

January 2002

The next meeting of the North Middlesex Referees' Society will be held at 7.30 pm, on Friday, 11th January, 2002 at Cockfosters FC, Chalk Lane, Cockfosters, Barnet, Hertfordshire, EN4 9GL. Guest - The Training Centre.

Hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas and received everything you ever wanted as presents!

The December meeting was well attended and a joyous affair, with virtually no official business. The menu included a non-football Quiz; a Football Video, from Euro 2001, including fouls and misconduct for us to sort out. There were some very funny reminiscences by our more senior colleagues, on glory days gone by. Robin Jago, Head of our Training School, fielded an impromptu session of 'match incidents', which was followed by the usual 100 Club draw and raffle. Snacks were provided by Council members, which helped to give a Yuletide feel to the evening and give everyone an excuse for feeling thirsty. FIFA Assistant Referee, Phil Sharp was kept busy answering members' queries about his life in the fast lane, especially his frequent TV appearances. And to finish the evening, Chairman for the night, Vince Yeudall gave us all a rendition on his harmonica – or as Larry Adler used to say, 'mouth organ' – not a dry eye in the house. Well done, sir!

At the time of writing I am recovering, slowly, from a bout of flu and bronchitis. I have had to cancel all my football and ping-pong, which I hate doing. How do Referees' Secretaries keep their hair? – actually most of them seem to have none now! So, on behalf of all referees who have had to cry-off – we're sorry, but please keep up the good work.

By the way, the young referee who has also recent taken up table tennis, see last month's magazine, is Daniel Richardson and he's not a bad player.

A plum appointment for one of our illustrious Life Vice-Presidents, Peter Dace: Southern Amateur League v Oxford University, played on 4th December. Nice one, Peter.

Included in this issue is a letter to Vice Chairman, Vince Yeudall, from The Children's Society, who recently benefited from a 5-A-side tournament, held at Arsenal FC. Vince organises the referees for these events and the lads, together with two St John's Ambulance colleagues, won a signed Arsenal football in a Quiz we entered during the event. The ball was raffled at our own Quiz nite last month, the proceeds going to the same, very worthwhile, Charity.

Look for two interesting letters from the FA elsewhere in this issue, one on the use of bladed boots, and the second on the FA National Game Division – Developing Football at Every Level, passed to me by Peter Dace. An illustrated brochure accompanies the latter. Also, see Simon Bullock's funny letter on the 'Young Referees' page.

'Common Sense on the Park' is the theme of our Observer's article this month.

I understand those two grand old Institutions, The Old Boys League and Southern Olympian League are to merge. A number of our members will be affected as they officiate on one, or both, these Leagues – any funny ideas for a title of the new League?

Closing date for February's magazine is Monday 21 January 2002

WHAT DO I DO?

by Mick Osborn

Some time ago I found myself sharing a dressing room with another referee and his assistants. He arrived a bit on the late side and began to brief his colleagues as he was getting changed. It didn't take long and went something like this:

“Right, you're both referees so I'm not going to say much. Take left backs and offsides are yours. If you see anything I don't, give me a flag. Who's senior? Right. Stop your watch when I do.” Turning to the other man, “Keep yours running and give me five. Any questions? OK let's go out there and enjoy it.”

Not particularly enlightening, was it? First, it would have been better if ~all the officials had arrived in good time, say an hour before kick-off I happened to know that the junior assistant was recently qualified and this was his first time on the line.

For many of us, having or being assistants, are rare occurrences and we need to give it a little forethought. To start with, if the notice of appointment doesn't specify which is the senior assistant, a look at the county or competition handbook will probably provide the answer and avoid the need to ask. A phone call by the team leader, the referee, to his assistants when the appointments are known will help forge the team spirit. The referee should specify when to meet at the ground, bearing in mind that a longer time will be needed to get ready for the kick-off than when he is alone. Allow time for a chat, the pitch inspection and the briefing. Even longer may be needed if the officials are of different sexes and therefore not in the same dressing room.

The briefing is important and all should give it their undivided attention. If the seniority of the assistants has not been ascertained, it should be done now. Each assistant should be advised of his or her individual role, e.g. noting stoppages in play, controlling substitutions, the part to be played if the game has to be decided by kicks from the penalty mark. In general, both assistants will need to know not only which half of the touchline to patrol but to which side of the field they should go. Are they to be responsible for signalling which way a throw-in should be awarded along the whole touchline or does the referee want “first option” when his diagonal brings him nearer play? Where should they be at the taking of a corner kick and a penalty kick?

The team can create a good image by entering the field together. Team captains should be greeted in a friendly manner and the assistant referees introduced to them. When the outcome of the toss is known, both assistants should go to their respective ends and check the goal nets again, and take their positions which will indicate to the referee that all is well. At half time, all three officials should meet on the field of play and leave together. A short analysis of the first half will help maintain good, (or better,) control of the second. Again, go out together. Check that any adjustments needed, e.g. goal nets that have come adrift, have been made carried out.

At the end of the game, again leave together. I personally prefer to leave the congratulations and hand-shakes between officials until we have reached the privacy of the dressing room. I think it looks more professional that way. You may have your own thoughts of course. Thinking about it is what we should all do.

“It’s Not Good Enough For Me” – by Len Wilcock

“What sort of a game is that to give me?” Or, “Why should I line to him?” These are two points most often raised when referees talk to me, and it makes my blood boil! I find it unbelievable that any referee thinks an appointment is beneath him/her. But, sadly they do.

Why? Well, there are many lame excuses given, most of which are borne out of delusions of grandeur. The main one relates to Youth games. “I’m beyond youth games”, or “I don’t do youth football”.

Whilst I agree it is a matter of choice as to whether or not we join the list of a local youth league, it is totally unacceptable that so many County Youth Appointments are refused. Well done, Middlesex FA for giving youth appointments equal status with adult games.

Another excuse is “I’m on the System, I shouldn’t be doing Sunday Junior Cup Ties” or “Why should I be doing a Division 6 game when so-and-so is doing a Premier Division game?”

These moans come from people who have totally lost touch with the reason why most of them became referees in the first place. But will they complain if they are appointed to the Sunday Junior Cup Final at the end of the season? No, of course they won’t!

Worst of all, how many of us have heard our colleagues carping-on that they have been given a line when they should have been in the middle; indeed, a few years ago one senior referee wrote to his particular County stating that he shouldn’t be appointed to line to certain colleagues who had overtaken him on the promotion ladder, suggesting that if he was, he would be minded to refuse the game.

More recently, another colleague alluded to me that he had turned down an appointment because he was senior to the appointed referee and that “he shouldn’t be lining to someone like that”! What a load of pumped-up, pompous rubbish!

I have been a referee for approaching 14 years, and prior to that I played football and coached in senior football, but I never have, and never will, turn down a game because I think it unworthy of my presence.

My philosophy is there is are many games of football which are above me, none at all which are beneath me, and I think many colleagues – some senior, some not so senior, should consider that and having done so adjust their attitude accordingly.



Gary’s Poser

In last month’s Normidian Gary Cobden asked of our young referees, “What unusual piece of attire was an Assistant Referee wearing during the first half of the Spurs v Middlesbrough match, on Saturday, 27th October?” And, why didn’t he do the same in the second half? Young Michael Mackay was quick to email the editor with the answer. The Assistant wore a baseball cap to keep the sun out of his eyes when running right wings on the East Stand side in the first half. He didn’t need the cap in the second half. Well done Michael, unfortunately you don’t qualify for the big prize as Gary saw you at the match!!

North Middlesex Referees' Society

present

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at

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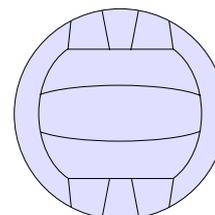
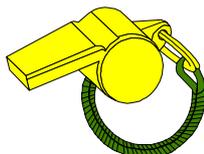
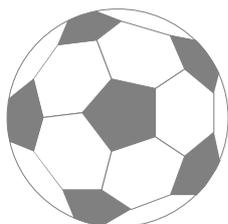
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Are again pleased to support North Middlesex
Referees Society in Season 2001/2002



NORTH MIDDLESEX REFEREES SOCIETY

100
CLUB

Draw results for December 2001 are shown below. There were 55 shares, and payout is 70% of the pool - £38.50. The November draw was made by Secretary, Martin de la Fuente.

If you would like to join for the remainder of the Season, the amount payable now is £9; please complete the form below, and let me have it with your remittance. Each month, all the 'shares' are entered into a draw, and three prizes are drawn. Every month - except February and August - 70% of the pool is paid out in prizes; in February and August, the full 100% is paid out.

There is one new share this month - 55 - Steve Wildgoose

December			
First	25	Max Lea	£22.00
Second	2	Daniel Barnett	£11.00
Third	40	Michael Ward	£5.50

Gary Cobden
Honorary Treasurer



NORTH MIDDLESEX REFEREES SOCIETY 100 CLUB Application for/Renewal of Membership - Season 2001/2002

I,, wish to become a member of the North Middlesex Referees Society 100 Club, and subscribe to shares each month.

I agree to make payment:-

By Cheque

By Standing Order (details will be provided on request) (Delete as Appropriate)

The initial term of membership is 12 months; renewal details will be distributed with the 2002/2003 Society Membership Forms. To join for the remainder of the current Season, a payment of £8 is payable.

Please forward the completed Application Form to Gary Cobden, Hon. Treasurer.

For Society Use:-

Numbers Allocated:

ON SALE NOW

NORTH MIDDLESEX REFEREES' SOCIETY

A CELEBRATION OF 50 YEARS OF FOOTBALL

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CHARLES LIFFORD

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The purchaser of each book will also receive a free 50th Anniversary pen. while stocks last.



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Edward Rudolf House, Mergery Street, London WC1X 0JL

Telephone: (020) 7841 4400 Fax: (020) 7841 4500 www.childrensociety.org.uk

Friday, 23 November 2001

Dear Vince,

Going for Goals : Arsenal football stadium.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your generosity in donating £77 to the society. The money will be used to support the important work that the Children's Society does across England.

Founded in 1881, The Children's Society is one of the country's leading childcare charities committed to working with some of the nation's most vulnerable children and young people; those who face poverty, inequality, neglect, abuse, discrimination and homelessness.

The Society has a track record of ground-breaking approaches in addressing the serious problems faced by many young people each day. Our projects serve as a blueprint for change and show what can be done in practical terms to help young people. Local and central government often take over the funding of a particular project once its value is witnessed.

Once again, thank you for everything.

Very best regards,

Alison Walker.

Events Assistant

•••••

Laugh with Vince

How many West Ham supporters does it take to change a light bulb? Both of 'em!

Vince Yeudall

•••••

Gear Supplies Price List – Season 2001/2002

Matchday Kits

We can supply both Umbro and RA Kits. Both ranges are available with either long or short sleeves, and can be supplied with your County FA Badge pre-embroidered for a small additional charge. Socks are available with either plain white tops, or with hooped tops. Cushioned feet socks can also be supplied. Boots and Tracksuits are also available to order.

Prices are as follows:-

Umbro Short Sleeve - £32.00	Umbro Long Sleeve - £33.00
Umbro Shorts - £23.50	
RA Short Sleeve - £18.50	RA Long Sleeve - £18.50
RA Shorts - £12.50	
White Topped Socks - £5.00	Reinforced Foot - £5.50
Hoop Topped Socks - £5.50	

County Badges added to Shirts - £7.25 extra on Umbro Shirts; £8.50 on RA Shirts

We are also able to supply Middlesex County FA Badges, and Referees Association Badges, for Kit use - £3.00.

Flags

Touchline Flags and Flagsticks are available in various combinations. Choose from Quartered or Super-Quartered, Plain, or Premier. Premier and Super Quartered are manufactured from high visibility solid warp knitted polyester yarn (125gm). Plain and Quartered are manufactured from high visibility warp knitted polyester yarn (52gm).

Flags and Flagsticks are also available separately. Alternatively, why not buy a complete set with Flag bag. If your existing Flagsticks are damaged, and require replacement end-caps or inserts, these can also be obtained (in pairs). If you are looking for Flags, but do not wish to pay quite so much, the RA's own flags and sticks are also available- in quartered or plain styles.

Prices are as follows:-

Touchline Flags:- from £11.50 (Plain) to £15.50 (Premier)
Touchline Flagsticks (pair) - £14.95; singles - £8.50; End-caps - £2.25; Brass Inserts - £1.25; Flag Bag - £5.25
Touchline Sets – Flags and Flagsticks – from £21.50 (Plain) to £25.50 (Premier)
Touchline Complete Sets – including Flag Bag - from £23.50 (Plain) to £27.50 (Premier)

RA Flags Plain - £4.75; RA Flags Quartered - £7.00; RA Flagsticks - £3.00

Matchday Accessories

We can supply Match Record Cards and Holders; General Purpose Postcards; Red and Yellow Cards; Wrist Lanyards; a selection of Whistles including the ever popular Fox range, and some with finger grips. Pressure Guages are available to order.

Prices are as follows:-

Match Record Pads - £0.70	Match Record Pad Holder - £0.70
Red and Yellow Cards and Wallet - £2.00	Red/ Yellow Cards/Wallet/Pencil - £2.30
All Purpose Postcards - £1.10	Red and Yellow Cards (set) - £1.10
Pencils - £0.10	
Plastic Whistle With Grip - £1.30	Plastic Whistle - £1.20
Plastic Finger Whistle - £1.40	Metal Whistle - £3.40
Pealess Whistle - £1.30	Lanyard - £1.60

Continued

Peter Dace reminisces – the Normidian of January 1992

Editor Tim Slader writes ‘due to the very narrow deadline between the meeting in December; the Printers Christmas holiday; and the almost total lack of correspondence from Members, apologies for this months magazine which is considerably shorter than is normal’.

January guest speaker Steve Lower, an American Football Referee – who will talk about how he controls American Football; compare refereeing in the States with football refereeing in this Country; and also discuss the refereeing system in the USA.

Geoff Jacobs writes to the Editor and says ‘lets be a little unlike the media and proudly praise our team (England) when its successful’. Editor responds ‘I state what I think NOT what I read but it was refreshing to get some feedback and see that what I write does create debate’.

Four page article cribbed from the magazine of The Ealing Referees Society, entitled Taxation on income from Refereeing.

Advertisements from Paine & Co; Brigg Sports; and D.Ackerman & Sons Limited take up two more pages.



Supplies Continued

Other Items available as follows:-

Boot Laces - £1.15	Sock Ties - £1.10
NMRS Ties - £6.00	NMRS 50 th Anniversary Tie - £7.50
RA Tie - £5.50	LOAF (Referees Chart) - £3.00
FA Diary - £4.00	NMRS Credit Card Holder - £3.30
RA Baseball Cap - £5.00	RA Crested Holdall - £15.00
"Football Referee" Magazine - £0.75	
Coloured Shirts - £5.00	Coloured Shorts - £5.00

Christmas Specials

Christmas Wrapping Paper - Packs of 10 Sheets	£2.00
Birthday Cards - Packs of 12 Cards	£2.00

All Prices subject to fluctuation and change without notice.

Contact Percy Brown - 01707 851369 or 07801 985912

DECEMBER, 2001

FROM THE TRAINING CENTRE

- Q1** *A player of the defending team, other than the goalkeeper, standing outside the penalty-area, deliberately handles the ball within the penalty-area. What action does the referee take?*
- Q2** *A player deliberately lies on the ball for an unreasonable length of time. What action does the referee take?*
- Q3** *When the ball is about to be dropped within the penalty-area, a defending player violently strikes an opponent before the ball touches the ground. What action does the referee take?*
- Q4** *A player enters the field of play without receiving a signal from the referee and then deliberately handles the ball. What action does the referee take?*
- Q5** *A player leaves the field of play while celebrating a goal. What action if any, does the referee take?*
- Q6** *While the ball is in play, the goalkeeper strikes an opponent in the area enclosed by the goal-line and the goal nets. What action does the referee take?*

If you have any friends or relatives that would like to attend one of our courses in the future please advise them of our next course at Brimsdown Sports Club, starting on Monday January 28th, 2002. From us all at the Training Centre can we wish you and your families a peaceful and restful Christmas with best wishes for the New Year.

Robin

Laugh with Vince

*Little Boy lost at a football match, says to a Policeman "I've lost my Dad".
Policeman, "What's he like?"
Little Boy, "Er, Beer and Women, why?"*

Vince Yeudall

30th November 2001

Gary John Cobden
2 Chapel End
Hoddesdon
Hertfordshire
EN11 8DN



THE FOOTBALL
ASSOCIATION

PATRON

Her Majesty The Queen

PRESIDENT

HRH The Duke of York, CVO, ADC

25 Soho Square
London W1D 4FA
www.the-fa.org

Dear Mr Cobden

Re: The F.A. National Game Division - Developing Football at Every Level

Over the past 12 months, a new department at the Football Association has been created - **The F.A. National Game Division** -, which covers all football in England below the Football League. **Its purpose is to increase participation, quality and enjoyment of football.**

The enclosed brochure, which we intend to repeat on an annual basis, is being distributed to all clubs, leagues, schools, coaches, referees, football partners, and volunteers, to highlight the work of the F.A.

The F.A. National Game Division, working with it's Board, has developed a clear strategy for developing football at grassroots level. With our key partners, the County Football Associations, **together we will use the power of football to build a better future and lead the successful development of football at every level.**

Delivering the strategy and measuring impact are keys to success - **but the most important keys are people.** People who are both paid and unpaid, commit themselves to the development of football and we are mindful of their contributions. We will look to encourage people to become involved in football and give them recognition for their contributions and achievements.

The F.A. National Game Division is committed to investing in the future development of football and to that extent, **we have increased F.A. funding to in excess of £30million per year.** This money is being targeted at facilities, schools, clubs and delivering football development initiatives, which are highlighted in the brochure.

We are extremely excited about the opportunities for developing football at this level of the sport, and after reading this brochure, hope that you are too. We encourage you to contact us for further details and information to see how you can be part of the National Game.

Football is for everyone and with your participation we can continue to develop our National Game.

Yours sincerely,

Frank Pattison
Chairman
The F.A. National Game Board

Steve Parkin
Director
The F.A. National Game Division

10 December 2001



THE FOOTBALL
ASSOCIATION

PATRON

Her Majesty The Queen

PRESIDENT

H.R.H. The Duke of York CBO ADI

25 Soho Square
London W1D 4FA
www.the-fa.org

Clarification on the use of 'bladed boots'

As a result of stories circulating in both the regional and the national media regarding the alleged safety of football boots with 'blades' rather than traditional studs, concerns have been raised by a number of referees. In response to these concerns, the FA would like to clarify the following points:

- Non-conventional studs (some of which have been referred to in the media as 'blade style' studs) are available from a number of different manufacturers
- Football boots with non-conventional studs rather than traditional studs are **not** banned
- We are satisfied that non-conventional studs are no more dangerous than normal studs and should be treated as such under the Laws of the Game
- Law 4 and Law 5 of the Laws of the Game make it clear that it is the sole discretion of the referee which items of equipment may be worn and whether or not items of equipment constitute a danger
- Referees must therefore continue to check all equipment before a game for compliance with these laws
- Any decision under Laws 4 and 5 should not be based on arbitrary judgements such as the style, make or manufacturer of equipment or apparel
- Please also refer to the Laws of Association Football handbook page 17 which states "A referee is not held liable for any kind of injury suffered by a player, official or spectator... This may include a decision to allow or not allow a player to wear certain apparel or equipment".

North Middlesex Young Referees

NEUTRAL ASSISTANT REFEREES

A situation many referees face at this time of the year as semi-finals and finals are played. Inexperience of the situation can lead to under-use of the colleagues on the day, so prepare thoroughly. At senior level many referees have a written checklist, which they use on every occasion, they brief their assistants. You need a system yourself to avoid missing anything, but check your list with a senior colleague in advance to ensure it includes all the points that should be mentioned.

Above all, give yourself time to brief the assistant referees, especially at Cup Finals, where interruptions will be regular in the hour before the match. Even think of giving them a telephone call before the event so as to get to know them in advance. You may prefer to brief your assistants during the inspection of the field of play and its surrounds. If this is to be the case, take your list with you.

OBSERVER.

Simon Bullock writes:

Another Sunday, this time a trip out to the country to ref Langford versus Newport County in the women's Premier. Hadn't been before so left plenty of time but still only arrived bang on 1pm.

Still, it was a pleasant surprise to find both my assistants already there, looking very smart and jumping swiftly to attention as soon as they saw me.

We exchanged the usual pleasantries, inspected the pitch and I was impressed at just how keen eager and cooperative they both seemed to be.

Things just got better by the minute. The Secretary fussed around busily taking refreshment orders and then the manager popped in to welcome me. Was it my imagination or was he running a more than usually careful rule over me? I think I'm just a little more paranoid than ever these days.

Rang the bells and then waited for the players. As they lined up didn't they seem to be casting rather odd looks my way??

Once under way the game settled down nicely but some of the spectators seemed to be enjoying their own peculiar sense of fun.

There seemed to be lots of mirth whenever remarks arose about players' shooting abilities.

Quite what they thought that had to do with me I couldn't tell. Then when it rained there were strenuous cries of "Take cover!".. .tee hee.

You're probably way ahead by now but of course it wasn't till I got home that I finally understood.

What little worlds we often live in. Reading the match programme I finally turned to the back page and noticed my name.

It read S. Bullock (Army FA).

COMMON SENSE ON THE LOCAL PARK

Around the Edges: Changing Rooms and Touchlines

It is, of course, our performance on the pitch during the 90 or 120 minutes that REALLY matters. Having said that, it is perhaps appropriate to devote one article in eight to a consideration of our responsibilities 'around the edges' of a game. We certainly have responsibilities beyond the match itself and our match control may be made even easier or more difficult by our handling of situations off the field of play

BEFORE THE GAME

How would you deal with the following situation?

On your arrival at the ground the home club secretary greets you with these words: 'Hope you're better than the effing ref we had last week: he was effing useless.'

There are various possible responses to this. My favourite is, Oh, I thought you wanted consistency,' although 'Really? Did you win?' comes a close second. You could of course cock a deaf ear, or even remind the speaker that it is your duty to report the behaviour of 'team officials who fail to conduct themselves in a responsible manner.

This last possibility might seem a little heavy at such an early stage of your time with the club - better to keep your heavier artillery in reserve for later! Smiling is probably the best policy in this and other situations.

There is, however, a delicate balance to be struck between friendliness and formality in pre-match relationships. Earlier this season I was laughing and joking with the home club in the changing room I shared with them, only to be asked as I handed out the 4th caution of a difficult match: 'What's up with you? You were great before the game!' In hindsight I felt that I had been too relaxed and friendly before the kick off. Certainly in conducting all the necessary business concerning the substitutes names, match balls and club assistant referees it is important to create a no-nonsense impression of efficiency and competence. Polite, friendly formality is probably more likely to achieve this than a more casual, relaxed approach.

DURING THE GAME

We have a responsibility to be aware of the behaviour of those on the touchlines. Under no circumstances can club officials or spectators be allowed to use the offensive language which you are preventing the players from using. It is difficult to identify the culprit(s) while play is in progress, and you have to decide whether to go to the touchline and issue a general warning or hold back from this in the hope that you will be able to spot the guilty party next time.

What you do will depend upon the number and nature of the people on the touchline and upon your estimate of the likely effect of a brief speech addressed to them all. Certainly a 'nip it in the bud' approach should be adopted because you can be sure that the use of unacceptable language will increase rather than cease if you do nothing.

Continued

A request to a club official or captain asking them to speak to the offender(s) is another possibility. In this case you need to have judged their characters sufficiently well to be confident that you will get their co-operation. Otherwise, you may only have increased your difficulties.

Law 5 tells us to 'ensure that no unauthorised persons enter the field of play.' This is most likely to happen when a player requires treatment for injury. There can be a potential flash point if the player has been hurt by an illegal challenge and a trainer and three substitutes come on to deal with the matter. The referee may need to be very much present in these circumstances, exercising the full range of his management skills to diffuse the situation.

If necessary he will have to note the trainer's misbehaviour and report it to the appropriate authority. In the case of an invading substitute the Law requires that he be cautioned (and shown a yellow card). Of course, if he indulges in violent conduct or employs offensive, insulting or abusive language he will have committed a red card offence.

We must hope it doesn't come to this, and common sense suggests that allowance should be made in the case of pitch invasions by mothers, fathers and lovers rushing to the aid of injured loved ones.

AFTER THE GAME

We are obliged to report 'incidents which occur before, during or after the match.' This includes anything that happens up to the time we leave the ground (or the bar!). I attend local parks matches ready changed under my (black) track suit; this enables me to make a quick getaway on those occasions when the alternative seems to be a lot more paperwork! To make this an even more viable option it is a good idea to ask for the match fee before the game; some competition rules require clubs to do this in any case. Sometimes, however, it is impossible to escape in time. Recently, I failed to detect a handball by a defender in his penalty area in the last minute of a crucial top of the table clash. At the final whistle I was in receipt of a number of opinions from the player whose side had been denied a penalty. One of them in particular insisted on repeating several times that 'You saw it and didn't give it. You know you saw it. In fact, I hadn't seen it because, from my position on the goal line following a corner, I was unsighted. Eventually I had to ask the player his name in order to report his remarks to the County FA. He had, after all, called me a cheat in all but name.

CONCLUSION

Up to a point we can perhaps walk away from situations 'around the edges' of a game. Common sense might seem to suggest that we should. Equally, though, common sense also says that we have responsibilities to the Laws, to our colleagues and to the game we love, and that there are, therefore, many occasions when **WE MUST DO OUR DUTY**

OBSERVER