

*The Normidian
Magazine
Season 2012/2013*



THE
**REFEREES'
ASSOCIATION**



February 2013

COUNCIL 2012 - 2013

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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 21st February 2013 when the Society will hold an EGM on the future of retaining its membership of the RA. At the end of that meeting the speaker will be our own Stan Rosenthal who had to hold over his talk from the January meeting cancelled because of the bad weather.

EDITORIAL

I wrote a little earlier in the season that it was pleasant to record that there were no refereeing incidents at the top level to speak of but I appear to have written too soon. If reference is made to my Editorial in the last edition of the magazine and also Gary Cobden's review of match incidents in the Premier League there it seems that problems are occurring regularly now in all four Divisions. One appreciates that as this is a monthly magazine the passage of time does not necessarily make the subject matter topical but nonetheless I would like this time to highlight the hand ball situation the most serious of the problems coming in the Mansfield v Liverpool, FA Cup tie involving Louis Suarez. This is now so well documented that suffice it to say that the Liverpool player knocked the ball down with his forearm and slammed the ball into the net with the Officials deeming it accidental. Whilst several people have their doubts as to whether it was deliberate handball or not, should the goal have stood anyway. That great referee mentor and philosopher on the Laws of the game the late Ken Aston told this Society many years ago that if a defender tried to clear the ball and it hit an attacker's hand or arm and he then scored from possession of the rebound, or in either similar or identical circumstances pertaining to the Suarez incident the "goal" should be docketed off as offending the spirit of the Laws. In an article following the incident by Graham Poll in the Daily Mail he too concluded the referee had power under this all pervading and overriding principle to have denied the said goal. Moving along from that and with some referees awarding penalties for handball and others refusing what look like legitimate appeals what then does both the Law and the advice to referees say on the subject. Firstly it is important to realise that like most of the interpretation of the Laws it falls within the opinion of the referee, but with handball subject to the instructions of the referee it can also fall within the opinion of the Assistant Referee. That said the Law itself that governs Handball is Law 12 "Fouls and Misconduct" which states that a direct free kick shall be given (a penalty if a defender handles in the penalty area) where a player "handles the ball deliberately". This season the word "blatantly" has been removed from the Law as it was thought to be redundant.

In terms of how the referee should interpret handball which has also some time ago been changed from “intentionally” to “deliberately” it is necessary to look at FIFA’s “Guidelines for Referees” to the Laws of the Game”. Here it is stated that handball involves a deliberate act of a player making contact with the ball with hand or arm. The Referee is to take into consideration the movement of the hand to the ball (i.e. hand to ball and NOT ball to hand); together with the distance between the opponent and the ball, where it is implied that the shorter the distance the less likely the opponent can get out of the way. Interestingly in this respect the advice also is that “the position of the hand does not necessarily mean that there is an infringement”. So where does the oft quoted determination of “the hand or arm being in an unnatural position” come from? Well it would appear that each country’s National Association is given some lee-way in interpretation of the Laws and this country being one of the main law makers on the International Board it may well be that that interpretation may well find its way into the “Guidelines” in due course. Before moving onto another subject I would be delighted to receive any comments on either my understanding of the position or the thoughts of others on this difficult subject.

Finally I move back to something which has vexed me for some time and that is the problems that occur over the highly dangerous front sliding tackle. When Mike Dean sent off Manchester City’s Vincent Kompany against Arsenal for a dangerous tackle from the front when sliding in and the red card was subsequently rescinded, it left many in senior football and certainly at grass roots confused. This is a tackle that should be stamped out (if the pun can be excused) and seems to be a product of both bad technique and recklessness. Many top coaches from yesteryear bemoan that tackling, which was treated as almost an art, is no longer coached and the notion that good tacklers stay on their feet and don’t go to ground unless in situations of real necessity is dying out. The disciplinary commission’s decision in the case of Kompany in the match referred to has caused confusion which has been seen since several times in the four senior divisions and I suspect on the park pitches as well.

Surely any kind of lunge with either one foot or two or any jump tackle which endangers the safety of an opponent should be punished with a dismissal. Only then will the front sliding tackle which invariably means the studs showing to an opponent, become outlawed to such an extent that it becomes extinct.

Please note the next meeting of the Society is a very important one so could as many members as possible either turn up to the meeting to deal with the EGM, or if unavailable can they please send in their votes as requested.

Ken Goldman

Editor

JOHN DAVIS- AN APPRECIATION

There were almost 80 people at the St Pancras Crematorium to say farewell to John Davis who sadly died on the 13th of January of this year. Our Society, of whom John was a member, was well represented by former Council members and Life Vice Presidents including, Secretary Robin Jagot, Peter Dace, Martin de la Fuente, Percy Brown, and Ken Goldman together with several other Society members. Also there were representatives of both the Middlesex and London FA's including the latter's Lockie Bramzell and Andy Porter. Since John was a more than keen fan of



Tottenham Hotspur and initiated the role there of hosting the match Officials, another to attend was Peter Barnes former Spurs Secretary and currently an FA Councillor.

John who was 72 years of age at the time of his death had been a leading light in referee training and was well known around the globe for his efforts as a result of which there were condolence messages sent by representatives in Switzerland, Sweden, Israel and finally Cyprus where John had been living for some time.

A very humorous and popular man with always a smile on his face and a friendly greeting he will be sadly missed by all who knew him.



Above photos show (1) John (far right) as Assistant Referee to Ken May with Peter Dace as the other Assistant Referee at Wembley for an England practise match.(photo courtesy Peter Dace) and (2) an as usual smiling John at a Society meeting.(photo courtesy of Martin de la Fuente).

A BETTER WAY TO THE TOP BY OBSERVER

When you pass the initial exam and become a fully-fledged Level 7 referee, you are usually filled with a feeling of euphoria and a determination to reach the top. If you are a young man, in all probability your ultimate aim is the Football League, (or Premiership), and the only obstacle to achieving this goal is promotion to Level 6, to Level 5, onwards and upwards.

No problem, you think.

“I am going to prove to everyone that I am a good referee and get my deserved reward.”

Your training officer, having duly congratulated you on qualifying, has suggested one or two suitable local leagues to commence your career on and you have applied, and hopefully, been accepted.

Now, this is where it all starts ***-this promotion business.***

Being a reasonable person, of course, you know that you need to gain experience, learn how best to position yourself, how to identify match situations in order to make correct decisions and gain the confidence of the players. When you feel that your performances are satisfactory, whether that be over one or more seasons, you will start to get the 'itch' to climb the ladder.

This is where the trouble begins!

You will know that in every match both clubs award marks according to how they think you performed. These markings cover such categories as your appearance, your general control, decision-making, etc., and are usually made by the club secretaries, or managers, who are after all, committed to their own team. So, it is very subjective. You may have had a superb game from a referee's point of view, but the team that lost to an 'iffy' penalty might not quite agree with that!

Even the team that won may feel that you deprived them of precious goals by blowing it for offside when they thought they had scored! It follows therefore, that the marks you get may, or may not be fair and/or accurate. And you are relying on these arbitrary markings to further your career. 'Ah!' I hear you say, 'But I'll have an assessor to watch me if I'm going for promotion' but not at every match.

Yes if they were, then you will have to hope that on the days you are assessed you perform well, and the fair and reasonable minded assessor hasn't got a headache, or had a row with his wife before he left home!

If all these possibilities are in your favour, then, with luck on your side, you will get your promotion. If you don't, then you will have to go through it all again, (and again, if you fail once more). When you achieve Level 6, you become a County senior referee. It is then that you should then get a better class of game, probably on a better class of league, and the wheel starts to turn once more. Of course, you will now be judged at that higher level by clubs that MIGHT have more enlightened managers, or they may not!

So, even though you are a better referee, you still come up against the problem of subjective marking.

The Football Association has changed the system for Level 4 and above.

As a Level 7, 6 and 5 Club marks still play a big part. This is the point of this article do referees have to be so reliant on club markings? League fixture appointments are made based upon them, so too are County appointments. At these levels promotion depends on them to a large extent. There has to be a better, fairer system for these referees. Under the present scheme, some referees are confused as to how best to further their careers. Do they try to please club managers to get good markings, or do they referee firmly, (but well), and take the risk of a bad rating?

I don't want this to be a 'doom and gloom' story, we all know that the good referees will get there in the end. The County Football Associations get you to Level 5.

THERE HAS GOT TO BE A BETTER SCHEME.

What do you think?

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Flagging Up

Don't forget the March meeting will feature Colin Lewin the Arsenal physio so let's have a big crowd for him.

Seen at the Brentford v. Bury League match old friends; not only Colin Downey who is a regular attends there but also Kelvin Morton, who was assessing the match referee that day and who wishes to be remembered to our Society.

Numerous celebrations are taking place this year to mark the 150th anniversary of the forming of the FA and it is hoped to feature some of them. Amazingly one of those spectacular ceremonies took place on the 16th of January at the Grand Connaught Rooms in Queen Street in Bloomsbury which was the original site where stood the Tavern namely "The Freemasons Arms" where the original Laws (then Rules) were formulated. There was a star studied audience including past and the present England Manager and Howard Webb also spoke on behalf of referees. The RA will also be celebrating its 105 years of service with a seminar entitled "Honouring the Past and Building for the Future". Details to follow in due course.

The Adventures of Willy 'The Whistler' Woodwork

On the starting line

Match: Cockfosters Casuals –v- Reds Rovers
Venue: Hackney Marsh – Pitch 165
League: Division Three – Sunday Park League (North)
Weather: Changeable

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

When I started as a referee a number of years ago the captain or manager of the home team made an attempt to meet and greet the ref. Times have changed and unfortunately we are left to our own devices to find the teams in the changing rooms which is no easy feat when you consider how many teams are using the facilities here at the Marshes. I always make the effort to arrive early unlike most of the teams who arrive minutes before the stipulated kick off time.

I suppose I had a slight advantage on this occasion as I had refereed the two teams in question only last week for a cup match so I remembered a few faces and names. I certainly remembered their names as I produced too many cards during the match and ended up with writer's cramp. To say these two teams did not like each other would be an understatement. But like all good referees, and I am indeed one of them, must be prepared to apply the law in a firm but fair manner and it was my intention to have no bad behaviour from the kick off today.

Being pro active I enquired from the grounds man as to which changing room Reds Rovers would be using. I walked in to their room to be greeted by the friendly tones of 'Not you again ref. You were ----- useless last week. You really are a ----ref'. (I shall leave it to your imagination as to the words that were used) I thanked him for his compliments but I knew I had to do something. I produced a red card from my pocket and told him that I would not tolerate that attitude or language and that he was being sent off. The manager immediately came over to me and informed me I have no jurisdiction in the changing room and it is not possible to send a player off prior to the match and that a red or yellow card cannot be issued until the match has started. This was an incident that had never happened to me before and I thought about the manager's comments and decided to tell the player in question to behave himself and not speak to me in that manner again. The player who had sworn at me came shook my hand but then told me ' I still don't think you had a great game last week and I hope you'll be better today'.

No doubt you would have done the same as me.

- Can a player be shown a yellow or red card prior to the match in the changing room?
- Does a ref have any jurisdiction in the changing room before the match?
- Should the ref go into a teams changing room prior to the match?
- Was our ref Willie right to change his mind and then just speak to the player who swore at him instead?

I walked back to my refs changing room and told the other three refs what had just occurred. They insisted that I did have the authority to show a red card and should return to the Reds Rovers changing room immediately. Even though I was convinced that I was correct I thought it was important to listen to my fellow colleagues. I decided to take their advice and thought if they are wrong then I shall tell the county that I acted on their advice so they can take the blame.

I returned to the Rovers changing room and produced my red card to the player who had sworn at me. This did not prove to be a popular decision. I explained that they could still play with eleven players so the team would not be penalized as the incident was prior to the match. One of the named substitutes continued to tell me what he thought of my decision and despite my warning he continued to swear at me. I felt I had no other option than to bring the red card out again. I explained on this occasion the named substitute could not be replaced. The Rovers manager insisted I was wrong again. 'If a player is sent off before the match is started he is allowed to be replaced by a named substitute and on the same basis the substitute can also be replaced. Don't go and ask the other refs as they haven't a clue any how?' It is important to award all decisions in a confident manner and I told the manager that I was correct in law and that I had no need to consult any one as I knew that I was correct.

- Can a named substitute who is sent off prior to the match in the changing room be replaced by another substitute?
- Can a substitute be shown a red card prior to the match?
- Can a player be red carded then the ref changes his mind and the ref returns a few minutes later and changes his mind again!?

I had complete faith in my ability and thought it best to vacate the Rovers changing room and do the boot and jewellery check later.

Cockfosters Casuals were in the adjoining changing room and it was a pleasure to hear their friendly approach. Their captain beckoned me to enter their room and said 'Just want to say have a good game today and you were one hundred per cent correct to show two red cards. At this rate they will be starting the match with five players. Well done ref.'

Not sure if they were being sarcastic and just decided to ask if I could check their foot wear and jewellery. I told the Casuals captain he could not play in white bicycle shorts

under his blue shorts plus he could not play with white sports socks on top of his blue socks. 'But ref I've worn them all season. You are the only ref who applies this law'. I asked him if we should not play off side today. 'Don't know what you mean ref'. I explained I was applying the laws and it is not for me to apply some laws but not others. He reluctantly changed his kit to my request.

- **If the different colour bicycle shorts are pulled up can they be worn?**
- **Does it really matter if small white socks are worn on top of the blue socks?**

All this commotion and the match had not even started. Any how, fast forward to the actual match.

So there I was at Hackney Marshes on pitch number 165, surely you know it? From the changing rooms you count the first seventy two pitches on the left then turn right and the pitch is the forty first on the left. It is hard to concentrate because as you walk past each pitch there is usually a cry of 'Are you our ref?' or 'Hi ref, our ref hasn't turned up. Any chance you can ref our match? By now I have lost count but at least I knew that Reds Rovers play in an all red kit. Mind you it seems I've walked past at least fifteen pitches with teams in an all red kit.

Casuals won the coin toss and asked if they could kick off. Rovers were happy with the end they had and I blew my whistle to start the match.

The Casuals player kicked the ball forward but his team mate was oblivious to what was happening and the same player kicked the ball a second time. I knew this was an offence and blew my whistle and told the player to take the kick again.

- **Can the team that wins the coin toss choose between the kick off or ends?**
- **Can a player kick off and play the ball a second time?**
- **Is a retake the correct decision?**

I bet you can't wait to read the next exiting instalment in the next edition.

Keep on whistling

Regards

Willy 'The Whistler' Woodwork

Willy Woodwork

Extraordinary General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that an Extraordinary General Meeting of North Middlesex Referees Society will be held on Thursday, 21st February 2013 commencing at 7.30 pm at Holtwhites Sports and Social Club, Kirkland Drive, off Holtwhites Hill, Enfield, Middlesex, EN2 0RU

Agenda

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Report from the Secretary following the RA Board of Enquiry and General Meeting held on 6th January 2013.
3. To consider the following Rule Change:-
 - Existing Rule 5(b):-
There shall be four divisions of Membership:-
 - To be amended to:-
There shall be five divisions of Membership:-
 - New paragraph (v)
Social membership shall be open to any person who wishes to join as a member of the Society only and shall entitle the member to all the benefits the Society can offer under its rules and constitution. These members will have no voting powers on any Referee Association matters.
4. In the event that Agenda Item 3 above is passed, then consider the following additional Rule Change:-
 - Rule 5(b), existing paragraph (ii):-
Associate membership shall be open to all association football referees who are already affiliated to the Referees Association through another Society and others persons interested in football work. These members will have no voting power on any Referees Association matters.
 - To be amended to:-
Associate membership shall be open to all association football referees who are already affiliated to the Referees Association through another Society. These members will have no voting power on any Referees Association matters.
 - Reason:-
'Other persons interested in football work' can be accommodated under the new paragraph (v)

Robin Jagot
Secretary, North Middlesex Referees Society
24, Tiverton Road
Potters Bar
Hertfordshire
EN6 5HY

29 January 2013



John Davis

It is with regret that we have to inform you that John passed away on Sunday 13th January, aged 72, following a battle against Cancer.

Peter John Davis was born in Islington on 1st July 1940. His father having been a referee, it was perhaps natural John would also take up the whistle. John qualified as a referee in 1960, and registered as a referee for the next 45 years. He officiated on the Isthmian and Athenian Leagues. One of the highlights of his career was refereeing the London FA v England veterans match at Highbury which preceded the London FA Centenary match between England and London in 1981.

John's commitment to refereeing was total, and his work as a referee instructor was very highly regarded by the FA and therefore it was no surprise when he was made FA Area Advisor for the LFA, AFA and Kent.

John joined Division 2 of the Council of the London FA in 1982 and was immediately appointed on to the Referees Committee. He contributed many years of excellent service to the Committee, eventually being elected Chairman. He stood down to become an Honorary Vice-President in 2002.

Eventually John and his wife, Shirley, retired to live in Cyprus. It was on one of John's rare visits to a Council meeting while back in England that his arrival in the room was greeted with a spontaneous standing ovation, something that had never been seen before or since. If anything clearly demonstrated the respect and affection he was held in, this was it.

John's funeral was held 31st January 2013.

(with thanks to www.londonfa.com)



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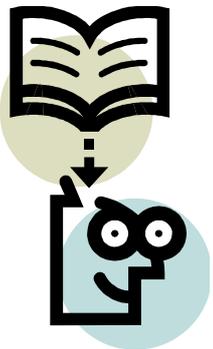


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The **North Middlesex Referees Society Quiz Nite** is back.

Get your thinking caps on again, as its time for the 2013 Quiz – which this year will take place on Friday 22 March 2013 at Old Owens Association, Coopers Lane, Northaw, Potters Bar, Hertfordshire, EN6 4NE, commencing at 7:30pm.

Tickets cost £10 each inclusive of a hot buffet

Teams should consist of no more than 8 players. If you would like to attend, whether you have a team, or will be attending on your own, please let Robin Jagot (Secretary) or Gary Cobden (Treasurer) know. Contact information can be found on the inside front cover.



North Middlesex Referees appointed to FA Women's Cup tie

Two North Middlesex referees are part of a team of Middlesex County FA referees in charge of The FA Women's Cup Third Round tie between Barnet FC Ladies and Yeovil Town Ladies.

North Middlesex Referees Society member Steve Reuter will referee the match, assisted by fellow Society colleague, Daniel Lauszkin. The third Middlesex County FA Referee making up the team is Nigel Hickes. The match was due to take place at Underhill Stadium, Barnet, on Sunday 3rd February.

For Steve, Daniel, and Nigel to receive such a prestigious appointment from The Football Association is testament to the success they are having as match officials this season and we congratulate them on their selection. We hope they enjoy an incident-free match!

Barnet FC Ladies are hoping the match provides a distraction from what is proving to be a difficult season in the National Division of The FA Women's Premier League. Yeovil Town Ladies are in the Southern Division of The FA Women's Premier League, and are making their second successive trip to Middlesex in The FA Women's Cup, having ended the superb run of Colne Valley Ladies in the previous round.
(with thanks to www.middlesexfa.com)



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Latest news on Referees Association Board of Inquiry

Meeting held at Warwick University of County R.A. Representatives assembled to discuss the findings of the RA Board of Inquiry recently passed on to all County RA's and Local Society Secretaries on Sunday 6th January 2013.

I have to say that my visit to Warwick University, Coventry did not get off to a very good start having decided to go by train from Euston/London, which I thought would be a relaxing way to arrive at the venue. Regretfully to my dismay having arrived to pick up the 8.00am train to Coventry, only to find that at 7.45am all trains to Birmingham had been cancelled.

Do I attend to find an alternative way to get there? Having woke up our President Gary for Gordon Kirby's and Bart O'Toole's mobile numbers who I knew were travelling by car from Chiswick, they managed to pick me up at Hanger Lane U/G Station and I managed to reach the destination in good time. Thanks to Bart for dropping me home at 7.00pm that evening.

As for the Agenda, which received severe criticism, as it allowed no time at all to deal with the main issues and that is the Membership and Retention, not forgetting the unanswered questions on finance, office/staff and members of the Board.

As for the morning session, which started with a presentation by the new secretary, Phil Joslin, who has since resigned it was a poor presentation and far too patronising and only informed us what we already knew and have been striving for over the years to try and bolster the RA/Society membership. The whole morning was a non-event. It was clear from the floor that we needed answers, which were not mentioned in the main Inquiry Report. Many questions went unanswered and the decision by the present members of the Board was to email the answers to the County Reps was unacceptable. I have to say that I protested strongly to the acting Chairman that it was simply not good enough to have to travel to this venue to be informed that an email message will be sent. While we are all aware that two Board members have resigned over finance irregularities, other members and especially the former RA Secretary in response to questions put to him it was just a case of "I was told to do it "and only doing my job" He was not alone in simply passing the buck. The buck passing game was a sad indictment of the way in which it was all handled. Scapegoats are all very well but those Board members have to accept real accountability and responsibility for what went on over a very long period of time. This Secretary has presided over the virtual demise of the R A and should step down now as a Board member and FA Delegate for the RA.

It was interesting to note that David Crick was at the meeting who was part of the Inquiry Team, and was thanked by the RA Board for his contribution. What a pity they failed to offer a debt of gratitude to Bart O'Toole for his major contribution and bringing it to the attention of the membership. A tribute from the delegates was made and it was disgraceful that not one Board member applauded. I would just like to mention how one delegate from Lancashire summed up the Board Members before I list the questions we wished to have answered, which were drafted by Gordon Kirby on behalf of the AFA/Lonsar and North Middlesex Societies.

The delegate described the Board as the Officers on board the bridge of the Titanic pointing into the distance at a huge white object sliding toward them "Yes Gentlemen –it is an iceberg and that requires radical and drastic action"

AFA County RA Questions for the Board on the Report of the Commission of Inquiry

1. Please quantify the cost to the Association of all financial losses identified by Surrey CRA in their questions to the Board based on the inquiry report. We believe them to be between £35,000 – £50,000. What reassurance can the Board offer to similar wastage will not happen in coming years?
2. Please confirm: A full breakdown of the £777.93 expenses claimed by Board members at the Rally 2012.
 - a) How much was attributed each individual Board member claiming?
 - b) Those sums that having been repaid to the Association after the claims were revealed to the Board on 12th June, why were they later inappropriately repaid from another budget according to page 2 of the inquiry report in favour of whom?
3. Please identify all Board Expense claims for the Rally since 2008 including those allocated to other parts of the accounts. We are aware that at the Rally 2010, when the losses were £2200.49 a further £1281.98 Board expense claims were deliberately omitted from the Rally account and allocated to General Board expenses.

4. Please identify the Key benefits of RA membership at £16 p.a. which we will take back to our members to persuade them the value of RA affiliation, having regards to these facts?
 - a) The report identifies key areas of serious mismanagement of funds
 - b) Non – members can buy RA supplies at the same price as its members.
 - c) Non – members can attend Conference on a payment of a modest fee (£10)
 - d) Non – members can access the RA web-sites
 - e) The Board is unable to secure regular attendance of select group referees at meetings of affiliated Societies as Speakers
 - f) It is a fact that most RA Insurance claims are refused. Less than 40% of premiums are paid out in claims.
5. Please explain how the FA representative promotes the interests of the members. What points have successfully been taken to the FA for the benefits of its members in the last 3 years?
6. Will the Board please ask itself “*What does the RA exist for*” then prioritise all efforts to serve those ends. We suggest it exists primarily to:-
 - a) Represent, protect and promote the interests of referees consistently with the interests of the game.
 - b) Train and develop referees,
 - c) Provide social gatherings to bring referees together to one another’s company and participation in refereeing.
 - d) Provide support for Referee Societies.
7. Would the Board agree that the electoral system is inherently defective because:
 - a) It fails to identify what candidates believe in and what they stand for;
 - b) It fails to allow voters to vote for their leading officers.
 - c) It fails to inform voters who will hold the key positions after the elections
8. Will the Board – *Institute a review of the current electoral system with a report provided at the 2013 AGM and proposals submitted for consideration at the AGM 2014* following recommendation 25 of the Commissioners report. We suggest the Board sets up an independent committee of senior RA members to examine the electoral system and to make an interim report to the AGM 2013 and propose rule changes to follow at the AGM 2014.
9. Would the Board agree that a new electoral system should:
 - a) Identify what candidates believe in and stand for per recommendation 23 of the Commissioners’ report.
 - b) Allow voters to vote for their leading officer(s) including the FA Representative.
 - c) Inform voters who will hold the key positions after the elections.
 - d) Promote effective Internal Board scrutiny of the Senior Officers and external scrutiny of the whole Board by the membership, including all finances and expenses claims.
 - e) Include fit and proper persons declaration by candidates for election, such as is recommended for charity trustees and the officers of CASC’s as per recommendation 24 of the Commissioners’ Report.
 - f) Disallow full-time or part-time salaried FA or CFA staff from serving on the Board, not including occasional self – employed instructors, tutors, assessors, mentors or volunteer CFA Council members as per recommendation 27 of the Commissioners’ Report.
10. Will the Board, pursuant to the recommendations in the report:
 - a) Invite that an independent audit of the changes it is introducing, conducted by a committee of senior RA members.
 - b) Invite that independent committee to report back to the membership at the 2013 AGM on its audit.

As for the future of the Referees Association the decision is yours!

Robin
Secretary



Referees Association Updates

We have been advised that by the RA Board that the monies claimed by Colin Harris and Nigel Genner have been repaid to the Association.

With the ever-increasing *QUEST* for refereeing standards to improve at all levels in English football the RA has an increasingly important role to play. With this in mind, on the 6th January the Referees’ Association has launched **QUEST** (**QU**ality – **EX**cellence – **ST**andard) an initiative open to ALL local Associations. It represents an opportunity to share good practice and improve standards of refereeing across England. It will

offer every local Association a supportive framework in which to develop (at its own speed) regardless of size and location, with the collective goal of improving refereeing standards and promoting the enjoyment of being part of the refereeing family.

The **QUEST** scheme will be independently verified (including County Football Association input) and provides “a real partnership” which will impact locally and nationally to help raise standards and enable the membership to access high quality developmental opportunities. Local Associations will be recognised and rewarded for the standard of service that they provide to their members.

The RA has played a critical role in refereeing in England for over 100 years - **QUEST** will allow ALL local Referees’ Associations the opportunity to flourish in the future and continue their significant contribution to our national game at all levels.

There are a number LRA’s and CRA’s developing project teams. Many LRA’s are being encouraged to apply for Bronze or Silver status, with some LRA’s already aiming for Gold!

Basically, this is a Society Accreditation Scheme – with awards at three (Bronze; Silver; and Gold) levels, with certification valid for three years, after which Societies must re-apply or lose their Accreditation.



Are you interested in Media Studies including Web Design? If so, why not lend us a hand and help with the design – or redesign – and update the layout of the Society website. You can see the existing site at www.northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk.



The site is currently maintained on an ad-hoc basis, and generally updated at least twice a month. It currently uses out of date technology, mainly due to lack of technical skills in the more modern technologies.

If you think you could offer the Society some expertise in this area, and would like to get involved, give me a call – or drop me an e-mail – and we can discuss this further.

Gary Cobden
President and Treasurer



RA Membership- The Benefits?

In order for the members of the Society to make an informed decision whether to stay or quit the RA it is perhaps necessary to repeat what benefits there are in staying in the RA. These consist of –

- The right to join the RA-FA Incentive Scheme which can lead to free kit.
- Personal accident insurance.
- RA Website.
- Option to buy tickets for the Eve of the Final Rally.
- Advice in cases of assault.
- Awards for Meritorious Service
- Right to attend the annual National Conference.
- Representation on the Council of the FA.
- A Benevolent Fund to assist members who fall on hard times.

PERSONAL OPINION - BY KEN GOLDMAN

How low has professional football sunk? Not only do we have “diving” which is rife and goals be handled over the line by attackers but now we have the spectre of ball-boys who so far as I can determine have no standing or proper coverage in the Laws of the Game (albeit created as little figures in Subbuteo matches) dictating the pace at which the ball is returned into play. It will not have been missed by almost anybody be they football orientated or not, the latest incident which occurred in the recent Swansea v Chelsea 2nd leg of the Capital One Cup where one of the ball boys proceeded to dive on the ball and keep on shielding it with his body whilst failing to do what he was supposed to and give the ball back quickly. That action if committed by a player would have led to him/her receiving a yellow card for delaying the restart of play or alternatively unsporting behaviour. Instead the Chelsea player Hazard (aptly named in this case) stupidly appeared firstly to try to kick the ball away from him and then kicked the boy in such a way as to then dislodge the ball from under him for which he received an appropriate red card. Unfortunately for Hazard he was not privy to the tweet the boy had sent out that morning about an intentional act of time wasting that he was preparing for the night’s match. The lad was 17 and the son of the chief shareholder at Swansea and should have known how inappropriate his behaviour was. He certainly got his 15 minutes of fame on television and in all the other media but it soured both that game in particular and football in general. This unsavoury act brings into question the whole “ball boy” scenario. There are some lads and thankfully it seems not to apply to the ball girls who do similar things to the case under review who for reasons or influences not declared who attempt to help their own team or the one they support by cheating by not honestly performing the duty they have been given. As a result we have seen another ball boy grappled with by a player when he has kept the ball and the player tried to get it back and another occasion which led to an allegation of racism following a similar incident.

Obviously the purpose of having a ball boy as has been intimated is to retrieve the ball and get it back into play as quick as is humanly possible. Indeed at some grounds where they use the multi-ball system some youngsters are so keen to throw the ball in that two balls land on the pitch at the same time. However there has also been some insidious work afoot ever since a Cambridge United Manager decided that he would have the ball dried by a towel if it was his team but not so offered to the opposing team; all this with the help of the ball boys who carried a the towel. Also the ball was to go back to the home side quickly but more slowly to the opponents. The drying of the ball scheme has been taken up by Stoke City for the benefit of their long throw experts and again the ball boys have been involved. It has always been a mystery to me why referees have never tried to take action on the time taken to dry the ball carefully and then pass it to the player who then winds himself up for the throw-in. It is an activity which surely falls under the heading of delaying the restart of

play where in the “Guidelines to Referees” it states - “excessively delaying the taking of a throw-in” is punishable by a caution for such tactics Several minutes in a game are lost by this tactic which was never contemplated many years ago when the old leather ball was heaved in without needing to dry it and as it retained the water it was even heavier than the modern ball.

There was widespread condemnation of both Hazard and the ball boy which gave rise to some interesting comments such as this from Rio Ferdinand- “17 year old ball boy is that a wind-up? Is being a ball boy now a career?” Whilst Robert Huth said “Ball boys staying down injured – they’ll be elbowing players off the ball next.”

It was an incident that led to Hazard receiving the usual 3 match ban for violent conduct but thankfully after charging him with misconduct the 3 game ban was held to be sufficient under the enormous provocation that occurred in this particular episode. However it leads to the question as to whether ball boys do need to come under a specific reference in the Laws seeing that FIFA and UEFA favour the multi-ball system to ironically ensure the ball is returned into play as quickly as possible. Otherwise we will be left with the potential problem that **you can take the boy away from the ball but you can’t take the ball away from the boy.**



BOOK REVIEW

Does Your Rabbi Know You’re Here by Anthony Clavane published by Quercus @ £20. Although in the main their footballers have been thin on the ground nonetheless the Jewish presence, as in the music industry, has still found itself with some influence in the game. There have been FA Chairman and chairmen of several Premiership and Football league Clubs over the years and some forgotten players dating back to the early 1900’s with Louis Bookman of Bradford City then in the First Division of the Football League. However this volume is more than a litany of those who have risen from obscurity to the head of clubs or like David Pleat, Bobby Fisher, Barry Silkman and Mark Lazarus who played the game with some success. It also

encompasses some of the men who have written about football with a love and passion such as Brian Glanville David Conn and Ralph Finn together with those who aspired to become part of the big scene from partaking of the joys of grass roots football or the rather higher order of Wingate FC formed to build bridges between non-Jews and Jews. Although this book can be seen as a kind of closed shop or for a certain section of the community it is in fact a lot wider in its compass with plenty of humorous anecdotes appealing to all and some useful if specific history of times and troubles stretching from the past to the present. Certainly well researched there are 269 pages with a more than useful index.



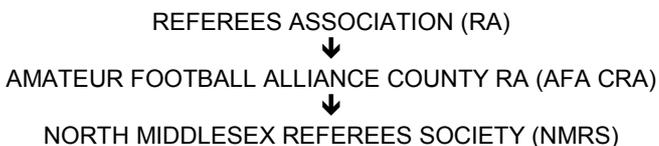
INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR SOCIETY

The Referees' Association (RA) is the national body for Referees. 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. Physiotherapy insurance is now also available for a premium of £5.00.

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 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 co-operation between the RA and FA.

Updated July 2011

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Are held on the third Thursday monthly (except December – second Friday) 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 2012/2013:- September 20; October 18; November 15; December 14 2012 (second Friday); and January 17; February 21; March 21; April 18; May 16 2013



The venue is passed by Bus Route W9 and Bus Route 191 stops just a five minute walk away - direct from Enfield Town. The Rail Stations of Enfield Town; Enfield Chase; and Gordon Hill are also only a short distance away. For full directions and how to get to the venue, please see our website. See also www.tfl.gov.uk for bus information; www.greateranglia.co.uk and www.firstcapitalconnect.co.uk for rail information.

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 ON 20th JANUARY 1949