor's Note: This is a subject that caused some considerable discussion with last month's guest speaker and led to several differences of opinion relative to professional football at the highest level, especially with reference to one Wayne Rooney.

The Adventures of Willy 'The Whistler' Woodwork

Part 6 – Minutes 53-55

Match: Cockfosters Casuals –v- Reds Rovers
Venue: Hackney Marsh - Pitch165
League: Division Three – Sunday Park League (North)

I would like to think that all of us as referees try to be as professional as possible regardless of the match we are involved with. I know through my own experiences when I officiated on the Isthmian Ryman League and arrived at the ground at the very minimum of one and a half hours before the stipulated kick off time. It seems that on the local parks for the Sunday morning leagues that many referees think it is alright to arrive ten minutes before the kick off. The games always seem to start late and it is always the same excuse..... “One of the cars travelling is caught in traffic and they’ve got all the kit”. It’s never the car that arrives first with the kit is it?!

Anyhow back to the match in question. The second a manager shouts “Ref, substitution”, the player immediately runs on to the pitch. “Hang on a second” I told the manager. “Firstly the player coming on can only enter the field of play on the half way line and secondly I need to take his name and check his boots.” I couldn’t remember Casuals giving me the names of any substitutes so I checked my note book to confirm that. “But you haven’t given me the name of any substitutes. I clearly remember asking you before the match and you told me that you only had the eleven players”. The manager looked at me in amazement. “Ref, you are right but one of my players arrived after the game had started and I didn’t see any problem. What harm does it do? We are just local lads who look forward to a game of football once a week on a Sunday morning”. That was a fair point I thought but the law states that all substitutes names’ must be given to the referee prior to the match. The Rovers manager joined in the debate, “If they want to bring this sub on we don’t mind”. I stuck by my decision because I was the referee and I knew the law. Neither manager nor the players agreed with my decision and even though I explained why the player could not play they still failed to understand that I was correct. The unnamed substitute continued to show dissent and I duly asked for his name. “You can’t caution me! This is unbelievable! I don’t play and still get booked” I told the player he was to be reported as opposed to being cautioned as a yellow card can only be shown to a player or substitute. The ‘player’ walked away extremely unhappy telling me he would report me to the FA. I gladly told him I had their address if he wanted!

At this time some of the players were becoming restless and just wanted to continue with the game. So did I but the Rovers manager seem to have other ideas as he then informed me that he wanted to make a substitution. This all too familiar process was to begin yet again. “Please come back to me so I can check your name and boots”. The manager replied “But you have his name ref, we only have the one sub”. The player responded to my request begrudgedly and slowly came back off the pitch. “Ref, you have my name and you checked my boots before we kicked off, we are just wasting time.” I told him and the manager. Neither was making any attempt to listen to me as the manager continued talking to the player telling him his instructions. “Please listen to me as I am just implementing the correct procedure as stated in the laws of the game”. The manager shouted out to his number ten to come off. “You’re having a laugh, I’m having a great game, no I’m not coming off ask someone else”. The manager asked if I would tell the player to leave the pitch. I explained it was not my responsibility to get involved with substitutions. “I suppose that is also in the law” he said. The player eventually with persuasion by his team mates did leave the pitch and I then allowed the named substitute to enter the field of play on the half way line.

The substitute run on the pitch like a greyhound and then collapsed on the ground. “I’ve twisted my ankle, I can’t play, and I’ll have to go off again”. The manager told me he was bringing back the player who had just gone off. “Sorry, but you cannot do that”. “What!” he shouted. “What do you mean I can’t do that?”

You can do that as play has not yet restarted. Even I know that". I explained the substitution process was complete when the player entered the field of play. A heated debate ensued and I refused to change my decision. Once again I knew I was correct as per the laws of the game and was only applying them as clearly stated.

The next two minutes all went well and the players continued with the match. In the 54th minute the Casuals number fourteen committed a foul. It wasn't with excessive force but it was reckless and I knew it had to be a caution. I walked over the player and I suddenly remembered him.....this was the same person who offered me the orange at half time and he was a substitute! I calmly asked him "I don't remember you coming on as a substitute". I replied "Oh sorry ref, I meant to tell you that I came on at half time". I produced a yellow card and explained it was for entering the field of play without my permission. To the amazement of seemed everyone I then produced a second yellow card which I explained was for the reckless challenge followed by the red card.

To state the Casuals were not pleased with me would be putting it very, very mildly! I pondered on the decision that I had made and as usual I was extremely confident that it was the right one. After all as a referee it is important to be consistent and apply the laws correctly. This was then followed by another two cautions for dissent and eventually they realised that I was not going to change my mind.

In the 55th minute I awarded a corner to Casuals. The number eight walked over to take the corner. The players jostled for position and waited for the corner kick to be taken and waited and waited. The player stood by the corner flag post whilst the players were shouting "Get on with it". I blew my whistle and also waved my arm for the corner to be taken and eventually I walked over the player. "What's the problem" I asked, "Oh no problem ref, It's just that you cautioned one of our players and explained he needed your permission to enter or re-enter the field of play and I'm just waiting for your permission to leave the field of play to enable me to take this corner"!

Unsporting behaviour is a yellow card but on this occasion I just smiled and told him permission was not required for corners!

Regards



Willy 'The Whistler' Woodwork

Willy Woodwork

FLAGGING UP

Referee Exchange

By a Memorandum of Understanding signed between the New Zealand football authorities and the Professional Match Game Officials Ltd there will now be an annual visit of up to four New Zealand Referees to England to take part in seminars and workshops run by the PMGOL and they will also be allowed to referee in the Premier league Reserve League.

The Blatter Sex Files

Mr Sepp Blatter (arguably never a dedicated follower of political correctness) has offended again. After some time back upsetting a number of women players by suggesting they wear shorter shorts to help promote their game the FIFA President has been at it again. This time he has upset the "gay" community. After the appointing of the 2022 World Cup Finals to Qatar, he suggested that gay and lesbian people should either refrain from sex whilst they are attending that World Cup Finals or else not attend. For that, as with the first remark mentioned above, he has had to apologise.

Awards

Apart from the offish remarks by some members who are Spurs supporters from time to time in these pages (especially recently) Arsene Wenger has had the last laugh in that he has just been voted "World Coach of the Decade" by the International Federation of Football History and Statistics, for which Arsenal supporting members heartily congratulate him. He won by 8 votes from Sir Fergusson with 21 more than Jose Mourinho although the last named was voted both "Coach of the Year" in the FIFA Awards and also "World Manager of the Year". The Spain midfield player Xavi was named "World Player of the Year" whilst the winner of the inaugural FIFA Ballon d'or "Player of the Year" title was Argentina's Lionel Messi with the Brazilian Marta achieving the Women's equivalent player trophy. [We are still searching to find if there are any "World Referee of the Year" trophies being awarded by anyone.] Finally congratulations to Mr David Bernstein who has been elected as the new Chairman of the Football Association.

Future Meetings

We would like to draw attention to two Society Meetings coming up with important speakers. The first of these is in March when Neil Barry will be our guest and the second takes place on the 7th of April because of the Easter Holidays when we welcome Mike Riley.

This Society had some sad news recently in that Phil Sharp who of course started his long and distinguished refereeing career with our Training School has decided to retire from his association with the National List of Assistant Referees. His County Hertfordshire, with whom he actually holds office, has recently published the tribute to him which appears below and which is reproduced with thanks to them.

Phil Sharp Retires From PGM0

10:37 AM, Monday, 10 January 11. By Editor Refereeing

Following an extraordinarily distinguished career Phil Sharp has decided to retire from active service as an assistant referee with Professional Game Match Officials (PGMO) in order to spend more time with his young family.

Phil has enjoyed a magnificent career as an assistant referee at the highest levels in the professional game. He was first appointed to the National List of Assistant Referees in 1993 before being promoted to the Select Group Assistant Referees list in 1994.

In that time he achieved every major honour in the domestic game including:
The 1999 FA Cup Final Manchester United v Newcastle United
The 2001 Worthington Cup Final Birmingham City v Liverpool
The 2009 FA Community Shield Manchester United v Chelsea

In addition to these honours, Phil has acted as an assistant referee in several football league play-off finals.

In 1997 Phil was appointed to the FIFA International Assistant Referees List. In his 13 years on the international list Phil became the most 'decorated' official in English football history. His achievements include:

1999 FIFA World Under 17 Final New Zealand
2000 UEFA European Championship Finals Holland/Belgium
2002 FIFA World Cup Japan Korea
2004 UEFA European Championship Final Portugal
2004 Olympic Games Greece
2006 FIFA World Cup Finals Germany

The pinnacle of his career saw his appointment to the 2002 World Cup Final between Germany and Brazil.

Throughout his career Phil has been determined to help, guide and support other colleagues. He is an accomplished speaker, readily giving up his time to present to junior officials at Referee Association meetings.

His wise counsel was always available for colleagues in times of need and his dedication to developing assistant referees has helped raise the standard of officiating over the last few years.

Hertfordshire FA would like to congratulate Phil on a fantastic career.

‘PLEASE’ AND ‘THANK YOU’ IS THERE A CONNECTION?

Can you see a connection in these three separate incidents concerning referees who may have caught your eye recently?

- a) A club linesman head butts a referee when he heard the referee "bad mouth" the young players he was supposed to be controlling.
- b) A referee is disciplined by his County Football Association for using foul language during a match.
- c) A referee head butts his club linesman after telling him to "shut your gob."

The connection is that all three officials, on the occasions mentioned, were unmindful as to how to compose themselves in that vital and necessary part of refereeing, verbal communication with players and club officials.

These incidents probably reveal more about a referee's character rather than the ability to use the spoken word. Some men have the happy talent of being able to speak fluently when under pressure.

The best way to say something that would be listened to, would be to compile a set of "speeches for every occasion" that could be rehearse at home, in advance of any match, so that they would come over quite naturally during the game.

- 1) How to introduce myself as a referee to both club secretaries.
- 2) How to issue brief, easy-to-understand instructions to club linesmen; and get them on my side for ninety minutes.
- 3) How to talk to the two captains and all this before a ball is kicked.

When refereeing, always be ‘a please and thank you’ man and there is nothing wrong with using either word during a match. While they are not always noticed, there are as many times when they register with the player(s).

- 4) How simple it is to ensure that the throw-in is taken from the proper place if you stand at right angles to the touch-line, extend an arm and say, "From there, thank you, player."
- 5) How easy it is to prevent encroachment if, when the first free kick is awarded, an opponent of the kicker stands in front of the ball, to call out. "Give it ten yards, if you please, Blue 8 (or whatever)."

Most players will respond to an instruction or command, which, because it includes a ‘please’ or ‘thank you’, sounds like a request. Not all players of course response and that is when you have to take firmer action to maintain control. One of the most frequent pressure situations that confronts an inexperienced referee is that which happens when two opposing players fail to control the ball. Both claim they were fouled and hearing the cry of "play on", decide to settle it

between themselves. There is a bit of the 'old eyeball to eyeball', a spot of chest heaving and if the game is not stopped, then all hell can break loose.

Faced with this situation, what would you do and what would you say?

Assuming that nothing more than a "talking to" was required, trot out one of the prepared speeches, which thanks to being rehearsed, would hopefully sound as being made up on the spot, and it goes as follows:-

"Lads, I find it hard to believe that this is the way you normally conduct yourselves on a Sunday morning, but if it is, then let me tell you that today you have picked the wrong referee. This game will be played according to the Laws and will be played under my control, not yours, and not yours (to each player). If either or both of you cannot accept that, then there is every chance that either or both of you will not get your ninety minutes in. I hope that both of you take my point because I will not repeat it. Now the rest of us would like to get on with the game, so take up your positions, please."

Has enough been said or too much?

Whichever, you can see the point that is being made.

The art of match control is very much an individual matter. What works for one may not be effective for another and nowhere is this truer when referees have to speak to players and club officials. Almost all the players will respond in the proper manner if spoken to in a way they can accept.

So to sum up, choose your words carefully.

Never use foul language as this merely gives the players licence to do the same.

Never issue a command or instructions unless you mean it.

Never shirk your duties, always be prepared to take action to enforce what you have said if it is disregarded.

Never forget to say 'please' and 'thank you'.

BY OBSERVER

NORTH MIDDLESEX REFEREES SOCIETY

present a

QUIZ NITE

on

Friday 25 March 2010

to be held at

Holtwhites Sports and Social Club

Kirkland Drive

Enfield

Ticket £10.00 (inc Buffet)

Commencing 7.00pm



If you want to attend the Quiz, please let Secretary Robin Jagot know either by telephon on 01707 651461 or e-mail jagot.rp@btinternet.com. Teams to consist of six people, but do not worry if you cannot make up a team, as we already have a number of people in the same situation, so we will finalise teams for those of you in this situation on the night.



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Are once again pleased to support North Middlesex Referees Society in Season 2010/2011



North Middlesex Referees Society - One Hundred Club Season 2010/2011

With forty-two shares now subscribed the regular monthly payout is £29.40. The results of the draws for December 2010 and January 2011 are shown below. Cheques are enclosed or sent by post if you receive your magazine by e-mail.

December 2010

1st 10 John Metselaar £16.80 2nd 17 Roger Fox £8.40 3rd 29 Donald Stewart £4.20

January 2011

1st 14 Mike Sibley £16.80 2nd 24 Peter Allen £8.40 3rd 18 Steve Wildgoose £4.20

Gary Cobden

Honorary Treasurer



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 7 months.

Renewal information will be included with next seasons Membership Form

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

Society Use - Numbers Allocated.....

Gary Cobden

Honorary Treasurer

Respect FC launched

Fans invited to unite against the gobby morons and join Respect FC.

The Football Association has taken a radical new approach to tackling bad behaviour from fans and players by launching its own football club Respect FC. The aim of the club is not to win silverware or secure a Champions League place; its goal will be to unite fans against the ugly side of the beautiful game to create a safe and enjoyable environment in which it can take place.

Appointing comedian and avid Bristol City fan Mark Watson as Chairman, the Club has been founded through concern from both the top level of the game and the grassroots community around abuse towards referees and poor sideline behaviour. Respect FC is not your usual football club; it's a football club made up of people from all walks of life, with one collective goal – to bring Respect back to the game we all love.

For every fan that joins Respect FC, The FA has pledged to put £1 back into the Respect initiative within grassroots football (up to the value of £50,000). Members of the Club will be able to vote online at www.RespectFootballClub.com to say how this money is used at the end of the 2010-11 season.



Rallying fans to get behind Respect FC, Watson has filmed an impassioned plea from the club's modest headquarters, which features starring roles from former Liverpool captain Neil 'Razor' Ruddock, Portsmouth legend Steve Claridge and Sky Sports commentator Chris Kamara.

Depicting the intolerable bad behaviour of a gobby moron, scenes feature Ruddock ruining a child's birthday party by barking abuse at the children's entertainer and singling out the birthday boy for some special attention for passing the parcel too slowly. Muddled with comedy gold, the film also sees player turned football pundit Claridge donning a Strictly Come Dancing style outfit and dancing across a waterlogged pitch. The rousing closing scenes from the Chairman's speech see Watson in unison with football fans wearing

white Respect FC scarves and joining mascots from Chelsea, Bristol City, Swansea City, Nottingham Forest, Watford, Fulham, Birmingham City, Sheffield Wednesday and Millwall to show support for the radical new club.

Respect FC is not just about raising awareness; it's much more than that. Everyone who is involved in the game in some way is aware of poor behaviour and knows that – be it towards referees, players or fellow fans – it is wrong. The challenge now is to unite, change people's attitudes and make them realise that verbal and physical abuse are not acceptable in the game.

Watson said: "We know that it's so much easier to take a stand against poor behaviour if you are not on your own, if you have someone else on your team. Collectively we can stand up to the gobby morons. If you'd like to show the people spoiling our game, what they're up against go to RespectFootballClub.com to join my new football club, Respect FC, the club with one goal – to rid the game of the gobby morons."

Alex Horne, FA General Secretary, added: "Football fans from all clubs and all leagues have a collective responsibility to let others know that they will not stand for this behaviour from the grassroots of the game up to the international stage. That's why we're asking everyone, to ask everyone, to join the club and together win the match against bad behaviour."

Latest research from The FA has shown that 40 per cent of players, coaches and referees think the Respect programme has improved their experience of the game. The majority of participants surveyed were also aware of the Respect programmes key objectives with 68 per cent recognising that Respect aims to create a safe and enjoyable environment for the game.

Fans are encouraged to log onto www.RespectFootballClub.com and register their support to unite against the ugly side of footy.

(from www.the fa.com)



Discrimination?

So, Big Ron gets dismissed for an 'off-air' racially abusive remark made on terrestrial TV; Rodney Marsh gets sacked for a crude joke about the Tsunami on Sky TV. At the time of writing, Andy Gray and Roger Keys have been 'stood down' by Sky TV from presenting the Bolton v Chelsea match for alleged sexual abuse, again made 'off-air'.

It seems that Referees and Assistant Referees are fair game as that is basically the signal being sent out by Sky TV. Abuse – in whatever form and against anybody – is not acceptable.

[Editor's note :- Since Gary wrote this piece Richard Keys has" fallen on his sword" and resigned, amongst much furore].



Affiliation Fees – Season 2011/2012

At the time of writing, we have been advised that the Referees Association will be increasing its subscription for next season by £1.00 to £16.00. It is hoped that the Society will again be able to hold its subscription at £10.00 for those who receive their magazine by e-mail, and £12.00 for those who receive their magazine by post.

By the time you read this, it is likely that Council will have met to discuss the benefits of the Society remaining within the Referees Association.



NORTH MIDDLESEX REFEREES SOCIETY

Minutes of the Society meeting held on Thursday 20th January 2011 at Holtwhites Sports Centre, Enfield

Apologies – As per the Society handbook

Chairman's Welcome: The Chairman welcomed members and our Guest Speaker, Keith Hill, MCFA Referee Development Manager and wished all present seasonal greetings and success for the New Year.

Minutes of the last Society meeting held on November 18th, 2010 were signed as a true record.

Matters Arising: None

Secretary's Report: The Secretary informed the meeting that he had written to Arthur Smith, R.A. Secretary about the seasonal message to all R.A. members from the Chairman, Alan Poulain, which contained insulting and offensive remarks to certain Societies and senior members, due mainly to the decline in R.A. membership. A copy of the Chairman's message, and the Society's reply will appear in the February edition of our next magazine. Secretary stated he would welcome any feedback from members whatever their views to be passed on to our Editor Ken. A reply had been received from the RA Secretary and will be raised at the next Council meeting. The County RA AGM with AFA/Lonsar will take place soon and we are in the process of arranging a suitable date and venue. The guest speaker for the February meeting has withdrawn and Stan Rosenthal has kindly stepped in to cover the vacancy.

Treasurer's Report: None -

Editor's Report: The closing date for any further articles is January 26th and if any members wish to subscribe please do, including any plum or cup final appointments which are now about to be staged over the next few weeks.

Any Other Officers' Reports: The North Training Centre announced they have just started a course at Enfield Rangers Club with 17 candidates, and Jeff Till appealed to members present that he was looking for "Mentors" who could possibly give up one day a month to advise and help referee candidates when they take part in their allocated matches, which is part of the FA Referees Course. Jeff can be contacted by email – jeffrey.till@btinternet.com

Any Other Business: Peter Dace informed the members that he had received a message of goodwill and New Year greetings from Terry Flack who was visiting his family in Australia. The secretary reminded members of future guest speakers attending in the near future. In March Neil Barry, F.A. Head of Refereeing, and in April Mike Riley, former Premier League referee, this meeting will be held on the first Thursday, April 7th 2011. **Please note:** there will be no meeting on our usual third Thursday due to the Easter weekend.

The Chairman then introduced and welcomed our Guest Speaker, Keith Hill.

Chairman

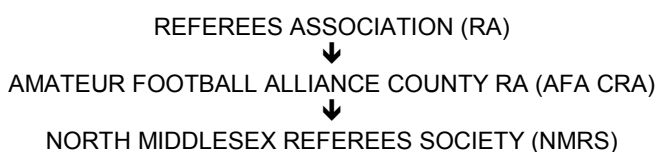
INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR SOCIETY

The Referees' Association (RA) is the national body for. The RA 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 AFA CRA send a delegate to the locally held annual RA Liaison meeting which reports back to The RA Board, who meet at least four times a year. All delegates and officers of the AFA CRA Committee 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 RA.

The Objects of The Referees Association 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 RA-FA 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. However, the CFA's and RA-FA 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

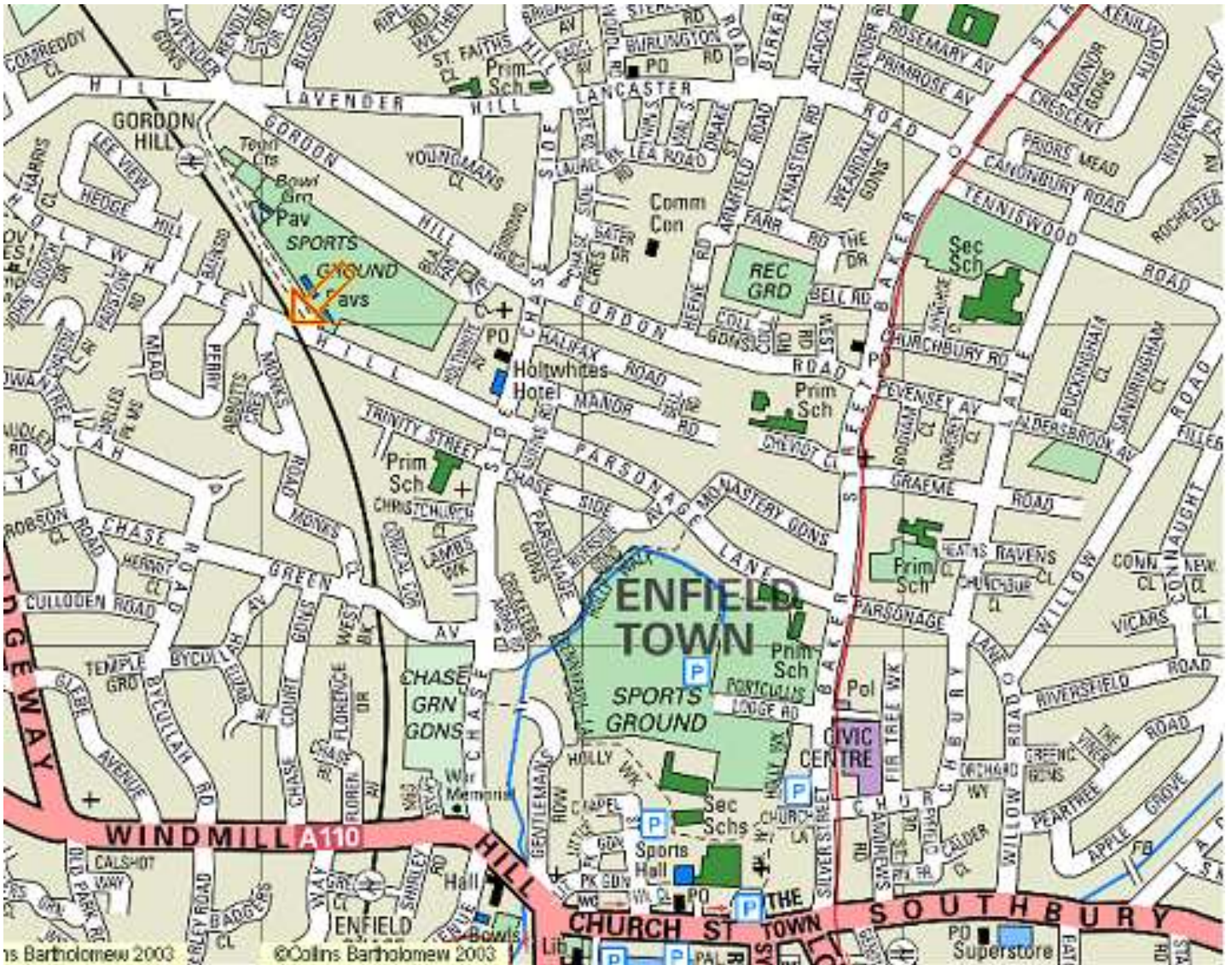
Abbreviations that are commonly used in magazine articles or in reports at meetings.

AFA	Amateur Football Alliance
AFA CRA	Amateur Football Alliance County Referees Association
CFA	County Football Association
CRA	County Referees Association
LFA	London Football Association
MCFA	Middlesex County Football Association
R.A.	Referees Association
RA-FA	Referees Association/Football Association partnership for cooperation between the RA and FA.

Updated July 2010

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Are held on the third Thursday monthly (except April 2011 - first Thursday),
commencing at 7:30 pm, at
Holtwhites Sports and Social Club, Kirkland Drive, Holtwhites Hill, Enfield, Middlesex, EN2 0RN
Telephone: 020 8363 4449
Dates for Season 2010/2011:- September 16; October 21; November 18; December 16 2010;
and January 20; February 17; March 17; April 7; May 19 2011



*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.

THE SOCIETY WAS FORMED AT THE CROWN PUBLIC HOUSE, SOUTHGATE, LONDON, N14
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