

May 2005

The next meeting of the North Middlesex Referees' Society will be the Society's Annual General Meeting, which will be held at Cockfosters FC, Chalk Lane, Cockfosters, Barnet, Hertfordshire on Friday, 13th of May.

Another season nearly over! Very well done, to those who gained promotion and commiserations to those who didn't quite get there. If you have a plum appointment, or two, enjoy the experience – you no doubt earned it by your performances throughout the season. For the rest of us, we can start winding down until next season when the fun and hassle begins again. Don't forget your CRB!

The following members of the Society were promoted: Level 7 to 5, Lee Addison, Level 7 to 6 Jamie Baxter, George Grant and Daniel Richardson. Great!

Without the help of a number of people in the Society, the Normidian wouldn't exist; so many thanks to the back-room staff, Gary Cobden, envelopes and labels; Percy Brown envelope- stuffer; and Tony Ward, distribution. Not forgetting our printers, Kenmar – Arthur, Edna, Karen and the rest of the staff who have done all we have asked of them in getting the magazine out on time every month. We are also happy to promote our advertisers, Ackerman Group plc, Henry Tilly Ltd and “Do You Have a Computer Problem”.

And what about our contributors? Too many to name here but thanks to our regular scribes, Peter ‘the tripper’ Dace, Gary Cobden, who is also our website manager, Mick Osborn, ‘Observer’ and President, Ken Goldman. We are also grateful to the other Society magazines, which we receive on a reciprocal basis, for allowing us to use their copy. If you have not written an article, why not make an effort to write in next season. Don't worry if you can't spell, we use the spellchecker!

The NMRS Council have met at various times to keep the Society on the right lines. Secretary Robin Jagot, Gary and others have beavered away in the background on the admin and finance side, and with Chairman Tom White and the rest of the team make sure the Society remains strong and forward-looking.

With their other hats on, Robin, Mick and Stan Rosenthal, in the Training School have worked long and hard to give many youngsters the opportunity to become referees. They, with the examining staff, deserve credit and the gratitude of the football fraternity at large.

Those who help out at Arsenal FC's charity 5 a-sides and other events will know of the amount of work done by Vice-Chairman Vince Yeudall in contacting members of the Society, making sure the events are controlled by qualified referees. Well done, Vince.

Percy Brown, our intrepid Supplies Officer is always on hand at Society meetings to make sure we are all equipped with everything we need to referee our matches effectively – he does a great job!

Also included in this edition is a message from the President; all you need for the AGM; details of the Society's 50th Anniversary and the RA Draw; Law Changes for 2005/6; Adverts and Supplies.

The September Normidian will be sent out mid-August 2005

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The last two acts which I have been delighted to perform as President of North Middlesex, have been to introduce Pat Rice at the April monthly meeting and to write a report on the same. It was for me a great pleasure and privilege to be President of the Society over the past three seasons and I would hope that although not a regular attender at Council Meetings I have only missed a minority of monthly meetings where I have enjoyed presenting whistles to new members and the Society's 50th Anniversary books to guest speakers. Hopefully too I have contributed to the magazine as having been an Editor of it in the past, the last thing I wanted to do was follow the example of some previous editors and not offer anything to the new man

I don't intend to write a long diatribe here about what has gone on either domestically or in the larger football world. Suffice it to say that you will all be aware of such things. I have to say that it is a shame that although our membership numbers make us probably the largest Society, not only in this Country but also possibly the World, attendance at monthly meetings has been poor for the most part. This is discourteous to the speakers but also means that an opportunity especially for the younger members to learn things is missed. It is to be sincerely hoped that at a new venue and probably on a different night of the week and possibly also a different week of the month that there will be a reversal of the trend I have been mentioning.

It would also be nice speaking as an old fogy to see more youngsters come through to challenge for positions on the Council. The life-blood of a Society flows through its younger men and women and with the numbers, which we have there should really be no problems about this.

To all who have supported me through my stint I give my heartfelt thanks.

Ken Goldman (outgoing President)



Vince's Plum

Vice Chairman, Vince Yeudall, is continuing his refereeing comeback after successful heart surgery. Earlier this year he was appointed senior Assistant Referee at the Salisbury Shield Cup Final. Vince reports that the teams contesting this high profile charity event were University of Hertfordshire and Hatfield Town FC. The game, which resulted in a hard-fought 4-3 win for the University, was played in front of a good crowd at the excellent University Sports Ground in Hatfield. Vince, looking resplendent as usual, was pictured in the local press alongside Lord Salisbury, the other officials and the two teams. Well done, Vince — another one for the album! Ed.



Plum Appointments

Congratulations to Richard Meikle on his appointment as the Referee for the Cheshunt Youth League U18 Cup Final.



Peter Dace reminisces – the Normidian of May 1995

Nick Farley pens 'Learning the ropes' following his first season as a Referee. Although enjoying the experience he mentions particular problems of dealing with set pieces and movement around the field of play. He was invited by Robin Jagot to a referees' coaching course at the Wingate & Finchley ground run by the London Football Association. Nick says 'I have since reaped the benefits of the course and I can only say that this is a must to all Referees in their first season'. He adds 'there are things that simply cannot be taught when we pass our badges, due to time'.

Geoffrey Jacobs describes 'The Road to Wembley' and his experience on the hallowed turf for the Littlewoods Pools Media Challenge for teams representing newspapers, radio and tv. Geoff says 'I was fortunate enough to referee two matches and three lines including the final. Everything went well on the field, without any serious problems. It was difficult for me to put into perspective the feeling I was treading where the worlds greatest players had performed, and where England became world champions'.

In his Chairman's report Dave Ackerman thanks Council in particular new right hand man and General Secretary Mark Marden and Gear Supplies Officer Vince (would you buy a second hand car off this man) Yeudal. Special thanks to Ken Goldman trying to stand down after 14 years as Editor. Any budding Mark Twain's or Enid Blyton's are invited to take over the reins.

Also 'Wembley Bound' is Ken Goldman who asks 'well what's it like to actually take charge of the FA Cup Final itself'. The last two incumbents were Keren Barratt who was quoted describing his feelings in getting the phone call from the FA appointing him to the Final, and David Elleray who said 'it was one of the targets I set myself twenty six years ago before when I started out as a Schoolboy Referee and of course it is the pinnacle of a Referees career'. Ken offers this years Cup Final Referee Gerald Ashby and his three colleagues 'the best of enjoyment and success come the 20th of May'.

Plum appointments include the Barnet Sunday League Senior Final for Referee Adrian Bland and Linesmen John Cooke and Dennis Smith.



What Would You Do? - Brian Richards, The Chiltern Referee

Question: You arrive at a village ground where the FOP overlaps the cricket pitch. Although there is no cricket match, to differentiate the markings the football pitch is marked with broken lines. What would you do?

Answer: The Law does not allow broken lines, so if they cannot be altered, the game should not be played.

Odd Factoid - also from The Chiltern Referee

Ernie Blenkinsop, a great England defender of the inter war period signed to play for Hull City for £100 plus 80 pints of beer.



Referees Association Grand Draw – 2005



To those members who have already requested; taken; or sold some Referees Association Draw Books, on behalf of the Society, can I say 'Thank You'. However, we would still like Members to assist the Society by selling a couple of books, as the Society will receive half of the value of all the books sold, and this could be a valuable income stream for the Society. The first prize in the Draw is a brand new Renault Clio – sadly not like the one on the left. If you have taken some books, and not yet returned them to me, please make sure you do so as soon as possible. If you have not yet taken any books, but would like to sell some for the Society, please let me know how many books you would like, and I will arrange to get them to you. If you ask for some books to sell or have already taken some, but not yet returned them, when sold, please ensure that you return all the counterfoils direct to me - if you return them back direct to the address on the ticket counterfoils, the Society does not get it's share of the ticket money. Thanks again for your support.

Gary Cobden
Honorary Treasurer



Plum Appointments

Hertfordshire County Football Association County Cup Finals

Boys Under 14 Challenge Cup	Fourth Official	Julian Tovey
Senior Centenary Trophy	Referee	Ashvin Degnarain

Middlesex County Football Association County Cup Final

Senior Charity Cup Final	Fourth Official	Stan Rosenthal
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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of North Middlesex Referees Society will be held on Friday, 13 May 2005, 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 Brian Langstone).
10. To CONSIDER the following Rule Changes duly proposed and seconded in accordance with Society Rules.
Society Rule 6 (a) - Proposer - Gary Cobden; Seconder - Remainder of Council
This AGM renews the authority given at last years AGM for the provision to increase Membership Fees for Season 2006/2007 by up to £1.50 subject to ratification by Council.
Society Rule 10 (a) – Amend Second to Third - Proposer – Robin Jagot; Seconder - Remainder of Council
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 conduct of the affairs of the Society.
12. To CONSIDER any other business competent and urgent.

Note

Agenda Item 10 – All members should be in possession of a set of the current Society Rules; copies are available on the website, and will be available at the AGM; however, if you would like a copy in advance, please contact the Secretary. Please refer to the Treasurers Report in this magazine for the background to this proposal.



Treasurers Report Season 2004/2005 and Membership Fees Season 2005/2006

Enclosed in this Magazine is a copy of the Annual Accounts for the Season. This year I am pleased to report that the Society has returned to surplus; not a situation I envisaged at this time last year after we had cancelled the Dinner and Dance due to lack of support - this incurred a loss of £375 to the Society. The Gear Account has returned a small profit this season, following last year's loss.

Income for the year fell by 16% and Expenditure by 9%. The main reasons for the fall in Income being the elimination of the Grant income and surplus from Social Events; Donations also fell by nearly 50%. Raffle proceeds improved by almost 50%; and, following the cancellation of the Dinner and Dance, in an attempt to recuperate some of the losses, we decided to raffle the signed Chelsea shirt which was donated for the Dinner and Dance Raffle, and the proceeds from this offset almost 30% of the loss. We were also fortunate in gaining an additional advertiser for the Normidian, and Interest income also rose due to slightly higher interest rates. Subscription income rose by just under 5% due to an increase in membership.

On the Expenditure side, the Magazine costs were reduced by just over 10%, due to generally maintaining the number of pages in each issue to 12, and also due to an increased number of Members opting to receive their copies by e-mail or via the web site. If you are not currently receiving your Normidian this way, and you have either e-mail or internet capability, you would help the Society considerably by indicating as such on your Membership Form. The loss on the Dinner of £375 was partially offset by a relatively well supported Quiz Night; however, the usually extremely well supported Race Night had to be cancelled, again due to a complete lack of support from members, resulting in an additional loss to the Society, although we were fortunate to be reimbursed part of the hire charge. Guest Speaker expenses were also reduced in the current season. The Depreciation charge – which was the cause of last years Loss – is now much reduced, as the Computer and Projector have now been fully depreciated, and are in the books of the Society at nil value.

During the year we made two donations from the Benevolent Fund

- £45 to the Willow Foundation - following the visit of Bob Wilson, the Society matched the amount raised from the Raffle on the night, so a total of £90 was donated.
- £50 to the Tsunami appeal.

Due to the solvent state of the Society, I am pleased to be able to report that we will again be able to maintain Society Subscriptions at their current level, a figure which has remained unchanged since Season 2001/2002. However, whilst the basic Referees Association fees are remaining the same for the new Season, there has been an increase of 90p in the Insurance Premium. In summary, Fees for Season 2005/2006 will be as follows:-

Membership Class	Fees paid prior to 31 July	Fees Paid after 31 July
Full Members (who pay the RA Fee)	£20.75 (Over 75 - £17.00)	£22.75 (Over 75 - £19.00)
Junior Members (Under 18 who pay the RA Fee)	£13.25	£13.25
Associate Members	£10.00	£12.00

Your Membership Form for the new Season is enclosed, and it would be appreciated if you could check them and amend them as necessary. This season we are required to provide the following additional information to the Referees Association:-

- If you are an Assessor; Mentor; Instructor; and/or Examiner, please indicate this in addition to your Refereeing Level.
- If you have not registered with a County FA this season, please state NONE in place of your Parent County.
- If you have your new NPD Number, please indicate this instead of your Registration Number.

I would therefore appreciate it if you could all take a little bit of time when checking the information shown on your Membership Form to ensure it is correct, making amendments as necessary.

The fees due are shown on your individual Membership Form. Please return it to me with your remittance at the earliest opportunity. The forms have been completed with your information held on the Society's Database as at the date shown on the form. Please give particular attention to any e-mail address shown, as a number held by the Society are incorrect and e-mails are 'bouncing'.

At the AGM I will be seeking renewal of the authority given at last year's AGM to allow an increase in Subscriptions for Season 2006/2007 by a maximum of £1.50 – any such increase being subject to ratification by Council. However, due to the healthy state of the Society, it has not been necessary to increase Subscriptions for the forthcoming season.

Gary Cobden
Honorary Treasurer

NORTH MIDDLESEX REFERREES SOCIETY
Income and Expenditure Account for the Year Ended 31 March 2005

<u>2004</u>	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u> (Amended)
2,316.00	By Subscriptions (265 Full Members;8 Associate Members)	2,417.00	
119.93	.. Bank Deposit Interest	153.65	9,674.05
59.00	.. RA Draw (Our Share)	80.50	(112.74)
298.45	.. Donations	157.85	
69.90	.. Raffle Proceeds (General)	103.76	9,561.31
0.00	.. Raffle Proceeds (Chelsea Shirt)	111.00	
75.00	.. Advertisements	160.00	3,548.88
250.00	.. Grants	0.00	
159.80	.. 100 Club	152.20	<u>13,110.19</u>
0.00	.. Gear Sales Surplus	22.31	
27.65	.. 50th Anniversary Book	24.12	
596.42	.. Social Events Surplus	0.00	
<u>74.45</u>	.. Miscellaneous Income	<u>42.95</u>	
<u>4,046.60</u>		<u>3,392.59</u>	
	EXPENDITURE		0.00
			<u>42.35</u>
			42.35
2,057.69	To Normidian Expenses (including Postage)	1,820.76	
35.00	.. Middlesex Referees Association	35.00	35.76
35.97	.. Postage/Telephones/Stationery/Misc	77.69	
485.00	.. Hire of Meeting Halls	495.00	
132.75	.. Guest Speaker Expenses (inc NMRS Books)	94.69	
190.00	.. RA Conference Delegate	184.00	
206.95	.. Life Vice Presidents	189.95	947.15
64.50	.. Gear Sales Deficit (Note 1)	0.00	302.09
0.00	.. Social Events Deficit	247.08	98.88
258.23	.. Miscellaneous Expenditure	29.11	1,954.05
<u>0.80</u>	.. Bad Debts	<u>0.00</u>	6,859.26
3,466.89		3,140.53	<u>457.71</u>
			10,619.14
579.71	GROSS SURPLUS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	252.06	
	DEPRECIATION		1,076.11
652.15	Computer and Projector	0.00	1,125.78
15.00	Training Aids	15.00	97.05
<u>25.30</u>	Internet Domain Name	<u>30.53</u>	27.75
692.45		45.53	<u>49.75</u>
			2,376.44
(112.74)	NET SURPLUS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	206.53	
	(See Note 1)		489.00
<u>579.71</u>		<u>252.06</u>	240.00
			729.00
			423.50
			<u>269.00</u>
			692.50
			<u>13,110.19</u>

NORTH MIDDLESEX REFERREES SOCIETY
Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2005

<u>2005</u>	<u>LIABILITIES</u>	<u>2005</u>
	GENERAL FUND	
	Balance as at 1 April 2004	9561.31
	SURPLUS for Year (See Note 1)	<u>206.53</u>
		9,767.84
	BENEVOLENT FUND	3,463.88
		<u>13,231.72</u>
	Represented By:	
	FIXED ASSETS (At Cost, Less Depreciation over 5 Years)	
	Computer and Projector	0.00
	Training Aid	<u>27.35</u>
		27.35
	INTANGIBLE ASSETS (At Cost, Less depreciation over life)	
	Internet Domain and Webpace	5.23
	CURRENT ASSETS	
	BANK:-	
	Current Account	1,288.19
	Deposit Account	302.09
	Benevolent Fund (See Note 2)	113.88
	High Interest Account	1,967.37
	Postal Account (See Note 2)	6,899.59
	Cash/Cheques in Hand	<u>337.58</u>
		10,908.70
	STOCKS	
	Gear	1,010.99
	NMRS Book	1,099.90
	Magazine	111.55
	Social/Raffle Stocks	47.74
	Training School	<u>49.75</u>
		2,319.93
	Payments in Advance (See Note 4)	115.20
	Debtors (See Note 3)	<u>140.46</u>
		255.66
		13,484.29
	Deduct CURRENT LIABILITIES	
	Subscriptions in Advance	14.15
	Accruals (See Note 5)	<u>271.00</u>
		285.15
		<u>13,199.14</u>
		<u>13,231.72</u>

Notes to the Accounts

Income and Expenditure Account

Note 1:- The Loss for Season 2003/2004 has been reduced by £34.74 from that previously published, following prior year adjustments relating to Gear Supplies discovered during the current accounting year.

Balance Sheet

Note 1:- The Loss for Season 2003/2004 has been reduced by £34.74 from that previously published, following prior year adjustments relating to Gear Supplies discovered during the current accounting year.

Note 2:- The Balance for the Postal Account includes £3,350 (2004 - £3,450) relating to the Benevolent Fund.

Note 3:- Debtors relate to orders placed for kit and not yet paid for, and a partial refund due in relation to the Hall Hire for the cancelled Quiz Night. (2004 - Kit Orders)

Note 4:- Payments in Advance represent prepayments in respect of Normidian Postage; Refereeing Today; and Hall Hire. (2004 - Postage; Football Referee; Hall Hire; Dinner; MRA; and FA Cup Final Tickets)

Note 5:- Accruals represents prepayments in respect of 100 Club and RA Draw. (2004 - same)

Accounts Prepared By:-

G. J. Cobden ACIB
Hon. Treasurer
12 April 2005

Accounts Audited By:-

B. J. Langstone JP
Hon. Auditor
18 April 2005

April's Society Meeting - with thanks to Catherine Yeudall and Ken Goldman

Together with AFA and LONSAR, North Middlesex Referees' Society visited the famous Highbury stadium, home of Arsenal FC, on Thursday, 21st April. Some 80 colleagues, friends and family members were entertained by a tour of the stadium, a video show and a visit to the Gunner's Museum, organised by the Chairman for the evening, Tony Ward, followed by an evening with former Arsenal favourite and now the club's Assistant Manager, Pat Rice. Interestingly, Pat was making his second appearance as guest speaker just over 10 years since our last joint meeting at Highbury with LONSAR and the AFA.

Society President, Ken Goldman and Tony Ward introduced our special guest, outlining Pat's history with the club and his close connections with the North Middlesex Referees' Society. Pat then took questions from the floor, speaking passionately on a range of football associated subjects, from his opinions of players past and present and the money now in the game, to refereeing standards and his own most glorious moment.

The range of questions put to Pat covered Arsenal's chances of winning the Champions League. "Hopefully next year!" A Feyenoord supporter asked about Robin van Persie and another questioner wanted to know what our guest thought of Chelsea's 'millions'. Pat, who paid tribute to Chelsea, said that good selection was still needed regardless of the money available. On the recent Chelsea vs. Arsenal draw, Pat thought that Chelsea didn't quite gel on the night. Asked about the current Arsenal team, Pat gave his opinion on various players and made comparisons of players who were vying for the same position.

About the new stadium, Pat said it was coming along nicely. The move could prove to be difficult for the players and their results, looking at other teams' experience, but he added that the Manager has total confidence in his players and reminded us of the saying, "There is no 'I' in the word 'TEAM'"

Pat was asked what makes a good referee. "One who isn't seen!" was the reply. Other topics included "cheating"; the lack of ex-players taking up refereeing; the educational needs of young professional footballers and inconsistency in standards of refereeing. Asked who was the best player during his time at the club, Pat discussed a number of candidates but thought Ian Wright, for a goalscorer. Asked what was his most glorious moment. Pat replied, "Beating Spurs to win the Championship".

Pat then turned the tables and asked Tony Ward his thoughts on the use of video replays. Pat said he was a supporter - a view not shared by all of the audience!

After an hour, proceedings were brought to a conclusion - although those present had yet more questions to ask. Society Vice-Chairman, Vince Yeudall, thanked our special guest and presented Pat with a gift on behalf of the 3 Societies present. The raffle was then drawn; the winning ticket belonged to Stan Rosenthal, a member of the North Middlesex Training Team, who was delighted to receive a signed Arsenal football from our special guest, Pat Rice, on an enjoyable night.



NORTH MIDDLESEX REFEREES SOCIETY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY MAY 14th 2004

Apologies: As recorded in the Society Attendance Book

Previous AGM Minutes: The minutes of the previous AGM held on May 9th 2003 were signed as a true record.

Matters Arising: There were no matters arising.

Secretary's Report: Secretary thanked members for their support and help over the season. Again attendances were well down at Society meetings combined with very poor support for our social functions. This led to the cancellation of our main function the Dinner and Dance. Members were informed that a lot of work and effort goes into organising such events for the benefit of Society members and friends Secretary informed the meeting that he had received nominations for Council in accordance with the rules. The Secretary had also received in writing dated 13th February 2004 a proposed **Rule Change** which will be dealt with later in the Agenda.

Treasurer's Report: A full set of accounts for season 2003/2004 were presented to the meeting which were also published in the May edition of the Society magazine. The Treasurer informed the meeting that due to the healthy state of the Society's finances (although a loss had been made, it was in the main due to a depreciation charge) he felt there was no need to propose an increase as agreed at the previous AGM. The Chairman allowed discussion on the issue of subscription increases and members were happy to fully support the Treasurer's recommendations.

Other Officers Reports : There were no reports to discuss.

Election of Officers 2004/2005:

(all proposed and seconded in accordance with Society Rules as published in the May Normidian)

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

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

Gear Supplies Officer: Percy Brown, **Youth Development:** Jeff Till

Council Members: Martin De-La Fuente, Michael Mackey, Ricky Deller

Messrs Langstone and Jacobs were re-appointed as Auditors

Proposed en-block : Barry Berndes Seconded: Lee Addison, carried unanimously

Rule Changes:

Rule 10a To consider the following Proposal "That the Society Meeting Nights are changed from Friday to Thursday for Season 2005/2006.

Proposed - Jeff Till Seconded: Gary Cobden

Main reasons behind this proposal were that it might well increase the number of members, especially our younger candidates whom we need to encourage to attend. It is hoped it would encourage a wider range of speakers to visit the Society. Friday is very much a social night for members with many other functions taking place.

The Proposal was carried with only one abstention.

Rule 6a 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

Proposed - Gary Cobden; Seconded - Remainder of Council at meeting 20 April 2004

The Treasurer gave a brief background to the proposal — at the previous AGM a similar authority had been granted as it was expected postal prices to the Society would rise. However, this was not the case, and there had been no reason to increase fees for the forthcoming Season. By renewing this Authority, it would enable the Treasurer to issue membership Forms incorporating any increased subscriptions for Season 2005/2006 without the need to hold an EGM during the Season.

The Proposal was carried unanimously

ACM minutes continued

Any Other Business: Secretary informed the meeting that Terry Flack had been nominated to receive a 20- year award from the Middlesex County FA. The Chairman on behalf of Society offered our congratulations for his outstanding contribution over the years to refereeing,

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 expresses appreciation of the conduct of the affairs of the Society. Barry Bemdes spoke on behalf of the membership, which was carried unanimously.

A vote of thanks was then proposed to the Chairman, and the formal part of the meeting closed at 9.15pm.

Chairman: Signed

Print Name:



The Referees' Association Annual Conference - from the RA web site

An exiting weekend is in prospect on the 17th and 18th June this year when the RA's Annual Conference takes place in Southport. The important traditions of Conference are maintained but, following the restructure of the Association, some changes are inevitable.

Other innovations are being tried to attract a bigger attendance by designing a programme that will have wider appeal to all members of the national RAs. Formality will have its place but the focus will shift towards enjoyment with interest and an educational content that will suit all backgrounds and ages.

Younger members, perhaps new to Conference, could just opt to take in the daytime programme on the Saturday but it would be good to see them at the social events as well. Pleasure is guaranteed.

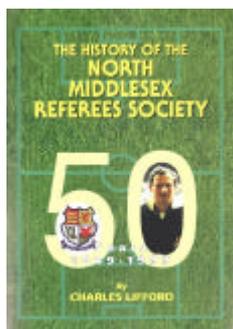


For Sale



The Society has a number of coloured shirts for sale, together with black shorts. The Shirts are Short Sleeved, are all one size (extra large), brand new, and are all individually wrapped. Available in a choice of colours – Yellow and Black; Blue and Black; and Red and Black. Each shirt is available at a cost of only £5.00. The Society also has available pairs of extra large Black Shorts. Again they are brand new, and individually

wrapped. Each pair of shorts is available at a price of £5.00. If you would like to purchase any of these shirts or shorts, please contact the **Society Gear Supplies Officer, Percy Brown, on 01707 851365.**



In 1999, the Society celebrated its 50th Anniversary. To celebrate this, the Society published a book charting its history over the years including profiles; facts; and photographs. The book was written and compiled for the Society by Charles Lifford. If you would like to purchase a copy of this book - **NORTH MIDDLESEX REFEREES SOCIETY - A CELEBRATION OF 50 YEARS FOOTBALL** - contact **Society Treasurer, Gary Cobden**, on 01992 469153 or by e-mail – treasurer@northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk



Decisions on Law Changes for 2005/6 at the IFAB Meeting in Cardiff on 26 February.

Technical aids to judge ball over the goal line

The first official **tests of technical systems to determine whether the ball has fully crossed the goal-line** will be at the 2005 FIFA under 17 World Championship in Peru in September/October. The Board listened to a presentation by long-term FIFA partner, adidas®, who together with the German company, Cairros AG and the German Fraunhofer Institute have developed a system with a prototype of a ball with an embedded electronic chip. The presentation also outlined the necessary stadium infrastructure and demonstrated how the entire system would work.

Law 3- The Number of Players

Changes apply to 'Other Matches' (*than official competitions i.e. 'friendlies'*). For National A team matches, up to a **maximum of six substitutes** may be used. In all other friendly matches, a greater number of substitutes may be used provided that the teams concerned reach agreement on a maximum number and the referee is informed before the match.

If a substitute **enters the field of play without the referee being informed**, play is stopped and the offender is cautioned and required to leave the field of play. In future, after such an offence, play will be restarted with an indirect free kick against the offending team where the ball was when play was stopped.

Law 5- The Referee

Under 'Decisions of the referee', new words are added as follows: 'The referee may only change a decision,,,,, provided that he has not restarted play or **terminated the match.**'

So after the final whistle has blown, that is it! Any advice, say, from an assistant referee or fourth official cannot be taken into account to change a 'decision' That; one assumes, does not apply to late advice over disciplinary action needed or incidents needing to be reported It does mean that a missed offside flag That would have chalked off a 'goal' that was 'scored' has to be ignored if the referee has already whistled for full time.. Taken literally, the IFAB wording suggests that a similar incident at the end of the first half would have to be reconsidered by the referee.

Law 11-Offside

The new International F.A. Board Decision 2 for Law 11 clarified when a player is to be regarded as actively involved in play:

- **Interfering with play** means playing or touching the ball passed or touched by a team mate.
- **Interfering with an opponent** means preventing an opponent from playing or being able to play the ball by clearly obstructing the opponents line of vision or movements or making a gesture or movement which, in the opinion of the referee, deceives or distracts an opponent
- **Gaining an advantage** by being in an offside position means playing a ball that rebounds to him off a post or crossbar or playing a ball that rebounds to him off an opponent having been in an offside position.

Moreover, the Board clarified the **explanation of a player being offside** by clarifying "if he is nearer to his opponents' goal line than both the ball and the second last opponent'. As a result, the position of any part of the player's head, body or feet will be the deciding factor, and not the player's arms. *This could be confusing since the Board's intention was to exclude hands and arms from consideration when judging offside infringements. Taken literally, are not the arms part of the 'body'? Some would say so. For 'body' teed 'trunk', one suggests, hopefully to be properly explained when LOAF is revised*

Law 12— Fouls and Misconduct

Decision 4 will be extended to include **all tackles that endanger an opponent** as constituting 'serious foul play' *i.e. not just tackles from behind.*

The referee has the **authority to impose disciplinary sanctions** (*i.e. cautions and sendings-off*) from the moment he enters the field of play until he leaves the field of play after the final whistle. *It seems therefore important that the referee should be the first to enter the field of play and the last to leave if this is to be applied. Any incidents that happen before the referee enters the field of play or after the referee has left the field of play e.g. in the 'tunnel' will be reported as misconduct, as appropriate, but cards are not shown.*

An experiment will take place in FIFA under-17 and under-20 competitions to **caution any player touching the ball after a free kick, corner kick, throw-in or goal has been awarded** (*presumably an opponent of the team taking the restart*).

Law 14— The penalty kick

If the ball did not enter the goal and the kicker offends or his/her team-mates encroach, the current law is not clear about how the match should be restarted. In future, an indirect free-kick will be awarded to the defending team to be taken where the infringement occurred.

Law 15— The Throw-in

In future **all opponents must stand at least two metres from the thrower** until the ball is in play.



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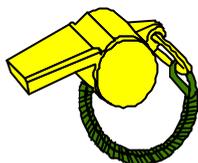
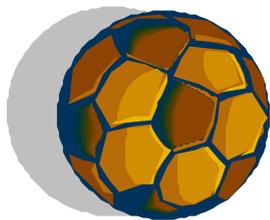
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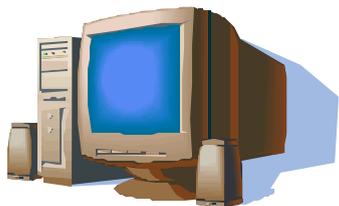
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WHERE DO YOU STAND FOR AT A CORNER-KICK?

You have a lot of responsibility at a corner-kick. It is your job to check that the ball is placed within the quadrant, and you may find that an occasional check is enough, especially if you do so for the first two corners, as players will notice your action. You will certainly see from a distance if the corner post is not upright.

It will also be worth your while, if necessary, to check that no defender encroaches within ten yards of the corner kick.

Without neutral help, you need to be on or near the goal line as your main priorities are two in number.

First, to ensure that the ball does not cross the goal line as it is kicked towards the danger-area near the goal. Second, to be able to rule correctly whether the ball crosses the goal line for a goal or not.

Next comes the supervision of that danger-area in the goalmouth.

Most referees would probably advise you to GENERALLY adopt a position on the far side of the goal from the kicker, in other words BEHIND the main group of players.

That way you will easily see if the ball crosses the goal-line in either of the circumstances just mentioned, and you will also have the advantage of seeing nearly all the players IN FRONT of you even if you are looking at their backs! You will be able to do all this without having to look in different directions within a few seconds. If you choose to stand on the side of the goal nearest to the corner-taker, your options are fewer, principally because now you will have to spend some time watching separately both the ball and the players. From behind the ruck of players you will be able to watch nearly all of the action without 'spinning around.' On balance then, a position on the far side of the goal, close to or on the line and a few feet from the goal post is best.

That said, however, never forget that if you adopt the same position for ALL corner-kicks you become predictable. Some players will take advantage of this and will indulge in unfair tactics in your blind areas. Be prepared to vary your positions occasionally, deciding where to stand according to how the players are behaving. Think also of moving from your initial position after the kick has been taken and while it is still in flight towards the penalty area. If the players don't know where you might appear next they will not try to take too many liberties!

As you progress to operating with two Club Linesmen, so you will learn to vary your tactics, though it may still be a case of your adopting similar practices to the ones described here. With two neutral colleagues the whole method of control might start to take on new dimensions, and in anticipation of that day I would, if! were you, start watching very carefully and critically your senior colleagues as they control their games. Watch where the referee goes, think why he might have done so, notice how the referee and his assistants co-operate and soon enough you will find that you have developed the supervision of corner-kicks to a very satisfactory and wide-embracing standard.

Observer

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Referees Association Kits

Shirts	S	M	L	XL	XXL
	36"	38"/40"	42"	44"	46"/48"

Shorts	S	M	L	XL	XXL
	32"	34"	36"	38"	40"/42"

	Size	Quantity	Price	Total Cost
Long Sleeved Shirt			£19.50	
Short Sleeved Shirt			£19.50	
Shorts			£13.00	
Embroidered Badge (RA or County)			£7.50	
Embroidered Badge (RA and County)			£15.50	
-County.....				

Umbro Kits

Shirts	M	L	XL	XXL	XXXL
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Shorts	S	M	L	XL	XXL	XXXL
	32"	34"	36"	38"	40"	42"

	Size	Quantity	Price	Total Cost
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Dallas Short Sleeved Shirt			£32.00	
Dallas Shorts			£23.00	
Primo Long Sleeved Shirt			£31.50	
Primo Short Sleeved Shirt			£30.50	
Shorts			£22.00	
Embroidered Badge			£7.25	
-County.....				

Socks

	Quantity	Price	Total Cost
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White Topped (reinforced soles)		£5.50	
Three Ringed (Hooped) Topped		£4.75	
Diamond (Umbro) Topped		£5.50	
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Assistant Referees Flags

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Touchline Flag Accessories

	Quantity	Price	Total Cost
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Flagsticks (pair)		£14.95	
Flagsticks (single)		£8.50	
Endcaps (pair)		£2.00	
Brass Inserts (pair)		£1.00	

NMRS Gear Supplies/Order Form 2004/2005
Referees Association Flags

	Quantity	Price	Total Cost
Flags (plain)		£5.00	
Flags (quartered)		£7.50	
Flagsticks (pair)		£3.50	
Flag Bag		£5.00	

Matchday Accessories

	Quantity	Price	Total Cost
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Plastic Wallet with Red & Yellow Cards		£2.00	
Plastic Wallet		£0.90	
Set of Red and Yellow Cards		£1.50	
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