

March 2003

The next meeting of the North Middlesex Referees' Society will be held at 7.30 pm on Friday 14th March 2003 at Cockfosters FC, Chalk Lane, Cockfosters, Barnet – Guest Speaker is Alan Robinson. One of Alan's many achievements was refereeing the 1986 Cup Final, Liverpool v Everton.

Vice Chairman, Vince Yeudall, is recovering after a recent heart by-pass operation. We all wish you well, Vince and look forward to seeing you up and about soon.

Have we seen the worst of the bad weather for this season? Just about everything closed down in local football on Saturday and Sunday 1st and 2nd February, and anybody who was out and about on the previous Thursday would have been lucky to get home. I abandoned a match on that fateful Thursday afternoon when, with the beginning of the snow adding to the strong wind, a young schoolboy player said in a plaintive voice, "Ref, I can't see!"

The Elephant Race Night on Sunday 16th February was a success, with Paul Vosper playing a vital role as organiser of the racing. Social Secretary, Mick Osborn, did a sterling job behind the scenes in making sure everyone turned up and Chairman Tom White was his usual rabble-rousing self, getting everyone to take part. Other Council members were also on hand in helping to raise funds for the Society. Ellenborough Table Tennis Club left three tables up, which helped to keep the youngsters amused when they were not riding Elephants!

The lack of response for the Annual Dinner Dance at the Apollo Suite, Cockfosters, on Saturday, 26th April, at 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm – including after dinner disco and bar extension, tickets cost £26.00 – is causing Mick Osborn some grief. He points out that when we joined the Society most of us expressed an interest in the D/D, so if you and yours are planning to come please let Mick know ASAP, even if some of your guests are only "probables" or "possibles" at this time – he is looking forward to seeing you on the 26th. Mick's telephone number, address and email are on the inside front cover of this magazine – he doesn't mind how you contact him! As my mother used to say, "Get lively!"

Congratulations if you have a Middlesex County Cup Final. Details are included in this issue – thanks Robin.

Another bumper edition – thanks for your many contributions, some of which will have to be held over to next month owing to details about the AGM. Don't throw your envelope away without checking that you have received your application form to join next season – and look for your fund-raising RA lottery tickets, to be returned to Gary – with the money!

Gary Cobden has obtained the 'Law Changes' for next season, which are printed in this issue of the magazine. He has also sent in 'Some suggestions for updates to Society Rules' and details of the Membership Fees for next season as well as all his usual input regarding the 100 Club successes. Robin's minutes from the February meeting are also included as are Peter Dace's reminiscences on this month in 1993. Ken May continues his story about life after refereeing and we publish a letter from Arsenal FC to the manager of a pub team – part of an article sent in by Paul Taylor – which we will continue with in a later edition! And we also include a report on February's special guest, Lorna Empson.

On a sad note we also publish an article by Charles Lifford on John Hewson, former RA Southern Division Secretary, who recently died. Our sincere condolences go to John's family.

Closing date for the April magazine: Thursday, 20th March 2003.

Peter Dace reminisces – the Normidian of March 1993

Guest speaker, Dennis Hedges, Football League Referee

Arthur Pearce writes a brief obituary of Arthur Blythe who, although not a Member was a good friend of the Society. He had been a FIFA Referee and ‘ a likeable character who will be missed by those that knew him’.

Owen Venning offers ‘an opinion on professional referees’. He says ‘during my long involvement with this game at all levels, progress is something that has been continually sought, but this step is one that needs the utmost care before it is undertaken, as the repercussions it will have on all levels of football could be extremely serious. If anyone can set out constructive benefits that will arise out of a referee being involved in football on a day to day basis; convince the potential applicant that his or her future will not depend on the whims of club Directors and Managers, perhaps even Sponsors; then perhaps we will have a real subject matter for rational discussion’. In a footnote Editor Ken Goldman adds ‘at some point I hope to provide Owen with that rational discussion which may well produce some further fuel for a response by him or further articles for our readers’.

Gerald Sinstadt asks for help in providing a copy of a document he cannot find in his files and which he thinks must by deduction read something like ‘supplement to information on the amendments to the laws of the game and instructions of the International F.A. Board’. He feels that in recent months many senior referees have felt able to introduce a more relaxed interpretation of certain laws and so to aid consistency he suggests (very much tongue in cheek) –

Picking up and carrying away the ball and then tossing it back over the shoulder should be treated as a sporting gesture.

Players encroaching from the defensive wall should only be cautioned if the offender reaches the ball before it is in play.

Laws in relation to goalkeepers steps should be rescinded provided he does not carry the ball outside the penalty area.

Goalkeepers holding the ball in the penalty area should not be cautioned for time-wasting as the referee should be grateful for the opportunity to get his breath back.

Gerald says ‘down where he referees’ the players would prefer him to make up the laws as they go along or failing that expect him to emulate the referees they see on television.



Laugh With Vince

Assessor “What did that player say to you in the first half?”

Referee “ Shall I leave out the swear words?”

Assessor “Yes, please”

Referee “Never said a word!”

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Fergie to Giggsi “I’ll show you how to shoot!”

He should have said to Beckham “Just keep an eye on my boot” “Hoot, Hoot, Hoot”.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of North Middlesex Referees Society will be held on Friday, 9 May 2003, commencing at 7.30pm, at Cockfosters Football Club, Chalk Lane, Cockfosters, Barnet, Hertfordshire, EN4 9JG.

A full Agenda will be published in the May Normidian. However, if any Member wishes to stand for election for Office, either as an Officer or as a Member of the Council, Nominations should be made to the Secretary, duly proposed, seconded, and assented by the Nominee in writing, and must reach the Secretary not less than 21 days prior to the Meeting, i.e. by 18 April 2003.

Any Agenda Items, again duly Proposed and Seconded, must also be made in writing, and must reach the Secretary not less than 21 days prior to the Meeting, i.e. by 18 April 2003.

The Meeting will also be asked to consider the adoption of revised Society Rules, a copy of which can be found elsewhere in this month's magazine. It is some considerable time since the Society Rules last underwent a major overhaul, and therefore a sub-committee was formed to discuss and formulate the proposed new rules. If any Member has any specific point relating to the new rules that he would like to be considered as an amendment at the AGM, such proposal needs to reach the Secretary, duly proposed and seconded, not less than 21 days prior to the Meeting, i.e. by 18 April 2003.

Robin Jagot
Honorary. Secretary
24 Tiverton Road
Potters Bar
Hertfordshire
EN6 5HY



MEMBERSHIP FEES - SEASON 2003/2004

Yes it's that time of year again. Enclosed with the Normidian this month, are Membership Application Forms for Season 2003/2004. The forms have been completed from the details held about you on the Society database – please check the information, and amend as necessary.

To ensure that you receive continual unbroken cover from your Referees Association Insurance Policy, you need to ensure that your Membership Fees are paid as soon as possible, and, in any event, by 1 April, when your current cover expires. Fees, which are unchanged from this Season, are as follows: - Full Members - i.e. those who do not pay their Referees Association subscription through any other Society - £19.50 (aged 18 and above on 1 April); £12.00 (if under 18). If you are under 14 or over 75 on 1 April, deduct £2.50 for the Insurance Premium from these figures. Associate Members - i.e. those who pay their Referees Association subscription through another Society (which must be indicated on the Membership Form) - £10.00 (aged 18 and above); £6.00 (if under 18). These figures are shown on the Membership Forms, and are valid only if paid prior to 30 June 2003. Those members making payments made after this date will be liable to pay the Society Subscription at the full rate, and not the discounted rate – an additional £2.00. This season a number of Members agreed to have their monthly copies of the Normidian sent to them by e-mail, thus helping to reduce the Society's printing and distribution costs. If you would like to receive your copies this way during the forthcoming season, please mark your Membership Form accordingly.

Gary Cobden
Honorary
Treasurer

Suggestions for Updated Society Rules

1. NAME

The Society shall be called the NORTH MIDDLESEX REFEREES SOCIETY. (The Society)

2. OBJECTS AND AIMS

The objects and aims of the Society shall be to improve, promote, train, and assist the interests of its members.

3. STATUS OF RULES

(a) These rules (the Society Rules) form a binding agreement with each member of the Society.

(b) No alteration to these rules shall be made except at the Annual General Meeting, or at a Special General Meeting called for the purpose thereof and then only if two thirds of the members present are in favour. Each member present shall be entitled to one vote.

(c) The Society Council shall have the power to deal with any matter not provided for in these rules.

4. RULES AND REGULATIONS

(a) The Society shall have the status of an Affiliated Society of The Referees Association. The Rules and Regulations of The Referees Association shall be deemed to be incorporated into the Society Rules.

(b) The Society will also abide by The Football Association's Child Protection Policies and Procedures, Codes of Conduct and the Equal Opportunities and Anti-Discrimination Policy.

5. ELIGIBILITY FOR SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

(a) The members of the Society from time to time shall be those persons listed in the register of members (the Membership Register).

(b) Any registered referee; formerly registered referee; or trainee referee approved by the Training Centre shall be eligible to apply for membership. Election to membership shall be at the sole discretion of the Society Council. Membership shall become effective upon an applicant's name being entered in the Membership Register, and payment of the appropriate subscription.

(c) There shall be three divisions of Membership:-

(i) Those members who pay their Referees' Association subscription through the Society shall be known as Full Members.

(ii) Those members who pay their Referees' Association subscription through the Society, and aged under 18 and still undertaking full time school education shall be known as Junior Members. Their Annual Subscription shall be set at 50% of the Full Members Subscription.

(iii) Those members who pay their Referees' Association subscription through another Society shall be known as Associate Members.

(d) In the event of a member's resignation or expulsion, his or her name shall be removed from the Membership Register.

(e) The Referees Association shall be given access to the Membership Register on demand.

6. ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE

(a) An annual fee payable by each member (exclusive of any Referees Association Membership Fees) shall be determined from time to time by the Society Council, such fee to be ratified by the Membership at the Annual General Meeting, or Special General Meeting, and following receipt and approval of the reports of the Society Treasurer and Honorary Auditors. Fees shall be payable annually, and shall be non-refundable.

(b) The Society Council shall have the authority to propose further subscriptions from the members as are reasonably necessary to fulfil the objects and aims of the Society, subject to notice being given to the members and agreement by a simple majority of members present at the next available meeting.

7. RESIGNATION AND EXPULSION

(a) A member shall cease to be a member of the Society if, and from the date on which, he/she gives notice to the Society Council of their resignation. A member whose annual membership fee is unpaid as at 31 October in any year shall cease to be a Member of the Society.

(b) The Society Council shall have the power to expel a member when, in their opinion, it would not be in the interests of the Society for them to remain a member.

(c) A member who resigns or is expelled shall not be entitled to claim any, or a share of the Society Assets.

8. SOCIETY OFFICERS AND COUNCIL

(a) The Honorary Officers of the Society shall be elected at an Annual General Meeting and consist of the following persons: - President; Chairperson; Vice Chairperson; Secretary, Treasurer, Magazine Editor, Training Officer, Social Secretary, Supplies Officer, and Youth Development Officer, all of whom, except the President, shall retire annually, but be eligible for re-election. A President's term of office shall not exceed three consecutive years, nor shall any former President be re-elected to the post within six years of holding office. In the event of a contested election, such elections shall be undertaken by means of a written ballot.

(b) The Society Council shall consist of the Officers specified above, together with the two representatives to the County Referees Association, and the delegate to the County Referees Association Recruitment and Retention Committee, together with three other members elected at the Annual General Meeting.

(c) Each Society Officer shall hold office from the date of appointment until the next Annual General Meeting unless otherwise resolved at a Special General Meeting. One person may hold no more than two positions of Society Officer at any time. The Society Council shall be responsible for the management of all the affairs of the Society. Decisions of the Society Council shall be made by a simple majority of those attending the Society Council meeting. The Chairperson of the meeting shall have a casting vote in the event of a tie. In the absence of both the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson, the Officers present shall elect a Chairperson for the duration of the Meeting. The quorum for the transaction of business of the Society Council shall be not less than fifty percent of those members of the Society Council entitled to be present.

(d) Decisions of the Society Council meetings shall be entered into the Minute Book of the Society to be maintained by the Society Secretary.

(e) Any member of the Society Council may call a meeting of the Society Council by giving not less than 7 days notice to all members of the Society Council. The Society Council shall hold at least four meetings a year.

(f) Any vacancy on the Society Council, which arises between Annual General Meetings, shall be filled by a member co-opted and approved by a simple majority of the remaining Society Council members present. Similarly, the Society Council may co-opt up to three non-voting members for specific purposes.

(g) The Society shall have the power to elect Life Vice-Presidents and Vice Presidents at the Annual General Meeting. A member may be considered for election as a Vice President after a period of valuable service to the Society, likely to have been at least five years, and shall be elected for a term of three years. A member may be considered for election as a Life Vice President after a period of considerable service to the Society, likely to have been at least twelve years. Life Vice Presidents shall have their membership subscription and affiliation fee to the Referees' Association paid by the Society.

9. ANNUAL AND SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

- (a) An Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall be held not later than the end of May in each year to:
- (i) Confirm the Minutes of the previous AGM
 - (ii) Receive a report of the activities of the Society during the year under review
 - (iii) Receive a report of the Society's finances for the year ended 31 March previous, together with a report from the Auditors
 - (iv) Receive any reports from Officers and Society Council
 - (v) Elect the Society Council
 - (vi) Consider any Resolutions or Rule Changes
 - (vii) Consider any other pertinent business
- (b) The Society Secretary shall give not less than 42 days notice of the AGM.
- (c) Nominations for election of members of the Society Council shall be made in writing by the proposer and seconder, both of whom must be members of the Society, to the Society Secretary not less than 21 days before the AGM. Any such nomination shall be duly assented by the nominee.
- (d) Notice of any resolution or rule change to be proposed at the AGM shall be given in writing to the Society Secretary not less than 21 days before the Meeting.
- (e) A Special General Meeting (SGM) may be called at any time by the Society Council, and shall be called within 42 days of the receipt by the Society Secretary of a requisition in writing signed by not less than twenty-five members, stating the purposes for which the Meeting is required, and the resolutions proposed.
- (f) The Secretary shall send to each member, at their last known address, written notice of the date of a General Meeting together with an Agenda, and any resolutions to be proposed, at least 5 days before the Meeting.
- (g) The quorum for a General Meeting shall be twenty members.
- (h) Each member present shall have one vote, and ordinary resolutions shall be passed by a simple majority, excepting Changes to Rules (see Rule 3b above), and Dissolution (see Rule 12a below). In the event of a tie the Chairperson of the Meeting shall have a casting vote.
- (i) The Minutes of General Meetings shall be entered into the Minute Book of the Society.

10. ORDINARY MEETINGS

- (a) Ordinary meetings shall be held at monthly intervals during the period September to April on the second Friday of each month at an agreed venue, as determined by the Society Council.
- (b) The Society Council reserves the right to change the date, time, or venue of the meeting if circumstances demand.
- (c) All members are entitled to one vote in business matters of the Society, which shall be by show of hands, except that the associate members shall not be entitled to vote on Referees Association matters. No postal or proxy voting shall be permitted.

11. SOCIETY FINANCES

- (a) A bank account (s) shall be maintained in the name of the Society (the Society Account(s)). Designated account signatories shall be the Society Chairperson, the Society Secretary, and the Society Treasurer.
- (b) All cheques drawn on the account shall be signed by one of the Chairperson, Society Secretary, or Society Treasurer, save for those in excess of £150, (One hundred and fifty pounds), which shall be signed by any two of the aforementioned Officers. All monies payable to the Society shall be received by the Society Treasurer and deposited in the Society Account(s) as soon as is practicable following receipt.
- (c) The Society may also maintain a Benevolent Fund Account to provide financial assistance as is deemed appropriate by the Society Council.
- (d) The Society Council may create a Benevolent Fund sub-committee to deal with complex requests for assistance. The sub-committee shall consist of any two Life Vice Presidents, plus the Secretary. The Society Council shall ratify any decisions relating to donations.
- (e) The Financial Year of the Society shall be from 1 April until 31 March next following.
- (f) The income and assets of the Society shall be applied only in furtherance of the objects of the Society.
- (g) The Society Council shall have power to authorise the payment of expenses incurred by any member of the Society and to any other person or persons for services rendered to, or on behalf of, the Society.
- (h) The Society shall prepare an annual Financial Statement in such form as is deemed appropriate.

12. DISSOLUTION

- (a) A resolution to dissolve the Society shall only be proposed at an Annual or Special General Meeting called for the purpose and shall be carried by a majority of at least three-quarters of the members present.
- (b) The dissolution shall take effect from the date of the resolution, and the members of the Society Council shall be responsible for the winding up of the assets and liabilities of the Society.
- (c) Any surplus assets remaining after the discharge of the debts and liabilities of the Society shall be transferred to the Referees Association who shall determine how the assets shall be utilised for the benefit of Referees. Alternatively, such assets may be disposed of in such other manner, as the members of the Society, with the consent of the Referees Association, shall determine.

Anti-Discrimination, Equal Opportunities, and Child Protection Policies

Anti Discrimination Policy

North Middlesex Referees Society is responsible for setting standards and values to apply at every level. Football belongs to and should be enjoyed by everyone, equally. Our commitment is to confront and eliminate discrimination whether by reason of sex, sexual orientation, race, nationality, ethnic origin, colour, religion or disability.

Equality of opportunity at North Middlesex Referees Society means that in all our activities we will not discriminate or in any way treat anyone less favourably, on grounds of sex, sexual orientation, race, nationality, ethnic origin, colour, religion or disability.

This includes:

The advertisement for volunteers.

The selection of candidates for volunteers.

Courses.

Coaching and education activities and awards.

Training and Development activities.

Appointments to Honorary positions.

Suggestions for Updated Society Rules – Continued from overleaf

North Middlesex Referees Society will not tolerate sexual or racially based harassment or other discriminatory behaviour, whether physical or verbal, and will work to ensure that such behaviour is met with appropriate action in whatever context it occurs.
North Middlesex Referees Society is committed to the development of the programme of ongoing training and awareness raising events and activities, in order to promote the eradication of discrimination within its own organisation, and within football as a whole.



Is there Life after Refereeing? By Ken May – continued from last month.

Grounds and Groundsmen

That belated return to Oak Hill Park (see last month's issue. Ed.), also acted as a reminder that 40 years on, not just player behaviour but the standard of park dressing rooms has declined.

This is a sad reflection on how little Local Councils are prepared to invest in such facilities, despite being prepared to impose escalating charges for the privilege of a game on a largely unprepared pitch – even sand seems hard to come by when goalmouths get heavy in mid-winter.

The disappearance of the Park Groundsman is also to be lamented. This was once a real job for a professional. In my early days, there was a true practitioner at Barnet Playing Fields. I recall him well in his peak cap putting up and taking down all the goal nets for each game and bringing trays of hot tea, in proper cups, to the dressing room. (Come on, Ken I've gone along with you so far, but hot tea? Ed.)

Brings tears to the eyes. They don't make them like that any more!

To be continued.



Paul Taylor sent in an amusing article about a Pub team who offered some of their players to professional clubs on loan – which we hope to publish in a future edition. A number of clubs replied and Arsenal FC's letter to the Pub team manager is shown below. Ed.

Dear Mr Purton,

Thank you for your letter dated 30th January, which I am acknowledging on behalf of Mr Wenger who is out training at the present time.

However, I will certainly ensure that the information you have sent is passed on and he will not doubt contact you if he should wish to discuss the matter further. Meanwhile, many thanks for taking the trouble to write and on behalf of everyone here at Highbury, may I wish the Rose & Crown Football Club every success for the future.

Kind regards

Manager's Secretary

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NORTH MIDDLESEX REFEREES SOCIETY 100 CLUB

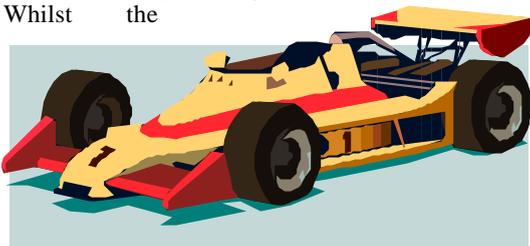
The February 2003 Draw was made by Tom White and Robin Jagot at the close of the February meeting. There were 52 shares subscribed, resulting in a total payout of £52.00 this month, as we pay out 100% of the pool in February and August. The winners are detailed below, and cheques are enclosed with this month's Normidian - so, if you have thrown the envelope away, find it quickly!

1 st Prize	51	Steve Wildgoose	£28.60	If you would like to join the 100 Club for the remainder of the season, please let me have your remittance of £6.00 to cover the remaining draws through until August. Gary Cobden
2 nd Prize	6	Mike Sibley	£15.60	
3 rd Prize	14	Michael Mackey	£7.80	

Honorary Treasurer

REFEREES ASSOCIATION GRAND DRAW

Enclosed with your Magazine either this month or last month, members will have found a couple of books of RA Draw tickets. Whilst the



First Prize may not look quite like the car on the left, it is still a car. The Society would appreciate it if you could use all your efforts to sell the tickets, as the Society receives 50% of the proceeds of all tickets sold. When sold, please ensure that you return all the counterfoils direct to me - if you return them back direct to the address on the ticket counterfoils, we do not get our share of the ticket money.

If you are unable or unwilling to sell the books sent to you, could you please return them to me as soon as possible, as other Members have offered to sell more books than they were originally allocated, and will thus generate more much needed income for the Society.

Likewise, if you have not received any books with your magazine, and feel you would be able to sell some, or if you have received books, and would like some more, please let me know.

Thanks again for your support.

Gary Cobden
Honorary Treasurer

MCFA Proposed Cup Final Officials 2002/2003

Girls Under 14	Assistant Referee	Luke Deamer
	Reserve Official	George Grant
Girls Under 11	Assistant Referee	Michael Mackey (Snr)
Jeff Ritson Cup	Referee	Nicholas Rider
Under 16	Assistant Referee	Richard Meikle
	Assistant Referee	Percy Brown
Under 14	Referee	Michael Mackey (Jnr)
	Reserve Official	Barry Berndes
Under 13	Referee	Helen Bidwell
Under 12	Assistant Referee	Stephen Bidwell
Womens Senior Cup	Assistant Referee	Costas Tanti
Senior Charity Cup	Assistant Referee	Stephen Conway
George Ruffell	Referee	Alf Street
Memorial Trophy		
Midweek Cup	Assistant Referee	Stan Rosenthal

February's Guest Speaker – Lorna Empson – Sports Injury Therapist

Vice Chairman, Vince Yeudall, introduced our special guest, who he said was making a welcome return to the Society after a gap of 4 years. Married with a sporting family to look after, as well as plying her trade, in the main with Barnet FC and the Furzefield Leisure Centre in Potters Bar, Lorna has her hands full – in more ways than one!

Our guest explained the benefits of massage in the improvement of performance, recuperation and in the prevention of injury – stretching is also beneficial as is a good diet. Lorna was accompanied by a young footballer, Graham, who had sustained an ankle injury. Lorna demonstrated the technique of massage on young Graham, which she said could be carried out to a limited extent by the individual on him/herself to improve circulation and suppleness both before and after exercise. The extensive use of aromatherapy oils when carrying out massage is also beneficial, said our guest, as is ultrasound. Keeping warm after massage was another important factor, explained Lorna.

After demonstrating her skills, Lorna and her young colleague took part in a question and answer session on sports injuries and how to treat and prevent them. A wide range of subjects included the benefits or otherwise of wearing very soft, modern football boots; strapping injuries (to enable further participation in exercise); how to stretch (no bouncing!) and the use of nutrients.

Terry Wilson gave a vote of thanks to Lorna and wished her and the family a safe journey to Old Trafford, Manchester the following day. Vince Yeudall then presented Lorna with some flowers as a gift from the Society.



John Hewson

Unfortunately this is to report that John Hewson, former Referee Association Southern Division Secretary, passed away recently.

John was very much a family man and our sympathy reaches out to the family that he has left behind. John was a very good friend of this Society and was respected by all who knew him. He last visited the Society when he attended the 50th Year Celebration Dinner & Dance in 1999.

When he took on the job of RA Southern Division Secretary, he had a hard act to follow. He rose to the occasion very well indeed.

John had been seriously ill with cancer for over 40 years and made 'light' of it. This was a man who carried the Referee Association's motto of 'Serve before Self' on his heart. John has left a lasting memory of a friend and a champion of good causes and justice with everyone who met him and who really knew him.

Thank you, John.
Rest in peace.

From Charles Lifford. Ed.



LAW CHANGES – 2003

The International Board will meet in Belfast this year on 15th March 2003. We are still proposing a period of consolidation with little change to the current Laws. The current preference is for the International Board to strengthen the instructions to match officials rather than tinker with the Laws. Colleagues will have noticed that the instructions appeared in the Laws of Association Football booklet for the first time in 2002. This will be the norm from now on.

The points introduced last year concerning advertising only being permitted on shirts and the requirements for shirts to have sleeves are on the table for further discussion and possible removal.

There is discussion as to whether the duties of the fourth official should be included within Law 6 newly named The Assistant Referees / Fourth Official. Currently the duties are described in a section after the Laws.

In the procedures for determining the winner of a match there is a proposal that the winning captain should have the choice of his team taking the first or the second kick.

The rules concerning the IFAB may be modified to allow the Annual General Meeting to be held in the months of February or March. In the additional instructions to match officials the Board is proposing including an instruction to referees to ensure that when players infringe the Laws at penalty kicks the appropriate action is taken.

The Board will discuss experiments concerning:

- * Goal –line assistants
- * Radio communication
- * 9.15 metre advancement

The Question and Answer book is due to be updated in 2003. If any of you have any questions you would wish to have considered please e-mail them to John Baker. The IFAB use this booklet to give definitive answers to questions raised.

Other items for discussion:

- * Temporary expulsions
- * Video evidence

Following the meeting in March 2003 the decisions will be communicated for comment to all 204 Associations in FIFA. The text of any changes will then be agreed and will come into force on 1st July 2003.

(Source – FA Refereeing Department Newsletter for Area Training Teams February 2003)

Thanks to Gary Cobden for the above. Ed.



NORTH MIDDLESEX REFEREES SOCIETY

Minutes of the Society Meeting held on Friday February 14th, 2003 at Cockfosters F.C. Chalk Lane

Apologies: As recorded in Attendance Book

The Chairman welcomed members and guests here for the first time particularly those members who had just completed the recent training course, who were all presented with a whistle by our guest speaker .

The new members present were Lee Addison, Kevin Wavell, and Michael Riddle.

Previous Society Minutes: The minutes of Friday January 10th, 2003 were signed as a true record after a request through the Chair was agreed to alter the wording in **A.O.B.** with reference to the cancellation of the December meeting.

Matters Arising: There were no matters arising.

Secretary's Report: The Secretary sadly announced the passing of former Southern Division Secretary John Hewson after a long fight against illness. The Southern Division R.A. minutes and M.R.A. minutes were available to members if they wish to read them.

Social Secretary's Report: The Social Secretary had submitted a written report in his absence and wished to thank the Treasurer and Y.D.O for contacting members in an effort to increase the numbers for the Elephant Race Nite, which now stood at 60. Any members still wishing to attend would they please contact Mick direct as we do not wish to fall short of refreshments. The Dinner/Dance is the next major event and the confirmed numbers stood at 20. If you intend going then let Mick know. We must reach a target of 80 members and friends so please support your Society .

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer requested those Council members who have any outstanding expenses to be settled would they please do so as soon as possible as the financial year ends on 31st March,2003.

Editor's Report: Very happy to report on the number of articles being received from members and hopes the trend continues.

Training Secretary's Report: We were now coming up to the forth week of Course 175 with an attendance of 25 candidates. The next course would most likely start after the Easter recess but no firm dates have been confirmed yet. Training Secretary will advise.

Gear Supplies Officer: No Report. It was made clear that the 10% discount for newly qualified referees had been withdrawn.

M.R.A. Delegate's Report: Nothing to report.

Youth Development Officer's Report: The Y.D.O. was not present on the evening and no report had been submitted.

Any Other Business: The issue of postage on the Normidian was raised and if any member did have to pay extra postage would they please contact the Treasurer. The matter would be discussed at the next Council meeting.

A match incident was raised regards Double-Headed- Matches which were now prominent for this time of the season. It was made quite clear that if a player is dismissed from the field of play during the first game, then that player can clearly take part in the second match, as the term Double-header means two separate matches.

Referees are advised to check the Competition Rules on the duration of the matches and most important the referees fees.

A further point was raised on Double-Headed-Matches where if mass confrontation took place in the first match and abandoned should the second match take place. The advice offered from senior colleagues and endorsed by the Training Centre was that the Referee should in no way contemplate to play the second match. Please ensure you report it to the appropriate authorities.

There being no other business members were reminded that our next meeting will take place on Friday March 14th and the Guest Speaker would be Alan Robinson, the National R.A. Publications and Overseas Officer.



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