

*The Normidian
Magazine
Season 2010/2011*



THE
REFEREES'
ASSOCIATION



March 2011

COUNCIL 2010 - 2011

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) 62, Morley Hill, Enfield, Middlesex, EN2 0BG 020 8367 6509
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 2010-2011

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 7.45 pm on Thursday the 17th of March 2011 when the special guest speaker will be Neale Barry Head of Senior Referee Development at the Football Association. He is also a former Premier league Referee.

EDITORIAL

The recent Premiership match between Arsenal and Everton, at the Emirates threw up another Offside Law controversy. It was therefore unfortunate that a spat involving Arsenal's Fabrigas and Everton Manager David Moyes over what did or did not happen in the Tunnel received all the headlines, rather than the decision to allow a goal to Everton in controversial circumstances which should have instigated a deep investigation into the Offside Law itself. Basically when the ball was played forward by an Everton player their striker Saha was in an offside position but the Arsenal defender Kochelney made a contortionistic move that somehow without his intending to do so knocked the ball into the path of Saha who went on to score. The question that had to be posed was whether the goal should have been allowed or disallowed. The only problem in these circumstances was that on one interpretation the player WAS offside yet on another interpretation he WAS NOT offside. Which brings us to the more vital question of how can we have such a ridiculous Law which has two interpretations. All Laws are intended to be clear if not concise and whilst "in the opinion of the referee" is in practise fundamental to activating the Laws of the Game, there must be certainty otherwise there will be chaos which is what we got on that evening. I do not want to go into the specifics of what happened to enable the goal to stand and that has now received an interpretation from the Premier League which is referred to elsewhere in this magazine. Suffice it to say that on the same evening in the West Bromwich Albion game with Wigan a similar incident occurred where the ball came off a defender's head to an opponent in an offside position and the game was stopped for offside. However the Assistant in that match could have been equally right if he had interpreted that the action of the defender as being a new phase of play, as was the decision at the Emirates. Effectively to repeat what has been stated before can it be credible that a player can be both offside and not offside depending on a viewpoint and interpretation of the Assistant Referee. Why oh why do we have such a complicated set of rules to interpret offside. Many years ago I was instructed that if an attacker was in an offside position and the ball was directed towards him/her and that player moved towards the ball that was offside and nothing else was. As they say in the advert "simples". Why cannot we have such a simple ruling rather than "active" and "second phase of play" and why cannot we interpret a defender playing the ball as doing it deliberately or accidentally. If accidentally or inadvertently his involvement should be ignored. If done deliberately he/she is the last player to play the ball and that action should be the one that counts. Again, "Simples". In any event what is a "phase of play" and can something as fleeting as an inadvertent misdirection of the ball cause such a new phase of play? Coaches have used the expression "phase and function" for years but what does it actually mean in refereeing terms?

All good Statutes and legal documents have a definition or interpretation section, so I looked up what it says in the extensive "Interpretation of the Laws of the Game and Guidelines for Referees" in what we used to call the LOAF now published by FIFA. Surprise, surprise there were no definitions of a phase of play or being active so who is inventing the terminology for us all to follow? Before Dr Johnson created his dictionary everyone decided how they would spell the words they were writing. Have we reached the stage where everyone for want of

definition is able to interpret who and what is active and when and where a phase of play begins and ends let alone what is a new phase of play? As will be seen in another article hereafter as hinted at we are being given a new decision on the Law of Offside not by FIFA but by the influential PGMobl. Although I have to confess I agree with what they have decided, the whole thing should have been on the agenda for the forthcoming Law revision meeting in March, rather than them trying to consider whether “Snoods” are dangerous and should be banned.

Ken Goldman
Editor

LAST MONTH’ S SPEAKER

Our speaker for February was our own Training Officer Stan Rosenthal who because of his willingness to open the meeting to the floor and have considerable audience participation created one of the liveliest and most enjoyable meetings for some time. He split the evening into two sections and because the first section dealt with the offside incident at the Arsenal .v. Everton game and needs amplifying the second part of the talk/discussion will be dealt with first here. Stan had indicated his talk was to be on “The Spirit of the Game” and he first asked the audience for their views on what was meant by the same before showing some match incidents to try to illuminate the question. There were numerous views and one of the points that arose was is there still such a thing in the modern game or is it from a past time that involved concepts by the Victorians/Edwardians and has now become something of an abstract. Apart from the audience Stan had sent out the question to 3 eminent League Managers but only one Sir Alex Fergusson had replied. In fact Stan had canvassed several other people in the game but had had few replies and even those failed to find a common theme. In the end it appeared that everyone had a view on the spirit as opposed to the Laws but no-one could put forward a designation that everyone else would agree with. It proved to be a highly provocative and pleasurable section of the talk.

That first part was also provocative in that Stan invited the room to give their views on the incident in the Arsenal game previously referred to. Again opinion was divided with a show of hands proving almost equally for offside and not offside, when a film of the incident was shown. After considerable discussion Stan revealed the decision which has been made by the Premier league and one assumes by the PGMobl. The decision is that in the particular case in question the Arsenal defender did not play the ball in a controlled manner and was therefore not the creator of a new phase of play. As a result the defender’s action should have been treated as rebound whereupon the Everton player should have been adjudged offside. The decision was one which they felt that players, Managers and spectators would ordinarily have had the expectation of the attacking player being adjudged offside and not the other way round. Stan was also quick to point out that last month our guest speaker Keith Hill had also used the expression of ”not within expectation” so are we now having another maxim which we are expected to follow?

We are all indebted to Stan for a great evening and the vote of thanks was given by the Chairman.

MICK'S MISSIVE

Did any other reader's hearts momentarily stop with the announcement in the Normidian that the "Society had received some sad news insofar as one of our most famous members" Oh, no! Not another of my contemporaries shuffled off this mortal coil! Read on. "Phil Sharp," (not Phil!) "has retired from Lining on the National List." Ken, don't do that to me again. I know the heading was "Phil Retires" but I don't always read the headings when I first skim through the news. Best wishes, Phil. Long may you and your family enjoy your retirement.

In his editorial Ken said that he would welcome Members' views on the Gray/Keys affair, the Scottish Premier Referees' strike and the FA's "Respect" campaign, and Robin's statement that the Secretary would also welcome any feedback on the Alan Poulain seasonal message. Well, here goes.

I was pleased that the Sky pundits were shown the red card, but sorry that it seemed to be based on sexual discrimination rather than generally unacceptable behaviour. Male referees have had to put up with offensive, insulting and abusive attacks for years, with nothing but a "tut-tut". I suppose the equality laws came up trumps this time. Every cloud has a silver lining.

Regarding the RA Chairman's seasonal message, I've searched the LOAF and books on the history of football and can find no evidence that football is, or ever was, a game exclusively for young people. Obviously, the aging process eventually stops us from active participation. Luckily, when this time comes some give something back to their sport. But according to Mr. Poulain, this "old brigade" with "old habits" are hindering the advancement of the RA. He tells us that at the top of the RA, the aims and outlook of younger people were taken up, and a year of tremendous progress was made, citing the RA-FA partnership, the unveiling of a bold new emblem, a move to new office premises and above all the tremendous achievements of three members representing us at the World Cup Final. Apart from the latter, that would have no doubt been achieved with or without the RA, I am not convinced that much progress has been made, tremendous or otherwise. The Chairman claims that in the branches, young people are not encouraged to stay in the Association, and have been driven away by the "old brigade" and their redundant habits. Over the years, I have heard the siren cry so many times from so many sources in all walks of life, that if the geriatrics would only stand aside and let the younger generation run things, everything would be just great and Utopia would be ours. Hallelujah! So, where is the revolution from this bold young generation? Where are all the volunteers eager to take up the offices of Secretary, Treasurer and the like and kick out these dithering, drooling old, er,.....(What were we talking about)?

The RA lost its way a long time ago? The only positive benefit of membership was the insurance cover. The FA stepped in and took away the responsibility of training new referees. The FA made it mandatory that every referee became a member of FAMOA, so why did we need the RA? As it slowly sank beneath the waves, help was at hand. The FA reached out the hand of friendship and constructive dialogue led to the creation of RA-FA as the formal partnership for co-operation and joint action between the FA Refereeing Department and The Referees' Association. (Not my words.)

The full story can be read on pages 28 and 29 of the June 2010 edition of "Refereeing" the joint publication of FA Learning and The RA. At that time the RA-FA Liaison Committee comprised Five members of the FA Refereeing Department and four elected by the RA, with David Elleray, Chairman of the FA Referees' Committee and President of The Referees' Association.

But don't be too despondent, Mr. Poulain. I'll leave you with this thought. Aren't politicians getting younger these days? And look what's happening there.

Mick Osborn

For the next Magazine here are the "plums" for February

Date	Competition	Fixture	Name	Role
12-Feb	Intermediate Cup [Semi Final]	Rayners Lane v HFC	S. Palmer	Asst. Referee
12-Feb	Intermediate Cup [Semi Final]	Willesden Constantine v Hinton FC	M. Mackey	Referee
12-Feb	Junior Cup [Quarter Final]	CB Hounslow United Res. v Supreme Athletic	G Grant	Referee
13-Feb	Sunday Premier Cup [Quarter Final]	Belstone v Chiswick Griffin	M. Mackey	Referee
20-Feb	Women's Senior Cup [Semi Final]	Enfield Town Ladies v Barnet FC Ladies	K Hiller, P. Brown	Asst. Referee
23-Feb	Senior Charity Cup	Enfield Town v Enfield (1893)	S. Reuter	Asst. Referee
23-Feb	Premier Cup [Semi Final]	Hayes Gate v Harrow Borough Reserves	J. Noblemunn	Asst. Referee
27-Feb	Sunday Junior Trophy (Semi Final)	Harefield United Sunday v London Irish	D. Fenner	Asst. Referee
16-Mar	Midweek Cup (Final)	TBA	J. Noblemunn	Asst. Referee

GEORGE GRANT

The Adventures of Willy 'The Whistler' Woodwork

Part 7 – In the beginning.....

Match: Cockfosters Casuals –v- Reds Rovers
Venue: Hackney Marsh – Pitch 165
League: Division Three – Sunday Park League (North)

For all the avid readers of my column I was recently asked what preparations do I make prior to a match. So for the match in question this was how it all began.....

When I first received the appointment it was not the most exciting fixture. Two teams who were both placed mid table and neither with any chance of winning any trophies that season. But as we all know every match should be treated in the same way. That means be prepared, arrive early at the ground which makes sure you are nicely relaxed with plenty of time for a pitch inspection and meeting the captains for the team sheets, checking the match ball and having a word to explain what your expectations are..... such as your tolerance levels regarding dissent!

I went to the freezing cold match officials changing room. I don't think that it had been cleaned since it was built in the 1950s and the shower had not worked for just as long. I am sure it was colder inside than out!

I got ready and went to the home team changing room. The Rovers captain greeted me with "Oh not you again, you sent me off two weeks ago with that c**p decision. You really are a *****". I shall leave it to you to guess what he said to me. I told him to stop but he continued with comments of what he thought of my performance from a fortnight ago. I remembered his name and produced my red card. "You can't do that, the game hasn't started." I thought about it and said "Okay, I won't do anything now but no more comments". I could not remember if a player could be shown a red card before a match so I felt this was the best course of action for the moment.

I walked outside and inspected the pitch. "Where are the goal nets?" I enquired only to be told the captain had forgotten to bring them. I knew my next question would be a waste of time but I thought that I would ask anyway "And the corner flags?" The captain went on to tell me he had forgotten those as well. The captain told me it was not a problem because if his team scored they would be honest and tell me...and what if they missed I thought to myself. Being a Sunday morning football league I thought it best to play the game whether we had goals and nets or not.

I blew my whistle and shouted in a loud voice "Captains please". I introduced myself and told them to play to the whistle, to accept my decisions and enjoy the game. Just as I was about to blow my whistle to start the match the captains' girl friend turned up with the nets, corner flag posts and oranges.....saved by the bell, or in this case the whistle.

The Rovers still only had nine players present at this stage and despite their requests to delay the kick off any further I requested they confirm their starting eleven and give the names of their substitutes. I told the captain it was now or never and he finally told me the information.

Concentration is required from the start and the Rovers captain caught me off guard just as I was about to toss the coin, "Heads I win, tails you lose" he said and the opposing captain just said "Okay". Naturally he won the toss and murmured quietly "I haven't lost a toss this season", he was smiling as he walked away and it took me until half time to realize what he had done!

The captain asked if they could kick off facing the trees that were behind one of the goals. I explained he had lost the toss and the winning team had to choose which end they had. The other captain said he had no problem with that so I agreed with them.

The Casuals number nine kicked the ball forward but his colleague was facing the other way talking to another player. The number nine kicked the ball again. I blew my whistle and awarded an indirect free kick to the other side. "Sorry" said the captain, "My team mate wasn't ready so I'll retake the kick again". That seemed a fair comment so he re-took the kick and this time the number seven was ready.

The ball went out for a throw on to Rovers and as the number six took the throw and released the ball I blew my whistle for a foul throw. "What was wrong with that, it was a good throw and both of my feet were on the touch line". I told him "That was the problem. Both of your feet were on the touch line but part of your right boot was actually on the field of play and that is not allowed". He told me that my decision was complete nonsense and that a player when taking a throw can have part of the boot on the touch line and the pitch. I knew I was in the right and I went on to caution the player for dissent.

Thirty seconds later the Rovers captain asked for one of the late comers to enter the pitch. I asked for the players name and realized it was one of the named substitutes. I asked the captain which player was coming off. "What do you mean which player is coming off. When this player comes on he will be our tenth player on the pitch." I explained the player was named as a substitute and not in the starting line up and therefore can only enter the field of play when a player leaves which is the normal substitute procedure. The captain argued the next two players that arrived could play to make up the normal quota regardless if they are named in the starting line up or not. I went on to explain "A player is either in the starting line up or a named substitute. No changes can be made after the match has started."

At this stage the Casuals captain said he had no problem if the next two players just played to make up the eleven so I allowed the player to play which seemed to make sense at the time. I am sure that you would have done the same as me?

Regards

Willy Woodwork

Willy 'The Whistler' Woodwork

OBSERVER REMARKS IT WAS ALRIGHT LAST WEEK

So who is rocking the boat?

Many referees, who have a number of seasons under the belt, will have experienced the somewhat embarrassing situation of making a decision that is apparently against what is taken as normal.

What do I mean?

The condition of the pitch, the equipment or lack of it, the surrounds etc.

After your appointment, and upon your arrival at the venue, you have a responsibility for all that occurs. The ground and its appurtenances are not covered fully by the Laws of the Game. Corner posts definitely are. Do make sure they are fully 5ft. out of the ground. If in your honest opinion, the ground is in a dangerous or unplayable condition, try to get it rectified before the time of the kick-off. Holes can be filled. Stones and glass can be cleared. Dogs' mess can be removed. Do not forget to cover the whole of the field of play. Icy conditions, or waterlogged conditions, on the other hand require a certain amount of local knowledge, or rising temperature or drying wind. These thoughts should be borne in mind when making your decision.

Let us assume that you can play and you then HAVE to check the player's equipment.

Law 4. 'Players equipment.'

This area seems to cause more headaches and differences between fellow referees, than most.

The player's equipment or lack of it shin guards, undershorts, jewellery, hearing aids etc.

Your main concern, as it is at all times, is players' safety.

You find something that you are not happy with, "You cannot wear that because... " "But Ref., the referee last week said it was okay. He let us play, he let me wear it so why are you different?"

Dilemma, do you change your decision and go along with others, or do you rock the boat, and remain adamant.

With regards to players' 'adornments', the answer is possibly more simple. They do not play. Until such time as they meet with the law and your approval, then they must sit it out. Heavy type rings, bracelets, medallions etc. should be removed or well taped over. Also plaster casts, dreadlocks, should be well protected or covered. Socks should always be up, to cover the players' entire shin guards.

Rocking the boat! They are all there to be seen on television, so why should I remove my lovely medallion swinging around my neck! Because Mr Player, you're not on the box, and the laws to which we play says so.

With the threat of being sued these days, there is more pressure on the referee to get it right. With the advent of the Health & Safety Act we are all, including the players, deemed to be our own safety officer. In our sport, we should all be seen to be making every effort for the safety and wellbeing of others. This would also include any spectators, who should be requested to remain back of the line.

If you decide not to play the game because of the conditions of the field of play then immediately report to the League/Competition Secretary your action and the reason for it.

We should all be consistent in our approach to carrying out the Laws for the above problems if we were then it would never arise for a player to say “IT WAS ALL RIGHT LAST WEEK”



Flagging Up

A question was raised at the last meeting as to whether the referee needs to take flags out on to the field for his/her Assistants (Linespersons). The answer was technically no as it does not say this is a requirement in the Laws of the Game. However it was sensible for each referee to purchase their own flags especially as some competition rules requires the referee to supply them.

Also at the meeting came the vexatious situation of players and secretaries beseeching Referees not to send in cautions or dismissals. If this occurs the meeting concurred that the Secretary should be reported by name to his County as some Secretaries has threatened that the Referee would not referee their games in future and this was intimidation.

Again we remind all members and readers that because of the Easter Holidays the April meeting will take place on the 7th of April when our special guest speaker will be Mike Riley Manager of the PGMobl and former FIFA and Premier League Referee. We are hoping that we will be joined by members of both the AFA and LONSAR.

Why not send in your match incidents to the magazine so that we can all help each other. In recent meetings we have been able to welcome some new members who are just starting out so match incidents are a good practical way of learning for both the referee at the time and colleagues who can discuss the problems. After all that is what they do on the National List albeit with more technical methods.

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NORTH MIDDLESEX REFEREES SOCIETY

Minutes of the Society meeting held on Thursday 17th February 2011 at Holtwhites Centre

Apologies: Mick Osborn, Percy Brown, Bob Martin, and as the Society Handbook.

Chairman's Welcome: The Chairman was pleased to welcome three new members Stuart Bedwell, Steve Spinale and Paul McCormick to the meeting and hoped it would be the first of many visits. This was followed by the presentation of whistles to them. The Chairman also thanked Stan Rosenthal for stepping in to cover our original Guest Speaker, Claire Gooch, who had suddenly withdrawn.

Minutes of the last Society meeting: held on Thursday 20th January 2011 were signed as a true record.

Matters Arising: None.

Secretary's Report: Secretary advised members of the Society's letter to the RA Secretary which is now published in the Society's February edition and on the Society web-site. A reply had been received from the RA secretary which will be discussed at the next Council meeting in April. We still require members to support the Society Quiz Evening to be held on Friday 25th March 2011 at Holtwhites Sports Centre. Secretary informed members that a Council meeting will be held in April.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer advised members that the Society subscription will not be increased next season but regrets to inform us that the R.A. subscription will be increased once again by £1 to £16. Also mentioned was the option of now receiving physiotherapy treatment during the season at an additional cost of £5 extra included with the membership fee. As a member of the County F A Referees Committee Gary informed us of those members who had received County Cup Final appointments for 2010/2011 season.

Editor's Report: The Editor advised the meeting that the March edition will be 16 pages, but insisted members to continue to forward articles and any important appointments one may have received as we were now approaching the cup- finals part of the season and also County referee promotions will soon be known.

Any Other Officers' Report: There were no Officers reports but the County training team inform us that the March course was full and that the examinations will be in early April.

Any Other Business: The meeting was informed that Keith Hill, our guest speaker at our last meeting, had accepted a post with the Football Association, and would be on a two-year training programme with the Japanese Football Association Referees Department. This means Keith will be stepping down from the MCFA Referees management team.

Match Incidents: Two important issues were raised, one on the procedure referees should take when club officials or players try to persuade a referee at the completion of a match not to send a report in should players be cautioned or sent off. The other point raised was who should provide Club Assistant Referees with flags. This question was mainly aimed at those referees who have recently qualified. A lengthy discussion took place with our Chairman leading.

Chairman.....

Membership Fees for Season 2011/2012 are now due!

Yes ladies and gents, it's time again for my annual message. Your membership subscription for Season 2011/2012 becomes due on 1 April 2011. 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 eleventh 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 this year increased its subscription by £1.00 to £16.00 again this year. However, the Referees Association has also introduced some additional, voluntary benefits – details later.

Membership Fees payable are as follows:-

- **Full Members**

- **£26.00 if magazine by e-mail.**
- **£28.00 if magazine received by post.**

This includes your Referees Association fee of £16.00 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. Please contact me for a proposal form which you need to complete and return to me.

- **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**

- **£15.00 if magazine by e-mail.**
- **£16.00 if magazine received by post.**

For Members under 18 years of age, and includes your Referees Association fee of £10.00.

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 2011 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 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.

Now, a bit more about the additional benefits available from the Referees Association for the forthcoming season. For a premium of £5.00 per season, you will be covered for up to four separate musculoskeletal disorders during the season. A brief summary of the cover follows.

Referees Association Physiotherapy Insurance - Overview

To provide the members of the Referees Association with a scheme which provides them with (immediate) access to physiotherapy and rehabilitation if they suffer a musculoskeletal disorder (MSD), which prevents them from being able to perform their duties as a referee. Cover is only available to members between the ages of 14 and 75, and is provided by IPRS (www.iprsgroup.com).

Description

The incident or Injury which results in the MSD must be incurred whilst the member is travelling directly to and from a game, during a game, training or whilst on recognised referee's society business. To qualify for the service, the MSD must prevent the member from being able to perform their duties as a referee for at least five consecutive days. An injury website will be available during the intervening period, so that the initial care which should be administered by the patient immediately following the injury can be treated, e.g. Icing elevation etc.

An IPRS Personal Care Advisor will contact the member by phone within 2 working days, to carry out a triage call to assess the extent of the member's injuries, and whether IPRS intervention is appropriate. If IPRS intervention is appropriate, IPRS will arrange a physical assessment and **up to a maximum of four treatment sessions**, as clinically appropriate. Each member can claim for up to **4 separate**, non-related MSD's during the annual Agreement Period. All treatment will be **arranged by IPRS** only, and referred into their network of Associate Practices which are local to your home or workplace.

Treatment will not be provided for an MSD:

- i) which did not specifically occur within the Agreement Period,
- ii) where, in the opinion of IPRS, it is neither reasonable nor appropriate to do so,
- iii) which occurred within 7 days of the commencement of the Agreement. This does not apply for renewal Agreements,
- iv) for which the Official has previously received treatment under this Agreement.

Should you wish to take advantage of this additional cover, please indicate on your Membership Renewal form.

Gary Cobden
Honorary Treasurer



Facebook – North Middlesex Referees Society

For those of you who use the Facebook Social Networking site we have now created a Facebook Group - http://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group_167589573288342. This is in addition to our - website www.northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk.

Click "Request to Join this Group" under the group picture on the right side of the screen to join the Group. You can also be added to a group by a friend who is already a member.

Groups require approval for you to join, so you may have to wait a short while before your request to join the group is confirmed.



So, what do you think is the fastest ever sending-off recorded? See later in this edition.



NORTH MIDDLESEX REFEREES SOCIETY

present a

QUIZ NITE

on

Friday 25 March 2010

to be held at

Holtwhites Sports and Social Club
Kirkland Drive
Enfield

Ticket £10.00 (inc Buffet)

Commencing 7.00pm



If you want to attend the Quiz, please let Secretary Robin Jagot know either by telephone on 01707 651461 or e-mail jagot.rp@btinternet.com. Teams to consist of six people, but do not worry if you cannot make up a team, as we already have a number of people in the same situation, so we will finalise teams for those of you in this situation on the night.



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Are once again pleased to support North Middlesex Referees Society in Season 2010/2011



North Middlesex Referees Society One Hundred Club - Season 2010/2011

The results for February draw are shown below. With 42 shares subscribed, the total amount payable is £42.00, as in February and August the full monthly subscription is paid out in winnings.

1st 42 Michael Mackey (Jnr) £23.10 2nd 25 John Faithfull £12.60 3rd 15 Mike Sibley £6.30

If you would like to join the 100 Club for the remainder of Season 2010/2011, 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



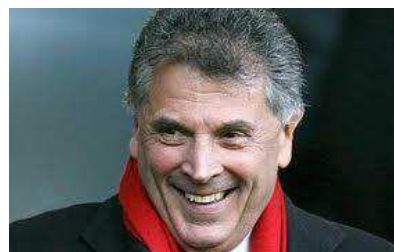
EVE OF CUP FINAL RALLY

Date: Friday 13 May

Time: 6.15 for 6.45p.m. (Ends around 9.00p.m.)

Venue: Hotel Russell, Russell Square, London WC1B 5BE

The Guest Speaker for this year's rally will be David Dein. David is a well-known figure, and was Vice-Chairman of Arsenal Football Club for 14 years, overseeing the appointment of Arsene Wenger and the move from Highbury to the Emirates Stadium. At the same time he was President of the very successful Arsenal Ladies F.C. David was Vice-Chairman of the Football Association and represented the Premier League on the FA Board, having been one of the key figures developing and creating the Premier League which started in 1992. He was the President of the G-14 group of European football clubs between October 2006 and May 2007, and has sat on various committees within FIFA and UEFA including UEFA's Club Competition Committee, which created and developed the Champions League. More recently, he was the International President of England's 2018 World Cup bid.



Although the identity of the officials will not be known until late April after the semi-finals have been played, they will be in attendance at the Rally, as will a number of officials from past FA Cup Finals. This is the opportunity to listen to the referee appointed to the most prestigious club match in the world, to talk to him and his colleagues and have photos taken. An enjoyable evening is assured in the company of many other referees.

Last seasons FA Cup Final referee Chris Foy (left) had this to say about the Eve-of-Final Rally: **“It is a piece of refereeing tradition and should remain so. I loved every minute of it and thoroughly enjoyed meeting colleagues I had previously never met, especially former FA Cup final officials. My wife loved it too.”**

Bookings for this event can be made shortly, via the website www.footballreferee.org, or through Society Secretary, Robin Jagot.



IFAB AGM agenda confirmed

Goal line technology amongst issues to be discussed at FIFA meeting.

The 125th International Football Association Board (IFAB) Annual General Meeting will take place on Saturday 5 March 2011 at Celtic Manor, Newport, Wales. The Agenda contains seven proposals and amendments related to the Laws of the Game. The issue of Goal-line Technology will also once again be on the Agenda.

In line with the discussions from the Annual Business Meeting held on 20 October 2010 a report will be presented to the IFAB, following an independently monitored testing phase of ten companies and their respective technology systems. These tests were carried out between 7 and 13 February by the Zurich-based research institution EMPA. The monitoring and technical analysis was conducted under closed testing conditions at the Home of FIFA to enable the testing team to carry out their work without interruption or distraction from the public or media, and also to reserve the privacy of each individual technology company who invested considerable sums in the development of their respective products.

An update on the status of the Additional Assistant Referees experiment will also be provided at the IFAB AGM, including the request by UEFA to use additional assistant referees for the duration of the EURO 2012 Final Tournament.



Middlesex County FA – Referees Development Manager

Keith Hill, the Middlesex CFA RDM – who was our Guest Speaker in January – will be leaving his current employers for pastures new at the end of March.

Keith has had "an offer he couldn't refuse" made by the Japanese FA, and is to start a two year contract with them towards the end of March. He will be taking up the position of their Senior Referee Instructor, working as a tutor, instructor, mentor and assessor with the elite list JFA match officials, in partnership with the JFA and the J-League. Additionally, he will work with referees at the levels below to aid their development. He will also be dealing with the development of tutor training.

There is quite a tie-up now with our own PGMOL and there are exchange schemes involving Japan, Australia and Poland.

All in Middlesex are sad to see Keith go, for he has achieved a fantastic amount in the relatively short time he has been with the County. He hopes to renew his association with Middlesex upon his return from Japan.

We wish Keith and his family all the best for the future.



Goalkeeper sent-off after 10 seconds

A lot of preparation goes into a football match - you train all week, you do all the pre-match stretches, and you psyche yourself up. Therefore, it is not exactly ideal to get yourself sent-off after just 10 seconds of the game itself.

However, that is exactly what happened to Ebbsfleet United goalkeeper Preston Edwards on February 5 in a Conference South clash against Farnborough. To be fair to Edwards, he wasn't exactly helped out by his team-mate Ryan Blake, whose under-hit backpass put him in trouble. That 'pass' was easily intercepted by Farnborough's Kezie Ibe; Edwards then rushed off his line in order to snuff out the one-on-one with Ibe, but the nifty striker was able to go around him only to be hauled down for a penalty before he could put the ball in the back of the net.

Edwards was immediately given his marching orders by referee Neil Hair, and it was patently clear that the goalkeeper was less than pleased with the decision. To compound Ebbsfleet's misery, they did not have a substitute goalkeeper waiting on the bench, so 18-year-old midfielder Tom Phipp was forced to take the gloves.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, Ebbsfleet subsequently went on to lose the match 3-0.

Whilst this is thought to be the fastest ever sending off for a goalkeeper, who else is in the running for the fastest ever red cards in football history?

Well, Cologne captain Youssef Mohamad kicked off the 2009/10 Bundesliga season by breaking the record for the fastest red card in league history, being sent off after just 83 seconds for taking out then Kaiserslautern forward Erwin Hoffer just outside the box.

Elsewhere, one of the quickest red cards ever was brandished in Brazil in July 2009, when Cruzeiro's Ze Carlos lasted just 12 seconds before getting his marching orders.

However, the fastest ever recorded sending off occurred after just 3 seconds when Chippenham Town's David Pratt was sent off for lunging at Bashley midfielder Chris Knowles straight from the kick-off and received his marching orders from referee Justin Amey in a Southern League Premier Division match in December 2008. Bashley went on to win 2-1.



Middlesex County FA – County Cup Final Appointments - Season 2010/2011

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

George Ruffell Shield Final	Fourth Official	Michael Mackey (Jnr)
Midweek Cup Final	Assistant Referee	John Noblemunn
Sunday Junior Trophy Final	Assistant Referee	James Morris
Women's Senior Cup Final	Referee	Steve Reuter
Women's Senior Cup Final	Assistant Referee	Edward Carder
Under 14 Girls Cup Final	Referee	Kevin Wavell
Under 11 Boys Cup Final	Assistant Referee	Ben Zuccolini
Under 13 Boys Cup Final	Referee	John Fowler
Under 15 Boys Cup Final	Assistant Referee	Darren Fenner



BOOK REVIEW

24 CARAT GOULD
by Bobby Gould
Published by Thomas Publications
Price £15.99

This autobiography with a foreward by Bob Wilson traces the remarkable footballing career of the author who played for amongst others Coventry City, Arsenal, Wolves, WBA and West Ham. As a Manager he was successful in taking Wimbledon to the FA Cup Final when they shocked not only Liverpool their opponents, but the whole football world in winning the Cup. Later of course Bobby Managed Wales and has become one of the rare people in the game to Manage and play for the same Club which he did with Coventry and WBA whilst latterly has helped son Jonathan manage the New Zealand team Hawkes Bay. All of these Clubs are woven into and form part of a story of one of the most likeable people in football, who always appears to have a smile on his face which is mirrored on the dust jacket of the book, as is the reference to "pounding up and down Highbury's North Bank" when he "found it very hard not to be cheerful because rarely did I feel down". This is referred to in the chapter "Tough Times – And Howe" when the author was at his first spell at Albion and Done Howe was the manager who had taken

him from Arsenal. Family has played a great part in Bobby's life and there is considerable mention of his father and when not banned from games his mother and of course wife Marge and son Jonathan. It has not been all smiles however as the chapter "Taking Flight with the Kiwis" spells out. Back problems eventually led to a life threatening blood poisoning and a long spell in hospital, but despite having had deep vein thrombosis Bobby and Marge managed to fly off to New Zealand to visit with Jonathan, his wife and Bobby's grandchildren. That led to three successive trips and coaching with both the Hawkes Bay first team and their Academy. Football as we know is in the blood (when it's not poisoned) and Bobby is a prime example of that. Whilst not employed currently in coaching or management at the time this book was written he is now a respected pundit on "Talk Sport" in particular and the media in general. As dealt with in the penultimate chapter entitled "A Time For Talk" there are references there and throughout the book that the author has been known to lose his temper but this is a happy volume and ends with a humorous note in Bobby's wished for epitaph "Please Lord. Let us reach 51 points, so I can relax". The book runs to 248 pages with a full confirmation of playing and management statistics but no Index. There is a considerable raft of, action and still, mono photos and the whole is a very enjoyable read.

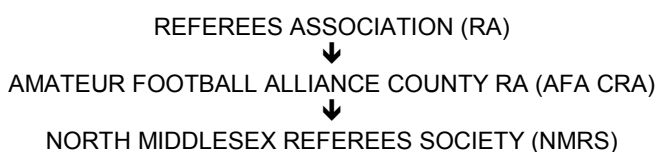
INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR SOCIETY

The Referees' Association (RA) is the national body for. The RA 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 AFA CRA send a delegate to the locally held annual RA Liaison meeting which reports back to The RA Board, who meet at least four times a year. All delegates and officers of the AFA CRA Committee 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 RA.

The Objects of The Referees Association 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 RA-FA 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. However, the CFA's and RA-FA 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

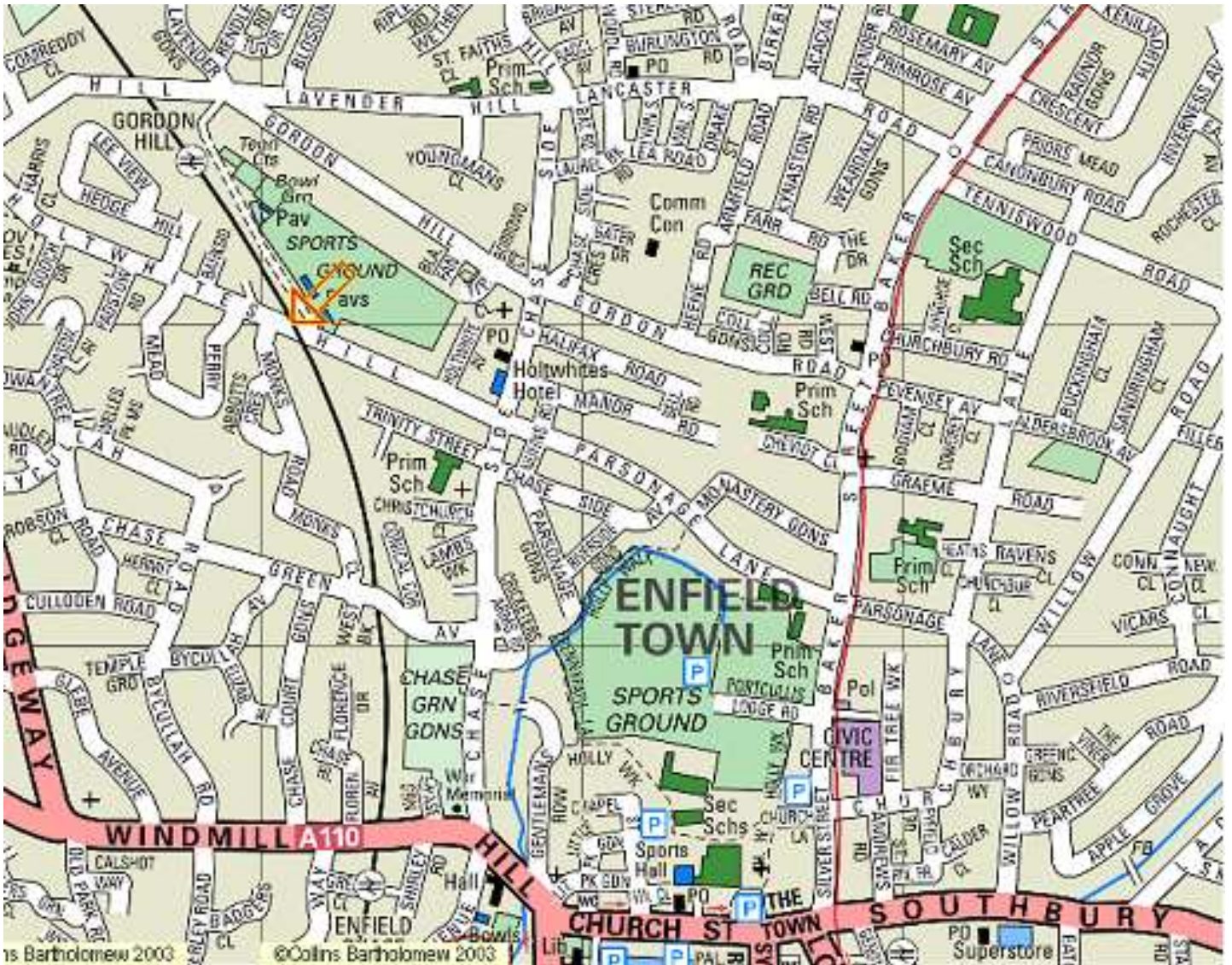
Abbreviations that are commonly used in magazine articles or in reports at meetings.

AFA	Amateur Football Alliance
AFA CRA	Amateur Football Alliance County Referees Association
CFA	County Football Association
CRA	County Referees Association
LFA	London Football Association
MCFA	Middlesex County Football Association
R.A.	Referees Association
RA-FA	Referees Association/Football Association partnership for cooperation between the RA and FA.

Updated July 2010

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Are held on the third Thursday monthly (except April 2011 - first Thursday),
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 2010/2011:- September 16; October 21; November 18; December 16 2010;
and January 20; February 17; March 17; April 7; May 19 2011



*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.

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