

May 2008

The next meeting of the North Middlesex Referees' Society will be the Annual General Meeting at Holtwhites Sports and Social Club, Kirkland Drive, Enfield at 7.30 pm on Thursday 15th May 2008.

Many congratulations to Michael Mackay Junior on his promotion to Level 3. No-one has worked harder to gain a foothold on the next step of the promotion ladder than this modest young man. We couldn't be more pleased, Michael. Congratulations also to Gerry Franklin who writes to say he has been appointed to referee the Hendon & District Sunday League Challenge Cup Final – Kings Utd v Willesden Legionaire on 18 May – well done Gerry and to everyone who has been promoted, or appointed as Referee, Assistant Referee or 4th Official on a final or semi-final this season. Very well done all – you will have earned it.

Last month's guest speaker was the indomitable Brian Hill, who kept everyone present on the edge of their seat with recollections of his many years at the top of the refereeing tree, and in particular of his greatest day back in 1988 when he refereed the FA Cup Final. A report of Brian's visit to the Society is elsewhere – what a character, and what an enjoyable evening – thanks, Brian!

We include three articles left out of the April magazine, mainly because of input for the AGM, of which more this month. Ken May personally remembers the late Owen Venning; regular scribe Mick Osborn says, "Don't Just Go – Say Something"; and Ken Goldman reviews Graham Poll's book "Seeing Red" – thanks for your forbearance. Also, Chairman, Tom White, writes from 'the Chair'. The minutes of last year's AGM are included this month and as usual Gary deals with all things financial. Robin Jagot has prepared a fun quiz to follow the AGM and hopes as many as possible will stay to participate in an end-of-season soirée.

On reading of my impending retirement, Arnold Rouse, until recently the President of Leamington RA, wrote me a very nice letter. Arnold's letter is summarised elsewhere in this edition.

While in a nostalgic mood, I asked Society historian, Peter Dace, if he had a copy of my first Normidian for me to look at. Peter reluctantly brought the edition round to me on the understanding that it was returned to the Cuffley vaults from whence it came as soon as possible. The copy was the September 1996-97 edition – how time flies! I looked at the A4-size magazine with its familiar and well-respected blue cover and its subliminal image of a referee – any referee – which had stood the test of time. How did it compare to the latest white, A5, 16- page April 2008 edition, with its photo of a group of officials on the cover? We all hope it reigns as long as its predecessor.

Finally, thanks to everyone who has helped, advised and supported me in any way during the 12 years I have trodden in the footsteps of past and more distinguished editors of this great magazine. Deserving of special mention are my wife Mavis, for all her forbearance, the production team – Gary Cobden, Percy Brown, Tony Ward and Arthur and the girls at printers, Kenmar, who have always been great! Thanks also to everyone who has written to the magazine and in particular Mick Osborn, Peter Dace, 'Observer' and Gary, who together with the co-operation of fellow editors in other Societies ensured we never ran out of copy. Without you all – no magazine!

Contributions for the September 2008 issue of the magazine to the new Editor by 15th August, please.

April's Special Guest – Brian Hill

Peter Dace introduced our special guest, former FIFA referee Brian Hill, whom he had known for a number of years.

Brian thanked Peter, referring to him affectionately as 'Lord Dace of Cuffley' – a term he had used in the past whenever their football paths had crossed. Brian explained that he had been asked primarily to talk about his refereeing career and in particular of his greatest honour, the appointment as the referee for the 107th FA Cup Final in 1988 between Wimbledon and Liverpool at Wembley.

Brian said that when Colin Downey, the FA Referees' Secretary at the time, rang some six weeks before the event to tell him of his appointment it took him completely by surprise. He was also told that he would be the subject of BBC2's, Brass Tacks, and would be followed around by a film crew during days in the run-up to the game. Brian attended the Eve-of-Final-Rally on the evening before the Cup Final with his other colleagues and felt it was an added pressure for the officials – although he fully understood the interest shown in the event by so many colleagues.

After staying at the famous Whites Hotel in London, Brian and the other officials gathered at noon on the day of the game for the pre-match ceremony. Incidentally, Brian also chose the ball for the Cup Final, as was the custom, not so now with sponsorship involved. Princess Diana was presented to the match officials mentioning that she had read about Brian in the morning papers!

The FA Cup semi-finals had been won by Wimbledon and Liverpool over Luton Town and Nottingham Forest respectively. Most pundits at the time assumed the game would be a one-sided affair with the favourites, Liverpool, winning in a canter thus achieving the double.

With the crowd in excess of 98,000, Brian thought the game itself was fairly uneventful but remembers a foul by Wimbledon, which in retrospect he should perhaps have played advantage and didn't – a Liverpool goal was subsequently disallowed. A penalty by John Aldridge, which would have evened the score, was saved by Dave Beasant and didn't help Liverpool's cause, and as history shows, Wimbledon won 1-0. The TV and the newspapers had their usual field day, but Brian thought he came away relatively unscathed after a game described in many quarters as memorable. Brian showed his Cup Final medal to those present and said it made him smile that people still wanted to talk to him about the game 20 years on!

On his career, Brian became a Football League linesman in 1975 and after two years joined the Supplementary List in its last year and made the full Referees List next season at the age of thirty-one during which time he refereed frequent matches at the top level. In 1985 he was elevated to the FIFA Panel and the following season refereed the FA Cup semi-final between Everton and Sheffield Wednesday. Brian subsequently refereed many games in the top division and was chosen for the new Premier League handling a match on its very first day – Sheffield United v Manchester United (eventual champions) Sheffield United winning 2-1. (Up the Blades! Sorry Brian, Ed.) He also served at international level until the end of 1994 and carried on refereeing in the Premier League before ending his career at the standard age.

Continued

Asked what the main differences were nowadays compared with his days as a referee, Brian said that the pressure on the present officials, due mainly to the way games were minutely covered by TV and in the press, was immense. Also the mandatory decisions necessary to be taken for certain offences often added to that pressure. As an Assessor, Brian said a lot was being asked of young referees trying to make the grade at the top level and felt that experience, in man-management particularly, was vital to their eventual success. Report writing was an important aspect and he was pleased that the reporting of cautions had been simplified. Other initiatives, like CRB checks etc. although important, may be off-putting for many would-be grass roots referees.

In discussion, Brian agreed that team managers had a responsibility not to pressurise referees and remembered being phoned by a famous manager to discuss aspects of a game he had recently refereed! He also agreed with the idea of top referees being given coaching in dealing with the media, also that the increasing pressure on top referees to become more like robots was to be deplored. Brian said he always tried to get team captains on his side during a game. On referee 'characters', Brian asked if we remembered Roger Kirkpatrick – almost everybody did!

Brian stressed the importance of being fit as referee, which in turn meant being mentally alert. Maintaining the right attitude before and during a game also contributed to being a good referee and plays a part in winning players over. He also agreed that the new 'Respect' initiative would be better started at the top – it didn't help young referees when parents and others watching their games, took it amongst themselves to vociferously criticise decisions given against the team they support.

Other subjects raised and discussed included security of officials, the benefit or otherwise of 'sin bins' and 'ten-yard rule' and the possible introduction of green cards as a public warning, particularly to the 'bench'. On new technology, Brian considered it could be useful for goal line decisions but did not favour its use for offsides.

Questioned about his refereeing trips abroad, Brian recounted some amusing accounts including being met by a team official before a game and offered a sack of oranges to take back home – beware of strangers bearing gifts! In conclusion, Brian said that he had kept a record of every game he officiated in – 2802 matches in all – often averaging 80/90 games a season.

Finally, our special guest drew the raffle to the benefit of Grant Mathias and Ken Goldman. Mick Osborn gave a vote of thanks to Brian for an enjoyable evening and said it was a privilege to share some of the memories of Brian's distinguished career. Acting Chairman, Vince Yeudall, then presented Brian with a copy of the History of the North Middlesex Referees' Society as a memento of his visit to North London.



Edgware Town FC – The Final Whistle??

With developers poised to tear up their 100 year-old ground to make way for flats, is it all over for Edgware Town football club?

Edgware Town Football Club faces playing their last game ever on the ground they've been renting for almost seventy years. The owner of the land, a property developer who lives on the Isle of Man, has been granted planning permission to build 200 homes on the site. Edgware is not alone in facing extinction by the bulldozers. In the past 20 years, 11 non-league grounds in London have disappeared under concrete. It has left players and supporters wondering where the premiership stars of the future will be able to cut their teeth. The uncertainty at Edgware has led to sponsors pulling out - they can't even afford to move to another ground. So, unless a fairy godmother flies to the rescue, another non-league club looks set to go to the wall.

A Tribute to Owen Venning – by Ken May

It was with much sorrow that I learned of the recent death of our Life Vice-President, Owen Venning. While he would not have been known personally to many of Normidian's present membership, those of us from the 70's and 80's will have enjoyed the privilege of Owen's company and friendship.

I recall his joining the Society on moving to London from Devon and his soft West Country dialect and premature baldness made him distinctive among the harsher tones of North Londoners. It did not take Owen long to enter fully into the business and activities of North Middlesex and it was soon evident that he had progressive ideas about the hitherto rather conservative refereeing movement. He and his wife Janet were regular visitors to Conference.

When I found they were living in Kingsbury, I would collect Owen on route to Society meetings from my own home in Kenton and later Pinner. A warm welcome was always offered in the Venning household, which was a lively place with three very active young sons and Janet always busy but in control of the male domain. The talk in my car was always about either refereeing, football or families with a review of the evening's meeting on the way home. I also learned that Owen's father had been a senior referee in Devon and he was proud to be following in his footsteps. Later, Owen became an accomplished editor of this magazine, ably assisted by Janet. The Normidian was distributed way beyond the confines of Middlesex.

Having reached the middle of the now defunct Athenian League, he was delighted to be appointed to the linesman's list of the then Football League. I don't recall what the fees were in the 1970's but Owen used to joke that whenever he had a line appointment he was able to treat the family to steak that weekend. He always seemed to be involved in football or refereeing matters and also found time to be match and referee's secretary for a Home Counties floodlit competition called the Mithras Cup – North Middlesex members did quite well out of that!

Owen came to national prominence when he teamed up with another senior Normidian, Arthur Pearce, to jointly present to Conference their report. I believe it may have been called the "Vennearce Report". This was an exhaustively researched document pointing the way forward to a professionally administered Referees Association instead of the amateur body, which had existed heretofore.

In due course a professional RA was established and Owen was appointed as its first paid secretary, which meant the upheaval of transferring the Venning family to the West Midlands. Owen had the task of opening the first office in Kingswinford (between Wolverhampton and Kidderminster) and set up home in Bridgnorth, by the River Severn, in my favourite county of Shropshire.

Soon afterwards while driving Carol and our three children to her family home in North Shropshire, I made a detour to Kingswinford to the new office. It was a modest place above a shop in the town centre and as these were still early days it seemed a bit chaotic. From memory, I think Owen had a staff of one but he was his usual cheerful self, full of enthusiasm for his new challenge and we were made most welcome.

The Venning family settled very well in Shropshire and now as a Football League Assessor, he had a new patch of Midland clubs to cover. Our families met from time to time in succeeding years until the tragic loss of Janet who was a devoted mother and totally supportive of Owen in his many refereeing commitments.

Continued

Although I am not superstitious, I am constantly struck by the strangeness of coincidences. I drive several times a year to visit my only surviving uncle in Stourbridge in the West Midlands. We always go out for a pub lunch and I let him choose the venue. The most recent occasion was early this year and we ended up in Kingswinford, the first time I had been there since calling on Owen in his newly opened office all those many years ago. A few weeks later, I learned that Owen had died. In all our many car journeys together, I never did ask him how a Devonian came to be a Spurs supporter. However he would wax lyrical about the vintage years of Jimmy Greaves and co., and Exeter City were never mentioned.

In recent times our contact was mainly Christmas cards. Owen took delight in recounting the progress of his three sons and became a proud grandfather. My lasting memory of him was of a most charitable man who never had a bad word to say about anyone. Owen Venning was passionate about his family and passionate about all aspects of refereeing.



**SEEING RED by Graham Poll – published by Harper Sport @ £18.99
Reviewed by Ken Goldman**

Whether you liked him, disliked him, respected him or not there is no doubting that Graham Poll was one of the leading referees for almost a decade. In this very frank autobiography with a foreword by Sir Alex Ferguson we have the highs, some lows and some remarkable gaffs for someone at the top of his profession, including the infamous three yellow card trick, in the last World Cup Finals which got him banished from the tournament.

The early part of the book deals with the consequences of that World Cup mistake a very generous gesture by David Beckham and the considerable problems with Chelsea their manager and several of their players. That culminated in a decision by the author to retire from refereeing even though he had at least a further season to go and might have still received even a further season's extension. His last match the Play-Off Final between Derby Co. and West Bromwich Albion is poignantly described, before we are thrown back in time to earlier days.

His life story then unfolds and there is a really tremendous insight into refereeing highly important games abroad as well as numerous domestic Cup Finals and key English games. Perhaps the thread of the book when it does not deal with purely refereeing matters including rare insights into officiating which are only realised or known to the participants, is best described in the chapter entitled "Not bitter but angry". Unfortunately it would seem the author needed to get a lot off his chest so to speak and therefore no-one will find this a bland book.

In many respects Graham Poll put himself in the spotlight and sometimes that spotlight is turned harshly inwards and it is therefore ironic that one of the chapters is entitled "Don't blame anyone else". This is a very interesting volume not only for those interested in refereeing but also for a wider audience especially with the section on his 10 most asked questions.

Popular or not Graham Poll was one of those referees that will be remembered for helping to raise the profile of the "man in the middle" and deservedly he has been given the chance to write a book about his career, a point endorsed by Sir Alex Ferguson who confirmed the author "has made a real contribution to football with his ability and personality". Included is an extensive Index in its 370 pages, with a small section of coloured photos.

DON'T JUST GO – SAY SOMETHING!

by Mick Osborn

It was Easter week-end. I'd been down for the paper and was watching the snow swirl around the garden, driven by a bitterly cold wind. I'm glad I didn't have to referee. Maybe not reason enough to give up altogether but...

On the 19th March it was stated in the press, (well that part of it to which I subscribe) that the issue of referees leaving the game at all levels because of verbal and occasionally physical abuse would be debated in mid-April by the FA, the Premier League, Football League, League Managers Association, Professional Footballers' Association and the Professional Game Match Officials Limited.

I e-mailed my own humble response to the Sports Editor on the subject of the missing match officials. It was either lost in the ether or considered unworthy of publication. (Within a few days, however, fellow Life Vice President Ken Goldman's letter advocating the introduction of the sin bin made it to the Letters to the Sports Editor columns; but I bear no grudge!)

I must admit that I offered no solution to the age-old problem but offered the opinion that while the involvement of the professionals is welcome, it seems to me that most abuse is suffered by referees in the local parks and it is mainly these that are lost within a few years of qualifying – long before they reach the heights that bring them into contact with those that would be sitting around the table in mid-April. So, why had the Referees' Association apparently been ignored? After all they must represent more referees, via the Societies, than all those professional bodies put together. Or has it just lost interest?

But is it the offensive language, insults and abuse that drive us away? Most of us have suffered the verbal form in varying degrees from time to time, taken appropriate action and shrugged it off. There have been more serious offences, I know, and I don't want to make light of these repugnant incidents, but they are a minority of cases and in the overall reasons for hanging up the whistle, must represent a very small percentage. I have no evidence to support this but could the reasons for calling it a day be more mundane, like, in my own case, the knowledge that the years have caught up and you know you are not doing the job as well as you would like? Also age related, do referees in general qualify (a) too early, or (b) too late in life? The interests of teenagers change. Maybe they find other things to do; free time becomes scarcer. Others often take up the whistle later in life because they have been playing but having given up, come to the aid of their own clubs that require referees for their lower elevens, or their children are now playing and have similar needs. Is it the poor attitude to the game in general? How often do we see players smile other than when they have won, (yes I do mean "won" rather than been awarded,) a penalty? And how about the accommodation we get assigned? Do we appreciate being squashed in with the home team or, if we are lucky, having a dressing room of our own, shared only with the paraphernalia of the groundsman's trade?

We all give up at some time or another. Perhaps we should let someone know why. It could help to understand why football is so short of referees, and even help to remedy the situation without the expense of the FA, The Premier League, Football League, League Managers Association, Professional Footballers' Association and the Professional Game Match Officials Limited talking about it, with or without the Referees' Association



From the Chair

Another season is slowly coming to an end; we should all know by now if we have been successful in our efforts to gain promotion. Hopefully many of you will have achieved your targets and I would like to congratulate those who have been successful, and to those who did not get their promotion please try again; it will be all the more rewarding next time round. Also, to those who were chosen for cup finals, well done and I hope your final goes well for you.

The season also comes to an end for our society committee. Sadly our editor of 12 years, Terry Wilson, has decided to hang up his pen and rubber. I would like to thank Terry for giving us an excellent magazine (the lifeline of the society) and for the good spirit he has brought to our council and indeed to our meetings in general. Not wishing to pre-empt our AGM, I hope Terry will still be an active member of our society and I wish him well for the future.

I mentioned the AGM earlier; it would be nice to see a good turnout for the last meeting. I understand Robin will organise a small quiz (not too serious) so if you can please make the effort we will be pleased to see you all. If you can't make the meeting, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our committee members for all their considerable time and efforts spent in the running of the society for us, and to wish everybody a good summer.

Tom White



In Appreciation – by the retiring editor

On 14 April 08, Arnold W Rouse of the Leamington RA took the time to write a letter to me as the out-going editor of the Normidian, to say that he was sorry to read I was intending to retire and hoped we would be able to co-opt a successor, as he feels that it is important that contact is not lost with past colleagues, as well as keeping current members in touch with information and articles, some of which Arnold has used for the magazine at Leamington. Arnold goes on to say that it has given them an insight into how a large Association in a different area deals with problems and that they always give our Society's name and thanks when using anything from the Normidian.

In February this year, Arnold retired from being President of the Leamington Association after 32 years – yes 32 years – and intends keeping his membership and attending monthly meetings whenever possible.

Arnold also enclosed a donation for our Society funds, which was passed on to our Treasurer, Gary Cobden, at a recent Council meeting. Gary was delighted to accept the donation, as were all the Council members present.

I was also asked to give Arnold's regards to a former editor, Ken Goldman, which I have duly done.

Finally as the editor of a magazine such as ours, one wonders if anyone actually reads it! Many thanks for helping to allay these doubts, Arnold.

Terry Wilson



Goal-line technology put on ice

(FIFA.com) Saturday 8 March 2008

At its Annual General Meeting today in Gleneagles, Scotland, the International Football Association Board (IFAB) has decided to put on ice goal-line technology and to stop tests in this area until further notice. Amongst others, the questions of the human aspect of the game, the universality of the Laws of the Game, as well as the simplicity and efficiency of the technology were taken into consideration.

However, the IFAB has approved a proposal from FIFA to conduct an experiment involving two additional assistant referees who will mainly focus on fouls and misconduct in the penalty area. The competition in which this test will be conducted will be decided at a later stage.

The Board also discussed a proposal from the Scottish FA regarding the use of video evidence to sanction simulation after the game. Although the suggestion was not approved, the IFAB members agreed that simulation is an act of cheating which must be intensively fought and sanctioned during the game and that all member associations would be encouraged to do so.

Furthermore, a proposal submitted by the FA and called Fair Play Convention, aimed at dealing with injured players while the game is in progress, was acknowledged but not approved, mainly on the grounds that fair-play is an instinct behaviour rather than an attitude to rule.

Regarding the Laws of the Game, the IFAB approved the following amendments:

Law 1 - The Field of Play

In order to standardize the size of the football pitch for A international matches, the IFAB has decided to set a fixed size of 105m long and 68m wide (instead of a minimum and maximum length - from 100m to 110m - and a minimum and a maximum width - from 64m to 75m - as mentioned in the present text).

Law 2 - The Ball

Within the FIFA Quality Concept for footballs, the IFAB has agreed that the new 'FIFA APPROVED', 'FIFA INSPECTED' and 'International Matchball Standard' logos, which were launched in May 2007, will replace the former logos displayed in the present text.

Revision of the Laws of the Game

The last major revision of the text of the Laws of the Game was one 11 years ago. Since then, many additions and amendments have been made to the Laws themselves and various publications as well as teaching materials have been produced. As a result, a further revision was overdue. The IFAB has approved the revision which contains no major change in content but simplifies the wording of the Laws.

On other business, it's been agreed that a discussion about the look and design of the ball will be submitted to the agenda of the next sub-committee meeting.

Also, as it already did last year, the Board stressed that people in the technical areas should have no access and view to pitch-side monitors.

Finally, the FIFA President made a strong appeal against violent tackles on the field of play, reiterating that "players committing such acts should be banned".

The 123rd Annual General Meeting of the International Football Association Board will take place next year in Northern Ireland.

The International F.A. Board, the custodian of the Laws of the Game, is composed of The Football Association (England), The Scottish Football Association, The Football Association of Wales, The Irish Football Association (Northern Ireland) and FIFA. Representing its 204 other members, FIFA has four votes on the body, while the four British associations have one vote apiece. A proposal requires a three-quarter majority (i.e. six of the eight votes) to be passed



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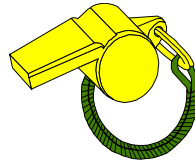
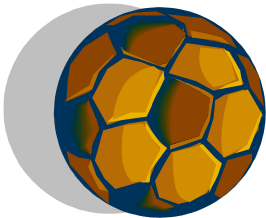
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Phil Sharp's appointment – he is also coming to the October Society meeting. Ed.

On the 2nd April, Herts FA announced that FIFA International Assistant Referee, Phil Sharp, had joined the team as the new County Referee Development Officer. Phil officially took over the role on 21st April and is based at the County Ground in Letchworth with the responsibility of developing, recruiting and retaining referees for the local game and to help The FA achieve their target of having a qualified official on every game.

You can contact Phil at the office on 01462 677 622



All purchases through our webshop at
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North Middlesex Referees Society

NORTH MIDDLESEX REFEREES SOCIETY
Minutes of the Society Meeting held on Thursday 17th April 2008

Apologies: Tom White, Stan Rosenthal and as signed in the Society handbook

Chairman's Welcome: The Chairman welcomed our Guest Speaker Brian Hill former F.A. Cup Final Referee (1987/88 season) and also Referees from the Capital League, and trust they would have an enjoyable evening.

Minutes of the last Society Meeting: The minutes of the last Society meeting were read as a true record.

Matters Arising: None.

Secretary's Report: The Society have been offered two FA Cup Final Tickets (Price -£60) which members were requested to contact the Treasurer or Secretary as their names will be drawn for the lucky winners. The County FA need to know who the members are who will be attending the event by April 25th, 2008. Members were reminded that the Society AGM will be held on Thursday 15th May 2008 and if any member wishes to stand for office or make nominations they must be received 21 days before the AGM date.

The Secretary informed members that he recently attended the first AGM of the County RA with AFA members and one of the main concerns was the falling membership in the RAE. In four years the decline in membership had fallen to just over 11,000 members, and over the last two years subscriptions had been increased to subsidise the financial losses due to the falling membership. Several members felt that the RA was in decline and gradually losing their profile for what they really stood for. Action was needed by the National Board to advert what would lead to the gradual disintegration of the RA. There will also be a joint Society meeting with the AFA, which is proposed for the month of November. It is hoped that we could invite the Chairman of the RAE Board to discuss what plans they have for the future of the RAE.

The secretary reminded members of Council that a meeting would be held next Tuesday 23rd April 2008 for an 8.00pm start at the Chairman's house.

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer was happy to report that the annual accounts revealed over the year that the Society will be likely to make a profit of £30 even though Society membership was down on the previous year. The Treasurer mentioned that the Society would need two auditors next year and look forward to any member with some finance backing to assist.

Magazine Editor's Report: The Editor reported that the May issue would be his last magazine after a ten year stint. The Chairman proposed that we minute the Editor's outstanding contribution in producing the magazine and time given to Society.

The Chairman also proposed that the membership should also acknowledge the outstanding work carried out by our Society Training Officer over the last thirty years which had seen this Society grow to being the largest Society in the Referees Association who was also standing down.

Other Officer's Reports: None

Any Other Business: None

Chairman: –

Signed:



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of North Middlesex Referees Society will be held on Thursday, 15th May 2008, commencing at 7.30pm, at Holtwhites Sports and Social Club, Kirkland Drive, Off Holtwhites Hill, Enfield, Middlesex.

Agenda

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

No changes to Society Rules have been proposed in accordance with the existing Society rules.

9. To ELECT Officers and Council for the ensuing year.

President	Terry Wilson	Chairman	Tom White
Vice Chairman	Vince Yeudall	Secretary	Robin Jagot
Treasurer	Gary Cobden	Editor	Ken Goldman
Supplies	Percy Brown	Training	Stan Rosenthal
Council 1	Martin de la Fuente	Council 2	Michael Mackey Snr
Council 3	Michael Mackey Jnr	County RA Rep	Charles Lifford

All have been proposed and seconded in accordance with the Society rules.

10. To ELECT Honorary Auditors.

Note –The Society is looking for two new Auditors. Please contact Gary Cobden (Society Treasurer) if you are interested in assisting the Society by taking on this role, which involves no more than one evening per year.

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.

Robin Jagot

Honorary Secretary
24 Tiverton Road
Potters Bar
Hertfordshire
EN6 5HY

Note; a quorum of at least 20 members is required in order to hold the Annual General Meeting. Members are asked to make every effort to attend the AGM, which is an important event in the calendar of the Society.



Travelling Mirth – with apologies to Peter Dace. Ed.

Zoo: do not feed the animals. If you have any suitable food, give it to the guard on duty.

Dry cleaners: ladies, leave your clothes here and spend the day having a good time.

Accommodation: the manager has personally passed all the water served in the hotel.

Donkey trekking: how would you like to ride on your own ass?

NORTH MIDDLESEX REFEREES SOCIETY
Income and Expenditure Account for the Year Ended 31 March 2008

NORTH MIDDLESEX REFEREES SOCIETY
Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2008

<u>2007</u>	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>2008</u>			<u>2007</u>
1,552.00	By Subscriptions (150 Full Members;5 Associate Members)	1,325.50	-14.59% Worse	(226.50)	
312.30	.. Bank Deposit Interest	416.34	33.31% Better	104.04	10,068.28
217.50	.. Donations	104.50	-51.95% Worse	(113.00)	1,159.75
85.60	.. Raffle Proceeds	61.01	-28.73% Worse	(24.59)	293.13
160.00	.. Advertisements	160.00	0.00% No Change	0.00	<u>0.00</u>
132.30	.. 100 Club	105.80	-20.03% Worse	(26.50)	11,521.16
932.02	.. Gear Sales Surplus	61.36	-93.42% Worse	(870.66)	
21.12	.. 50th Anniversary Book	30.01	42.09% Better	8.89	3,413.88
182.85	.. Social Events Surplus	0.00	-100.00% Worse	(182.85)	
82.22	.. Miscellaneous Income	186.00	126.22% Better	103.78	<u>14,935.04</u>
<u>3,677.91</u>		<u>2,450.52</u>	-33.37% Worse	(1,227.39)	

EXPENDITURE

1,162.60	To Normidian Expenses (including Postage)	982.53	-15.49% Better	(180.07)	5.23
65.63	.. Postage/Telephones/Stationery/Misc	31.58	-51.88% Better	(34.05)	
320.00	.. Hire of Meeting Halls	360.00	12.50% Worse	40.00	
44.96	.. Guest Speaker Expenses (inc NMRS Books)	70.00	55.69% Worse	25.04	
105.00	.. RA Conference Delegate	55.00	-47.62% Better	(50.00)	
190.00	.. Life Vice Presidents	214.00	12.63% Worse	24.00	2,553.53
166.56	.. Miscellaneous Expenditure	61.40	-63.14% Better	(105.16)	302.09
0.00	.. Presentation Expenses	178.88	100.00% Worse	178.88	63.88
390.00	.. Donations	25.00	-93.59% Better	(365.00)	3,077.32
<u>2,444.75</u>		<u>1,978.39</u>	-19.08% Better	(466.36)	7,764.13
				0.00	0.00
1,233.16	GROSS SURPLUS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	472.13	-61.71% Worse	(761.03)	<u>233.56</u>
					13,994.51
	DEPRECIATION				
12.35	Training Aids	0.00	-100.00% Better	(12.35)	
30.53	Internet Domain Name	35.80	17.26% Worse	5.27	952.16
16.75	Social Stocks	0.00	-100.00% Worse	(16.75)	1,035.20
59.63		35.80	-39.96% Better	(23.83)	67.64
13.78	Provision for Corporation Tax (Note 1)	16.86	22.38% Worse	3.08	25.68
0.00	Provision for 60th Anniversary Celebration (Note 2)	350.00	100.00% Worse	350.00	<u>49.75</u>
					2,130.43
1,159.75	NET SURPLUS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	69.47	-94.01% Worse	(1,090.28)	111.12
<u>1,233.16</u>		<u>472.13</u>	-61.71% Worse	(761.03)	<u>73.75</u>
					184.87

Note 1:- The Provision charge is an adjustment to the existing provision.

Note 2:- The Provision charge is in anticipation of a funtion being held in 2009. (2007 - Nil).

Prepared By
G. J. Cobden ACIB
Hon. Treasurer
23 April 2008

Audited and Found Correct
K Goldman
Hon. Auditor

<u>2007</u>	<u>LIABILITIES</u>	<u>2008</u>
	GENERAL FUND	
	Balance as at 1 April 2007	11,228.03
	SURPLUS for Year	69.47
	Provision for Corporation Tax (See Note 1)	309.99
	Provision for 60th Anniversary Function (See Note 2)	<u>350.00</u>
		11,957.49
	BENEVOLENT FUND	3,238.88
		<u>15,196.37</u>

Represented By:

INTANGIBLE ASSETS (At Cost, Less depreciation over life)

Internet Domain and Webspace	42.22
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CURRENT ASSETS

BANK:-

Current Account	2,151.02	
Deposit Account	302.09	
Benevolent Fund (See Note 3)	79.88	
High Interest Account	3,159.73	
Bonus Saver Account (See Note 3)	8,223.06	
PayPal Account	23.95	
Cash/Cheques in Hand	<u>52.60</u>	13,992.33

STOCKS

Gear	943.00	
NMRS Book	925.21	
Magazine	81.12	
Social/Raffle Stocks	12.69	
Training School	49.75	2,011.77

Payments in Advance (See Note 4)	105.00	
Debtors (See Note 5)	<u>31.05</u>	136.05
		16,140.15

Deduct CURRENT LIABILITIES

Subscriptions in Advance	597.00	
Accruals and Other Creditors (See Note 6)	<u>389.00</u>	
		986.00
		<u>15,154.15</u>
		<u>15,196.37</u>

Note 1:- The Provision charge is in anticipation of a funtion being held in 2009. (2007 - Nil).

Note 2:- The Provision charge is an adjustment to the pre-existing provision. (2007 - same).

Note 3:- The Balance for the Bonus Saver Account includes £3,159 relating to the Benevolent Fund. (2007 - £3,350).

Note 4:- Payments in Advance represent accruals for Normidian Postage; Editors Expenses; and Hall Hire. (2007 - same).

Note 5:- Debtors relate to Kit Orders and Bank Charges paid in Advance. (2007 - Kit Orders and Hall Hire (Refund)).

Note 6:- Accruals and Other Creditors relate to prepayments in respect of 100 Club; monies due to Supplies Officer; and Advance Donations. (2007 - Training Income due to MCFA and prepayments in respect of 100 Club).

Prepared By
G. J. Cobden ACIB
Hon. Treasurer
23 April 2008

Audited and Found Correct
K Goldman
Hon. Auditor

Treasurers Report – Season 2007/2008

In previous years I have gone into considerable depth over some lines of the Income and Expenditure Account and the Balance Sheet. However, as your Treasurer, I am again pleased to report that the Society has returned a surplus of income over expenditure, and I do not propose to continue this process this season for fear of repetition, so I will just make a few brief comments in my Report.

This surplus has been achieved despite a reduced membership (down by 25), and overall income down by a third on last season. Last season we were able to negotiate an exceptional deal on Gear Sales which considerably boosted Income for season 2006/2007. Expenditure has also been contained – down by almost twenty per cent - helped by even more members opting to receive their magazine electronically.

The gross surplus of income over expenditure was £472 for the year before provisions and depreciation. Next season represents the Society's 60th Anniversary, and it has been decided to set aside £350 of the surplus to fund a celebratory event which it is planned to hold on or around the Anniversary date in January 2009. This leaves the Society with a net surplus of £69.47.

The strength of the Society can also be measured by the state of the Balance Sheet, and we continue to see a rise in our net assets due to continued surpluses. During the year we made one significant donation from our Benevolent Fund, although the recipient has subsequently repaid half of the donation – not something that the Society would expect from a beneficiary. I feel the accounts speak for themselves, however, if anybody has a particular question they wish answered, please get in touch with me, or ask your question at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

Gary Cobden
Honorary Treasurer



Middlesex County Football Association

Cup Final Appointments 2007/08 – Adult

Senior Challenge Cup:	Michael Mackay	Assistant Referee
Senior Charity Cup:	Ricky Deller	Assistant Referee
George Ruffell:	Peter Smith	Assistant Referee
Junior Cup:	Peter Jago	Referee
Midweek Cup:	John Noblemunn	Reserve Official

Cup Final Appointments – Youth Division

Jeff Ritson		
Senior Youth Cup:	Steve Reuter	Assistant Referee
Under 12		
Primary Youth Cup	Barry Berndes	Assistant Referee
Under 16 Girls		
Norman Burns Cup	Barry Kyriacou	Assistant Referee



Membership Fees for Season 2008/2009 are now due!

Your membership subscription for Season 2008/2009 became due on 1 April 2008.

Membership Forms were distributed with the March Normidian; for those who have yet to pay, a further copy is enclosed.

Membership Fees payable are as follows:-

- **Full Members - £25.00.** This includes your Referees Association of England fee of £15.00 including the Insurance Premium of £4.00. If you are over 75, you are not automatically covered by the Insurance Premium, and your fee payable will be reduced by £4.00. However, should you wish to purchase insurance cover, this can be arranged for a fee of £8.00 making a total amount payable of £29.00.
- **Associate Members - £10.00.** You must pay your Referees Association of England fee through another Society, and this should be shown on your Membership Form.
- **Junior Members - £15.50.** Members under 18 years of age, including your Referees Association of England fee of £9.50.

Individual fees payable are shown on your personalised Membership Form. The Adult fees shown above are only valid until 31 July 2008; after that date they will increase by £2.00. You are also reminded that you will not be covered by the Referees Association of England Insurance after 31 May 2008 unless your fees have been paid to the Society by that date. Please complete and return your Membership Form as soon as possible. You need to bear this in mind if you will be refereeing late season or early pre-season games.

It would be appreciated if you could all check your details shown on the Form, and amend any information that is shown incorrectly. Please also specifically check e-mail addresses shown carefully, as some that we have on file are resulting in bounce backs. Additionally, please check that the NPD Number (Registration Number) 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.

As well as receiving a Membership Card from the Referees Association of England, this year every registered member will be given a 'commemorative medallion' as a gift to celebrate the centenary of the Referees Association, and these will be distributed with the first Normidian of next season.

Gary Cobden
Honorary Treasurer



NMRS 100 Club – Result for April 2008.

The draw was made at the April Society Meeting.

	First		Second		Third			
22	Tom White	£15.20	25	Gordon Marshal	£7.60	35	Robin Jagot	£3.80

Winner's cheques are enclosed with this copy of the Normidian; if you receive your Normidian by e-mail, the cheques will be posted to you. Remember to include your renewal subscription in with your Membership Fee, and indicate how many shares you wish to subscribe for.

Gary Cobden
Honorary Treasurer



NORTH MIDDLESEX REFEREES SOCIETY

Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 17th May 2007

Apologies: As recorded in the Society Attendance Book

Previous AGM Minutes: The minutes of the AGM held on Thursday 18th May 2006 were signed as a true record.

Matters Arising: There were no matters arising.

Secretary's Report: The Secretary thanked Council and members for their continued support over the year, particularly to members of the Sub-Committee dealing with the long outstanding dispute with MRA and our membership with the RAE. Our position with the RAE through our membership now with the AFA/Lonsar County R.A is assured for the future. Society monthly meetings were again a disappointment. Secretary informed members that he will not be arranging Guest Speakers for future meetings as it was becoming increasingly more difficult to obtain accomplished speakers of high standing.

Treasurer's Report: The accounts for season 2006/2007 were presented to the meeting, which had been published in the Society monthly magazine. Once again our finances were sound and healthy with no increase in Society subscriptions. Treasurer did remind members that the RAE would be increasing the RA fee by a further £2.00, which our delegate to Conference on behalf of the membership will oppose at the RAE AGM in June/2007. Members present accepted the Treasurer's annual report.

Other Officers' Reports: None

To Consider any changes to Society Rules: Amend Society Rule 5c(iii) to read: Those members who are interested in football (including those who pay their Referees Association fee through another Society) shall be known as Associate Members.

Proposed by Gary Cobden and seconded by Charles Lifford in accordance with Society Rule 9d. - Carried

Amend Society Rule 10a to read: **Society Monthly Meetings.** The Third Thursday of each month to be the Default Night, unless exceptional circumstances, to be determined by Council arise. Members to be given reasonable notice of any such change.

Proposed by David Ackerman and seconded by Mick Osborn - Carried

All Society Rules to be updated as appropriate – by replacing Referees Association with Referees Association of England - Proposed By Council - Carried

To Elect officers and Council for the ensuing year: It was proposed by Gary Cobden and seconded by Ken Goldman to elect "En Bloc" - Carried

President: Dave Ackerman, **Chairman:** Tom White; **Secretary:** Robin Jagot; **Treasurer:** Gary Cobden; **Vice Chairman:** Vince Yeudall; **Editor:** Terry Wilson; **Gear Supplies Officer:** Percy Brown; **Training Secretary:** Robin Jagot; **Council Members:** Martin DE La Fuente, Michael Mackey Snr, and Michael Mackey Jnr.; **Mentoring Officer:** Vacant; **R.A. Delegate:** Charles Lifford, **Auditor:** Ken Goldman

Any Other Business: None

To consider the following motion: That this Annual General Meeting places our thanks to the Officers and Council for their work during the past year and expresses their appreciation of the conduct of the affairs of the Society.

Proposed – Mick Osborn Seconded - **Terry Hayne** The formal part of the meeting closed at 9.00pm. A vote of thanks was proposed to the Chairman. This was followed by a Society Fun Quiz organised by the Secretary.