

## January 2006

**The Normidian team hope all our readers including active and non-active referees and retired colleagues had a good time over the Christmas holiday period. To everyone in the Society we wish you a Happy New Year.**

**The next meeting of the North Middlesex Referees' Society is scheduled to take place at our usual venue, Pymmes Park Bowls Club, Silver Street, Edmonton, London N18 on Thursday 19 January, commencing at 7.30 pm. Guest Speaker is Andy Porter, from the London FA. We hope to have a good attendance to welcome Andy to the Society.**

We are sorry to report that one of our Life Vice Presidents, Ron Hounsell, has been unwell lately; Ron is also a Life Vice President of the Amateur Football Alliance. Our thoughts are with Ron and his wife Maureen and family at this worrying time. We hope you get better soon, Ron.

The apparent dissatisfaction amongst members regarding our new venue for Society meetings rumbles on. This in no way reflects on the Bowls Club or our genial host, Gary. Paradoxically, we had a near record crowd for the last meeting, which was a social event with no 'business' conducted. Perhaps we have turned the corner – we shall see at future meetings!

In this month's edition of The Normidian, we are pleased to report on the first issue of 'Whistle Talk' the magazine of the North Staffordshire Referees' Club – editor Mike Sherwin. "What's it all About" gives some background to the new magazine and we hope 'Whistle Talk' will continue for many a year – the first edition looks excellent.

In this issue, Gary Cobden writes a summary of a meeting held between NMRS and the Referees' Association of England (RAE) concerning the Society's ongoing dispute with Middlesex Referees' Association on subscriptions. 'What's it all about', is an article from Issue No 1 of 'Whistle Talk', North Staffordshire RA's excellent new magazine. Mick Osborn writes tongue in cheek about 'Resolutions' and Peter Dace's reminiscences from 10 years ago are also included. And Gary Cobden publishes the lucky winning numbers in the North Middlesex 100 Club.

The Annual Quiz Nite is now on Saturday, 28 January, at Pymmes Park Bowls Club, starting 7.30 pm – more details are included elsewhere in this issue.

We have also printed a letter from Trevor Syms, AFA Referee Development Officer, on the Law Amendment regarding the Penalty Kick. Trevor's last paragraph is worth repeating: *"I do ask that all referees acquaint themselves with Laws as and when they are amended and do not take a great deal of notice from so-called experts on TV."*

Finally, Mick Osborn informs that Miss Rachel Yankey, Arsenal footballer and graduate of a referees' course run by the Society, has received an MBE for her services to sport, in the New Year's Honours. Many congratulations, Rachel!

**Contributions for the February 06 issue of the magazine by 30 January, please.**

### **Summary of a Meeting between delegates of NMRS and RAE to resolve the dispute between NMRS and MRA**

As you are all aware, there is an ongoing dispute between NMRA and MRA regarding subscriptions, and this Season NMRS has refused to meet MRA's demand for a per capita fee. In an attempt to resolve the dispute, delegates from NMRS met delegates from the RAE in September. We were requested to delay publication of these notes until after the RAE had met with MRA. Pre meeting, the RAE delegates had not spoken to any members of MRA so as to come to this meeting with an open state of mind. Both sides agreed that the main aim of the meeting was to protect Members interests by finding a way for NMRS Members to remain part of the RAE. Whilst NMRS members were members of RAE, NMRS was not, and this situation cannot be allowed to continue.

NMRS stated it was unfair we should pay a membership fee to MRA of £35 last year, but £265 this year. With the current standing of the MRA rules, subscriptions based on £1 per head this season, could quite easily increase to £2 per head next season. This per capita basis is a license to come along and take our cash. NMRS stated that members would be paying four times for the privilege of refereeing: - Affiliation/Membership Fees to CFA; NMRS; RAE; and MRA. NMRS stated if subs are paid on a per capita basis, then votes should also be. Whilst this could possibly mean that NMRS on its own could outvote all the remaining Societies within MRA, RAE advised it would be on a percentage basis so that one Society alone could not outvote all the other Societies. NMRS accepted that the per capita basis was by far the most common method of payment adopted by the majority of County Associations, and the rate varied widely between Counties. NMRS advised the conflict of interest held by Len Randall due to the many positions he holds – both at local and national level.

NMRS raised the point of the MRA Accounts for the season 2004/2005, and that these would be unavailable until the AGM in January 2006. Previous season's Accounts were available. The RAE asked why MRA required such an increase in subs when operating expenses in the last financial year were only £114, and in the previous year £120. This was adequately covered by the Society subs. NMRS raised the point of the Annual Social, which is so poorly supported by the other Societies, despite the fact that they continually vote to hold it. It always runs at a loss, despite significant financial support. It was asked as to why the presentations undertaken at the Social could not be undertaken at the MCFA Awards Night. The history of the Social was outlined, in that it used to be organised by Societies in rotation, the last time NMRS organised it, it was held in Ealing, the centre of the County. It was also mentioned that there used to be a per capita levy to support the event, which NMRS opposed even then. Additionally, a small nominal entry fee was charged.

RAE suggested that NMRS talk to other Societies to try to explain our point of view. NMRS advised that, when speaking to another Society, their comment was to the effect of 'Pay your money and come along and enjoy yourself'. NMRS advised there had always been long standing differences between NMRS and MRA; MRA was invited to put its point at an NMRS meeting many years ago, and be bound by the decision of the members voting on the night. MRA put their case; NMRS voted against; and MRA stuck to the agreement.

RAE sought clarification as to why NMRS did not subscribe to MRA's scheme to pay the RAE Membership Fee for new and lapsed members. NMRS advised that smaller Societies training a small number of Referees annually, could probably afford to subscribe to the scheme. NMRS could certainly not afford to cover the fees in respect of around 100 trainees each year, which would amount to circa £1,000 per annum. If the lapsed members were to be added to this, the figure would almost certainly double. The RAE also asked why NMRS had failed to attend an MRA meeting since 2003. NMRS showed the RAE a map which indicated the area of Middlesex covered by NMRS, and the remaining area covered by the other five Societies. NMRS then indicated where all the MRA meetings were held. NMRS stated that, due to this location, it had been difficult to find delegates willing to travel on a monthly basis; however, this had now been resolved, and NMRS now has delegates available. RAE questioned the need for MRA to hold monthly meetings for meetings sake; NMRS advised that MRA only needed to hold a minimum of 4 meetings a year. The question of geography was raised by RAE, who indicated there could be some give and take on the part of MRA by rotating the meetings around the County.

NMRS provided the RAE with the minutes from the EGM and AGM held on 31 January 2005. The minutes showed the EGM had been called under MRA Rule 11. The legality of this was queried at the meeting, so the decision was taken to hold the meeting under Rule 6.3 – despite 21 days notice is required to hold a meeting under this Rule.

RAE advised they would hold a meeting with MRA, and they would take the following as the four main points for discussion: - Subscriptions; Annual Function; Incentive Scheme; and Geography

NMRS pointed out that, under the old MRA Rules, all Societies were jointly and equally liable for any losses incurred by MRA, so, over the last two years, should have been invoiced for circa £14 and £18 respectively. However, this had not been carried forward to the new Rules.

NMRS advised that, if an amicable resolution cannot be reached, NMRS would be prepared to go it alone without affiliating to the RAE. Effectively, all the members really see as a benefit from the RAE is the provision of the Personal Accident Insurance. One quotation has already been received that is actually less than the fee and insurance members currently pay.

Gary Cobden  
Honorary Treasurer



## What's it all about?

The North Staffordshire Referees' Association was formed in 1896 making it the oldest Referees club in the world. It has had many venues around the Potteries, but Rectory Road is probably the best one, considering its location and also the generous room size offered.

The club in the last few years has been entertained by some household named guest speakers including Kevin Keegan, Graham Taylor, Mark Lawrenson, David Ellery, Mark Cooper, Phil Dowd, Andy Martin, Brian Horton, Andy Porter, Noel Blake, and more recently Alan Hansen to name just a few.

Whilst the club is entertaining, it also is very informative in all refereeing matters both at a local and national level. Amongst the strong 116 members this season are some very experienced individuals within the game of refereeing or individuals who have done it all and have since hung up their boots. This means that there is a wealth of knowledge within the club from people who are only too willing to help and pass on their very valuable advice for those who wish to seek it.

The membership last season was 132 with an all time best of 141 members in both 1974 and again in 2003. We will hopefully one day achieve a membership of 150.

The club each year proudly raises money for the Arthur Elden Memorial Fund in recognition of the work Arthur did for both referees and football in general. The money is mainly raised through the dedication of Roy Plant and Committee through the sales of the Christmas raffle tickets, Christmas club draw, bonus ball, and a pre-season football competition. This year the Memorial Fund has raised its largest ever amount of £6,000. The fund this year will be shared out between the Kidsgrove Day Centre, Leek Day Centre, Claybourne House, Abbey Hill Special School, Heathfield School, and the Peter Pan organisation.

The club offers a five-aside football competition in early January, a cricket competition in July, and a golf day usually in August. It also runs a golf knockout competition throughout the season. Other events include the Chairman's Dinner and Christmas Disco.

**The club meets at 7:30pm at The Rectory Road Sports & Social Club in Shelton on the second Thursday of each month from August to May.**



## RESOLUTIONS

By Mick Osborn

In case you have made no New Year Resolutions for 2006 or would like a few more, I have put together some of my own, which you are welcome to adopt. However, before I start on that I would like to re-visit the LOAF. Law 14 to be exact.

The ball enters the goal from a penalty kick but as a colleague of the kicker was guilty of encroachment the referee disallows the goal. He restarts the game by awarding an indirect free kick to the defending side.

In the first part of this season the AFA has had four appeals for matches to be replayed because of wrong decisions made by referees under the above circumstances, which were identical in each case. This caused them enough concern to contact all their referees and remind them of the current law. Would your decision have been the same? The correct decision appears elsewhere in this article.

But now for those resolutions I said I would share with you.

1. Get to like the parents at the Sunday morning children's game that kicks off twenty minutes late, particularly when you have made a special effort to be there after the party the night before and it is pouring with rain.
2. Try and see the father's point of view when he runs thirty-odd yards to tell you that your \*\*\*\*\*decision is \*\*\*\*\* wrong as his kid is a \*\*\*\*\* little angel and that you are a \*\*\*\*\* joke and the worst \*\*\*\*\* referee they have had all \*\*\*\*\* season. Just smile and tell him to \*\*\*\*\* off. (NB. Do not try to work out what the actual words are as the number of asterisks do not necessarily correlate with the number of letters in each word. Ed.)
3. Ditto the similar point of view of adult players.
4. **Devote some time during the game to debate with players why that goal was disallowed when it was so obviously on side or was allowed when it was so obviously off side.**
5. When the ball enters the goal from a penalty kick and a colleague of the kicker has encroached, disallow the goal and have the penalty kick retaken. (In spite of the belief, popular in some quarters, that a further document had been issued giving credence to the action quoted in the second paragraph of this article, The F.A. confirmed that no such document has been issued by them or FIFA. If the ball does not enter the goal, stop the game and award an indirect free kick to the defending team.)
6. When taking a player's name before cautioning or sending him off, remember to tell him what an unusual name he has and what a wonderful sense of humour his parents must have possessed.

M. Osborn, The Editor and the Council of North Middlesex Referees' Society accept no responsibility for any outcome by the adoption of the above resolutions.

Happy New Year

## **Peter Dace reminisces – the Normidian of January 1996**

‘A message from the Tournament Director’ of Euro96 seeks nearly 1,000 volunteers to help organise the tournament. ‘Every Championship game will need over 100 volunteers to help with the many different aspects of staging an international football match’.

Mick Osborn produces part 4 of ‘it’s a changing game’. Numbered shirts were used in the Football League for the first time on August 25<sup>th</sup> 1928. In 1931 goalkeepers were allowed to take four steps (instead of two) while in possession of the ball. In June 1934, a Cup Final Referee, Stanley Rous, was appointed Secretary of the Football Association, and began a complete overhaul of the Laws of the Game. The arc at each corner, to bound the area from which corner kicks could be taken, was added for the 1938/39 season. Obstruction became an offence in the 1948/49 season.

Graham Perry writes ‘the Referee is to blame’ and says ‘the Premier League Referees are letting us down. They are making our problems greater and making it more difficult for us to referee effectively on the local parks. You see they tolerate dissent. Now dissent comes in two guises – primary dissent when the player directly abuses the referee and secondary dissent which is the continuation of ongoing complaints and criticism of a referees decision’. Finally he adds ‘next time you see the Premier League Ref surrounded by complaining players and no yellow cards you ask yourself who is doing the damage. The player for the dissent or the Ref for tolerating it’.

In minutes of the December 1995 meeting we note item 14 Guest Speaker- Paul Vosper spoke most animatedly about his career to date as a FIFA Inesman. The meeting particularly enjoyed the story about a Premier League referee and his one shirt for a three-day tour! Paul was thanked by Bob Martin.

Guest speaker – Jack Mitchell, a Sports Psychologist.



## **December’s Society Meeting**

No special guest just us! That was the theme at the December Society meeting. Probably our biggest crowd so far (and that’s not big) enjoyed an evening of discussion and fun – yes despite what the outside world thinks referees can enjoy themselves. Council members provided refreshments and Chairman, Tom White, made sure the evening went with a swing with his ‘stand-up’ chat lines.

Terry Wilson organised a football trivia quiz, which was closely won by the team nearest the bar! Then, joy of joys, Vice Chairman, Vince Yeudall brought out his mouth organ and bones – not just any old bones you understand – bones you rattle between your fingers! After a few choruses of Camp Down Races, followed by a Christmas carol or two Vince signed a few autographs to keep him quiet then everyone went back to the bar.

A good night was had by all. Thanks to the Pymmes Park Bowls Club, especially Gary for running the bar, and to everyone who brought refreshments.





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# **North Middlesex Referees Society**

present their

## **ANNUAL QUIZ NITE**

on  
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at

**Pymmes Park Bowls Club**

**Silver Street, Edmonton, London, N18 1PL**

commencing at 7:30pm

Teams of Six

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**Gary Cobden**  
**Honorary Treasurer**

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Date 20<sup>th</sup> December

TO: All AFA Registered Referees

The Penalty Kick  
Law Amendment season 2005/06

Dear Colleague,

For some reason the amendment to Law 14, The Penalty Kick, contained in the amending document issued by the Football Association, dated May 2005, over the signature of Brian Barwick which reproduces FIFA Circular No. 968, is causing referees difficulties and has resulted in 4 appeals by Clubs for matches to be replayed. The circumstances, identical in each case occurred when, after awarding a penalty a colleague of the kicker was guilty of encroachment, **and the ball entered the goal**, the referee stopped the game and awarded an indirect free kick. The Law in this case is very clear when this happens and reads

- The referee allows the kick to proceed
- If the ball **enters** the goal, the **kick is retaken**
- If the ball **does not enter** the goal, the referee stops play and **restarts the match with an indirect free kick to the defending team.**

Regrettably the referees were challenged, vociferously in some cases, by both players and managers after the incident and after the game, which resulted in cautions and dismissals being issued. Obviously the award of an indirect free kick to their opponents instead of retaking the penalty kick could have a significant effect on the match result. The referees justified their actions by claiming that a further document had been issued, after May 2005 giving credence to the action they had taken. I have confirmed with the F.A. that no such document has been issued by them or FIFA.

A further illegal interpretation has crept into the game whereby when a penalty is missed and the ball crosses the goal line and goes out of play, some referees have got into the habit of awarding a goal kick, instead of the indirect free kick as the Law requires. At first glance this may not seem important but please remember

- A goal may be scored direct from a goal kick, in the opponents goal
- A goal may not be scored direct from an indirect free kick
- A player may not be given offside when receiving a ball direct from a goal kick
- A player may be given offside from an indirect free kick
- A goal kick can only be taken from within the goal area, ie a maximum of 6 yards from the goal line, whereas the indirect free kick should be taken from where the incident occurred, which could well be 15/16 yards from the goal line, a significant consideration where distance upfield is required.

I do ask that all referees acquaint themselves with Laws as and when they are amended and do not take a great deal of notice from so called experts on T.V.

Yours sincerely,

*T.W. Syms*

Referee Development Officer

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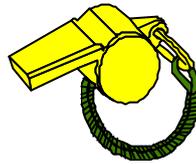
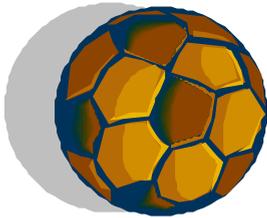
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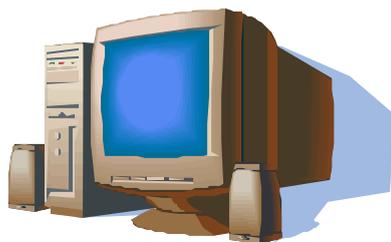
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## **NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS — Observer**

Now that we are into the New Year it is customary to make the odd resolution, such as giving up smoking, drinking or eating less. Have you given any thought on the subject to your refereeing? That is to say, resolutions, which will improve your performance as an official. Here are a few suggestions. Check through all of these suggested resolutions that have been listed, there will be at least one that is applicable to each and every one of you. See how many you need to make to improve your own performance. Here we go: .

### **1. KNOW THE LAWS**

**It** has been found **by** experience that more often than not the man who knows the LOAF is the man who has recently qualified. Very often, the longer we referee the less we read it. Do we really know it all that well?

When the new LOAF arrives at the start of each season how many of us just study the law amendments? None of us are that good as to think that we know all the laws without reference. Make it a point to read the laws of the game fully at least twice a season and always keep one handy for easy reference. Mind you, don't take it onto the field of play with you or players may well lose confidence in your ability!

### **2. FITNESS**

The sore point for most of us, both literally and figuratively. Are we really as fit as we should be? Can you be in the right place at the right time throughout the match? Even during extra-time? Let us be honest, not many of us can put hand on heart and answer 'yes. It can take great effort to drag yourself out after a hard day, on a cold and wet night, or even when the snow is on the ground, to run your three or more miles, jogging, sprinting, running backwards etc.

We must be at least as fit as the fittest player on the field. Many referees have been heard to say, "I only took to the whistle when I became too old to play". This can only be accepted if they meant that it was because of injuries which did not affect their pace, certainly not fitness. You must be able to last out the whole of the game, at least 2 hours, without flagging. Come on chaps, get your running shoes on, or preferably boots, and out you go.

### **3. TURNOUT**

Is your kit getting 'tatty', or did you get a new set for Christmas? Are your boots in a good state of repair and highly polished with clean laces? Are your socks really black with white tops?

It does sound as though you are expected to turnout as if for a big parade. It should be the same for every game. Pride in appearance brings with it pride in a job well done. Do you approach the field of play correctly? Ball under your arm in the company of your two linesmen, if of course you are lucky enough to have them, with that look of authority.

Continued

Make it a resolution, always to look and act the part of a referee or linesman and be a credit to the uniform you wear.

#### **4. TIMING**

Are you always early arriving at the ground for your match? Your duties start long before the first whistle, meeting and briefing the linesmen, getting the feel of the game before it starts. There is nothing more off-puffing to players than being kept hanging around because the referee and linesmen are late. Ensure that you always arrive at the very least, 30 minutes before kick-off time

#### **5. HELP EACH OTHER**

Everyone seems to think that the sole prerogative of senior referees is to watch their junior colleagues and to give advice. Nothing is further from the truth. If, as a junior referee, you find yourself watching a colleague and you notice a fault or an annoying mannerism, point it out to him. Many junior referees prefer constructive criticism from their younger colleagues rather than from a more senior colleague.

My help, at any time, from any one, so long as it is offered and of course it is accepted in the right spirit, can only help to improve the overall performance, and that is the aim, or certainly should be, at all times. Make a resolution to both give and accept help from any one.

#### **6. APPOINTMENTS.**

This is probably the most important resolution of them all. The man with the hardest job in your Area is the Appointments Secretary, mainly because YOU make his job so difficult. Why did you not return your availability slip? Why have you not given him a ring to let him know that you are unexpectedly available?

Why on earth did you leave it until the last possible moment to inform him that you can not do the game this afternoon? It is no joke scrambling around at the last possible minute trying to find a substitute official. How on earth can you complain about not getting matches when the chap who dishes them out has not been informed that you are available? Please make every effort in the New Year to ensure that the Appointments Secretary is always informed of your availability.

#### **7. MEETINGS**

My excuse will do to save you turning out for a meeting on a 'dirty' night. Is that your attitude? Wife or children not well, unexpected visitors, last minute duty. It should never happen.

The referees' meeting is where it all happens, where you can meet your friends and colleagues to find out the answers to that problem you remember from your last match, where you learn to understand the laws of the game and to know their interpretation.

Continued

If you were not sure about that decision you made in the last game, what better place to be than at your meeting, talking to a colleague over a drink, and asking him his opinion. This is YOUR club, yes, a REFEREES' CLUB where you learn all the answers, even more important you answer someone else's. You don't have to be a senior referee to help. We can relax and learn, and believe me, we never stop learning about the game. So this year, how about it, no more excuses for non-attendance. Show up every month.

### **8. TREAT ALL GAMES THE SAME**

So many referees get into deep trouble in so-called 'friendly' matches because they have approached the game with the wrong attitude. The Laws never change, apply them to the full in any game in which you officiate.

The players will respect you more for a firm attitude and will play within the laws of the game. More serious injuries are incurred in so called 'friendlies', than in many competitive games, makes you think doesn't it? Accident, stupidity or lack of control.

### **9. LINING IS IMPORTANT**

Are you one of the guys who asks the Appointments Secretary when he calls, "Is it a middle or a line?" If so, then this is the resolution for you. Why on earth any official should look down on lining appointment. It is just as important as being in the middle. You have tremendous responsibilities as a member of a team.

Many results of important matches have been decided by a decision made by a linesman. Never look down on the job, a good linesman is worth his weight in gold. You are the poor relation, so promise to get that completely out of your head. From now on be just as pleased with a line appointment as middle, because one is just as important as the other.

### **10. ONLY YOUR BEST IS GOOD ENOUGH**

Try your best every time you go out onto the park. **It** is very **hard** at times when the weather is very bad or a team is 10 goals in front, but do not lose interest. No one can ask, or will expect more. Make it your resolution to give the players the best game you can every time.

Never be satisfied, always strive to improve. It is our job to ensure a good and well-controlled game.

Remember that you are never the best, without trying to be.

A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

### **Who Am I**

I excelled as a schoolboy at cricket, swimming and athletics.

I hold the record of league appearances for the club I played for (568) and I was the most capped player (43)

I made my England debut in 1959.

Answer:----- OBE.



## Christmas Personality Quiz - Who Am I?

Born: Romford  
Date of Birth: 10 October 1966  
England Caps: 66  
International Goals Scored: 5  
Clubs: Arsenal

Answer: **Tony Adams**

Born: Dartford  
Date of Birth: 5 September 1927  
England Caps: None  
Clubs: West Ham

Answer: **Malcolm Allison**

Born: Watford  
Date of Birth: 5 January 1965  
Welsh Caps: 9  
International Goals Scored: 0  
Clubs: Wimbledon, Leeds, Sheffield Utd, Chelsea, QPR.

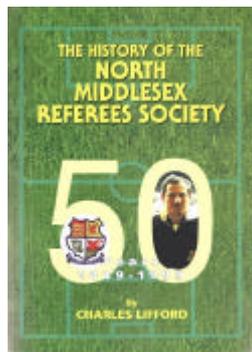
Answer: **Vinnie Jones**



**Kits for Sale** The Society has a number of coloured shirts for sale, together with black shorts. The Shirts are Short Sleeved, and all one size (extra large), brand new, and are individually wrapped. Available in a choice of colours – Yellow and Black; Blue and Black; and Red and Black. Each shirt is available at a cost of only £5.00. The Society also has available



pairs of extra large Black Shorts. Again they are brand new, and individually wrapped. Each pair of shorts is also available at a price of £5.00. If you would like to purchase any of these shirts or shorts, please contact the **Society Gear Supplies Officer, Percy Brown, on 01707 851369.**



### **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Book**

In 1999, the Society celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. To celebrate this, the Society published a book charting its history over the years including profiles; facts; and photographs. The book was written and compiled for the Society by Charles Lifford.

If you would like to purchase a copy of this book - **NORTH MIDDLESEX REFEREES SOCIETY - A CELEBRATION OF 50 YEARS FOOTBALL** - contact **Society Treasurer, Gary Cobden**, on 01992 469153 or by e-mail – [treasurer@northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk)