

## March 2004

**The next meeting of the North Middlesex Referees' Society will be held at 7.30pm on Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> March at Cockfosters FC, Chalk Lane, Cockfosters, Barnet, Hertfordshire. Our welcome Guest Speaker is Joe Ross, Football League Referee.**

Peter Dace and Tony Ward point out that we said in last month's magazine that Joe Guest is the speaker at this month's Society meeting. Our special guest this month is, in fact, Joe Ross, Football League Referee. Tony also points out that Joe Guest has never been a Football League official, as was quoted, but is the Referees' Secretary at the FA. Apologies to all concerned – glad that's sorted!

The Elephant Race Nite, held on Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> February at the Ellenborough Table Tennis Centre, Enfield, was a big success. And, despite the absence of Elephants – lost in the jungles of time – the replacements, brand new Tigers, courtesy of Mick Osborn, played their part and made much less of a mess! Overall winner of the El, oops Tiger-pulling award, was Ross Griffiths, a member of Ian Foxall's group. Well done, Ross, we look forward to seeing you defend your title at another Elephant/Tiger Nite. And a big thank you to everyone who helped in any way, especially the Ward family and friends who laid on the excellent refreshments.

It's the time of season when Middlesex and other County FA's publish their Cup Final appointments. This year is no exception and a number of successful officials who are also members of the Society, are listed elsewhere. If you have a plum appointment – it doesn't have to be the World Cup Final – please send in the details for publication in next month's Normidian. Many congratulations!

At the February Society meeting, Mick Osborn entertained us with a story of Football, from its earliest days to the present. He covered all the Law changes in detail, as well as explaining the background as to how the game started and then gradually developed into the phenomenon it is now – fascinating. Thanks Mick! If you would like to read more about Mick's presentation please let me know and I'll ask him to provide a synopsis for the next magazine.

The Annual General Meeting of the Society will take place on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> of May at the usual venue, Cockfosters FC. The Annual Dinner Dance is on the following evening, Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> May, at The Apollo Suite, Cockfosters. Details of both these important events are included in this issue.

Thanks to Gary, Robin, Peter and Ken May for their regular contributions. Mick Osborn, our erudite master writer has been let off this month as he has been cleaning the Tigers used for the El oops! Tiger race nite! If you are one of those who keep promising yourself that you will send an article, but never quite get round to it, there are just two more editions left for you to break the habits of a lifetime. You don't have to write like a Fleet St. Editor to amuse, educate or simply annoy our readers – just do it, you will enjoy the feeling – honest!

**Closing date for the next issue of Normidian is 2004 is 31<sup>st</sup> March 2004.**

## **Peter Dace reminisces – the Normidian of March 1994**

In his Editorial, Ken Goldman writes ‘One of the most interesting domestic law changes this season has been the alteration to Law 19 i.e. Referees were not allowed in their own absolute discretion to penalize Liverpool players in the same manner as the players from other teams. That law, owing to Liverpool’s untimely demise, has now been amended to substitute Manchester United for Liverpool’. Kens adds ‘week after week we see United players commit the kind of foul which would mean a caution or a sending off for another team’s player. Either nothing is done or the player is shown yellow rather than red. It has got so bad that even television pundits, not noted for their knowledge of the laws or their enthusiasm to see players dismissed, have remarked that Referees have failed to penalize in the way that they should’.

‘The Tony Ward Collection’ extends to a loft visit to get the Christmas decorations for his wife. Whilst stumbling around in torchlight Tony found a bag of refereeing trophies accumulated over the previous 30 years. A quick inspection revealed that only about half a dozen meant anything of real achievement. Tony says this is all very fine for the trophy manufacturer and their retail outlets but is misleading youngsters into thinking they are real achievers and surely it detracts from worthwhile honours when they come along. He adds that years ago the Referee of the F.A. Cup Final had the choice of taking either a gold medal or a match fee and always took the medal. Today they get both and this applies to all types of F.A.Cup Final.

Paul Vosper writes ‘a woman of worth is measured in rubies’ and recalls how his wife took a call from a club in Brighton where he was to referee an F.A.Vase match. The club had conducted a pitch inspection the outcome of which, the pitch was playable but the touchlines were very wet and muddy. Joanne told them “Paul runs right wings so concentrate on preparing them and your work will be halved”. On his arrival the pitch was perfected and the right wing touchlines were beautifully rolled and sanded - consequently eleven players got one step nearer Wembley, 870 people enjoyed a very entertaining match, and the home club made a few hundred pounds. “Well done Joanne”, says Paul.

Steve Palmer continues – ‘1000 approaches’. And has now reached game 978 (5 more than his article in the previous magazine!). Game 247 was his first Cup Final as a referee, in the Tottenham and Haringay League Charity Cup between Penton and Oxford House. Game 320 saw the completion of season number five (85/86).

Peter Dace offers a quiz and lists all F.A.Cup Finals between 1946 and 1993 asking for the names of the respective referees. He says if you can name more than 35 out of the 48 you are a real student of referees but probably aged over 75. Scores below 15 – too parochial, must take a wider view.

Also included were reviews of our December and January monthly meetings and their excellent speakers, Tom Watt and John Motson.



## **From the AFA ARGUS**

“I was surprised, but I always say nothing surprises me in football” – **Les Ferdinand**

## **50 Years of History – Charles Lifford.**

In 1999, a book relating to the 50 years History of the North Middlesex Referees' Society was published. Whether you purchased a copy is neither here nor there; what is important, and it should be to you, is that I have been keeping the History up to date.

What have you sent me since that date? Have you had a County Cup Appointment? Does the Society know? Have you done a local Cup Final during this period, about which you can send me details? Have you had a photograph taken whilst refereeing, or been part of a group photo of referees that may be of interest to anyone in the Society?

A full record has been kept of the 50 years up to 1999. If you don't do your bit –and it only needs to be a little bit – the History will not be maintained. Please send me as much or as little as possible.

(Copies of “The History of the North Middlesex Referees' Society” can be obtained from the Gear Supply Officer – Percy Brown, see inside cover for details Ed.)

### **Charles**



#### **Editor's note**

Charles points out in the above 'History' that 'The Normidian' was the brainchild of one Arthur Layson, who passed away in 2003 – although still listed as a Life Vice President. In his book on the Society, Charles writes that the Normidian was born during Arthur's term as Publicity Secretary in 1951. He says that Arthur had a vision that the newsheet, which was the Society's first venture into publicity, could be turned into a magazine and he asked members to suggest a title for it.

Whether anyone suggested the name 'The Normidian' is not sure, however it is thought to be Arthur's idea. Other suggestions for a title included, 'Nor Mid Star', 'The Blackbird', 'The Pee Wit' and 'The Man in Black'. So, 'The Normidian' it became, “its name fitted like a glove” and has remained with the Society ever since.

The production costs of the new magazine were met entirely by Arthur Layson during the whole of his spell as editor, “not a penny being charged to the Society”.

In 1953 Arthur persuaded Arthur Pearce to take over as editor on a temporary basis 'for two years' until he was able to return – after being given a “very high honour” in another organisation to which he belonged. Those two years extended to ten before another editor took over.

Charles writes that Arthur Layson's name will always be remembered by the Society as long as The Normidian remains in its present form.

Arthur Layson was made a Life Vice-President in 1966. He was also a Life Vice-President of London Football Association.



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of North Middlesex Referees Society will be held on Friday, 14 May 2004, 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 23 April 2004.

Any items for inclusion in the Agenda, including proposals relating to changes of Society Rules, 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 2004.

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



## **MEMBERSHIP FEES - SEASON 2004/2005**

Members will be aware that membership Forms are usually distributed with the March Normidian. However, I have yet to have confirmation from the Referees Association of their fees for next season, so I am unable to issue the forms. Additionally, at last years Annual General Meeting, a proposal was passed giving the Society the authority to increase Subscriptions for Season 2004/2005 by a maximum of £1.50.

As the Society Financial Year does not conclude until the end of March, I am not yet in a position to confirm whether or not it will be necessary to increase the Society Membership Fee by some or all of the abovementioned £1.50, and so it may be that the membership Forms are not distributed until the May Normidian is issued.

However, what I can tell you is that currently Subscriptions only cover the cost of the Magazine, and I would ask you all to consider the receipt of your Normidian by e-mail as opposed to post. The Society has e-mail addresses for some 100 or so members, although only around 30 consent to taking their magazine by this method. If you would like to receive your magazine this way in the future, please let me know.

Gary Cobden  
Honorary Treasurer



## **NORTH MIDDLESEX REFEREES SOCIETY 100 CLUB**

The February 2004 Draw was made at the close of the February meeting. There were 48 shares subscribed, resulting in a total payout of £48.00 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! The Secretary will be asked to forgo his expenses for the Season in the light of his two wins in this

months draw!!!

1 <sup>st</sup> Prize	38	Robin Jagot	£26.40	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.
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize	19	Arthur Stewart	£14.40	
3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize	37	Robin Jagot	£7.20	

Gary Cobden  
Honorary Treasurer

## **NORTH MIDDLESEX REFEREES SOCIETY**

### **Society Minutes for meeting held on Friday February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2004**

**Apologies:** As per Society Signing-In Book

The Chairman was pleased to welcome new member Simon Harris who recently qualified on the Brimsdown Referees Course. He then requested our President Ken Goldman to present a Society Whistle and hoped that this would be the first of many visits to Society meetings.

**Minutes of the last meeting:** These were signed as a true record.

#### **Matters Arising:**

There were no matters arising.

#### **Secretary's Report:**

The Secretary stated there were no matters of urgency to report but was pleased to announce the recent Cup Final Appointments for Middlesex County F.A. While on the subject of Cup Final Appointments, he wished to include those members associated with other County FA's. The Society offered their congratulations to all those members who had been selected and wished them well with their prestigious appointments.

The latest Training Course is underway at Brimsdown Sports Club, with a class of twenty-four candidates.

Finally members were informed that the Guest Speaker at the March Society meeting on **Thursday, March 18<sup>th</sup> at Cockfosters FC** was Joe Ross, Football League Referee. Members were asked to make a note in their diaries about this change of date.

#### **Treasurers Report:**

The total balances of accounts held in various Society Funds stood at £10,653.63 compared with £10,061.00 at the same time last year.

The Treasurer reminded members of the Race-Nite Event on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February, and said all arrangements were in place. He asked members to support the evening and asked for Raffle Prizes to be donated as usual.

#### **Any Other Business:**

The Chairman reminded members of the Society's Annual Dinner/Dance, which takes place this year on May 15<sup>th</sup> at the Apollo Suite, Cockfosters. Tickets will be in the region of £26.00.

The Cheshunt & Waltham Cross Referees Society are meeting on Monday February 16<sup>th</sup> at the Green Dragon, Cheshunt, and have as Guest Speaker, John Baker, Head of Refereeing for the Football Association. North Middlesex Society members will be made welcome at this meeting if they wish to attend.

The Treasurer asked members that should they wish to purchase R.A. Raffle tickets he has them available at £2.00 for a book of 4 tickets.

## **EUFA Appointments for Euro 2004**

EUFA have appointed twelve teams of officials for Euro 2004, which runs from Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> June to Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> July.

The English officials are Referee, Mike Riley (Leeds) with Glen Turner, (Chesterfield) and our own Phil Sharp (Tring) as Assistant Referees.

All the officials, including a quartet of Fourth Officials, will attend a get-together in Portugal from 26<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> April.

Congratulations to all the officials selected for this prestigious event.



**From the pages of ‘YOU MUST BE JOKING REF!!!’ The Cheshunt& Waltham Cross Referees’ Society Magazine.**

### **ARE YOU BLIND, REF? By Lister Newcombe**

The extraordinary increase in the number of incidents that are happening in the penalty area that clearly should have resulted in a penalty being awarded, and where it would seem the referee is the only person on the pitch that does not agree, is cause for concern.

Television is showing more and more ‘key incidents’ and whilst bodily contact cases are a matter of opinion, flagrant handballs are a different matter.

Two cases which were ‘100% penalties’ and shown on television from different angles are the infamous Scarborough v Chelsea case, where the Chelsea defender’s arm clearly came onto the ball and in any event the arm should not have been over the player’s head. The other case occurred in the Barnet v Woking 0 – 0 draw, when a Barnet defender clearly knocked the ball down from a higher point than his head.

One must assume that the referees in these cases are extremely fit and have good eyesight and bearing in mind the training aspect of defining a deliberate handball, is it not time for some medical investigation into the failure of the referee’s eyesight to communicate with his brain!

As linesmen have been ‘upgraded’ to Assistant Referees, has not the time come for them to act accordingly?



**Ken Grant, the editor of ‘YMBJR!!!’** comments: “It is worthwhile quoting ‘Advice on the Application of the Laws of the Game’ in relation to handball offences....”

“Law 12 is quite emphatic that it is only the deliberate offence which shall be penalised. Occasions do arise where it is impossible for a player to avoid handling the ball, as he has insufficient time to withdraw his hand or arm before the ball strikes him .... “ We should always remember”, says Ken, “that the one opinion that counts in these decisions is that of the man in the middle”.



**Peter Dace passed me the following letter from ‘Leisure Leagues’, which may be of interest to some members.**

Dear Referee

Would you like to earn £10 per hour on a Sunday, refereeing six-a-side football league?

Leisure Leagues are the largest nationwide provider of small-sided football and operate over 200 leagues nationwide along with arranging events, tournaments and managing sports facilities throughout the country.

Vacancies have recently become available in the Hertfordshire area. We operate a league at Goff’s Oak Astro turf in Cheshunt between 5.00 and 8.00 on a Sunday and we operate a league at Watford Leisure Centre between 4.30 and 8.00 also on a Sunday.

Our referees’ rate is £10, all equipment is provided including staff clothing and I am sure if you decide to referee for us then you will enjoy this activity every week.

If you are interested in earning £10 per hour on a Sunday and refereeing for us then please contact our Head Office on the national number below and we will arrange for one of our Operations Managers to visit the facility nearest to you and run through the details.

We look forward to hearing from you shortly.

Yours sincerely

Pete Senior  
Head of Leagues

Telephone 0845 230 2340  
PO Box 526, Coventry CV3 5ZL  
[www.leisureleagues.net](http://www.leisureleagues.net)



**OFFSIDE!**

‘Park refs’ have been thrown into a bit of a quandary with the new interpretation of the offside law. Whereas for years we just blew if a player was “nearer to his opponent’s goal line than both the ball and the second last opponent”, we now have to take into consideration a few more factors we never bothered with before. The TV pundits have been more than flummoxed with the ‘new rules’, even when they have them written down in front of them!

On the credit side, it seems to me that if the ‘watches’ don’t understand what’s happening, and the players don’t – they rarely know the Laws anyway – we can give a decision on offside without anyone, us included, knowing if it’s correct or not!



## **“Is There Life After Refereeing?” – continued by Ken May**

### **DON'T FORGET THE ASSISTANTS**

I'm not sure that I can say the same about all of Assistants, but consider that until recently they have been inhibited by the constraints imposed on them not to get over-involved. What a welcome change to see them signalling for penalties as well as even being allowed on to the sacred pitch at times of brawls and major confrontations. This is obviously a constructive move and should have been encouraged years ago.

The scant attention given to lining when I started out, is shown by my first outing with a flag at the now Abrahams Stadium in a local league cup final. Although I did my best, I hardly had a clue what I was doing and was probably a liability to the referee.

Over the years I took my lining very seriously and always enjoyed it. Some contemporaries in the 60's and 70's regarded it as a bit of a chore. It was not unusual when meeting one's partner on the line to learn that he considered that he should actually be in the middle. There was also a preoccupation on the part of some colleagues to be considered senior linesman.

I would like to think that those days are well and truly over as the role of the Assistant Referee has never been more important. Their approach is so much more professional than in my day but if I do have one reservation then it concerns the current vogue for the three officials to warm up before the game on the perimeter of the pitch.

This is all very well when all three are obviously athletic enough to go through their paces. I have seen several examples at non-league games of overweight and un-athletic gentlemen with the very occasional one supporting a noticeable 'pot'. They would be better occupied spending time in the sauna or reviewing their diet rather than sporting their physical shortcomings in front of even a meagre crowd.

To be continued. Ed.



### **KWICKQUOTES – from ‘The Chiltern Referee’**

“We may be useless, but we are not cheats”. **David Elleray**

“Then my eyesight started to go and I took up refereeing”. **Neil Midgley**

“I'm 27 and the referee tells me that I'm not allowed to swear”. **Vinny Jones**

“If the ref had stood still, we wouldn't have had to chase him”. **Roy Keane**



**Editor's note:** In last month's Normidian we included an extract from ‘The Chiltern Referee’ but omitted to say that it was originally taken from ‘The Midland Referee’ – sorry!



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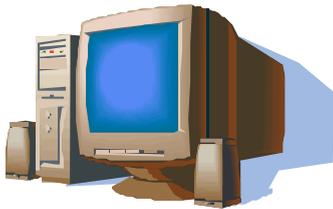
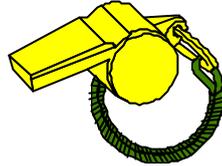
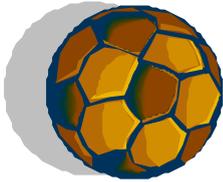
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## Are again pleased to support North Middlesex Referees Society in Season 2003/2004



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## REFEREES ASSOCIATION GRAND DRAW



Over previous years, the Society has automatically issued members with two books of RA Draw Books to sell on behalf of the Society. This has meant the Society requesting nearly 500 books from the Referees Association, but regularly receiving only just over 100 sold book counterfoils back from Members. This year therefore, if you would like the chance of winning a car – sadly not like this one – please

let me know how many books you would like, and I will get them to you. For all books sold, the Society receives 50% of the proceeds. If you do take some books to sell, 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.

Thanks again for your support.

Gary Cobden  
Honorary Treasurer



**The following Members of the Society have received Cup Final Appointments from Middlesex County FA. The Council of North Middlesex congratulates all those members concerned on their well-deserved appointments, and hopes they have an enjoyable and trouble free day.**

Senior Charity Cup	Referee	Alf Street
Premier Cup	Assistant Referee	Percy Brown
Junior Cup	Assistant Referee	Richard Meikle
Midweek Cup	Referee	Peter Jago
	Assistant Referee	Michael Mackey Jnr
Sunday Premier Cup	Assistant Referee	Nick Rider
Sunday Junior Trophy	Referee	Stan Rosenthal
	Assistant Referee	Keith Hughes
	Reserve Official	Lee Addison
Women's Senior Cup	Assistant Referee	David Williams
EPL Greig Under 18 Cup	Assistant Referee	David Buckeridge
	Assistant Referee	Nick Andrea
Primary Under 12 Cup	Referee	Michael Mackey Snr
	Assistant Referee	Jamie Baxter
Under 12 Girls	Assistant Referee	George Grant



**Vince's Plum** from Vice-Chairman, Vince Yeudall

I thought you might like to know of my two big plums – so far that is. Well, I refereed the match at Arsenal to celebrate David Dein's 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday, where the team was made up of all his old school team players – including David himself and our President, Ken Goldman. I also recently refereed the AFA Old Boys Cup Semi Final, Old Owens v Old Stationers.

At 71 but still as fit as a fiddle – I'm well pleased! Roll on the next plum!