

January 2005

The next meeting of the North Middlesex Referees' Society will be held at the usual venue – Cockfosters FC, Chalk Lane, Barnet, on Friday 14th January 2005. Special guest is former top referee Ray Lewis who will, perhaps unfortunately, always be most remembered as being the referee at the 'Hillsborough Disaster'.

Hope you all enjoyed Christmas and The New Year! Ed.

Janie Frampton

Janie Frampton, FA Regional Manager, is our special guest at the February Society meeting. Please make every effort to support our guest, who will no doubt have some interesting topics to discuss.

December Society Meeting

We're sorry a few December magazines arrived late, due mainly to the time of year. This may have had a bearing on the December Society meeting, which was not up to the usual numbers but was nevertheless enjoyed by everyone present. Chairman Tom White was in great form and as a special treat, Vice Chairman, Vince Yeudall, didn't play his harmonica and Terry Wilson didn't sing! See more elsewhere in this issue.

Jimmy Hill Poser

In last month's magazine members were asked the date of the match, the score and the injured official replaced on the line by Jimmy Hill, in a match between Arsenal and Liverpool. Answers were asked for by email with a bottle of wine for the first correct answer. It has subsequently been pointed out that not everyone has email, which made the offer restricted to PC buffs only. Thanks for bringing this aspect to our attention. You can still send in your answers by 'snail mail', or simply bring it with you to the next meeting, when the winner will be decided. A clue to the solution is in this issue!

Treasurer – Gary Cobden

Owing to Gary's absence at the December meeting, there was no 100 Club draw so the usual details do not appear in this issue. However, Gary has provided details of the Elephant/Tiger Race Nite, to be held on Sunday, 13th February at Ellenborough Table Tennis Club, Enfield.

Percy

Much to the amusement of colleagues Supplies Officer, Percy Brown, leapt to his feet to accept the plaudits of the crowd at the recent Arsenal v Roseburg match, when an Arsenal player with a similar name finally scored a goal – after missing a couple of previous golden opportunities!

Christmas Photo Caption Competition

A number of responses to the above competition, which appeared in the December issue of the Normidian, have been received. Some captions sent by email appear in this issue – others can be given in at the January meeting. Jeff Till – the bemused one in the photo – will select the most apt, and present the prize to the winner.

Contributions

Ken May reaches his penultimate article in a very readable series about his life after refereeing. Peter May reminisces as usual, and snippets are included from other Societies' magazines.

Contributions for the February 05 magazine by 26th January, please.

Christmas Photo Caption Competition

The December 04 magazine had a picture of Society member, Jeff Till, looking bemused with an unknown colleague. Your mission was to submit a witty caption for the photo – with a prize for the most apt, selected by the Editor. Here are just some of the suggestions that reached us by the time this magazine was ‘put to bed’. These, and any others sent to the editor before the next meeting or passed to the chairman at the meeting, will be considered on the night and a winner announced.

- 1 “Which bloke said we both need glasses!”
- 2 “Now I know how Arsene Wenger feels in the dug out!”
- 2 “Blimey, is that really Robin Jagot out of the centre circle?”
- 3 “C’mon, sharpen up, you always use your right hand to salute Lord Peter Dace as he enters the field of play!”
- 4 “Look, if I knew who did it I wouldn’t have called you over, would I?”
- 5 “I’m sure I said right wings to the other lino!”
- 6 “Do you reckon it’s safe to head back to the dressing rooms yet?”

See more elsewhere in the magazine!



Premiership Referee, Mark Halsey, reveals his pre-match routine.

To relax myself as well as my assistants, I make a few dance movements and do a little singing. My selections include Bonnie Tyler's *Holding Out For A Hero* and *Somebody To Love* by the Blues Brothers. But the one I play without fail is Billy Joel's *Just The Way You Are*



Peter Dace reminisces – the Normidian of January 1995

Nigel Taylor, Honorary General Secretary of the London Commercial League sends a circular letter to all interested parties advising the death on 14th December 1994 of Les Saunders (until then also a North Middlesex Life Vice President). In a moving tribute all his work within the league was detailed from his first appointment in October 1953.

At North Middlesex Les had the distinction of being one of the Society’s founder members at the inaugural meeting in the Crown Hotel Southgate on 20th January 1949. Our Editor Ken Goldman mentioned that Les ‘as a great labour of love pounded away at his typewriter using up stencil after stencil to make sure the magazine got out on time’. Many Society representatives attended the funeral at Enfield Crematorium on 21st December.

Gerald Sinstadt writes to the Editor ‘I have always found your editorials – like the conversations we have shared in many a press box – thought-provoking, often illuminating and sometimes provocative of a rethink in my approach to my own refereeing’. In a friendly disagreement on where foul language can be tolerated Gerald states ‘I am not sure that I am willing to tolerate exclamations of disappointment or dismay that cannot be couched in acceptable language on a Sunday morning in a park where members of the public may be merely passing by’.

Guest speaker at Wingate Finchley FC, Squadron Leader Paul Hardie.



Fun Soccer Quiz

- 1 Who play their home league matches at Roots Hall?
- 2 Which African national team is known by the nickname 'The Stallions'?
- 3 Who play their home league games at Huish Park and what is their nickname?
- 4 What is the name of Macclesfield Town's home ground?
- 5 Which city kicked off the Finals of the 1994 World Cup?
- 6 Who play their home league games at Layer Road?

Answers appear elsewhere in the magazine. Ed.

Acknowledgements to Cockfosters FC, whose programme of 12th November 2004 contained this quiz. Percy Brown, an Assistant Referee on the day, kindly passed the programme on to me for the magazine. Ed.



The December 2004 Society Meeting

The attendance at the December Society meeting was below average as many members had indicated they would not be able to come. However, those who braved a cold, foggy night enjoyed an entertaining evening under the chairmanship of the ubiquitous Tom White. There was the usual seasonal fare of mince pies etc washed down with beer or whatever suited the individual's taste.

The group enjoyed discussing a number of interesting topics including personal experiences at disciplinary hearings, match incidents and other less serious aspects. More experienced colleagues like President Ken Goldman, ex-Secretary Martin De La Fuente and Tom himself gave a number of examples of what to expect at a hearing and extolled the value of always seeking advice from a qualified source when faced with disciplinary cases.

The Chairman also welcomed newly-qualified Anthony Rensch to the Society. Anthony, not only settled in as though he had been a member for years by taking an active part in every discussion, but also won a prize, (donated by former Secretary, Martin De La Fuente) for being voted the best story teller of the evening!

Apologies were received from a number of members who were unable to come to the meeting, including 'ever-presents' Secretary, Robin Jagot, Treasurer, Gary Cobden, Mick Osborn, Peter Dace and Percy Brown (Supplies). Other apologists included AFA Vice Chairman/Training Officer, John Cooke and West Ham United's favourite son, Len Wilcock.

Seasons Greetings were exchanged before everyone made their way home from this, the last Society meeting of 2004.



Quotes of the Month – acknowledgements to the 'Cuffley Courier'

An Englishman, even if he is alone, forms an orderly queue of one. – *George Miles*

I used to be Snow White – but I drifted. – *Mae West*

Inside every older person is a younger person wondering what the hell happened. – *Cora Harvey Armstrong*

IS THERE LIFE AFTER REFEREEING? – Continued by Ken May.

They're Not All Bad

The winners were gracious enough to invite me to join them in a local hostelry to celebrate their anticipated championship and I passed a most enjoyable hour or so in their company. More hand shakes as I took my leave of them, rejoicing that the majority playing our beloved game are perfectly civilized and in that respect not that much has changed in 40 years.

Spot The Assessor

So is there life after refereeing? Early signs are that there most certainly is, as long as there is a game of football being played somewhere at 3 pm on a Saturday – it might be 2 pm in winter. The pressure is now off and Assessing for Middlesex on Sundays and for Trevor Syms and the AFA on alternate Saturdays keeps me in touch with the game that gave me so much pleasure for so long.

I have been quite impressed with the promotion candidates, particularly their ability to deal with the more complex aspects of interpreting non-interference at offsides. More often than not, just like their Premiership colleagues, they get the big decisions right whether penalties or cautionable/sending off offences. Where there is scope for improvement is fitness and mobility, and dealing with dissent. The former is an aspect which they alone can do something about.

I do think County FA s, Societies and training centres could do more for the ambitious referees to clarify just what constitutes dissent, early recognition of it, the perils of ignoring it, and what can be done to resolve dissent without automatically resorting to cards.

The Disappeared

Training Centres continue to do a superb job in recruiting and training. However, is enough being done to help the newly-qualified through their early baptism of fire, thereby reducing the unacceptable level of those dropping out?

Statistically referee retention has always been a great dilemma because of the difficulty in quantifying how many of those qualifying have any serious intention of officiating in competition on a regular basis. The emphasis should surely be on monitoring and encouraging these while the other new referees will do their own thing, which is what they always intended. If their interest subsequently increases they should be free to join the truly active group of new officials who are always recognizable by attendance at Society meetings and their early commitment to their new pastime.

Recruiting Tactics

For my part, there was a time when I used to actively recruit by encouraging family members, friends, and work colleagues to take up refereeing. Some of them showed considerable promise but gradually dropped out. This was not because of bad experiences on the field but mainly due to work and family commitments and developing other interests. I believe this shows how comparatively few are willing or suitable to commit themselves to getting a foot on the ladder of natural progression to higher things or more senior football.

(Continued over)

I'm sorry to say that I no longer seek out suitable contacts to train as referees as I firmly believe that in the current climate of antipathy towards officials the initiative must come from the individual. Thereafter, I would give them all the help possible with assessing and advice but they need to be aware of exactly what they are letting themselves in for.

George Who?

I have to confess that unlike Peter (Dace) in his self-tribute, I cannot resist the temptation, while reminiscing, to indulge in a spot of name-dropping. One of my golden moments occurred in the 70's in the Hendon Sunday League days. Wingate had a useful senior team and played at the picturesque ground opposite 'The Gate', Arkley.

When he was available their manager was none other than the celebrated George Graham, still in his playing days. On this occasion Wingate failed to provide a linesman, so I soldiered on without until early in the second half when Mr. Graham had tired of my performance falling below Football League standard and subjected me to a tirade of Scottish invective. There being no grandstand to where he could be dispatched, and as 'The Gate' had not yet opened for lunchtime business, I politely requested that he refrain.

His response was not what I expected, "Give me a fxxxxx flag. I'll show you how to run a fxxxxx line", and he did – most proficiently, frequently overtaking many of the players so that we ended in all smiles without mention of a "Bung"! For all I know it might have been one of my better club marks!

To be concluded next month. Ed.



Peter Dace writes...

I am clearing the decks before flying off to Phoenix (Arizona) on Monday (6th December). I return Friday 17th December, assuming I can cope with 3 days and nights on a cowboy ranch in Tucson, plus one or two other unusual western ideas. Please therefore pass on my apologies at the December meeting next Friday. When I return, Christmas will definitely be here and I will not be thinking Normidian thoughts, so here are contributions for January – amazing that Les Saunders died 10 years ago this month (Peter's reminisces on the Normidian of January 2005 elsewhere. Ed).



Soccer Quiz – answers

- 1 Southend United
- 2 Burkina Faso
- 3 Yeovil Town – The Glovers
- 4 Moss Rose
- 5 Chicago
- 6 Colchester United



KWIKQUOTES – from the 'Chiltern Referee'

"I would not be bothered if we lost every game, as long as we won the league." Mark Viduka



CHILD PROTECTION

A number of Society members attended a Child Protection Workshop held at Middlesex County FA Headquarters, Harrow, on 1 December. The course was well attended and well run. Every referee is now required to complete Child Protection Training and Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks.



Boot checks, Jewellery checks ... what next?

I have religiously been checking players' boots and jewellery this season – but what is it really all about? I am getting bored with teams telling me that this is the first time they have had a boot and jewellery inspection. I am also getting confused with seeing Premier players wearing taped up earrings when quite clearly the earrings should be removed. So why do I check boots and jewellery? Answer – because I am told that's what I should do! Premier League referees quite clearly, do not.

So – how do I handle this situation? Well I tell the confirming referees' secretary that I want both teams in the changing room, 15 minutes before kick-off so I can check the items in question. I have no team-sheet to tick off who I have checked – so it's really a joke. When players ask me – what if my boots are not OK what happens – I tell them to get an acceptable pair of boots or they can't play ... HEY, BUT THIS IS AMATEUR FOOTBALL.

As referees – if this farce is to continue – we all need a simple disclaimer which both captains sign as they hand in their team sheets, referees fees and match balls 30 minutes before kick off ... whoops, there goes another flying pig! But why increase the paperwork when we're trying to reduce the annihilation of the rain forests – we should ask ourselves?

The FA edicts are crazy, even their professional referees ignore them. The 'professional' referees even allow mass brawls and abusive language to go unpunished, so why should we support such insignificant and unenforceable edicts when the fundamentals are being ignored by the FA? Rudd and co deserve what they have received but it's too little, too late, from the FA, I am afraid.

So I am asking for some AFA Referees Society pressure to bring some commonsense back into this situation. I religiously pay my subs, which I hope will be used to sort out the larger issues rather than, dare I mention it, OWC's and the SAL. If the Sal can't see sense then I'm sure the refs will vote with their feet – the referees' network will see to that, Argus or no Argus!

The last time I went into Argus print was about the 50's being classified as One X's, which meant our Senior AFA appointments were reduced by 70% because we were too old! After a lot of huffing and puffing commonsense finally prevailed as it's now November and I'm still being appointed, so age discrimination is hopefully a thing of the past!

To cap it all, I do not believe that (legally) as a referee I am at all responsible for the contact any player may have with his own or opposing team players. However, I'm sure that the 'no win, no fee' brigade will not concur with these views so let's hope our Society can establish a good solution to this mess. Let commonsense prevail, please!

Acknowledgements to the AFA ARGUS and Malcolm Edwards. Ed.

The Annual North Middlesex Referees Society Race Nite

The next Social Event in the calendar is our ever popular Race Nite, taking place this year on Sunday February 13th at Ellenborough Table Tennis Club, Kimberley Gardens, Enfield.

The Tigers - who made their debut last year, following the mysterious disappearance of the Elephants - will be making a welcome return to Enfield, with arrangements having been made to let them out specially for the evening. The Race Nite is an evening of fun and entertainment for adults and children alike; the evening consists of six main races followed by a final - the winners of the individual heats receive a prize, and the winner of the final will be awarded an additional prize. Separate children's races will also be arranged with prizes for all those taking part, and, if you want a race between members of your own family, that can also be arranged.



Tickets prices are £6.00 each for Adults, and those for children (Under 16) are £3.00 each. The ticket price includes a Buffet, and are available from Society Treasurer, Gary Cobden -
by e-mail to treasurer@northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk - or telephone 01992 469153



Notable PERFORMANCES – by the Editorial Board of *Refereeing Today* December 2004/January 2005

Phil Sharp

While the offside law is basically still in place, the speed of the game has changed dramatically making the job of the Assistant Referee much more difficult. Yet in two consecutive World Cup Finals two English Assistants were on the line. Following his appearance in the 2002 World Cup final, Sharp also added an Olympic Final to his CV last summer.

Mark Warren

Mark Warren raised the English profile when after the painful exit of the national team to Argentina in the 1998 World Cup he ran the line on the final match when France delivered a knock-out blow Brazil winning their first title 3-0. Warren enjoyed a superb career on the line and subsequently moved up to the National List as a referee where he continues to officiate today.

Pat Partridge

Former football World Cup referee, Pat Partridge, was one of the first 'celebrity' referees and travelled to over fifty countries fulfilling his refereeing duties. Doubting the benefits of full-time training for professional referees, Partridge once said in the late 70's "No amount of training could improve two of the referees' greatest assets – his eyesight and his courage." It was Partridge who famously pulled Jimmy Hill out of his commentary box to run the line in the 1972 Liverpool v Arsenal game following an injury to an original match official.



“The History of the North Middlesex Referees’ Society”

The above publication is on sale from Charles Lifford or Gary Cobden, our Treasurer. If you are interested in knowing all about the North Middlesex Referees’ Society from its beginnings to the present, it is well worth buying and a snip at £10, all but a penny.

Editor Charles Lifford keeps the book current and would like you all to contribute to the “History” by sending him details of your plum appointments, which will go down in the book and will remain as a constant reminder of your big day (s).

Please help Charles in his quest to ensure that the Society and its members are remembered for years to come.



Exit – UEFA EURO 2004 – acknowledgements to uefa.com

Euro 2004 was the last stand for a number of coaches. Plamen Markov (Bulgaria), Otto Baric (Croatia), Jacques Santini (France), Rudi Voller (Germany), Giovanni Trapattoni (Italy) Inaki Saez (Spain) and Tommy Soderberg (Sweden) all said their goodbyes after returning home.

Was it worth the trip? Ed.



A Sporting Question (S) – (Refereeing) – extracted from ‘Eccles Referees’ the Official Magazine of the Eccles and District RA

1. Question

An attacking player is in an offside position. His team mate kicks the ball towards him but the ball is intercepted by an opponent whose skill deserts him and he fails to clear the ball, only deflecting it to the ‘offside’ attacker who easily ‘nut-megs’ the goalkeeper to put his team one goal to the good.

Do you award a goal? And more importantly why do you take the action?

Answer

The Law states that ‘a player in an offside position is only penalised if, at the moment the ball touches or is played by one of his own team, he is, in the opinion of the referee involved in active play’. The clause being ‘played-on’ was deleted a few seasons back, and therefore the referee should in this case have penalised the offside-positioned attacker immediately, and the goal would not be allowed.

2. Question

The goalkeeper throws the ball to a colleague who is standing outside the penalty area. As the defender controls the ball the referee blows his whistle, runs over to another defender (who is standing in his own penalty area) and sends him off for abusive language. The referee then awards a penalty kick, because the offence (abusive language) has taken place in the defenders own penalty area.

Do you agree with the referee’s decision and why?

Answer

The referee was correct to dismiss the player for offensive, or insulting or abusive language and/or gestures, but he was wrong when recommencing play. Play should have been commenced with an indirect free kick from where the offence occurred.



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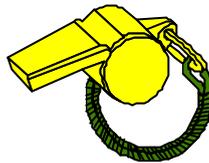
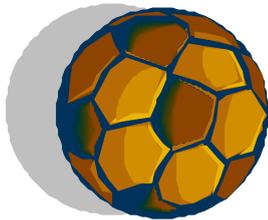
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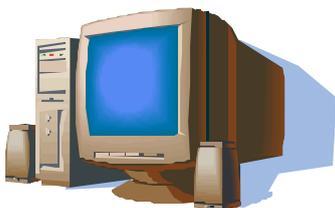
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SIGNALS

Do you use the various methods of signals at your command correctly, or are you the famous railway guard that everyone talks of?

There are three forms of signals at your disposal and all, or combinations of them, should be used clearly, visibly and authoritatively. They are the whistle, hand and voice. *The whistle*, it goes without saying, should be the loudest you can purchase. This is your 'voice' for stopping play amongst other uses and a feeble peep will not enhance your authority. Whenever the whistle is used it should be clearly heard to the far corners of the field of play. Almost your first command will be the calling of the captains together. From that early whistle, the players, assessor and spectators will know what sort of referee is on show today. The whistle should be used as little as possible. To start and stop the two halves of play and then only to stop play because of an infringement. Then and only then should the strength of the whistle reflect the severity of the offence.

Hand signals always seem to be the more difficult to use. They are either not used, over used or just over demonstrative. The arm or arms should be straight and decisive. The indirect signal should be raised when the kick is taken with the arm straight and hand clearly facing most of the players, dropped only when the ball has been played by the second player or gone out of play.

Try not to walk around with it raised for ages, whilst the players prepare, but get the play going again quickly.

Try not to indicate the exact blade of grass where the ball must be placed and the direction it is to go. Semaphore is not part of the game.

Unless there is uncertainty as to whose throw-in it is, then a diagonally raised straight arm is needed. There is little need otherwise to indicate.

The 'advantage' is one of those combinations where voice and hand play an important part. It is essential that rightly or wrongly, all, including the assessor and spectators know that you are allowing play to continue although you may have seen an infringement.

The LOAF shows the correct hand signal, but not all will see it and dissent will be heard. A good strong word of authority, like 'Play on advantage', informs everyone of your decision.

The voice, most of us have been given a strong voice. When used it should be authoritative and used for stoppages, such as a throw in, corner kick, goal kick and restarts. But, don't forget a word of cheer, encouragement, comfort or even congratulations are all useful in your control of the match.

Even when having to discipline players, the quiet voice of authority shows to all that you have the situation in control. Do you need to blow your whistle for restarts?



Christmas Photo Caption – more suggestions

- 7 “I see no ships!”
- 8 “Is the ref using an umbrella”
- 9 “I’m sure I had a ball”
- 10 “Look at the size of them!”
- 11 “Are you sure this is not Aintree?”
- 12 “Where the hell is everybody?”
- 13 “Are you sure we are on the right side of the fence?”



North Middlesex Referees Society – Gear Price List/Order Form – Season 2004/2005

Referees Association Kits

Shirts	S	M	L	XL	XXL
	36"	38"/40"	42"	44"	46"/48"

Shorts	S	M	L	XL	XXL
	32"	34"	36"	38"	40"/42"

	Size	Quantity	Price	Total Cost
Long Sleeved Shirt			£19.50	
Short Sleeved Shirt			£19.50	
Shorts			£13.00	
Embroidered Badge (RA or County)			£7.50	
Embroidered Badge (RA and County)			£15.50	
-County.....				

Umbro Kits

Shirts	M	L	XL	XXL	XXXL
	38"/40"	41"/43"	44"/46"	47"/49"	50"/52"

Shorts	S	M	L	XL	XXL	XXXL
	32"	34"	36"	38"	40"	42"

	Size	Quantity	Price	Total Cost
Dallas Long Sleeved Shirt			£33.00	
Dallas Short Sleeved Shirt			£32.00	
Dallas Shorts			£23.00	
Primo Long Sleeved Shirt			£31.50	
Primo Short Sleeved Shirt			£30.50	
Shorts			£22.00	
Embroidered Badge			£7.25	
-County.....				

Socks

	Quantity	Price	Total Cost
White Topped		£4.75	
White Topped (reinforced soles)		£5.50	
Three Ringed (Hooped) Topped		£4.75	
Diamond (Umbro) Topped		£5.50	
All Black		£4.75	
Sock Ties		£1.50	

Assistant Referees Flags

Touchline Flags

	Quantity	Price	Total Cost
Premier (Full Set)		£27.00	
Super Quartered (Full Set)		£26.00	
Super Plain (Full Set)		£24.00	
Quartered (Full Set)		£24.50	
Plain (Full Set)		£23.00	
Premier (Flags and Sticks)		£25.00	
Super Quartered (Flags and Sticks)		£24.00	
Super Plain (Flags and Sticks)		£23.00	
Quartered (Flags and Sticks)		£22.50	
Plain (Flags and Sticks)		£21.00	
Premier (Flags Only)		£15.00	
Super Quartered (Flags Only)		£14.00	
Super Plain (Flags Only)		£13.50	
Quartered (Flags Only)		£13.00	
Plain (Flags Only)		£11.00	

Touchline Flag Accessories

	Quantity	Price	Total Cost
Flag Bag		£5.00	
Flagsticks (pair)		£14.95	
Flagsticks (single)		£8.50	
Endcaps (pair)		£2.00	
Brass Inserts (pair)		£1.00	

North Middlesex Referees Society – Gear Price List/Order Form – Season 2004/2005

Referees Association Flags

	Quantity	Price	Total Cost
Flags (plain)		£5.00	
Flags (quartered)		£7.50	
Flagsticks (pair)		£3.50	
Flag Bag		£5.00	

Matchday Accessories

	Quantity	Price	Total Cost
Plastic Wallet with Red & Yellow Cards & Pencil		£2.30	
Plastic Wallet with Red & Yellow Cards		£2.00	
Plastic Wallet		£0.90	
Set of Red and Yellow Cards		£1.50	
Pencils		£0.10	
Match Record Pads		£0.90	
General Purpose Postcards (25)		£1.10	
Write-On/Wipe-Off Red / Yellow Cards (inc marker)		£5.25	
Plastic Whistle with Grip		£1.75	
Plastic Whistle		£1.50	
Plastic Finger Whistle		£1.75	
Metal Whistle		£3.40	
Pealess Whistle		£1.75	
Fox 40 Cassic		£4.95	
Fox 40 Cassic with cushioned mouth grip		£5.95	
Fox 40 Triple Colour Pack		£13.50	
Elasticated Wrist Coil		£2.10	
Traditional Wrist Lanyard		£2.10	
Traditional Neck Lanyard		£1.75	

Other Accessories

	Quantity	Price	Total Cost
Referees Association Kit Bag		£17.50	
Middlesex County FA badge		£3.00	
Referees Association badge		£3.00	
Laws of Association Football		£4.00	
FA Diary		£4.00	
Refereeing Today magazine		£0.90	
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A History of North Middlesex Referees Society		£9.99	

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