

The Normidian Magazine

NORTH MIDDLESEX REFEREES' SOCIETY



March 2010

COUNCIL 2009 - 2010

PRESIDENT

Terry Wilson 25, Brookside Crescent, Cuffley, Hertfordshire, EN6 4QW 01707 889585
E-Mail - president@northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk

CHAIRMAN

Tom White 82, Graeme Road, Enfield, Middlesex, EN1 3UT 020 8366 4703
E-Mail - chairman@northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk

VICE-CHAIRMAN

Vince Yeudall 2, Churston Gardens, New Southgate, London, N11 2NL 020 8245 5695
E-Mail - vicechair@northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk

SECRETARY

Robin Jagot 24, Tiverton Road, Potters Bar, Hertfordshire, EN6 5HY 01707 651461
E-Mail - secretary@northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk

TREASURER

Gary Cobden 2, Chapel End, Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire, EN11 8DN 01992 469153
E-Mail - treasurer@northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk

SOCIAL SECRETARY Position Vacant

MAGAZINE EDITOR

Ken Goldman 17, Green Walk, Hendon, London, NW4 2AL 020 8203 1376
E-Mail – kengoldman@btinternet.com

TRAINING SECRETARY

Stan Rosenthal 40, Slades Hill, Enfield, Middlesex, EN2 7EE 020 8367 2579
E-Mail - training@northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk

GEAR SUPPLIES

Percy Brown 33, Cotton Road, Potters Bar, Hertfordshire, EN6 5JT 01707 851369
E-Mail - supplies@northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk

COUNTY RA DELEGATE

Charles Lifford Address Withheld Withheld
E-Mail - cra@northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Martin De La Fuente 7, De Soissons Close, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire, AL8 6YX. 01707 321502
E-Mail - councilone@northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk

Michael Mackey (Snr) 46, Latymer Road, Edmonton, London, N9 9PU 020 8807 4898
E-Mail - counciltwo@northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk

Michael Mackey (Jnr) 46, Latymer Road, Edmonton, London, N9 9PU 020 8807 4898
E-Mail - councilthree@northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk

MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS: Please send to Ken Goldman – by e-mail if possible.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Please notify Gary Cobden

HONORARY AUDITORS 2009-2010

Jim Taylor 020 8560 8262 Tim McGowan 07793 402610

LIFE VICE PRESIDENTS

George Basten	Peter Dace	Ken Goldman
Terry Hayne	Robin Jagot	Brian Langstone
Mick Osborn	Arthur Stewart	Tony Ward

Visit the North Middlesex website at:- www.northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk

THE NORMIDIAN is the Official Publication of North Middlesex referees Society, and is published nine times during the football season, between September and May.

The next Meeting of the North Middlesex Referees' Society will take place at Holtwhites Sports and Social Club, Kirkland Drive, Enfield Middlesex at 7.45pm on Thursday the 18th March 2010 when the guest speaker will be Jon Whittingham, Middlesex County FA Football Development Officer for people with Disabilities.

EDITORIAL

One of the subjects that I was intending to raise in the Editorial this month was the rare penalising of the direct kick to the goalkeeper which he then picks up and an indirect free kick is conceded. Then quite by coincidence came the scenario in the Porto.v. Arsenal Champions League cup tie. Now there is no doubt that the Referee on the night was correct in his interpretation and award of the appropriate free kick, but his handling of the situation was both abysmal and in part wrong in Law and spirit. The catalogue of mistakes and bad control of the free kick situation commenced when he demanded the ball from the Arsenal goalkeeper and then passed it to their opposition and also did not ensuring that the resultant kick was taken from the correct place. He then turned his back whilst obstructing Campbell the Arsenal centre-back from attempting to get involved, if he so wished, in defending the situation .Finally he failed to signal the indirect free kick with the requisite signal until AFTER the ball was in play.

After the game the Arsenal Manager Arsène Wenger probably more emotionally than analytically made the point that what the Referee had allowed in all the circumstances was better than giving the opposition a penalty, as it was more easy to score from that position. If however one does consider the situation that occurred more analytically the only conclusion to come too is that Wenger was right in that respect. That means there is something radically wrong when a technical offence punishable by an indirect free kick, becomes more beneficial to the attackers than a penalty given for anything from violent conduct, stopping a goalscoring opportunity or any one of the other penal offences including deliberate handball. After all the attacker may miss the penalty or as we saw in the recent Carling Cup Final the culprit might not even receive a caution. Therefore objectively it would seem that either the Law should be changed to allow the defenders time to exercise the right to defend and no advantage allowed, or the referee should be given the chance to manage the situation so as to be fair to both teams, which did not happen in the aforementioned case. In other words if we continue the current procedure, referees to be even handed in the performance of this ruling, should be passive in allowing advantage by a quick free kick rather than pro-active in encouraging attackers to do so. In this way the spirit of the Laws would be maintained.

However the simplest answer to all these problems would be to abandon the section of the Law itself. On a personal note I believe it was nonsense to introduce it in the first place. It was done to stop time wasting by repeatedly passing the ball back to the keeper who delayed the game. Firstly referees did not enforce the time limits laid down as they seldom do to this day and secondly there is nothing to stop players passing back to the keeper now, even from the halfway line, just to waste time. What has happened apart from some keepers learning to be better and more comfortable

with their feet, is that very frequently it has led to goalkeepers giving away stupid goals; kicking directly to the opposition or just as frequently slicing the ball into touch. Not the most edifying of spectacles in these situations, quite apart from the fact that there is a danger especially to the keeper when an attacker hunts him down to stop him clearing the ball. Finally there are now fewer chances of the goalkeeper being able to initiate attacks by either throwing the ball out or drop-kicking from hands. In view of the fact that FIFA has previously modified the Laws to re-allow the goalkeepers to manage the ball, albeit for 6 seconds, before releasing it from hands; they could go further, by as previously indicated, abandoning this “back-pass” rule as it has so often erroneously been termed and instead adopt an unauthorised practice, once used in Italian football, of allowing the keeper only 4 seconds when holding the ball, to relinquish it from hands. This would eliminate all the ills of the current rule hopefully exemplified here and lead to the end of controversial free kicks which many referees are loathe to award any way, if they can help it.

Ken Goldman
Editor

#####

FLAGGING UP

The Middlesex County Football Association is committed to offering opportunities for everyone to play football regardless of their age, gender, disability, and ethnicity. At the beginning of June 2007 the first Football Development Officer for People with Disabilities was appointed with a view to developing opportunities for disabled individuals to become involved in the game in whichever capacity they chose. Since then, there have been major strides taken in the development of disability football in Middlesex with numerous initiatives successfully currently taking place. During the course of the presentation I will give you an insight into work currently taking place in Middlesex, how officiating differs across the different impairments within disability football and how you can become involved. You will be given the opportunity to ask questions during the evening about all issues relating to disability football if anything arises that you would like answered.

Jon Whittingham
Football Development Officer for People with Disabilities
Middlesex County FA

#####

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of North Middlesex Referees Society will be held on Thursday, 20th May 2010 commencing at 7.30 pm at Holtwhites Sports and Social Club, Kirkland Drive, off Holtwhites Hill, Enfield, Middlesex. EN2 0RU

Agenda

1. Apologies for absence.
2. To CONFIRM the Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting.
3. To CONSIDER any matters arising therefrom.
4. To RECEIVE a report from the Secretary.
5. To RECEIVE a report from the Treasurer together with the audited accounts.
6. To RECEIVE a report from the Honorary Auditors.
7. To RECEIVE any reports from the Council and Officers.
8. To CONSIDER any change to the Society Rules.
9. To ELECT Officers and Council for the ensuing year.

The following proposals have been made in accordance with the existing Society Rules –

President	Terry Wilson		
Chairman	Tom White	Vice Chairman	Vince Yeudall
Secretary	Robin Jagot	Treasurer	Gary Cobden
Editor	Ken Goldman	Training Officer	Stan Rosenthal
Gear Supplies	Percy Brown	RA Delegate	Charles Lifford
Council Members: Martin de la Fuente, Michael Mackey Snr, Michael Mackey Jnr			
Mentoring Officer Vacant			

10. To ELECT Honorary Auditors currently T. McGowan and Jim Taylor

11. To CONSIDER the following motion –

That this Annual General Meeting places on record its thanks to the Officers and Council for their work during the past year, and express appreciation of the for their work during the past year , and express appreciation of the conduct of the affairs of the Society.

12. Any Other Business

Robin Jagot

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

Note: A quorum of at least 10 members is required in order for the Annual General Meeting to take place. Members are asked to make every effort to attend the AGM which is an important event in the calendar year of the Society.

Going For Promotion? – by George Grant

In response to the Editor's plea for more contributions over the next few months I hope to write a series of articles drawing from my recent experiences of participating in the Promotion Scheme. Hopefully it will provide some food for thought and at the very least give some useful hints and help for those going through the scheme as well as those who operate the scheme.

I started refereeing in May 2000 and joined the promotion scheme in 02-03 year. That first year was a complete "wash out" as I carelessly didn't submit enough games and inevitably didn't get promoted. The following year I learned from this mistake and sorted out my record keeping and did enough games but unfortunately wasn't adjudged good enough to be promoted. I tried again the following season (04-05) and for the 2nd time I didn't score well enough to be promoted. Disheartened but determined I enrolled on the 05-06 programme and after my 248th game (over 150 of which were in the promotion scheme) and after 14 assessments, I finally got my level 6.

So I enrolled onto my 5th straight promotion season this time going from 6-5. I was having what I thought was a great season until I was removed from the scheme in early 06 for "inadequate paperwork". This was despite completing 3 assessments all of which I thought had gone well. Naturally, I was gutted, but to be fair I had been warned previously about getting R6's in but I never took the threat of removal from the scheme seriously. So it came as a shock to be chucked out.

I then spent the next 2 years away from the scheme and it was refreshing to be able to do a game without worrying about whether an assessor was lurking in the shadows. However, whenever the list of successful promotion candidates was announced, I always had a sense of unfinished business. I still wanted to test myself to see if I was good enough to be assessed as a "Senior County Referee".

So I enrolled in the 2009-10 scheme and at the time of writing this I have had my 6 assessments over 34 games so far and will complete my 5th "line" next week. So hopefully I would have done enough to gain level 5. We will see. If I am successful I would have completed 6 years in the scheme (well 5¾ if you want to be picky) during 6 out of the last 8 seasons.

So as you can see, I do have more than a little experience participating in the scheme with varied results. I have experienced the dejection of being told you are not good enough, the rejection of being thrown off the scheme and the elation of finally getting promoted. So I do feel I am well qualified to comment on what it is like as a participant.

The first area I would like to look at is why we don't have more people participating in the scheme. Like most of you, I share the changing rooms each weekend with many other referees who are not in the programme. Occasionally, when discussion about the scheme has cropped up, you hear of a few who started and gave up, but for most of the others, it is not something they have ever thought about. I often think why that is? Why wouldn't someone who is obviously committed enough to an activity to turn up week in week out, not want to improve their skills and get independent feedback about how they can achieve this.

And after years of pondering about this, I have concluded that the reason more people don't take part is that there isn't enough incentive given to take part in the programme. So here are my top 3 tips to encourage more referees to get involved in the promotion scheme.

Tip 1 – increase the monetary incentive, yes that right pay them more! I don't agree with the often quoted adage that “referees don't do it for the money”. Some don't but many do. How much more they should be paid will be up to others to decide but an extra £3 or £5 a game for example may just encourage many referees to get involved. At the moment unless you advance to Supply Leagues etc all referees are paid the same. This from the guy who has just passed his exams to those who have never looked at the LOAF since they took their exams to Level 5's and Level 4's. It seems perfectly reasonable to me that if you are assessed as being a referee of a higher class then this means you should have more ability and therefore you should be paid more. This simple rule operates perfectly well in most walks of life, so why should refereeing be any different? This works the other way as well since teams will also expect a better performance, which can only be a good thing, to keep referees on their toes.

Tip 2 – Give different badges! There should be an overt way of showing what class of referee you are. At the moment all referees get the same badge and wear the same uniform whether they have just qualified or they are 20 year Level 4 and higher veterans. I propose that the badges should reflect what class of referee you are. This can either be achieved quite easily by replacing the word “Referee” to “Senior County Referee”, “County Referee” or “Junior County Referee” etc as appropriate. In addition or instead of the wording, maybe using different colour backgrounds for each level could be considered. This would obviously allow those who have been assessed as higher class to be more easily recognised and to wear their new badges with pride. And who knows it could give an incentive to those who have just the basic Junior County badge, to take steps to get the higher levels. Again teams will also get the message that is conveyed by the badges. They would quite rightly expect a better level of performance from a higher class referee.

Tip 3 – Compulsory In Service Training. This will not be popular but I can only see this as a good thing. Most of us work in professions where you have to undertake refresher training to keep your skills current. This is very appropriate to football with changing rules and interpretations. How many times have we shared dressing rooms with referees who refer to “rules” that have changed or who rely on (god help us!) commentators to help them interpret rule changes or application of the Laws. It should be mandatory for all referees to undertake a refresher course ideally once a year. I accept this may be impractical from a standing start and we may need to probably start with something more reasonable like once every 2 or 3 years. This “refresher” should include a test on the LOAF which referees must pass to retain their badges. (No, I haven't gone mad). Maybe the FA can look at using the latest technology so that referees can do this remotely or maybe via Society meeting. (Imagine the impact on attendance!). As this is the norm for promotion candidates and perhaps the most onerous part since it currently involves giving up a whole day, it may be that you get a few more referees deciding that since they have to do this anyway they might as go a step further and get assessed as they go through the season.

So there you have it my top tips to get more people involved in the promotion scheme. What do **you** think?

WHERE DO I STAND AT AN INJURY SITUATION BY OBSERVER

Imagine the scene in your game. A player goes down injured, you see the incident but know that there was no foul play that led to the injury, but all the same you decide to stop play.

You run across, quickly ascertain the extent of the injury, and wave to the trainer the player is OK or alternatively attend to carry out the necessary treatment.

It is a familiar enough situation, one which is likely to happen at least once in every game you referee.

BUT WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

It sounds like a Question of Sport, doesn't it?

Yet, as a Referee you should be very concerned with the ensuing period of time until you get the game re-started. I have no intention of telling you what you **MUST** do, but here are a few questions for you to consider: -

Where do I stand?

Within a couple of yards of the injured player? Five yards away? Ten yards? Fifty yards? Should I actually touch the injured player at all?

What if the trainer says something to me that he really shouldn't be saying?

Will that possibility have any influence on where I position myself?

Should I be allowing treatment on the field of play?

Should I be watching the treatment taking place for all, some or none of the time?

Is it worth my while to look elsewhere on the field?

If so, why?

Is this a suitable time to have a quiet word with that player who seems to be losing his cool, or that player who was not exactly gentlemanly in his challenge a few minutes ago?

Would it be to my advantage to have a quick word with one of the captains, the one whose colleague looks like getting into trouble?

If so, what do I say, and how do I say it?

Is it time for me to simply wait for the trainer to go off the field?

Should I encourage him to speed things up a little, and if so, just what should I say to him? And again, how should I say it?

What about my two Assistants are they neutral or club officials?

Ought I to place myself where I can see them both without much trouble? Indeed, thinking back to my actual position at this time, is there an **IDEAL POSITION** to adopt? One that takes in as many possibilities as possible?

Where is the **IDEAL POSITION** if I want to keep control of the 'treatment zone', keep my Assistant within easy eye-contact and also keep the vast majority if not all of the other players in view?"

Is there **NOTHING** that is easy and straightforward in refereeing?

(EDITOR'S NOTE – Even if you are medically qualified try never to touch the player yourself because if something goes wrong the player may well be in a position to sue you for negligence. The Club trainer or physio will be insured against this and if he/she is not qualified, there is no harm if you are sufficiently experienced, in suggesting the player goes to hospital for a check-up)

Last Month's Guest Speaker

We were delighted to receive a return visit from the FA's Janie Frampton who incidentally is one of only 3 National Referee Instructors where she covers Education and Training and also one of only 5 Female Referees on the FIFA panel and is still an active Referee on the Women's Premier League. As befits her post, she chose a subject that intended to show how to raise awareness in order to manage situations so that they did not escalate and develop, thus threatening match control. After first discussing the Arsenal/ Porto indirect free kick incident, Janie emphasised that a Referee should never allow a quick free kick if it is going to threaten his/her control. Armed with a video presentation the evening progressed by and with audience participation and a game whereby we had to ask her to open the boxes shown on the screen. Each box contained a match incident which was shown and then dissected while Janie accepted points from the audience whilst also leading the discussions that ensued. One by one key learning points were made until time ran out. There was so much discussion in fact that not all of the 20 boxes were able to be opened. This proved to be one of the most lively, entertaining, educational and enjoyable evenings we have had for a long time and again those of our membership that did not attend were the unfortunate ones. The vote of thanks was given by Mick Osborn



A Cautionary Tale

Later in this magazine Gary Cobden gives his personal point of view on the penalty incident in the recent Carling Cup final briefly alluded to in my Editorial. My take on the subject comes from literally a different angle to his although that is not to say we differ completely. I feel he was naturally correct in awarding the penalty to Aston Villa in the first place and it was also within his gift to decide that Vidic the Manchester United defender had not in his opinion prevented an obvious goal-scoring opportunity for the Villa forward. If that was the case no red card dismissal would take place. However he must have been, having awarded the penalty, totally incorrect in not giving Vidic a yellow card caution. The referee therefore did not follow the advice of the late great Ken Aston. Referee-tutor supreme, who incidentally devised the red and yellow cards we all use. His said advice was that if a referee does not administer a caution and the resulting penalty is not scored from then culprit has got off scot-free. Surely this is better advice than simply saying that the penalty award is sufficient punishment enough –**KG**

.....

QUERY – Can anyone explain how Stoke City's forward Fuller can play with taping over both ears when this is supposed to be banned. All the Premiership referees seem to allow this. Why?

WORLD CUP REFLECTIONS

By Ken Goldman and other anonymous contributors.

In relation to Keith Hiller's letter on World Cup Referees the subject having been started by Peter Dace, as your Editor I felt it incumbent on me to do some research into what was reputed to be two missing Officials. If as it seems there were, I have been able to trace both of them. One was Robert Davison of Scotland who was a Linesman in the 1958 Final between Brazil and Czechoslovakia. And the other was Hugh Dallas also of Scotland who was Fourth Official in the 2002 Final. Incidentally England has provided a record number of three Referees for the Finals (probably because the National side has only ever reached one Final) and surprisingly because of their National sides' repeated appearances in the Final, Brazil and Germany two each. There is an excellent website entitled Millingstein's History of the World Cup from which I have gleaned my information but unfortunately it only goes up to the 1996 Final. However the whole history before then, starting in 1930 is available from information and statistical points of view and it is well worth looking at. Incidentally it refers to Mervyn Griffiths as Ben which was his first name. Apart from his second name of Mervyn, his nickname was "Sandy". It is also clear that George Mitchell one of three "Home Country" Officials for the 1950 Final was George and not Bobby as has been suggested by one correspondent, who also pointed out a mistake in Keith's letter(also missed by me) in that the year of Phil Sharp's Final should have of course been 1998 and not 1988. My correspondent has further mentioned that the late and much admired referee Ken Aston was in charge of the World Cup Officials for the 1966. '70 and '74 Finals while other domestic successes of the Officials we are celebrating were the FA Cup Finals of 1951. '52 and '53 which were refereed by Bill Ling, Arthur Ellis and Mervyn Griffiths respectively. Phil Sharp and Mark Warren both have been Linesmen in FA Cup Finals and Phil was also on the line in an Olympic Games Final. Incidentally Scotsman Bob Davison was an Official in the Finals of 1962/1970 & 74 and was due to Referee in the 1974 Cup Final itself but breached FIFA's secrecy rules and was summarily removed from the Final.

The one I have left until the end is Jack Taylor, who actually refereed the 1974 World Cup Final and also the 1966 FA Cup Final and will be our special guest for our APRIL Meeting on the 15th of that month. The aforementioned Phil Sharp has also promised to attend and we trust we will have a big turn out on the night to hear what must, to say the least, prove to be an intriguing evening.

@@

SOCIAL CORNER

The AFA & London Society will hold their Annual Dinner and Presentations on Friday the 21st May next timed at 7pm for 7.30 pm. The guest speaker will be an old friend of their and our own Society namely Paul Taylor from Hertfordshire. The cost is £35 per person which includes wine and water. If anyone requires any tickets they should contact Chris Evans on 07817-713-038 by email on chris@evans.uk.com.

BOOK REVIEWS

The Real Arsenal by Brian Glanville- published by JR Books @ £18.99. Having written the authorised history of Arsenal and its iconic Highbury home, this most famous of football writers has turned to trying to reveal some of the more vibrant characters that have peopled the Club. Although this is an unauthorised unofficial ploughing through the years, the writer has been a Gunners' supporter from his youth and has had unprecedented chances to meet and interview many of the managers and players of whom he writes as football reporter, columnist and broadcaster for the best part of 50 years. So in this volume, obviously well researched, you will find the calculating Sir Henry Norris like a modern day entrepreneur who moved the Club from London's Plumstead in the South, to Highbury in the North keeping them in the First Division before his fall from grace; the brilliantly innovative Herbert Chapman with his ability to shrewdly buy skilful players and create new tactics as well as effecting a host of things that brought the Club to the forefront of the game; George Allison the publicist and journalist who took over the mantle of Chapman so effectively and successfully ;Tom Whittaker who as a physiotherapist revolutionised the medical side of the game before becoming Manager and winning two League Championships and in a strange coincidence how this was replicated when Bertie Mee went from physio to Manager and won the League & FA Cup "Double". Perhaps the most poignant chapter is the one entitled "George Graham –Triumphs and Disaster" and those twin pillars are thoroughly dissected. Finally come the Wenger years with more triumphs to bring us up to date .Although Arsenal have not changed Managers overmuch during the years there are several others including players and coaches who are identified and covered in these 247 pages woven together with the author's inimitable style including quotes and references to subjects outside the game. There are several lovely photos both mono and colour but surprisingly no Index. All Arsenal followers will of course love this book but as a study of a famous football club it will be of interest to all those who follow football literature.

Lennie- published by Green Umbrella publishing @£14.99. How many people in football could call their autobiography by their first name and be instantly recognisable. Perhaps only a handful of which Lennie Lawrence (whose real first name is Michael and does not possess the name of Lennie or Leonard) is one. With the assistance of Kevin Brennan he has rapidly, as there are only 198 pages in hardback with no Index, sped through a lifetime in the game, which has encompassed playing in non-league football followed by coaching, management and hysterically funny after- dinner speaking. It is no wonder that Sir Alex Fergusson was prepared to write the forward for the life-story of one of only 17 managers to be inducted into the League Managers Association Hall of Fame for managing Clubs in over 1000 matches .As would be expected Charlton, Middlesboro and Luton play a large part in the book as does Bristol Rovers where the author is currently Director of Football and it is clear that these Clubs all benefitted from the Lawrence mixture of good football and shrewd dealings in the transfer market, as each of the first three Clubs mentioned had their fair share of financial problems during his time at their respective helms. The book flows along in a reflection of the subject's laid back and humorous style but has enough in it to reflect that being in soccer for such a length of time is no bed of roses. There is an excellent selection of both mono and colour photos to top the book off nicely.

NORTH MIDDLESEX REFEREES SOCIETY

Minutes of the Society meeting held on Thursday February 18th 2010 at The Holtwhites Sports Centre .

Apologies: Gary Cobden, Terry Hayne, Stan Rosenthal, Vince Yeudall, and as the Society Handbook.

Chairman's Report and Welcome: The Chairman welcomed members and our Guest Speaker Janie Frampton from the F.A. Refereeing Department.

Minutes of the Society Meeting: The Minutes of Society held on Thursday 19th January 2010 were **not** signed as a true record.

Matters Arising from the Minutes: In "Any other Business" the Chairman was asked by a member if full reference could be made as to the question put forward regarding why the "Training Evening Session on a Disciplinary Mock Commission" planned for that evening was not being implemented. After consultation with the Secretary the Chairman decided that an updated version of the Society Minutes would include the request.

Secretary and Treasurer's Report: The Secretary had no news to report to the Society. The Treasurer's report is that the membership remains the same at 158 members, which includes 54 Trainee Referees. He was happy to report that finances were healthy and that it is likely the Society Subscription will remain the same for next season unless Council and members decide otherwise.

Included with next month's magazine the Society Membership Forms will be enclosed. Also we will be writing/emailing those Trainee Referees who have now completed their matches and now registered as level 7 & 8 Referees. We clearly need to encourage them to be fully paid up R.A. members for the future.

Editor's Report: Ken informed the meeting that it would be nice to have additional contributors which would help keep the magazine to 12 pages. .

Any Other Officer's Report: None.

Any Other Business: The Secretary informed members that the Guest Speaker for next month's meeting would be Jon Whittingham from Middlesex County F.A. Development Department who will discuss the work the Football Association and Foundation is doing for Disabled Football in the local area.

The meeting closed at 10.05p.m.

Would Members please note the following addition to the Minutes published in the January Edition, the reasons for which the Secretary has indicated above. These are to be regarded as inserted without the necessity of republishing the January Minutes in this Edition.

"Any Other Business: Only one issue was raised relating to a change of procedure in the Society programme for the evening. The question raised was why has the Society meeting been changed from the "Mock Disciplinary Hearing" being presented that had been previously agreed and arranged with the Training Centre without explanation. The Chairman replied that he had no knowledge of the evening being changed. The Editor spoke and referred to the magazine headline which clearly stated that the FA DVD on Disciplinary Commission procedures would be presented by our Guest Speaker at which point the Chairman allowed our Guest Speaker to speak on the very subject."

Membership Fees for Season 2010/2011 are now due!

Yes ladies and gents, it's time again for my annual message. Your membership subscription for Season 2010/2011 becomes due on 1 April 2010. 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 those who elect to receive their magazine by e-mail, or £12.00 if you receive your monthly magazine by post. This is the tenth consecutive season that the basic society membership fee has remained at £10.00 – the last increase being at the commencement of the 2001/2002 season. The Referees Association has also held its subscription to £15.00 again this year.

Membership Fees payable are as follows:-

- **Full Members**

- **£25.00 if magazine by e-mail.**
- **£27.00 if magazine received by post.**

This includes your Referees Association 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 if magazine by e-mail.**
- **£12.00 if magazine received by post.**

You must pay your Referees Association fee through another Society, and this should be shown on your Membership Form. Alternatively, you may join as an Associate Member if you have other interest in football work – please indicate on the Membership Form.

- **Junior Members**

- **£14.50 if magazine by e-mail.**
- **£15.50 if magazine received by post.**

For Members under 18 years of age, and includes your Referees Association fee of £9.50.

Individual fees payable are shown on your personalised Membership Form. You are reminded that you will not be covered by the Referees Association 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.

You can also take this opportunity to join or rejoin the Society One Hundred Club – just complete the appropriate part of the membership Form, and include the additional remittance with your membership fee.

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 rejections. 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



Quick Quiz

Who is the only player in the Premiership whose name is made up entirely of Roman Numerals?





E-mail:-

office@ackerman.co.uk

sales@ackerman.co.uk

accounts@ackerman.co.uk

15/16 Hickman Avenue, Chingford,
London, E4 9JG

Telephone:-

020 8523 1321 (Office)

020 8527 5050 (Sales)

020 8527 5020 (A/cs)

020 8527 6439 (Fax)

020 8503 2002 (Fax)

www.ackerman.co.uk

Are once again pleased to support the North Middlesex Referees Society in Season 2009/2010



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 2009/2010

Contact us for all your sporting requirements

Telephone 01992 623714



www.htsports.co.uk

HT Sports of St. Albans, also Henry Tilly (incorporating Minerva), are specialists in the supply of sports apparel and equipment, sportswear, and corporate wear for schools and clubs throughout the UK. Contact us by phone on 01727 843155 or e-mail us at sales@htsports.co.uk



North Middlesex Referees Society One Hundred Club - Season 2009/2010

The results for February draw are shown below. With 43 shares subscribed, the total amount payable is £43.00, as in February and August the full monthly subscription is paid out in winnings.

1st 26 John Faithfull £23.65 2nd 8 Daniel Webster £12.90 3rd 33 Robin Jagot £6.45

If you would like to join the 100 Club for the remainder of Season 2009/2010, please complete and forward 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



TALKING POINT

On Saturday 27 February Arsenal manager Arsène Wenger described the tackle by Stoke City's Shawcross as "horrendous" and "not acceptable", and bemoaned the fact that he feels his team suffer more than their fair share of bad tackles against their rivals.

Whist it may have looked bad when viewed in full time – and I don't believe any replays were shown at the time of the incident - watching replays later that evening, you can actually see that Ramsey's ankle is buckled under the ball before the tackle from Shawcross is actually made, and this may have had an effect on the eventual outcome. It is obvious from these slow-mo's that Shawcross is definitely going for the ball. Personally, and with hindsight, I feel Shawcross was hard done by to be sent off for the challenge, and so do a great number of other people I have spoken to since. No player deliberately goes out to do harm to an opponent and referee Peter Walton is reported to have told Stoke players "although it wasn't meant, because of the injury he had to send Ryan off".

Can somebody tell me where, in the Laws of the Game it states that if a player is seriously injured – as in this case – then the player committing the foul must be sent off? Yes, serious foul play covers endangering the safety of other players, but if it wasn't meant.... Did the offence come into any of the categories under Law 12 which would result in a sending off - I think not, although it was reckless so the punishment should only have been a caution. Admittedly this is much easier to say in hindsight with the benefit of numerous replays, and I would still probably have sent Shawcross off in real time. -GC



Middlesex County FA – County Cup Appointments – Season 2009/2010

Junior Cup – Semi Final

Fulham Dynamo Sports F.C. First v Young Limers F.C. First John Noblemunn (R)

Junior Trophy – Semi Final

Broadfields United F.C. Reserves v Christchurch Roxeth F.C. First David Williams (R)

Midweek Cup – Semi Final

Phoenix F.C. First v Stanmore College F.C. First Junior Grant (AR)

Sunday Premier Cup – Semi Final

Broadfields United F.C. First (Sunday) v Draytonians F.C. First Peter Jago (AR)

Sunday Intermediate Cup – Semi Final

Persian F.C. First v Fulwell City F.C. First Junior Grant (AR)

Sunday Junior Cup – Semi Final

Queensbury Park Rangers F.C. First v FC Grasshoppers First John Stockman (AR)

Under 16 Youth Cup – Semi Final

Pinnacle Youth F.C. U16 v Mill Hill Rangers F.C. U16a John Noblemunn (AR)

Under 15 Youth Cup – Semi Final

Omonia Youth F.C. U15a v Pinnacle Youth F.C. U15 Michael Breen (R)

Under 14 Youth Cup – Semi Final

Parkfield Youth F.C. U14 v Locomotive Youth F.C. U14 Kevin Wavell (AR)

Under 11 Youth Cup – Semi Final

Whetstone Wndrs Youth F.C. U11a v Whetstone Wndrs Youth F.C. U11b Gary Haines (R)

Womens Senior Cup – Semi Final

Enfield Town Ladies F.C. First v Queens Park Rangers Ladies F.C. First Peter Jago (R)

Enfield Town Ladies F.C. First v Queens Park Rangers Ladies F.C. First Percy Brown (AR)

Enfield Town Ladies F.C. First v Queens Park Rangers Ladies F.C. First Nicolas Andrea (AR)

Middlesex County FA – County Cup Final Appointments - Season 2009/2010

The Society offers its congratulations to the following members who have been appointed to officiate in the Final Ties of County Cups organised by Middlesex County FA

Junior Cup Final	Assistant Referee	Steve Reuter
Sunday Premier Cup Final	Assistant Referee	David Williams
Sunday Junior Cup Final	Assistant Referee	George Grant
Womens Junior Cup Final	Referee	Jeff Till
Under 16 Youth Cup Final	Reserve Official	Kevin Wavell
Under 12 Youth Cup Final	Reserve Official	Ngunga Ngoma



Denying an obvious goalscoring opportunity

More refereeing controversy hits the top level game again. Mike Dean ensured that Juliano Belletti of Chelsea saw red for a trip on Gareth Barry in the Chelsea v Manchester City game on 27 February, but, on the following day referee Phil Dowd took no action at all against Nemanja Vidic after a foul on Gabriel Agbonlahor. Why? How could this not be an obvious goalscoring opportunity. This decision could have had a major influence on the outcome of the match. Did the time in the game influence Mr Dowd? I hope not, but its about time officials at the top level had the guts to explain their decisions, especially when the vast majority have had media training .-GC



The Referees' Association
EVE-OF-FINAL RALLY
 Friday, 14th May 2010, 6.15pm for 6.45pm.
 The Hotel Russell, Russell Square, London, WC1B 5BE



This years Rally to honour the FA Cup Final Referee and his team and gives their fellow referees and peers the opportunity to pay tribute to them on being appointed to the "match of their lives" – Complete your cup final weekend, as well as having the opportunity to meet other top referees and former FA Cup final officials. You will hear from The Referees Association President David Elleray and this year's guest Mr George Courtney.



George Courtney was one of the dominating referees during the 1980s, and George went on to referee the World Cups of 1986 (Mexico) and 1990 (Italy). George refereed the 1980 FA cup final which was between West Ham United and Arsenal with West Ham United being victorious with a 1-0 win, goal scorer was Trevor Brooking.

Tickets for the Rally are now available, priced at **£12.00** each for adult members and **£6.00** for members 18 and under, and you will receive a souvenir programme autographed by the officials.

So avoid disappointment get your applications in early, just complete and return the slip below with a cheque or a debit authorisation. Demand is expected will be high, so we recommend early application, which will be on a "first come/first served" basis.

David Elleray and RAE Board members would particularly like to thank the PGM0 Ltd for their most generous contribution towards the staging of this event.

..... Tear off and submit as your postal application

I/We..... (Association/Branch/Society) apply for tickets for the Eve-Of-Final Rally on 14th May 2010. Enclosed is my/our cheque for £..... made payable to The Referees' Association or please charge my credit/debit card as below:

Please circle your choice					MasterCard / Visa / Maestro / Solo			£	
For credit and debit card payments					Please debit my account as below				
Card number					For all cards		For Maestro and Solo cards only		
					Expiry date	Valid from	Issue No		

Please send my/our ticket/s to:

.....

Post code

Telephone or email address for any queries:

Please Return To:
The Referees' Association, 1 Westhill Road, Coundon, Coventry, CV6 2AD

Referee Amy Fearn has set her sights on the Premier League after becoming the first woman to take charge of a Football League match.

Fearn, 31, made history with a 20-minute cameo appearance during Coventry City's 1-0 win over Championship rivals Nottingham Forest on Tuesday night. She replaced Tony Bates in the 71st minute after he limped off injured. "It would be nice to referee in the Premier League one day but obviously the competition is harder," she said.

Fearn told www.football-league.co.uk: "My next promotion target is running the line in that division but I started out as a ref and that is what I love doing. I want to continue being a referee."

Fearn has been running the lines in the Football League and refereeing in the Football Conference for almost seven years. She began refereeing aged 16 and described walking on to the middle of the pitch on Tuesday night as very surreal. "The decision is made before the game which official will replace the referee in the event of him coming off, so even though I wasn't the fourth official, I was the most senior so it fell to me to replace Tony," added Fearn, who referees on average three Football Conference matches a month. "The game stepped up a level when I entered the pitch. Going from the line to the middle is very different. It is the same as a player substitution, there is an extra stimulus in the game and with 20 minutes to go, Forest were desperate to get a goal."

Fearn added that she was hopeful her appearance at the Ricoh Arena would boost women's involvement in football. "It can only be a good thing for encouraging more women into the game," stated Fearn. "There is a great relationship between male and female officials. When the referee came off he told me to stay calm and do my best and it would be great to see more women come into the game. I understand there was a big reaction from the crowd but I don't remember it at the time. I'm glad there was nothing controversial in that 20 minutes, football should be about the players not the officials."

www.bbc.co.uk – Thursday 11 February 2010



Quick Quiz – Answer

The only player in the Premiership whose name is made entirely of Roman Numerals is VIDIC of Manchester United.



All Black Shirts?

The FA Regulations for the Registration and Control of Referees specify that referees' uniforms for competitions below Contributory League level must comprise a plain shirt which shall be almost entirely black with a white collar and black shorts. Socks shall be black and may have another colour at the top which must be in accord with the single colour used on the shirt collar. The FA has recently announced that those Regulations will be amended as from 1st July 2010 to allow referees to wear predominantly black shirts with a black or white collar. It has however emphasised that any shirts with black collars bought before 1st July 2010 must not be worn before that date.



INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR SOCIETY

The Referees' Association (RA) is the national body for referees and delegates its operational powers to the Referees Association of England (RAE). The RAE is independent of, but works closely with, County Football Associations to ensure that matters affecting referees are discussed and resolved. These include law changes, current interpretation, assaults and other problems affecting referees nationally.

North Middlesex Referees Society (NMRS) Is one of some 350 local Referees' societies that are spread all over the country; some are referred to as Societies, others as Branches, Associations, or Clubs. They often work closely with local leagues to aid recruitment, and to ensure that any parochial problems are resolved to the satisfaction of all parties. NMRS meets on a monthly basis throughout the season; Guest Speakers are invited; training sessions are held; social events arranged; and local problems - including Match Incidents - are discussed.

So what is the link between the Society and the National Body? All Societies must be a member of a County Referees Association (CRA). North Middlesex, together with the AFA and London Society of Association Referees, form a County Referees Association known as the Amateur Football Alliance County Referees Association (AFA CRA). This Association operates with Officers and a delegate from each Society who, like the Officers and Committee of this Society, are elected annually in a democratic manner. The Society send a representative to AFA CRA who meet as requested locally. The RAE hold Area Liaison Meetings each year, generally in December. The Referees' Association Board meets four times a year. All delegates and officers of NMRS, together with those of the County and Referees Association Committees are elected annually in a democratic manner.

The National Structure for the Society is:



As a full member of NMRS you are a member of the RAE, and, in turn, the RA

The Objects of The Referees Association and The Referees Association of England are clearly defined in their rules, and include:

- provide insurance, and financial support for members
- improve the status and reputation of referees.
- protect members from injustice or unfair treatment.
- promote, educate, train and develop referees in general.
- promote the best interests of the game of Association Football.
- provide guidance and support for members of local Societies.

What are the Benefits of RA Membership?

Insurance - The major benefit is the Personal Accident Insurance Policy. For a small amount, the insurance policy covers you whilst actually refereeing; travelling to and from a match; attending meetings (including travelling to and from home); attending organised training; and loss or theft of kit whilst at a match. Full details are available to members on request, as it is now no longer a requirement that each member who has paid the insurance premium is supplied with a copy of the terms of insurance. A range of increased benefits are also available - for an additional premium - and members should contact the insurers direct if they wish to

take up these benefits. Additionally, active referees who are over the age of 75 can now be covered by the Insurance subject to an additional premium being paid.

Supplies - A full range of equipment is available from The RA - and often at a lower cost than if you bought it from a local sports shop. By purchasing equipment in bulk, the RA is able to pass the cost savings on to its members. Publications by top names are also available, along with "The Referees' Association Manual of Guidance" which gives advice to the referee on such varied subjects as diet, law queries, training, pre-match preparation, match control and lots more. "The Assessors Challenge" is another book that forms essential reading for every referee and assessor. It deals with every aspect and quality required for promotion. All items are available from the Society's Supplies Officer - although kit may need to be ordered. The Society's Supplies Officer is also able to supply you with kit and other refereeing items from a range of suppliers to make your purchasing requirements easy.

Refereeing is a joint publication of the Football Association and the Referees Association. It is published four times a year, and is mailed direct to all registered referees by the Football Association. The magazine includes features and updates from the Football Association and items of FAMOA and RA news.

Benevolent Fund - It is hoped that you never have to apply for assistance from the Fund but, sadly, some of our members do fall on hard times through sickness and other reasons. The NMRS Fund is available to all NMRS members, and the RA Fund is also available to full members.

Why do I receive two different Membership Forms each year? You will receive Membership Renewal Forms from both NMRS and the CFA with which you are registered, although not necessarily at the same time. The CFA form will also show the 'three lions' badge of the FA, as the FA now has overall responsibility for the registration of all referees, although you will still be parented by a local CFA. When you successfully completed your six matches, following your completion of the Referees Examination, you were automatically registered with a CFA appropriate to the area in which you live, and this is most likely to have been either Middlesex; London; Hertfordshire; Essex; or the AFA. During your training, you will have been invited to take up Trainee Membership of NMRS. If you want to continue with your refereeing, then registration with a CFA is a compulsory requirement. This registration automatically enrolls you in the Match Officials Association run by the Football Association - FAMOA. However, the CFA's and FAMOA are unable to offer you the benefits available locally through NMRS. Whilst your membership of NMRS is entirely voluntary, it is strongly recommended as you will be able to participate in regular meetings held throughout the season - on local territory with the opportunity to discuss relevant local matters; meet and hear Guest Speakers; and receive regular training updates, along with the other benefits outlined above.

Note

Abbreviations that are commonly used in magazine articles or in reports at meetings.

AFA	Amateur Football Alliance
AFA CRA	Amateur Football Alliance County Referees Association
CFA	County Football Association
CRA	County Referees Association
FAMOA	Football Association Match Officials Association
LFA	London Football Association
MCFA	Middlesex County Football Association
R.A.	Referees Association
RAE	Referees Association of England

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Are held on the third Thursday monthly (except December 2009 - second Monday),
commencing at 7:30 pm, at

Holtwhites Sports and Social Club, Kirkland Drive, Holtwhites Hill, Enfield, Middlesex, EN2 0RN

Telephone: 020 8363 4449

Dates for Season 2009/2010:- September 17; October 15; November 19; December 14 2009; and January 21;
February 18; March 18; April 15; May 20 2010



*The venue is passed by Bus Route W9 direct from Enfield Town, and Enfield Town;
Enfield Chase; and Gordon Hill Rail Stations are only a short distance away. For fuller directions and
how to get to the venue, see our website. See also www.tfl.gov.uk;*

www.nationalexpresseastanglia.com; and www.firstcapitalconnect.co.uk.

*If anybody has difficulty reaching the venue, and would like assistance, please contact one
of the Society Officers – whose details are on the inside front cover.*

OPINIONS EXPRESSED IN THE NORMIDIAN EDITORIALY, OR BY CONTRIBUTORS, DO NOT
NECESSARILY REPRESENT THE VIEWS OF THE NORTH MIDDLESEX REFEREES SOCIETY.

ARTICLES SUBMITTED FOR INCLUSION IN THE MAGAZINE MAY BE AMENDED BY THE
EDITOR IN ACCORDANCE WITH EDITORIAL POLICY.

PERMISSION IS GIVEN TO REPRODUCE MATERIAL WITH A SUITABLE ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

THE SOCIETY WAS FORMED AT THE CROWN PUBLIC HOUSE, SOUTHGATE, LONDON, N14
ON 20th JANUARY 1949