

The next Meeting of the North Middlesex Referees' Society will be held at Holtwhites Sports and Social Club, Kirkland Drive Enfield Middx at 7.45 pm on Thursday the 15th of January 2009 when the guest speaker will be John Cartwright, former Arsenal Assistant Manager and a previous England Youth Team Manager as well as Technical Director of the FA National School.

EDITORIAL

Did you hear the one about, National List Referee Alan Wiley being the only Premiership Referee to stop his watch, so as to accurately assess stoppage time in both halves of a match? Who was quite literally the "whistleblower" on this astonishing piece of information (? misinformation) - well none other than ex-official and now football pundit ex-referee Graham Poll. He was talking on the Setanta sports programme "Football Matters" where he has a spot, alongside ex-players and managers, explaining and sometimes confusing issues on the practical side of the game and the Laws, viz, should John Terry have been given a yellow card rather than a red one against Everton because he is the England Captain and the referee might have had to consider that. However back to the time keeping aspect, where it appears Poll believes that every other referee on the list only estimates how much time to add on. This is made up of the laid down principles of cautions, dismissals, substitutions and apparently again according to Poll the weather or the score at the time plus whether the losing side asks the Referee of the game to "call it a day" and end the match because they have no chance of saving the game

Not ever having been in the privileged position of refereeing a Premier League match, the suggestion of estimating stoppage time seems to me to smack more of the local parks especially in Sunday games where certainly some of these things are countenanced. It would certainly be helpful to know whether anyone can verify Poll's remarks either specifically or anecdotally. If so please write in to the magazine for the purposes of publication. I certainly hope we get more success in answering this one than in respect of the three questions I posed last time.

Our old friend Dermot Gallagher also has a section on television and he is on Sky's "the last word". Speaking about Michele Platini's bizarre idea of 2 officials behind the goals, he was interrupted by Andy Gray who said he welcomed the idea as it enabled him to criticise and extra two Officials. A clear case of many a true word spoken in apparent jest.

Let us get off to a great start in 2009 with two terrific events. The first is our next meeting when John Cartwright a friend of this Society in particular and Referees in general will be speaking. He has written a book which is reviewed elsewhere in the magazine and will have some copies available for purchase if required. The other event which will follow close on the heels of the monthly meeting is our 60th Anniversary Dinner. With events such as these we can hopefully try to regain the numbers who have been sadly lacking over the past two-three seasons.

Ken Goldman.

Peter Dace reflects on 'A night with The Football League'

Two years ago I travelled with North Middlesex colleague Paul Taylor to watch him Referee a game between Bristol Rovers and Peterborough United. Inevitably this became the source of an article which was published in the January 2007 edition of The Normidian. Unusually for one of my articles it did produce some interest so with our Editor ever chasing for further copy I travelled with Paul last night (10th December 2008) when he was Refereeing Ipswich Town v Bristol City in the Coca Cola Championship.

Departure Cheshunt at 1530, the 72 miles passed easily and due to Paul's regular appearances at Portman Road, indeed this was his third visit of the season having refereed their first game and acted as fourth official on another, the Tom Tom satnav was not even turned on. We arrived at the ground just after 5pm to find the four parking spaces for the Match Officials were seventy-five per cent occupied, so the 'big four' were in attendance over two and a half hours before kick off (two hours beforehand is compulsory). At Reception I was given a complimentary match ticket and followed the others into the dressing room, a brief visit pitch-side where the Stands seemed to go up to the Heavens (well compared with Barnet FC they certainly do) and then the tea room where hot drinks and sandwiches were available in generous quantities.

Previous games, match incidents and football gossip were on the agenda for Paul and Colleagues and necessary paperwork circulated including the Referees Match Report Form which requires him to complete the boxes 'weather conditions before and during the game'. For evening kick offs Paul always writes 'dark' and 'darker', so far without comment from above! Then I met the match assessor Colin Hills whose 'day job' is now Referees Development Officer for Cambridgeshire FA. Seventy five minutes before kick-off the Officials took their leave for a Security briefing, and one hour before kick off met the two Managers and Team Captains where Paul was able to give guidance as necessary although he is aware at that stage the Managers are more interested in reading each others Team sheets.

So I was left alone in a small lounge with more tea and sandwiches, a match programme and team sheet, Sky sports news and as kick-off approached several Football Scouts also made use of the excellent hospitality.

My seat was in the upper Britannia Stand and below me the pitch looked like a green carpet, so perfect was the grass. From this height it does

look a 'beautiful game' with the ball sprayed about with intricate patterns but you cannot feel the passion of the players, cannot see the sweat and blood, cannot hear the groans and moans. However I could see Paul refereeing, well just like Paul always referees, looking very relaxed and without any obvious rush of movement he was always within yards of any incident. He does communicate well with the Players and has a real ability to 'sell' his decisions. Nevertheless there were five cautions of the mandatory nature and one red card for an ugly challenge necessitating the removal of the injured players on the Ipswich powered stretcher carrier. I could see by the reaction of the Bristol City players it was a bad challenge and, as Paul pointed out to me, when this happens the Players make straight for the offender causing the injury rather than in a lesser challenge when their first reaction is to go to the Referee in protest. A swift red card relieved the tension and during the time the injured player was treated and removed Ipswich made two tactical substitutions going on to a 3-1 victory with their ten men. Attendance 17,749.

I returned to the safety and warmth of the tea room where the Match Assessor was completing his notes before he moved to the dressing room for a pre-arranged meeting some twenty minutes after the match end. I suspected the Assessor would be very pleased with all four Officials although I had no doubt there would be some good talking points ultimately with a view to the Assessor offering advice and guidance on how performance might still be further advanced. I did though wonder how difficult it would be for an Assessor to find a maximum of three development points for a highly experienced Referee.

Before the game the Assessor helped me by answering a number of questions about his role. I gather Assessors decide after the game the level of performance and it seems a median mark of 72 is awarded to Referees although the range might be between 65 and 78. A referee might get above 80 in 'a difficult game; a mid-sixty score for 'a standard performance' but if a 'key error' has been made the maximum score would be 59. If in doubt with an incident the match DVD (given after the game to both Referee and Assessor) is checked before the final report and mark is delivered to the Referee forty-eight hours later. A further check for the Assessor is by use of Prozone which charts the Referees movements around the pitch.

Paul is now beyond the normal retirement age of 48 but following an appeal interview was kept on the National List of Referees following five years being in the top merit band of performances. Such experience is essential to the League as at the start of this season as many as forty-five percent of Referees on the National List had only two years or less

experience at this level. After serving three years as a Football League Linesman Paul was promoted to the Referees List in the 1990-91 season and I attended both his first match on 25th August 1990 Gillingham v Darlington in Division 4 and also his first middle in the old Division 1, Coventry City v Southampton on 30th November 1991. Apart from two years off the list Paul has remained ever since including one season on the Premiership where coincidentally his first game was Southampton v Coventry City on 23rd August 2000.

Although he has not kept complete records of his Football League career we calculate he must have officiated in over 500 games including 39 last season, indeed it is conceivable he has refereed more games at this level than anyone else. He has definitely refereed at 111 League grounds (based on Clubs joining or leaving and some moving grounds) but has yet to visit Carlisle; Darlington; Accrington Stanley; Liverpool; Manchester United; and the new Manchester City ground. However since my previous article he has now visited Bury; Morecambe; and Rochdale.

Two aspects of his game intrigued me. At the toss-up ceremony he tells the Home team they are heads, the Away team are tails; tosses the coin himself and asks the winner which way they will kick. This has a number of advantages including saving everyone peering down at the coin; stopping the winning captain saying “we’ll have the ball”; and most particularly gets over an incident with the great Stuart Pearce some years ago when on winning the toss he said “we’ll kick-off in the second half” and disappeared laughing leaving Paul bemused and unusually at a loss for words! Further, after a goal is scored Paul makes no effort to approach the celebrating Players but returns immediately to the centre circle, as he says “why try to control a situation you cannot control”.

Current Football League fees are £285 Referee; £145 Assistant; 4th Official £70; 45p per mile travelling; £10-£18 meal allowance dependent on time away from home; and £55 Hotel if necessary.

On the way back to Cheshunt where we arrived at 00:30, I asked Paul about his remaining ambitions – the response, always finishing near the top of the merit list and getting to the end of the season without any regrets. I noted his ambitions did not include watching my 3,000th game (if I make it) and his reaction to seeing me Line at Maldon Town the following night was (rather ungraciously I thought) “I would rather stick pins in my eyes”. Charming – but thanks Paul for a great evening and a wonderful insight into Officiating on the Football League.

BOOK REVIEW

Football for the Brave by John Cartwright Published by M Press Media Ltd @ £8.99

This is a soft back book by someone who has been undoubtedly one of the finest youth team coaches in world football over the last two generations. John Cartwright a former player with West Ham United and Crystal Palace has plied his coaching skills in both England with Arsenal and abroad with the Sporting Club of Kuwait in the Middle East, as well as being England Youth Team Manager; Academy Director at both Charlton and Crystal Palace and above all Technical Director of the FA's National School at Lilleshall. In all that time he has been devising coaching methods to improve players at every level but especially the young and indeed youngest of players to especially aid their skill development. Throughout this time he has made notes of what works and the result is this volume. In many respects he has ploughed a lone furrow attacking what he has seen as deficiencies in the coaching system in this Country and has never been afraid to make himself unpopular in the pursuit of what he considers to be the right way of teaching the game.

Of the title to this book, in order to avoid any confusion Cartwright says "I am not advocating biff bang fight football with players carrying on after suffering cut heads, bleeding profusely from wounds or broken limbs. Instead it is intended to explain the need to show bravery in persisting with the desire to follow beliefs, no matter what difficulties appear, in the coaching of youngsters, so that they are technically adept and tactically knowledgeable, but above all performers of exciting and skilful football." This is a "what, why and when" type of book rather than a coaching volume devoted to how to kick, head and pass the ball; so we have such chapters as "Football is a sideways game"; Skill- the game's important core; Be confident playing in tight areas; and run with the ball in a positive manner at every opportunity" Cartwright has concluded that it is the best individuals in combination that will make the best teams and has tried to incorporate this theory as a silky thread throughout this publication. For it is often stated in football that there is no "I" in the word "TEAM" but this book now refreshingly goes a long way to disproving that theory. There are 114 pages profusely illustrated with mono photos of examples of great players and with a foreward by Fulham Manager Roy Hodgson.



LAST MONTH'S MEETING

As members will be aware there was no guest speaker at our last meeting at Holtwhites Sports and Social Club, but instead we had our annual Christmas "bash" which was attended by several of the old "faithful" but precious few else. This was a pity because the fare on offer was extremely well arranged by our President and Vince Yeudall and was exceptionally good. The President in excellent form then insisted we ran a quiz based on the topic of "time" and after all marching on the winners were the Editor coupled with John Nobleunn and Keith Hughes. Better luck next year to all those who did not attend this time.

Council are delighted to announce that all the tickets have been sold for the Society's 60th Anniversary Dinner celebration in January. Well done to Robin Jagot and his Dinner Committee.

THOUGHTS

from Mick Osborn

It is always difficult to find something topical to write about. I had started writing this just before Christmas 2008 and at that time of the year I could have filled a few lines by wishing you all the compliments of the season and a Happy New Year but letters to Santa and the tax man delayed all that and anyway it wouldn't have gone far towards helping the Editor produce another monthly magazine.

If it had been December 1948, I could have reported that we had been invited to a meeting at the Crown Hotel, Southgate, on January 20th, 1949, with a view to forming a society of referees. This started me thinking that there must have been other football events in the past that happened during the Festive Season. A little research and sure enough, there were.

It was on Dec.1, 1863, that the newly established FA, voted 13 to 4 to ban the carrying of the ball and the practice of hacking one's opponent; and the Nanny State was born!

A chap called Southworth was the first player to score a double hat-trick when he helped Everton beat West Bromwich on December 30, 1893. On December 11, 1909, Vivian Woodward, Tottenham's centre forward, scored six goals for England Amateurs against Holland. Rumour has it that Harry is trying to locate him to get him to sign on again!

On Christmas Day, 1936, Ambrose Brown of Wrexham was sent off after only 20 seconds of the match against Hull. A quick dip in the tub and he was home in time to cut the turkey.

In WW2, players not on active service earned their money wherever they could. One Christmas Day Len Shackleton turned out for Bradford City in the morning and Bradford Park Avenue in the afternoon. Tommy Lawton played for Everton and Tranmere under similar circumstances.

The great Stanley Matthews scored for Blackpool in December 1951, his first goal since New Year's Day 1949.

Bill Nicholson paid £99,999 for Jimmy Greaves in December 1961. On the 16th, in his first match for Spurs, Greaves scored a hat-trick against Blackpool.

Sixty-six goals were scored in ten First Division matches on Boxing Day 1963. Alf Ramsey was knighted in the 1967 New Year's honours list.

Europe's first all-weather football pitch opened in Islington in January 1972.

In February 1976 Jenny Baseley became the first woman to referee a match between two teams of men.

Bad weather during December '81 and January '82 created a backlog of fixtures, which did not help many clubs facing cash flow problems, and it was suggested that matches should be played during the summer. Let's hope that we don't get an action replay of that!

Richard Taylor, the Selkirk goalkeeper, was given the ball as a souvenir when his team lost 20-0 against Stirling Albion in the first round of the Scottish Cup on December 8, 1984.

AN EVENING WITH MIKE RILEY

Although it was a London FA presentation on behalf of FAMOA, being a Premiership Referee the illustrated talk which Mike Riley gave at Fulham FC's Ground at Craven Cottage is relevant to all Referees whatever their status. Mike cited his important message in various categories as follows:-

(1) Consider the role the Referee has to play in protecting the image of the game with particular attention to three important key notes.

- (a) The prevention of simulation. Here the biggest challenge is to detect it and get it right because the consequences of making mistakes are so great and serious. If the referee can position himself to the players at an angle of 45 degrees it will help to see well what is occurring. It also helps to stop, lock the head and look in at the action. Recognition comes only after years of experience, but you can get a clue if you watch the reactions of the players around the incident. This offence MUST be punished with a caution and yellow card.
- (b) The elimination of confrontation. In this respect confrontation equates with dissent. So that if dissent goes unpunished or unchecked it turns into intimidation and leads to player/referee conflict. Use the caution before there becomes a need for dismissal.
- (c) Punish brutal play in a positive manner. This is quite simple. The referee must have the courage of his convictions and deal with the matter speedily in sending off the culprit or culprits.

(2) It is vital also to remember that the Referee and his two Assistants and where available the Fourth Official are a team so that great teamwork is needed if control is to be maintained and the game be run by the Officials in the way that it should. The referee should aim to give respect to players because respect is a two-way process. Therefore effective body language is required together with good presentation in talking to players. Referees should endeavour to always look to improve such presentation because it can have a terrific effect on the players and help to obtain and maintain control.

The above talk was given after a London FA presentation on the "Respect" campaign, which led to some lively discussion.

This was a most enjoyable evening and reminded one of the days when top referees would come to Society meetings and give their interpretations on the way the game was being played from the referee's point of view, as well as providing their listeners with the usual anecdotes. Perhaps we will see a return to those days in the not too distant future. Let us certainly hope so.

WE HEAR IT ON THE GRAPEVINE

Word has reached us that unfortunately, Ken Grant, a stalwart of the Cheshunt & Waltham Cross Referees' Society died on the 20th of December 2008 aged 88. He was for many years their magazine editor as well as being a referee's instructor and obtained the FA's 50 years award. Incredibly he was still refereeing aged 87.

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Another possible piece of bad news is that there are some doubts being cast over the future of our current venue Holtwhites Sports & Social Club. A new rule to be introduced in April coming could see the end of the 150 year old venue for such sports as tennis, bowls and cricket where some 350 members take part. The new ruling would leave the Club in danger of having to pay corporation tax because of its function rooms enterprises. Discussions are taking place with the London Borough of Enfield's Council to discuss the case to see if the Club can take advantage of new Council's policies on sport which might act as an offset. The Enfield North MP has also become involved in trying to assist. As this is an important matter for the Society it is the intention of this magazine to try to keep our own members informed of what takes place over the next few months. As they say "watch this space" in case it leaves a space in our own calendar.

It was sad to hear that one of the most popular Managers of local teams to this Society namely Paul Fairclough has decided to stand down as the Manager of Barnet FC. It is understood that he will remain at the Club and is to become Director of Football. The current caretaker Manager is Ian Hendon a former Tottenham Hotspur youth and reserve team player who also played numerous games for Leyton Orient. We wish both of them well in their new jobs.

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It is my intention as Editor to take the chance to major on the Offside Law in the next edition of the magazine with my own and anyone else's viewpoints if they care to write in. Also there will be a review of the Official Offside DVD kindly lent to us by Stan Rosenthal but any match incidents either seen on television or live at a game or even better still actually personally experienced, if they could be sent in would be very much appreciated .

STRETCHED TO THE LIMIT

It is not only the players these days who have to undergo stretches, warm-ups and warm –downs but also of course we referees and assistant referees. Those Officials on the National List have been given a set pre-match routine to perform and it is always great to see the three or four of them warming up; which is a timely reminder that they too are a team and that that can be demonstrated by the fact that they are doing it on the pitch at the same time as the players of both sides are also warming up. So if percolation means trickling down, then it should by analogy also encompass the process of warming up descending from the National List Officials to the Referees on the Parks pitches as well as all those in between. In the hope that it might be of use the following is a summary of some useful hints or reminders on the subject -

- (1) **Prepare properly**: This means working out in a warm up mode for anything between 15 minutes minimum to about 30 minutes maximum. It is important to remember that it is necessary to get the heart rate up in order for the oxygenated blood to flow well to the muscles that are going to be used. Therefore static stretches should only take place after dynamic ones have been performed. The latter in effect relate to running in various directions at various paces, including towards the end of the routine, short sprints. After all the muscles have been generally warmed, the different range of muscles can be stretched statically. That range includes calves, hamstrings (the three at the back of the thigh), quadriceps (the four at the front of the thigh), the adductors or groins, the back, plus knee flexion. The stretches should be for anything between 10 and 20 seconds but it is important not to bounce them otherwise the opposite effect will be achieved i.e. shortening the muscles instead of elongating them.
- (2) **Finish off well**: Over the past few years it has been held to be beneficial to effect what is known as a warm-down. This consists of gentle jogging, a well as a paced, stretching out run and finally another set of stretches to the same range of muscles. It is important to spend at least as much time warming down as warming up, because during the game it is possible that muscle fibres will become slightly torn or there can occur the odd pull or strain to them. These warm down stretches aid recovery if there are any problems, but even if there are none of these, the warm down gets rid of what is known as lactic acid which causes stiffness in the muscles after the game and which can often carry over to the next day or even a couple of days. In addition laying in a hot bath at home after the match also works wonders.

K.G.

QUICK QUOTES

We're playing our usual away formation. A bloke up front who can't run and two wide men, who don't track back. – Harry Redknapp

Brian Clough was great at keeping my feet on the ground. Like when he punched me after a game for making a back pass. Brilliant!

Middlesex County FA County Cup Appointments Season 2008/2009

MCFA Charity Cup Quarter Final

Enfield Town F.C. First v Wealdstone F.C. First or AFC Hayes First	P Smith	Referee
Northwood F.C. or Nth Greenford United F.C. v Hillingdon Borough F.C.	M Mackey Jnr	Referee

MCFA Junior Cup Round 3

Broadwater United F.C. First v Brentham F.C. First	P Fuller	Referee
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MCFA Sunday Junior Cup Quarter Final

Shadwell F.C. First v The Swan (Harefield) F.C. First	J Noblemunn	Referee
Shadwell F.C. First v The Swan (Harefield) F.C. First	P Fuller	Asst Referee

MCFA Youth Senior Youth Cup Semi Final

Enfield Town F.C. U18 v Ashford Town (Middlesex) F.C. U18	P Smith	Referee
Enfield Town F.C. U18 v Ashford Town (Middlesex) F.C. U18	J Noblemunn	Asst Referee

MCFA Youth Under 18 Cup Round 3

Enfield Town F.C. U18 v Brunswick F.C. U18	J Noblemunn	Referee
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MCFA Youth Under 15 Cup Round 4

Omonia Youth F.C. U15b v Old Isleworthians Youth F.C. U15a	B Kyriacou	Referee
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MCFA Youth Under 14 Cup Round 4

Omonia Youth F.C. U14a v Alpha And Omega F.C. U14	S Rosenthal	Referee
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MCFA Youth Under 13 Cup Round 4

Chase Side Youth F.C. U13 v Limassol F.C. U13	P Bowman	Referee
Park View Rangers F.C. U13b v St Andrews Youth F.C. U13	N Nicolaou	Referee

MCFA Ladies Junior Cup Round 1

Enfield Town Ladies F.C. Reserves v Hillingdon Abbots Ladies F.C. First	N Nicolaou	Referee
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These Appointments are correct as at 2 January 2009



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North Middlesex Referees Society - 100 Club Season 2008/2009

The draw for December took place at the December society meeting, and with 43 shares subscribed, the monthly payout is £30.10 and the winners are shown below.

First	5	Roger Fox	£17.20
Second	1	Gary Cobden	£8.60
Third	12	Stan Rosenthal	£4.30

Winner's cheques are enclosed with the magazine, or will have been posted if you receive your magazine by e-mail. .

Should you wish to join the 100 Club for the remainder of the season, please forward a remittance of £8.00 per share, accompanied by the form below.

NORTH MIDDLESEX REFEREES SOCIETY 100 CLUB

I wish to purchase.....share(s) in the NMRS 100 Club at £1.00 per share per month.

Please find enclosed my cheque/postal order for £...00 to cover the subscription for 8 months.

Renewal information will be included with next seasons Membership Form

Name..... Signature.....

Society Use - Numbers Allocated.....

Gary Cobden
Honorary Treasurer



In Days Gone By!

Last month we reported that we thought the 'Welcome Plaque' presented to Arsenal had disappeared from their Referees Changing Room the move from Highbury to The Emirates. However, we are now reliably informed that the plaque is in fact well and truly positioned at The Emirates.

Also, as requested last month, if anybody has a copy of a photograph of the presentation at Tottenham, or can advise if the plaque is still in the Referees Room at White Hart Lane, can they please let me know.

Gary Cobden
Honorary Treasurer





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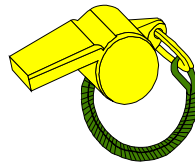
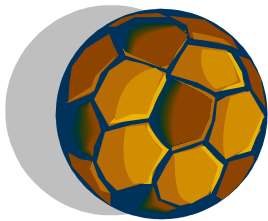
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Are again pleased to continue their support of North Middlesex Referees Society in Season 2008/2009



Its Coming Home!!!

Dateline - Friday 29 May 2009.

Venue - Hotel Russell, Russell Square, London.

As mentioned in last month's Normidian, the Eve of the Final Rally is returning to the Hotel Russell in London.

This is an evening of entertainment, and the opportunity to meet the following days FA Cup Final officials. Tickets are priced at £10 for adults, and £5.00 for under 18's. The Society will be purchasing a small number of tickets for this event, and if you would like to purchase a ticket, please send your remittance and number of tickets required to

Society Secretary Robin Jagot, 24 Tiverton Road, Potters Bar, Hertfordshire, EN6 5HY not forgetting to include your own contact information.

Gary Cobden
Honorary Treasurer

