

May 2004

The Annual General Meeting of the North Middlesex Referees' Society will held on Friday, 14th May 2004 at Cockfosters FC, Chalk Lane, Cockfosters, Barnet, Hertfordshire. This is an important fixture in the Society's calendar to which all members are invited to attend.

Necessary details for this year's AGM are in this edition, including the Agenda, Minutes of the 2003 AGM, the Treasurer's report and all the Accounts and a list of Officers and Council Members willing to stand for the coming year. Application forms for NMRS are also included with your magazine this month.

As this is the last Normidian of this season, I would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone who has contributed to the magazine over the last nine months. I am particularly grateful to Mick Osborn, Peter Dace and Gary Cobden for their regular contributions and to Ken May for his serialisation of his 'refereeing autobiography', "Is There Life After Refereeing?" which continues. Thanks also to the editors of other Society magazines we receive on a reciprocal basis for allowing us access to articles. To our printers, 'Kenmar' many thanks; particularly to Arthur, Edna and Karen who are always helpful, and not forgetting our own magazine backroom team particularly, Gary (labels), Percy (envelope inserting) and Tony (distribution). We are also very grateful to Ackerman Group plc for their continued support.

Owing to lack of support, this year's Dinner and Dance has reluctantly been cancelled – more information elsewhere in this issue. We are living in changing times and it may be that Annual Dinner/Dances are a thing of the past. If they are, what if anything should we do to celebrate another year's existence of our Society? Any ideas?

Guest speaker at last month's Society meeting was football journalist and referee, Mick Dennis. Everyone present thoroughly enjoyed Mick's talk, which covered many aspects of the modern game and the people who talk and write about it – a short report on Mick's visit is included elsewhere in this edition.

Last month's photograph, "A BLAST FROM THE PAST", showing a group of colleagues at the Annual Dinner in 1977, brought comments from a number of readers wishing to be the first to point out that the late Les Davis is named as Bill Hugget! I am particularly grateful to Life Vice Presidents, Frank McNeil, Terry Hayne and Peter Dace for so swiftly pointing out the error. So, apologies all round and we trust no distress was caused to anyone as a result of the mistake.

Congratulations to Peter Smith and Michael Mackey Jnr who have both been promoted to Level 4, subject to passing the fitness test. Well done, lads!

If England reaches the Final of Euro 2004, can Phil Sharp run the line? I don't think so!
Best of luck, Phil and have a great time!

Mick Osborn, our erudite scribe, was presented with an award at the last Society meeting for his 'outstanding services' as a referee for Middlesex Schools FA. A short report and picture is included in this issue – well done, Mick.

Enjoy your summer!



IT'S GOOD TO TALK

By Mick Osborn

We'd been invited out to dinner with some old friends we hadn't seen for ages. Our hostess, I'll call her Deirdre (because that's her name,) was sitting opposite me, her chin in one hand while she idly stirred her coffee with the other (hand not chin, that is.) She looked at me as if she really expected an answer. "Are you still refereeing?" she said.

That question has been posed often over the last few years and every time the emphasis on the word "still" seems to get heavier. "Well, it keeps me off the streets," I tried to joke.

"Everyone always seems so miserable playing football now," Deirdre said. "And they are so badly behaved."

"Mmm," I said, popping another After Eight in my mouth.

"The other evening there was a programme on TV, I'm not sure which channel it was on, but it was about dealing with naughty children. The expert said that children are naughty because that way they get attention. You know, it is probably the same with footballers. It's only the *bad* ones that get your attention. They get shown yellow cards and red cards and they get their names in the papers and everything. Why don't you try ignoring them? You should praise the *good* players? Show them a gold star or something and give them a smile and a pat on the back. That would be an incentive for the *bad* ones to mend their ways. It worked with the kids in the programme."

"I'll mention it to John Baker the next time I see him," I said.

"Cos, it's really Pete that watches the football," she said.

Pete is Deirdre's husband who was in deep conversation with my wife comparing notes about herbaceous borders, annuals and perennials and what the weather had done to the gardens.

"But, you know, - this offside thing," Deirdre said. "It always seems to cause so many arguments. That little man waves his flag; the referee blows his whistle; the players go all sulky, or say things I'd hate my mother to hear; Alan Hansen says it was; that man on the crisps advert says it wasn't..... How does anyone understand it?"

"Well, it's quite easy," I said. "If the player is nearer to his opponents' goal line than the ball and the second last defender and is in the area of active play; by interfering with play or an opponent or gaining an advantage by being in that position, when one of his own side passes the ball to him, unless he receives the ball from a corner kick, a throw in, or a..... "

"Oh, you've lost me! No wonder they get so up tight." Deirdre continued, dismissing my explanation. "I'd get rid of that rule and let them get on with it."

"That may not be a bad idea," I said.

"And what do you think about women playing football? I'm sure *they* don't get all belligerent and use bad language like the men. I think women referees are a good thing, too. Usually men behave much better when there's a woman about, don't they?"

"Would you like another cup of coffee, or perhaps something a little stronger?" interrupted Pete.

CONGRATULATIONS



Pictured left are Keith Sloggett, the retiring Middlesex Schools F.A. County Fixtures Secretary and Society member Mick Osborn.

Keith paid a surprise visit to our April meeting to present Mick Osborn with a plaque for "Outstanding Services as a Referee, 2004". Mick has officiated as assistant and referee at many inter school matches and County team fixtures, at various age levels, over the years.

CONGRATULATIONS (2)

Congratulations are also extended to Trevor Syms, Honorary Referees' and Assessors Secretary of the AFA who received The Football Association medal recognising 50 years service to football and an award from Latymer Old Boys, to mark his 50 years as a member of that club.



ANNUAL DINNER and DANCE

Saturday, 15th May

7.00pm for 7.30pm

at

CANCELLED

THE APOLLO SUITE

Due to an insufficient number of tickets ordered for this event, **the Annual Dinner and Dance has been cancelled.** Any inconvenience caused to members and their guests that had planned to attend, is regretted.

Peter Dace reminisces – the Normidian of May 1994

Tony Ward writes ‘Inconsistency the name of the game’ and expresses his concern there have been far more refereeing inconsistencies than in previous seasons. The majority centred around players being denied an obvious goal scoring opportunity. Tony finds it puzzling that the monitoring of these situations by the Football Authorities appears to be just as inconsistent.

Adrian Bland writes his ninth, and final Secretary’s report and reflects during his term there have been few major changes within the Society apart from the changes of meeting place.

Steve Palmer concludes his recollections on reaching game 990 – these include 636 games as Referee; 335 games as Linesman; 19 as 4th Official. There were 438 home wins, 362 away wins and 162 draws. Home goals 2201 and away goals 1849. He fondly recalls a cup semi-final in the Tottenham and Haringay League in which he and Tom White were linesman to ‘dear old’ John Milbourne. As the game commenced the only snag was that Tom was firmly engrossed in the back of a goal making frantic net repairs. ‘He certainly moved pretty quick on hearing that whistle (in fact I don’t think I’ve seen Tom move so fast since!)’.

Plum appointments include four North Middlesex members on the Middlesex Senior Challenge Cup Final. Referee Mike Dearing; Linesmen Adrian Bland and Steve Palmer; and 4th Official Terry Flack.

Editor Ken Goldman thanks all those assisting with the magazine for another season including Arthur Pearce for his writing; and Michele Goodwin for typing the magazine.



Arsenal Charity Shield

The Annual Charity Shield tournament takes place at Arsenal FC on Sunday, 16th May from 9 am to 11 am with the finals on the following Tuesday, 18th May from 9 am to late afternoon. Referees wishing to officiate should contact Vince Yeudall – details on the front cover of the magazine.

In addition to the above, on Monday, 17th May there is a 6 a-side charity tournament, also at Arsenal FC, which runs from 11 am to 2 pm. Again details from Vince.

Both the above events are on the Highbury pitch.



More Plum Appointments

Peter Smith and Michael Mackey Jnr – Assistant Referees for the Middlesex County Football League Federation Cup Final, FC Sofia v Stonewall.

Peter is also the Referee for the Middlesex Representative 11 v Jersey Women.

Richard Meikle is the Referee for the Middlesex County League Senior Reserve Division Cup Final. Assistant Referees are Christopher Meikle and Galal Sami.

Richard Meikle is also in charge for the Cheshunt Youth League Under 16 Cup Final.



Anyone wishing to purchase “The History of the North Middlesex Referees’ Society” should contact Charles Lifford. The book is full of interesting facts about the Society and contains comprehensive articles on present and past members.

April's Guest Speaker – Mick Dennis

President Ken Goldman introduced our guest speaker, journalist, Mick Dennis. Ken explained that he had known Mick for many years and that he had worked for a number of newspapers including The Sun, The Daily Telegraph, The Mirror and The Evening Standard. Mick is currently the football correspondent of The Daily Express – he has also worked on a well-known radio football programme. Mick is a qualified referee, officiating on a regular basis in youth football for the Herts FA, and is a member of the Hemel Hempstead Referees' Society. As a referee of ten years as well as a football journalist, our special guest said that he was fully aware of all the problems faced by referees at all levels and recounted some of the problems he had personally experienced.

Having recently spent a day with other journalists at the Professional Game Match Officials Select Group, Mick said that considering many were past the 40 year-old mark, all our top referees are 'seriously fit'. As officials at the very top of their profession, their individual fitness and dietary needs were well looked after and monitored by a staff of experts. A spirited five-a-side game played by the referees during Mick's visit – Graham Poll scored 4 goals – was followed by a vigorous warm-down.

During games top referees are tracked from above with special equipment highlighting the distance covered, which was in the region of 1100 to 1200 metres – more than the players! On the diagonal system, Mick said that our top referees tend not to run as wide as their predecessors but use a lot more movement. He also pointed out that simulation (diving) by players was now more seriously dealt with. Mick said he was interested to learn that even our most senior officials were often not sure if they had got everything right during a match.

In common with many referees, Mick said he was sorry to see the old Class 1 status disappear in favour of 'Level 3'.

Mick recounted some hilarious moments during his time at some of the country's most well-known newspapers and of the intense pressure of writing an 800-word piece on a football match whilst trying to enjoy the game at the same time.

Asked if a top referee's comments would be of value on TV and radio programmes where matches are covered, Mick's opinion was that media presenters did not particularly favour referees discussing incidents that occur during a game.

Married for 27 years, Mick said he was pleased both their sons, now 21 and 23 years old had taken refereeing courses and that one of them still referees. He told us about one of their sons who, as a youngster, threw his loser's medal away after his team lost in a cup final – he just couldn't cope with the disappointment. After thinking long and hard, Mick said they were proud of him realising lessons are learned by playing team sports.

Mick then took part in a 'Question and Answer' session, which included, "How can two people see the same game so differently?", phone-ins and the effect of Keith Hackett's appointment.

Finally, Chairman, Vince Yeudall called on our own 'journalist', Normidian editor Terry Wilson, to offer a vote of thanks to our special guest. Terry duly thanked Mick for providing those present with such an entertaining insight into the life of a modern sports journalist, who is also an active referee. After the audience showed their appreciation of an entertaining talk, President, Ken Goldman presented our guest with a copy of the Society's 50 Year History to commemorate his visit to North Middlesex.



NORTH MIDDLESEX REFEREES SOCIETY

Proposed Election of Officers and Council Members 2004/2005

| | <i>Proposed</i> | | <i>Seconded</i> |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|----------------|------------------------|
| President: | Ken Goldman | ---- | ---- |
| Chairman: | Tom White | Gary Cobden | Robin Jagot |
| Vice Chairman: | Vince Yeudall | Percy Brown | Terry Wilson |
| Secretary: | Robin Jagot | Mick Osborn | Tom White |
| Training Secretary | “ | “ | “ |
| Treasurer | Gary Cobden | Robin Jagot | Vince Yeudall |
| Editor | Terry Wilson | Percy Brown | Michael Mackey |
| Gear Supplies: | Percy Brown | Terry Wilson | Tom White |
| MRA Delegate: | Vacant | | |
| Recruitment & Development: | Jeff Till | Robin Jagot | Tom White |
| Council Members (3) | | | |
| Martin De La Fuente | | Gary Cobden | Mick Osborn |
| Michael Mackey | | Terry Wilson | Vince Yeudall |
| Ricky Dellar | | Michael Mackey | Tom White |



Speakers for next Season:

Monday 13th September – Bob Wilson (special arrangement)
Friday 8th October – Phil Sharp
Friday 12th November – Janie Frampton
Friday 10th December – Social Evening
Friday 14th January – Mike Brown
Friday 11th February – Training Centre Presentation
Friday 11th March – Ray Lewis,
Friday 8th April – Ray Paine
Friday 13th May - AGM





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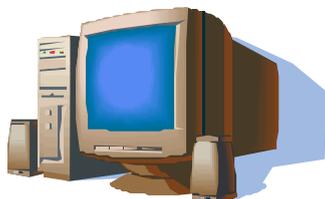
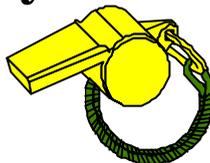
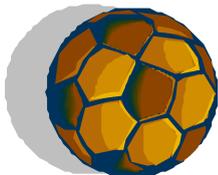
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Are again pleased to support North Middlesex Referees Society in Season 2003/2004



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NORTH MIDDLESEX REFEREES SOCIETY

Annual General meeting held on Friday May 9th 2003

APOLOGIES: As recorded in Attendance Book

Previous A. G. M. Minutes: The minutes of the previous AGM were signed as a true record.

Matters Arising: There were no matters arising.

Secretary's Report: Secretary reported that he had written an annual report in the magazine and thanked members of Council for their support thro'out the season. As stated in his report he was disappointed with the Society attendance's and the lack of effort by members to support functions organised for their benefit. Secretary stated that he has received nominations for Council election prior to the meeting in accordance with Society Rules.

Treasurer's Report: A full set of Accounts for 2002/2003 were presented to the meeting which were also published in the May edition of the Society magazine.

Auditors Report: Messrs Langstone and Jacobs reported and certified that the accounts are true and correct. They commended the Treasurer for presenting the accounts in exemplary fashion.

Social Secretary's Report: Although not in attendance a full report of the year's events will appear in the September Normidian 2003.

Editor's Report: Not in attendance but urged members to continue to send articles in.

Training Secretary's Report: A further two courses have been arranged in May. A total of 100+ candidates have successfully passed through the Centre this year.

Other Officers Reports: There were no major comments to report.

Election of Officers: The following candidates were duly proposed, seconded and elected to the North Middlesex R.S. in accordance with Society Rules

Chairman: Tom White **Vice Chairman:** Vince Yeudall **Secretary:** Robin Jagot

Treasurer: Gary Cobden **Editor:** Terry Wilson **Training Secretary:** Robin Jagot

Gears Supply Officer: Percy Brown **MRA Delegate:** Peter Smith **Y.D.O.** Jeff Till

Council Members: Martin De La Fuente, Michael Mackey, and Mick Osborn

Messrs Langstone and Jacobs were re-appointed as auditors.

Proposed en Block Tony Ward Seconded by Stuart Walden - carried unanimously

To Consider the adoption of the proposed new Society Rules. Proposed: Percy Brown
Seconded by Vince Yeudall - carried unanimously

To Consider the following proposal: Society Subscriptions be increased with effect from **1st April, 2004** to the following amounts **Adult Members** - £13.50 **Junior Members** (Under 18) £6.75
Proposed: Gary Cobden Seconded: Tom White and carried unanimously.

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 conduct of the affairs of the Society. Tony Ward spoke on behalf of the members which was carried unanimously.

Any Other Business: The Secretary reported to members an assault case involving Martin De La Fuente in a local Cup Final, and that all necessary steps and reports had been carried out.

The Secretary then reported to the meeting of a request for Referees over the weekend of June 7th/8th to take part in a five aside competition at the Woodside Sports Ground, Southover, N.12. A total of 12 referees were required each day. Society Member Stuart Walden who was present at the meeting informed members of the competition and age groups taking part.

There being no other business the meeting was then closed. The remainder of the evening was spent socialising and taking part in a Society Raffle.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of North Middlesex Referees Society will be held on Friday, 14 May 2004, commencing at 7.30pm, at Cockfosters Football Club, Chalk Lane, Cockfosters, Barnet, Hertfordshire, EN4 9JG, and the Agenda for the Meeting is shown below.

Robin Jagot

Honorary Secretary
24 Tiverton Road
Potters Bar
Hertfordshire
EN6 5HY

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 ELECT Officers and Council for the ensuing year.
9. To ELECT Honorary Auditors (currently Messrs Langstone and Jacobs).
10. To CONSIDER the following Rule Changes, duly proposed and seconded in accordance with Society Rules:-
 - a. Society Rule 10 (a) - Proposer - Jeff Till; Secunder - Gary Cobden
Replace Friday with Thursday
 - b. Society Rule 6 (a) - Proposer - Gary Cobden; Secunder - Remainder of Council at meeting 20 April 2004
This AGM renews the authority given at last years AGM for the provision to increase Membership Fees for Season 2005/2006 by up to £1.50 (removing the proviso that any such increase shall be subject to an increase in postage charges).
11. To CONSIDER the following:-

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 conduct of the affairs of the Society.
12. To CONSIDER any other business competent and urgent.



For Sale

Two Umbro Referees uniforms, size 'L'. Hardly worn with embroidered County badge.

Contact: Peter Smith 07748 114 513



TREASURERS REPORT SEASON 2003/2004

Enclosed elsewhere in this Magazine you will find a copy of the Annual Accounts for the Season. Regrettably, I have to report that the Society has made a Net Loss for the year just ended. However, the majority of that loss has been caused by the final year's charge of Depreciation on the Society Computer and Projector. Additionally the Gear Account returned a loss of just under £100, and the reasons for this loss are being investigated by me and the Gear Supplies Officer in order to prevent a recurrence of the situation.

Income for the year fell by 24% and Expenditure by 12%. The main reasons for the fall in Income being the elimination of the Gear Supplies and Training School profits – the latter due to a change in the way training is now funded by the FA; Raffle Proceeds and Grants were also reduced – and the Grant will disappear totally in the forthcoming Financial Year. Subscription Income fell due to a reduction in Membership on the previous year, and Interest fell due to falling rates. However, thanks to well supported Social Events, an increase in Income was seen here.

On the Expenditure side, Hall Hire charges increased due to a full season of meetings held at Cockfosters, and an increase in nightly charges. Speaker expenses were also increased, and there was the deficit on the Gear Account. Net Miscellaneous Income/Expenditure was broadly similar, and the expenditure on the Normidian was reduced due to a fall in Membership.

On normal 'Trading' the Society was in Surplus for the Season by nearly £550, and, despite the known reduction in Income next season (Grant of £250), it is also anticipated that the Gear Account will return to surplus. This does not therefore give me any justification for raising Subscriptions for the coming Season. Whilst Council are also aware that the cancellation of the Dinner and Dance will result in the Society incurring a significant additional one-off expense during the Season, Council have agreed that Society fees should remain the same. On the strength of this it is hoped that Members will support the other Social events organised by the Society. Additionally, the Referees Association fees are remaining the same for the new Season. In summary, Fees for Season 2004/2005 will be as follows:-

| <u>Membership Class</u> | <u>Fees paid prior to 31 July 2004</u> | <u>Fees Paid after 31 July 2004</u> |
|--|---|--|
| Full Members (who pay the RA Fee) | £19.85 (Over 75 - £17.00) | £21.85 (Over 75 - £19.00) |
| Junior Members (Under 18 who pay the RA Fee) | £12.35 (Under 14 - £10.00) | £12.35 (Under 14 - £10.00) |
| Associate Members | £10.00 | £12.00 |

Your Membership Forms for the new Season are enclosed, and it would be appreciated if you could check them and amend them as necessary. The fees due are shown on the forms. Please return them to me with your remittance at the earliest opportunity. The forms have been completed with the information held on the Society's Database as at the date shown on them. I would be grateful if you could spend a few minutes checking this information before returning the form to me. Please give particular attention to any e-mail address shown, as a number held by the Society are incorrect and e-mails are 'bouncing'. Additionally, if more of you could opt to receive your magazines via e-mail, this would be greatly appreciated by the Society, as our magazine production costs would be reduced.

At the AGM I will also be seeking the renewal of the authority given at last year's AGM. At the 2002/2003 AGM, agreement was given to the increase in Subscriptions for Season 2004/2005 of up to £1.50. However, this was due to the fact that, at the time of last year's meeting, it was anticipated that significant increased postal charges would be incurred. However, that situation did not occur. I will therefore be asking the Meeting to agree to an increase of Subscriptions for Season 2005/2006 of the same amount (£1.50), but with no caveat relating to increased postage charges, and, of course, any increase would be subject to ratification by Council.

Gary Cobden
Honorary Treasurer



Wembley Quiz from The Middian, Mid-Herts RA magazine (see April Normidian) Answers:

- (1) 1923.
- (2) Manchester United.
- (3) Sheffield United.
- (1925) Sheffield Wed.
- (1935) and Leeds United (1972).
- (4) Roberto Di Matteo 43 seconds.
- (5) The White Horse at the 1st Wembley Final.
- (6) David Jack, also at the 1st Final.
- (7) 126,947 but 200,000 was the estimated crowd.
- (8) Blackpool 4 v Bolton Wanderers 3.
- (9) Sunderland have scored 4, but Alan Sunderland also scored one for Arsenal, so the answer is 5!
- (10) Arsenal.



NORTH MIDDLESEX REFEREES SOCIETY 100 CLUB



The April 2004 Draw was made at the close of the April meeting. With 48 shares subscribed, this resulted in a total payout of £33.60. The winners are shown below, and cheques are enclosed with this month's Normidian - so, if you have already thrown the envelope away, find it quickly!

| | | | |
|-----------------------|----|----------------|--------|
| 1 st Prize | 23 | Kevin Millett | £19.20 |
| 2 nd Prize | 43 | John Metselaar | £9.60 |
| 3 rd Prize | 5 | Dave Chapman | £4.80 |

If you would like to join the 100 Club for the remainder of the season, please let me have your remittance of £4.00 to cover the remaining draws through until August.

If you would like to join the 100 Club for Season 2004/2005, please indicate on your Membership Form (enclosed with this magazine). Cost per share for the season is £12.00.

Gary Cobden

Honorary Treasurer



REFEREES ASSOCIATION GRAND DRAW



In previous years, the Society has automatically issued members with two books of RA Draw Books to sell on behalf of the Society. This has meant the Society requesting nearly 500 books from the Referees Association, but regularly receiving only just over 100 sold book counterfoils back from Members.

This year we have decided to try an alternative method to sell the books. If you would like the chance of winning a car - sadly not like this one - please let me know how many books you would like, and I will arrange to get them to you. For all

books sold, the Society receives 50% of the proceeds. If you do take some books to sell, when you have sold them, please ensure that you return all the counterfoils direct to me – if you return them back direct to the address on the ticket counterfoils, North Middlesex does not get its share of the ticket money.

Thanks again for your support.

Gary Cobden

Honorary Treasurer



REFEREES REQUIRED – 22 JULY

For the last few seasons, North Middlesex have provided B SkyB with a number of referees for their annual summer 5 A-Side tournament. The requests have normally come at a much later stage, but this season I have the chance to get their request for officials in the last Normidian of the season.

The tournament is to be held on the evening of 22 July at B SkyB in Osterley. If you are interested in participating, please let me know, and I will pass your details forward to the organiser. Please contact me by e-mail –

treasurer@northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk or by phone on 01992 469153.

Gary Cobden



**Congratulations to Arsenal FC on winning the 2003/4
Premiership title without losing a game!**



