

January 2007

A Happy New Year to all our readers! Hope you all had an enjoyable time over Christmas and are looking forward to the second half of the season, whether as a referee, assistant referee or as one of the many valued assessors, examiners, tutors, mentors, administrators etc; without whose contribution to helping, advising and coaching, the refereeing fraternity and the game as we know it would not survive.

The next Society meeting will be held on Thursday, 18 January at the usual venue, Holtwhites Sports and Social Club, Kirkland Drive, Enfield. Guest Speaker is Ian Blanchard, the FA's Head of Refereeing. Society member, and Football League Referee Paul Taylor will be visiting in February.

As recorded in the last issue of the magazine, Council decided to cancel the December 2006 meeting as it was felt that not enough members would be present to make the evening worthwhile. Hopefully, the January meeting with Ian Blanchard will be a success. Ian's presentation will be summarised and included in the February edition of Normidian.

Robin Jagot has been speaking to Life Vice-President George Basten who has not been in the best of health lately. Peter Dace has also been in touch with George who is shortly to go in hospital for treatment. We all send you our very best wishes; George, get well soon.

Peter Dace has visited NMRS Auditor, Brian Langstone, who has also not been well. Brian's daughter, Joy, wrote to Gary Cobden and says that her dad is now waiting to be moved to Harefield Hospital for treatment and possibly a by-pass if he needs it. If any of Brian's friends and colleagues wish to phone him, the number to ring is 07077821343, at the hospital. Joy goes on to say that she is sure her dad appreciates everyone's continued thoughts and good wishes.

Maxie Lea, continues to progress favourably after having hip replacements on both legs in quick succession.

As reported last month, there is to be a 'FAMOA Evening' organized by the London FA on Thursday 1 February, at the Emirates Stadium to which Society members are invited to attend. Tickets are available from Secretary, Robin Jagot, on 'a first come first served basis'.

Peter Dace writes an interesting and entertaining article about a day out at a match with Society member and Football League Referee, Paul Taylor, who as stated above, is also next month's guest speaker.

As usual, Gary Cobden has compiled a number of local plum appointments and some others are also included, thanks to Charles Lifford - congratulations to everyone concerned. Also included in this issue, 'Observer', on 'Thinking About The Game' and Phil Newman sends in an article on players wearing black, or very dark, shirts! And look for an article on First Aid taken from the AFA Argus.

Contributions for the February 2007 issue of the magazine to the Editor by Thursday 1 February, please.



Firs Farm too far – have a game in Bristol!

No doubt you, like me, have grumbled about the travelling necessary to fulfil your appointments. Imagine having to go all the way to Firs Farm on a Saturday before Christmas and negotiating all that traffic through Enfield town centre or perhaps a burst along the ever busy M25 for a ‘plum’ at the Spurs training ground. But what if you live in Cheshunt and have a game in Bristol on a Wednesday evening with a 7.45 pm kick off! How would you plan that journey?

Well I have been fortunate to find out by travelling with Society Member and Football League Referee, Paul Taylor. Paul, an ever-youthful 47 year old is in his 22nd season on the Football League – five years on the line and now 17 years in the middle, with hopefully at least one more season to go despite next year reaching the mandatory retiring age. However the recently enacted Age Discrimination legislation might mean that, even in football, age should not affect your continued progress.

In between several other appointments – last Sunday 26th November Paul was at Swansea City v Bristol City for a 1.30 pm kick off necessitating an overnight stay the previous evening in Bristol; next Tuesday night at MK Dons; and this coming Saturday with an FA Cup 1st round game at Swindon Town – he received a Johnstone’s Paint Trophy 3rd round match between Bristol Rovers and Peterborough United (Match fee £253 plus 40p per mile and a meal allowance ranging between £10 and £18)

We arranged to meet at Paul’s house for a 3pm departure and I just wondered if he would be there following a morning flight down to Stansted from Scotland where he had been working. Cup of tea in hand and bag already packed we left in his magnificent BMW which cruises the motorways at 80 mph without, apparently, any hint of traffic delays, and thanks to his Tom Tom in-car satellite navigation, never a suggestion of a wrong turning. The 145 miles to The Memorial Stadium were covered in even time and we turned into the Club car park with just a friendly shout of ‘Referee’ to the gateman, which led to an ideal parking spot.

Dragging a huge bag of kit behind him Paul went straight to the Referees room – hardly palatial and not even a sink - but just sufficient room for four Match Officials. Off next to a private lounge, where the two Assistant Referees and the Fourth Official were having tea and sandwiches with the Match Assessor. Bristol Rovers, official nickname The Pirates but known on the Club scoreboard as ‘The Gas’ are a friendly Club and have two excellent hosts called Tony and both were former Football League Linesmen, as was the Match Assessor.

Continued

I must admit to being surprised that the Match Assessor stayed so close to Paul and his team. In my early days as a Referee the Assessor was always the chap who hid behind a tree (George Basten majored in this skill) so you never really knew if you were being watched or not. However after tea they said their goodbyes to me and went on to the pitch together and I was escorted into the Directors' Guests lounge where I was forced to drink more tea (told you they are a very hospitable Club).

I met up with the Match Assessor again before kick off and learned so much about current assessing techniques and also marking. It seems the Assessor now has to make a subjective judgement on the 'degree of difficulty' of a game. If assessed at level 1, a maximum of 69 marks can be awarded to the Referee, if level 2, a 79 mark maximum and level 3, then 89 marks. Confused? Yes me too, and as Paul said, he does not know whether it is better to be marked 69 if the game is regarded as level 1 or to be given 71 marks (out of 79) if the match a level 2. Personally it seems to me a highly experienced and competent Referee like Paul might make a difficult game look easy compared to a newer Referee, and therefore find a lower mark maximum is available to him.

Paul has refereed approximately 560 games on the Football League (plus 12 middles in the Premiership during season 2000-2001) and his experience was soon in evidence with a very calm and assured approach, which meant he easily sold his decisions to the Players. Laid back! – He was nearly horizontal at times, and his reputation must have preceded him as nothing of significance happened (or was allowed to happen) although 4 cautions were recorded for mandatory offences. Rovers scored the only goal of the game in the first half and now move on to a Southern semi-final against Shrewsbury Town. Paul, throughout his career asks his Assistants to run 'left-wings' which is nowadays unusual and surprised the Groundsman who told him he had 'prepared' right wings in anticipation. Unlike other Referees Paul gives no specific instructions to the Assistants on use of buzzers in the flags leaving them to make use only if they bring 'enhanced value'.

I was surprised to learn that all Football League Referees have to wear monitoring equipment throughout the game, which measures heart rate. I also learned that Referees at this level have a coach who looks after a Group of perhaps 6 League Referees; 6 Panel Referees; and 20 Linesmen.

At the final whistle, the Match Assessor took 20 minutes to up-date and finalise the notes he was making throughout the game and then as arranged visited the Officials in their dressing room giving a verbal assessment of performance.

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Continued from overleaf

I gather a mark around 65 is the standard expected but with a pendulum swinging backwards or forwards based on good or poor decisions, 49 is the maximum mark available if the Assessor believes a major error has occurred. Obviously I was not privy to the conversation but it looked to me a very competent performance all-round and the Players walked off amiably. The Referee leaves the ground with a copy of the Match video.

So at 10.40 pm we drove out of the car park for the long drive home and once again other traffic feared the presence of the speeding 'beamer' and we arrived in Cheshunt around 1am Thursday morning. So just another day in another week for a Football League referee but a few more jobs before bed-time ie unpack kit ready for Saturday; download heart-rate data and send to National List Fitness coach for analysis and feedback; complete referees match report form with team sheets; and phone through to Press Association details of cautions and send-offs.

So my sincere thanks to Paul for allowing me to share this most enjoyable evening and, for me, a touch of the big-time. We look forward to hearing Paul's talk at our February meeting and if you would like to read another slant of his match day procedures he features strongly in a book entitled 'Matchday' what makes Saturday special? by Chris Green. In it the author goes behind the scenes to provide a multi-faceted snapshot of modern football from plush boardrooms to mud-splattered dressing rooms, telling the unfolding drama of a typical football Saturday via an amazing array of characters. Paul's chapters feature 1st January 2005 and his game in the Coca-Cola Championship between Ipswich and West Ham.

So to Paul I wish continued success and may you achieve several more ambitions including officiating at all League grounds – eight still to go, Accrington Stanley; Carlisle; Darlington; Everton; Liverpool; Manchester United; Rochdale; and Stockport County.

Peter Dace



**Thanks Peter, not forgetting Paul for all his cooperation.
Ed.**



PLAYERS' BLACK, OR VERY DARK, KIT
(And what are you doing about it?)

Most competitions nowadays have a handbook stipulation that clubs are not to play in black, or very dark shirts (for obvious reasons). At the very top level of football, it is common for the Match Officials to appear in sometimes quite bright hues – due, largely, to some of these elite teams parading in black or darkly shaded colours.

Kit manufacturers, naturally enough, gleefully produce all manner of home/away playing outfits, which, in turn and as we well know, create a desire amongst far lesser clubs to copy their “heroes”.

Naturally, too, these same manufacturers would be delighted to produce a colourful array of alternative shirts for match arbiters... together with larger kitbags, in which to stow this additional gear.

At present, we are beholden, as Match Officials, not to yield to competing teams' pressures, when there is a colour clash with “our” traditional black. We, officially, stand our ground.

The writer has already reported two sides he considered were transgressing a league's playing kit “colour bar”, only to be rebuffed by that Competition! Amazing isn't it?

In both instances this involved that borderline “dark colour” combination, of royal blue/black striped shirts, black shorts, black hose. When this “Inter Milan” design began to establish itself in the popular choice scheme of things in the UK, it was indeed borderline... but received general sanction.

But now kit designers have fashioned this particular colour combination (in their very latest marketing) so that those shirts have wholly black sleeves... yet the registered colours are still declared as “royal blue/black shirts”.

Maybe I am alone, at least in the Competition I officiate in, by reporting such deviations from the league's own rules.

If more of us, as practising referees, took the trouble to officially report these subtle changes then, perhaps “grass roots” clubs would be discouraged to attempt to copy their elite counterparts.

If “we” do not act now, then it will be sooner rather than later that we will be forced to purchase and cart around a colourful set of “our” change strip!

Think: how much is a referee shirt? Think: multiply that by at least three or four?
Think: what would I rather do (and now!)?

Change is all very well but in another context, although related to the foregoing, you won't get much from a £50 note should “we” be required to become “alternative referees”... kit wise!

Well?

Phil Newman



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North Middlesex Referees Society

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- many retailers offer free delivery.



Retailers on our site include:



www.buy.at/nmrs

Do you shop On-Line? If so, then please read on.

NMRS has teamed up with the web site www.buy.at to offer its members the same offers you will find on your usual retailers web-site, together with other special offers only available via this route. At the same time, you will also benefit the Society, as each of the retailers will provide a small contribution to our funds.

The number of retailers is far too great to list all of them here, but they include the following

Amazon; CD-Wow; dvd.co.uk; hmv.co.uk – some of the largest on-line retailers for a great choice of books; CD's; and DVD's.

Barclays Home and Motor Insurance - Insure your home or car with Barclays.

Brochure Bank and Consumer Products Survey – just request a holiday brochure, or complete an on-line survey and NMRS gets a donation.

Carphone Warehouse and T-Mobile – for all your telecommunications needs.

Cartridge People; Novatech; and printerinks.com – for all your PC and Printer accessories.

Game - first place for games. Buy games from the UK's largest game retailer.

John Lewis; Littlewoods; and Marks and Spencer – some of the big names from the high street.

National Lottery – buy your ticket via this link and NMRS gets a donation.

Ryman – for all your office stationery.

Sixt and Hertz – for your car rental needs.

Thorntons – for those that like a little chocolate.

As mentioned above, these are just a few of the retailers offering to support us at no extra cost to yourself – in fact you could benefit by further discounts and free delivery.

Check out the full range of retailers at www.buy.at/nmrs when you are doing your Birthday or Special Occasion Shopping; no all your shopping, and help NMRS along the way.

Gary Cobden
Honorary Treasurer



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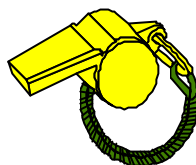
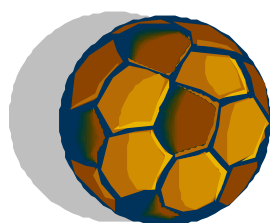
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North Middlesex Referees Society for Season 2006/2007

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Quiz Night

The Society will be holding a Quiz Night in the New Year – see elsewhere in the Normidian for details. Teams consist of six players; do not worry if you cannot make up a full team, as we anticipate there will be others in the same predicament, and we will put people together in order to make up the numbers. Tickets are priced at £7.00 per person, and are available now. To book your tickets, please contact either

Gary Cobden - telephone 01992 469153; e-mail treasurer@northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk

or

Robin Jagot - telephone 01707 651461; e-mail secretary@northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk



THINKING ABOUT THE GAME

The more you put into the game, the more you will get out.

Every referee has potential but not everyone is achieving that potential because they are not thinking enough about the game. For instance: where is the best position for the referee to stand at a penalty kick? The referee needs to be able to see both the kicker and the keeper at the same time. Surely then, the best position is behind the kicker.

THINK ABOUT IT.

Referees have two problems:

1) Referees have total power.

They need to *THINK ABOUT* how they exercise their power during a game. They should use the power with empathy, understanding, courage and good humour. Make sure the power works for you.

THINK ABOUT your relationships with the players. There are different ways of dealing with trouble; try to be good tempered. Having blown up for foul play never run towards the offender because: -

- a) He knows he is wrong, let him stew about what action you will take.
- b) The walk gives you time to calm down.
- c) The walk gives you time to *THINK ABOUT* what needs to be said.

2. Automatic mentality

Referees should not go into every game on "automatic pilot." Every game is different and referees need to *THINK ABOUT* their approach to each game.

For instance, where does the referee stand at a corner?

He needs to *THINK ABOUT* the standard of football, the weather, the size of the pitch and the state of the game.

Always *THINK ABOUT* your position.

You should know why you are where you are, *THINK ABOUT IT.*

The referees need to *THINK ABOUT* how they use aids such as the *whistle* and *signals*.

Whistle, use it to express how you feel. **BE FIRST AND BE FAST!**

Make the players believe you know what you are doing.

Do not be monotonous in the use of your whistle

The rule, **BE FIRST AND BE FAST** should always be used except when the ball goes in the net.

When the ball goes in the net you should do four things.

1. *THINK.*
2. Consult the linesmen (usually visually)
3. Decide, the outcome
4. Announce, the result

Continued

However, do not let the whistle absolve you from taking the appropriate and proper action with a player.

Signals, should be definite and authoritative. A straight arm.
THINK ABOUT your demeanour.

Two other problems: -

1). Penalty Kick, in particular a penalty kick of the second kind, i.e. one in which there is a certain amount of disagreement.

THINK ABOUT the position you should take to minimise the protests of the players. On the edge of the penalty area, level with the 6-yard line. *THINK ABOUT IT*.

2) Self Induced use of advantage.

THINK ABOUT the maxim "Never use advantage to your own disadvantage."

As a general rule never use advantage for a serious physical foul and for a foul on the goalkeeper.

As referees we should all *THINK MORE ABOUT* the game, our performance, our fitness, our positioning, and our relationships with our colleagues, club linesmen, the players, our training, and our future?

The more you put into the game, the more you will get out of it.

Observer

AFA Emergency Aid Course – taken from the December 06 AFA Argus

Have you ever been in a position where all the players look to you as a referee to deal with an injured player? I have, and it was this that spurred me on to attend the Emergency Aid Course on 26 October. Our able instructor was Mike Brown who is a qualified First Aider for both the AFA and the FA.

The evening was heavily practically orientated and was not limited to the field of play but to any situation in every day life. It may be a friend, or neighbour, or a family member whose life could be saved by knowing what to do and how to do it.

The essential areas covered were as follows:

- Recovery position. What it is and how do you place a person in it?
- Choking. What do you do?
- Shock. What are the symptoms? How would you react and what reassurance would you give?
- Severe bleeding. How to apply a sterile dressing?
- Heart attack. What are the signs? If not breathing, CPR. How do you administer it? Not to forget the W position.

I have deliberately posed lots of questions because a little knowledge can be a dangerous thing. If you cannot answer all the above I would encourage you to find out and book yourself on the next available course. Was it informative and enjoyable? Yes definitely and it has now given me added confidence to handle less serious situations on the pitch.

Life skills are never wasted and who knows when they just might make an important difference in a life-threatening situation.

Chris Beament



North Middlesex Referees Society

present a
Quiz Night

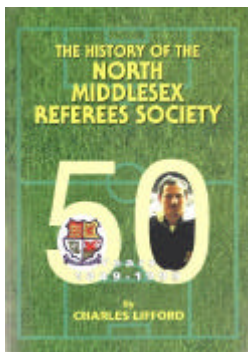
on

Saturday 24 February 2007

at

*Holtwhites Sports and Social Club
Kirkland Drive, Off Holtwhites Hill, Enfield, Middlesex*

Commencing at 7:30pm Ticket £7.00 (including Buffet)



50th Anniversary Book

In 1999, the Society celebrated its 50th 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



YRDS

The YRDS (Young Referees Development Scheme) was introduced in August this year and since then has met on a monthly basis where a variety of topics have been covered, all aimed to help enhance and develop the Young Referees of Middlesex.

Membership is open to all Referees who were under the age of 18 on the 1st January 2006. The workshops are held on the last Monday of the month from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm.

All active members of the Group have been allocated a Coach (Mentor) from amongst our Senior Referees in the County.

It is hoped that this scheme will be a stepping-stone to the Referee Academy.

For more information contact the MCFA Regional Development Officer, Andy Taylor 07956 626270. Ed.



Middlesex County Football Association County Cup Appointments

Premier Cup - Third Round

Edgware Town Reserves v Hillingdon Borough Reserves Ricky Deller [AR]

Junior Cup – Third Round

Broadwater United Reserves v West London All Stars Ricky Deller [R]
Princes Park v HFC Pat Walsh [R]

Sunday Intermediate Cup – Quarter Final

Kingsbury Athletic v BAA Heathrow (Sunday) Steven Reuter [R]

Sunday Junior Cup – Quarter Final

Enfield Rosaneri v Hayes End Wanderers Reserves Pat Walsh [R]
Rayners Lane 2001 v Oak Wood Ricky Deller [R]

Sunday Junior Trophy – Third Round

Ridgeway Rovers Seniors v Remax Dream Homes John Noblemunn [R]

Senior Challenge Cup – Second Round

Wingate and Finchley v Ashford Town (Middlesex) Peter Smith [R]

Womens Senior Cup – Semi Final

Enfield Town Ladies v Denham United Ladies Richard Meikle [R]
Enfield Town Ladies v Denham United Ladies Steven Reuter [AR]

Womens Junior Cup – Semi Final

Enfield Town Ladies Reserves v Barnet FC Ladies Reserves John Stockman [R]
Enfield Town Ladies Reserves v Barnet FC Ladies Reserves Barry Kyriacou [AR]
Enfield Town Ladies Reserves v Barnet FC Ladies Reserves Phil Bowman [AR]

Jeff Ritson Senior Youth Cup – Second Round

Wingate and Finchley U18 v Northwood Youth U18 Steve Conway [AR]

Girls Under 14 Harold Horskins Cup - Second Round

Enfield Town Youth GU14 v Queens Park Rangers GU14 Nicholas Andrea [R]

Other plums include:

Steve Conway, Assistant Referee: FA Trophy, Replay, Yeading v Cray Wanderers

Steve Conway, Assistant Referee: FA Vase Cup Replay, Ruislip Manor v Potton Utd.

Steve Conway, Referee, FA Youth Cup, North Greenford Utd v Corby Town.

Steve Conway, Referee, FA Home Counties Women's Championship, Middx v Sussex.

Steve Conway, Assistant Referee, FA Home Counties Youth Championship, Middx v Surrey.

John Noblemunn, Referee, Jnr Trophy Q/F, Broadfields Utd Vets v Harrow St Mary's Yth OB.



The recent spell of heavy rains and thunderstorms seems to have made a mockery of the hosepipe bans which local authorities have imposed, but as far as we the football referees are concerned it presents a problem for grassroots level. Obviously at top-level stadia a waterlogged pitch would mean an obvious postponement and the referee would be notified as a matter of course. But is such a situation the case at grassroots level? I was recently informed of such a situation by a local team minutes before I was due to set off for the game. I was grateful for that but how many of us have made unnecessary journeys as the result of the failure by clubs to inform the ref?

The above was taken from 'The Ken Grant Column' in the Cheshunt & Waltham Cross RS Magazine "YOU MUST BE JOKING REF!!!"



MIDDLESEX COUNTY FA**Memorandum****From : Peter Clayton, Chief Executive**

To : Registered Referees

Re : Referee clothing

At recent MCFA football tournaments, we have been giving the referees officiating at those competitions, 'corporate wear' in the form of T-shirts, Polo shirts and Rain Jackets. These are quality Prostar items with the County Referee badge embroidered on them.

They have been worn around and other referees have asked if they can purchase them so, to meet that request, we now have a limited supply in stock.

If you would like to purchase any of the items below, please tick the appropriate box to indicate your size and we will forward the them to you, or you can arrange to collect from the office (we will contact you to tell you that they are ready for collection).

Please make your cheque payable to 'Middlesex County Football Association' or you can telephone us with your card details on 020 8515 1921 asking for Ricky Delier.

Item	Cost *	X Small	Small	Medium	Large	X Large	XXL
T-Shirt (black with white trim)	£11.50						
Polo Shirt (black with white trim)	£15.50						
Sweatshirt (black with white trim)	£15.50						
Rain Jacket (black with white trim)	£18.00						
Heavy Jacket (black with white trim) #	£37.00						
Track suit (black with white trim)	£36.00						
Fleece (black)	£19.00						

* The cost of the embroidered badge and post and package is included!

This is a new addition and is a heavyweight insulated 'manager' type coat as worn by our Councillors at cup matches, etc! Recommended for cold and windy weather!

To : Middlesex Learning, 39 Roxborough Road, Harrow, Middlesex HA1 1NS

Please provide me with the above items for which I enclose my cheque for £_____ or telephone me and I will provide details of my credit/debit card.

Name	
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	Postcode
Telephone (daytime)	