

The next Meeting of the North Middlesex Referees' Society will be held at Holtwhites Sports and Social Club, Kirkland Drive Enfield at 7.30 pm on Thursday the 19th of March 2009 when Stan Rosenthal will show the Official DVD on Offside entitled "Incident Analysis on Offsides" and will amplify the subject matter.

EDITORIAL

As can be seen from the above, the debate on the Offside Law which I hoped would take place in these pages will now become a practical discussion at our next meeting. Following on from Mick Osborn's article last time I would like to add a few comments of my own on this tricky subject. So here goes – Whilst it is often said that "football is a simple game" and when it comes to its Laws there is also much simplicity. Indeed 16 out of the 17 are in the main easy to comprehend and officiate but there is an exception which is of course Law 11 the dreaded Offside Law. Can I admit that that I have had a chance to see the DVD to be shown and but for the fact of its showing would have reviewed it in this magazine. However one thing that struck me more than any other was that despite my not having been able to trace it in the recommendations to Assistant Referees in the latest FIFA Laws of the Game booklet, the DVD states that whether a player is offside in various aspects is now in the opinion of the Assistant. This in essence relates as to whether the attacker in an offside position who has not yet reached the ball is the only attacker able to do so. There can be no doubt that the numerous clarifications, especially the last one by the International Board have made decisions on offside very much more complicated. Take for example a game in which Cisse playing for Liverpool a couple of seasons ago received a pass but stepped over the ball and so by not touching it was deemed not to be interfering etc, so when the ball went to a colleague who netted the goal was allowed to stand. A similar thing happened this season in the Premiership when a shot for goal was jumped over by an attacker running across the goal and in an offside position and the ball then went into the goal and was given as a fair strike. Whilst the principle of "shots on goal do not count for offside" is a sensible compromise, jumping over a shot, which if you controlled it would leave you offside, seems to be splitting too many hairs especially again if the goalkeeper parried the shot and you netted the rebound, the effort would be disallowed as a "secondary Offside" All of this arises because the Law requires "playing or touching the ball passed or touched by a team-mate" to constitute offside nowadays. Thus an attacker who avoids the unfortunately named "PIG" pitfall i.e. does not Play; Interfere; or Gain an advantage by being in an Offside position, would be fine this still leads to areas of confusion in practise. To overcome all of these problems I would venture a potentially simple solution. It is that the Law should be interpreted to the effect that "if the ball goes towards the man/woman in an Offside position and that player goes towards the ball vertically, horizontally or diagonally that would automatically constitute Offside. Is that worth a try? Let's hear from you.

Watch out next month for the results of the recent decisions of the International Board; a reflection/discussion point on the "Drop Ball Law; and a feature on the late Dave Dickinson, for which there was no room this time but with also more memories of him needed.

Ken Goldman.

Peter Dace (with help from Dusty Springfield) is

Wishing and hoping (and thinking and praying.....)

Wishing for a game

Hoping for a game

Thinking of a game

Praying for a game

Bloody weather! If I was a Member of the North Moscow Referees Society; or the North Mumbai Referees Society; or even The North Melbourne Referees Society would I have been as unemployed as I have been over the past few weeks?

Bloody football! Why couldn't I have chosen a sport that does not depend on the vagaries of the weather? With all the money in the game why haven't all my local pitches been given plastic roofs thereby guaranteeing my game goes ahead? When I come back in this world I am going to get involved in Squash and Table Tennis and then on matchdays I will not have any vested interest in peering out of my window – I shall just go to the venue and take part.

The Dace diary since 1st January makes very sad reading and instead of boring you, dear reader, with a succession of my plum appointments, all to be listed in a future edition of 'The Normidian', I instead have a list of games postponed usually marked 'rain' or 'snow' and sometimes a combination of both. Indeed my diary reveals only one good weekend weather-

wise and that the 17th/18th January when, most unusually, I had to take Mrs Dace to Leeds. However not all was lost and I managed a slight detour to take in the game between Bradford City and Accrington Stanley.

Are you like me on matchday?

Wishing the telephone not to ring

Hoping the phone doesn't ring

Thinking of how to spend the time if the game is off

Praying the game doesn't get called off

Even in my 37th season as a Referee I still find it difficult to cope with a postponement – the missing match fee; no one disputing every decision; no dirty boots; no tiredness and staying awake even in the 'analysis' sections of 'Match of the Day' – the consequences of a postponement are endless.

So having lost four games in the last eight days there is a temporary improvement in the weather and I start to think of my route to Saturdays game and OH NO – I look out of the window and it's snowing again!!

Bloody weather, bloody football

Wishing for another game to be played

Hoping another game gets played

Thinking of another game

Praying that damn phone doesn't ring

LAST MONTH'S SPEAKER

We were happy to welcome David Dixon the Retention and Development Officer of the Essex County FA, a man who quite justifiably can carry a talk on fitness, which he did, since there are not too many of us who can match the two degrees to his name. He first posed to referees the question "Fitness – are we setting ourselves up for failure". Surely he went on it was a matter of at least being fit for the level at which you referee. "Who would be a superstar Referee?" Answer- "one that was in the right place at the right time with the required mental toughness." Taking us through a power-point presentation David threw out a number of statistics and interesting results culled from a number of resources trials and tests. Not the least of these was the discovery that in the 2nd half of games referees were not so close to incidents when making their decisions as they had been in the first period. He also recommended to us the new FA Guide to Fitness and dealt with several training methods including the levels of tiredness and the need for rest before he then handed out performance profiling sheets to all attendees at the Meeting. Other pearls of wisdom included the need for each referee to consider what goals he/she wanted to achieve, indicating that performance goals are those where you have no control over events so he suggested one does not make them the be – all and end – all. Instead it was sensible to work to achieve goals that one does have control over. In this respect it was necessary to be consistent through the season and to make sure one succeeded in those self-achievable goals. Again each referee needed to indulge in self-evaluation on a regular basis and in that to be brutally honest. David's Summary was (1) overall fitness (2) follow a regime of physical fitness in – taking nutrition and hydration (3) applying mental preparation for particularly not forgetting necessary rest periods and (5) introducing personal profiling and goal setting. – All in all an evening to savour and remember.

Dear Gary and old friends at North Middlesex

Sixty years is a notable feat - so congratulations.

To contrive an occurrence that left Ken Goldman "almost lost for words" strikes me as an even more memorable feat!

What a splendid occasion it must have been.

Warmest regards.

Gerald Sinstadt

PS Not sure if I have told you that I am now a Staffs FA Councillor and Chairman of their Youth Committee (but manage to steer clear of Disciplinary duties by remaining an active referee). Not as active as I'd like to be, though; having declared a pitch unplayable yesterday I brought my record for a season blighted by weather, rearranged fixtures and County representative commitments to: Appointments 13, Games refereed 5. But I am also a committee member of North Staffs Referees Club (the oldest refereeing body in the world, founded 1897) as well as Vice Chairman of a local youth league, so I don't spend much time hanging around on street corners.

IN THE BLEAK MID WINTER

Thanks to a succession of mild winters, one problem that many new referees have yet to encounter when judging whether or not a pitch surface is playable is that posed by a covering of snow.

There can be no sure guide given on paper as to what may, or may not, be a playable snow covered surface. It is vitally important, however, that the referee forms his opinion unaided by helpful hints from club officials or players of either side.

Sad to say that sometimes one team has an ulterior motive for wanting, or not wanting, the game to go ahead. Subtle indeed are the suggestions made to you to, "Call it off, ref," or, "We have played on far worse than this."

Arrive earlier than usual so that your deliberations are not subjected to this kind of pressure. One tip is to take a ball onto the pitch and kick it about to see what happens. Does it take on the dimensions of a giant snowball as the snow sticks to it?

Does it require a hefty hoof to move it at all?

What are conditions like underfoot?

Does the snow cover a frozen layer of rutted soil, or does it yield to the proverbial stud?

Run about, with and without the ball.

Do you feel well balanced and capable of a sprint without 'falling whistle over spare watch'?

Try a sudden change of direction. If you don't feel happy on your own, can you cope with the mobility that being a referee demands during the game?

The fact that a pitch is covered in snow, should not automatically rule out play. If in your opinion the game can proceed without the conditions endangering the players, or the play degenerating into a farce, the next obvious step is to see that all the pitch markings are exposed.

Most players and club officials of both teams will set to with a will if your request is made in the proper manner. Usually, there is no objection if the referee joins in, it can be great fun and is good P.R.

Ultimately, a referee has to be guided by his own experience and instinct. Since this article is aimed primarily at the new referee, instinct should play a part in forming an opinion.

Most officials have played football at some level or other. If in doubt, the answer to the question, "If I was a player today, what would I think of a referee who asked me to play on this surface?" should help you come to a sensible decision.

One final tip, if you decide to sanction play. Should the conditions subsequently prove dangerous to the players, or play become farcical, do have the courage to call for an abandonment.

A player may suffer a serious injury, and we all know that that can happen in perfect playing conditions.

BUT GUESS WHO WILL GET THE BLAME?

CHARLES LIFFORD.

THAT WAS THE YEAR THAT.....

By Mick Osborn

After taking a course with NMRS under instruction from Ron Hounsell and George Basten, I managed to answer enough examination questions correctly to qualify as a Class 3 referee in March 1978. I don't know if it was the miracle of getting me through but the same season Ron was elected President of NMRS and George became Vice Chairman. Robin Jagot became training officer soon after.

While trying to get to sleep the other night, I began to wonder what other great events had graced the same period in time. Well, The World Cup was won by Argentina and on the home front Littlewoods, the pools company, raised the maximum treble chance dividend to £750,000 in September to keep pace with inflation.

UEFA fined AC Milan £8,000 for taking three Scottish officials on a shopping spree. The referee and his linesmen were suspended for accepting the Italians' hospitality. At the other end of the scale, on the 3rd of April Sammy Nelson of Arsenal dropped his shorts in front of the spectators, and was fined £750.00 and banned for two games.

Ron Greenwood's tenure as England's manager being extended to include the 1982 World Cup Finals, clearly depended on the team qualifying for the 1980 European championships. In their opening game against Denmark, two headers by Kevin Keegan gave England a 2-0 lead after 23 minutes, but at half time the score was 2-2. Early in the second half, England scored two more but with only five minutes left, Denmark claimed another goal. England hung on to win 4-3. Ron Greenwood said, "I'm an advocate of attacking football – but that was carrying it to extremes."

Nottingham Forest, founded in 1865, at last won the League Championship in May 1978 and, having won the League Cup two months earlier, became the first team to win the double of League title and League Cup.

The "History of North Middlesex Referees Society" * records that in seasons 77/78 and 78/79, guest speakers at our meetings included Roger Thompson, (Football manager,) Stan Lover, Roy Capey and Jim Bent, (Football League referees,) Pat Gregory of the Women's F.A., John Motson of the BBC and Owen Venning of the R.A. And Peter Dace was well on the way to developing what must be the most comprehensive record in the Society, if not in the world, of a referee's career.

In 1978 a book entitled, "It's A Funny Old Game," was published by the great cricket commentator, Brian Johnston. It is full of amusing anecdotes, which he suggests readers might like to use. I have adapted one to suit our readership. A referee, when asked how he decided what diagonal to run said, "Well, when I wake up in the morning, if my wife is lying on her left side, I have my assistants take the left defenders. If she is on her right side, then I have them take the right defenders." "What happens if she is on her back?" was the next question. "Then I phone the club and tell them I'll be late for kick-off," he replied.

You may recall other, and far greater, events of that time but, for me who now finds it difficult to remember what I had for yesterday's lunch, I think it's quite an achievement.

*Copies of the "History" are available from Gary Cobden.

60th Anniversary Dinner

The Raffle at the recent dinner raised a grand total of £375.00, and this was donated, at our President's request, to the Children Today Charitable Trust. A copy of their acknowledgement is reproduced below.



Mr Gary Cobden
North Middlesex Referees Society
2 Chapel End
Hoddesdon
EN11 8DN

30/01/2009

Dear Mr. Cobden,

On behalf of Children Today I would like to thank the members of the North Middlesex Referees Society together with your President's wife for choosing us to receive the donation of £375.00

Your gift will be used towards the purchase of specialised equipment for children and young people with disabilities across the UK.

Each specialised piece of equipment we purchase as a result of donations received gives a child or young person with a disability the chance to improve and enhance his or her quality of life and helps them to achieve greater independence.

Once again, thank you all for your support.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Lesley Musgrave'.

Lesley Musgrave
Support Services Manager.

Middlesex County FA County Cup Appointments Season 2008/2009

MCFA Youth Under 18 Cup Semi Final

Omonia Youth F.C. U18 v South Ruislip Rangers F.C. U18

Referee John Noblemunn
Asst Referee Barry Kyriacou

MCFA Youth Under 16 Cup Semi Final

Enfield Town Youth F.C. U16 v Harefield United Youth F.C. U16a

Referee Stan Rosenthal
Asst Referee Barry Berndes
Asst Referee Phil Bowman

MCFA Youth Under 15 Cup Quarter Final

Muswell Hill Youth FC U15 v Headstone Manor Youth F.C. U15a
Omonia Youth F.C. U15b v Hillingdon Youth F.C. U15a

Referee Nicolas Andrea
Referee Barry Berndes

MCFA Youth Under 13 Cup Semi Final

Chase Side Youth F.C. U13 v Parkfield Youth F.C. U13a

Referee John Stockman
Asst Referee Phil Bowman

MCFA Ladies JSenior Cup Semi Final

Enfield Town Ladies F.C. First v Brentford Womens F.C. First

Referee Jeff Till
Asst Referee J George Grant
Asst Referee Barry Kyriacou

MCFA Youth Under 16 Girls Cup Semi Final

Enfield Town Ladies Yth F.C. U16 v Denham United Wildcats F.C. U16

Referee Barry Kyriacou

Middlesex County FA County Cup Final Officials

These will be published here when we have the full list of appointments.

These Appointments are correct as at 23 February 2009



HENRY TILLY LTD

Sports Goods Suppliers of 94, Turners Hill, Cheshunt
are again please to continue their support of

North Middlesex Referees Society for Season 2008/2009

We will also be providing some goods for sale through the
Society Gear Supplies

Contact us for all your sporting requirements

Telephone 01992 623714



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 this month is the total income for the month, £43.00, and the winners are shown below.

First	16	Tom White	£23.65
Second	39	Robin Jagot	£12.90
Third	33	Arthur Stewart	£6.45

Winners 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 £6.00 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 6 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 (continued)!

Following previous articles relating to the plaques previously presented to Tottenham; Arsenal; and Barnet we have now made contact with Tottenham, and they are now happy for us to replace the missing plaque.

Further news will appear here when we make the presentation to Tottenham.

Gary Cobden
Honorary Treasurer





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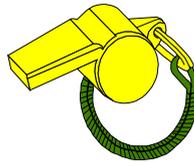
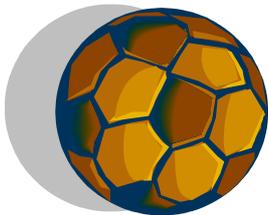
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Are again pleased to continue their support of North Middlesex Referees Society in Season 2008/2009



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of North Middlesex Referees Society will be held on Thursday, 21 May 2009, commencing at 7.30pm, at Holtwhites Sports and Social Club, Kirkland Drive, Off Holtwhites Hill, Enfield, Middlesex.

A provisional Agenda for the Meeting will appear in next months Normidian. Any person wishing to stand as an Officer for Season 2009/2010 must be duly Proposed and Seconded – and assented by the nominee - in accordance with Society Rule 9c. Any proposals for changes to Society Rules must be duly Proposed and Seconded in accordance with Society Rule 9d. Both proposals for Officers and changes to Rules must be received by the Secretary not less than 21 days before the Annual General Meeting - i.e. not later than 24 April 2009.

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



Membership Fees for Season 2009/2010 are now due!

Yes ladies and gents, it's that time of year again. Your membership subscription for Season 2009/2010 becomes due on 1 April 2009. Where the Society has an e-mail address on file, and you normally receive your magazine by e-mail, you should have received a Membership Form in this way; for everybody else, a Membership Form is included with this month's Normidian. The NMRS Membership Fee is again being held at £10.00 for further year. Likewise the Referees Association of England has held its subscription by £15.00.

Membership Fees payable are as follows:-

- **Full Members - £25.00.** This includes your Referees Association of England fee of £15.00 including the Insurance Premium of £4.00. If you are over 75, you are not automatically covered by the Insurance Premium, and your fee payable will be reduced by £4.00. However, should you wish to purchase insurance cover, this can be arranged on request.
- **Associate Members - £10.00.** You must pay your Referees Association of England fee through another Society, and this should be shown on your Membership Form.
- **Junior Members - £15.50.** Members under 18 years of age, including your Referees Association of England fee of £9.50.

Individual fees payable are shown on your personalised Membership Form. The Adult fees shown above are only valid until 31 July 2009; after that date they will increase by £2.00. You are also reminded that you will not be covered by the Referees Association of England Insurance after 31 May 2009 unless your fees have been paid to the Society by that date. Please complete and return your Membership Form as soon as possible. You need to bear this in mind if you will be refereeing late season or early pre-season games.

It would be appreciated if you could you all check your details shown on the Form, and amend any information that is shown incorrectly. Please also specifically check e-mail addresses shown carefully, as some that we have on file are resulting in bounce backs. Additionally, please check that the NPD Number (Registration Number) where shown is correct, and complete it if it is missing from the Membership Form. The number can be found on your County FA Registration Form. If you are not currently registered with a County FA, please indicate on your form as Not Registered. Please also indicate where requested whether you are an Assessor; Examiner; Instructor; or Mentor.

Gary Cobden
Honorary Treasurer



North Middlesex Referees Society

Minutes of the Society meeting held on Thursday February 19th 2009

Apologies: Roger Fox, Peter Dace and Terry Hayne

Chairman's Welcome: The Chairman welcomed former member Steve Palmer and his son who had recently completed a Referees Course and was attending for the first time. Also welcomed was our guest speaker Dave Dixon from Essex County FA. Whose subject for the evening was fitness and self-discipline.

Minutes of the last Society Meeting: The minutes of the last Society meeting held on Thursday 15th January 2009 were signed as a true record.

Matters Arising: There were no matters arising.

Secretary's Report: The secretary was happy to report that the Society's 60th year celebration held at Old Owens Sports Centre had been an outstanding success with 80 members and friends attending. The secretary had received numerous letters and emails congratulating the Sub-Committee on the organisation and planning of the event. Ken Goldman, our Editor proposed from the floor that it be recorded in the minutes- The sub-committee are to be congratulated for all their hard work in making the 60th anniversary of the Society such a successful evening. The proposal was seconded by Lockie Bramzell and unanimously supported by those present at the meeting.

The Secretary informed members that he had completed and applied for 10 tickets for the Eve of Cup Final Rally to be held once again at the Russell Hotel, London on Friday May 29th 2009.

Treasurer's Report: The RA membership stood at – Full Members 113 Associate Members 4

Editor's Report: The editor thanked those members for continuing to send articles in for the magazine and that we can still ensure a 12-page edition.

Any Other Officer's Reports: The Training Officer Stan Rosenthal reported that the County FA had recently completed a Referees Course at the Enfield Rangers Club with 14 candidates passing.

There were no other reports.

Any Other Business: Secretary informed Council members and officers that the next Council meeting will take place once the annual review of the accounts had been completed at the end of March, 2009. As the Secretary will be away from March 28th –April 16th the meeting has been provisionally booked for Wednesday 22nd April venue to be agreed.

A question was raised regarding the outcome of the Holtwhites Sports Centre as rumours were afloat of the Sports Centre may have to close down. Having spoken to Terry Hooper the Secretary he was happy to report that the local Council had backed down and that the Centre would continue to support the community including the local Sports and Leisure Clubs which would mean the Society will be able to still continue to hold their monthly meetings there

Chairman.....