

*The Normidian
Magazine
Season 2010/2011*



May 2011

COUNCIL 2010 - 2011

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

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Please notify Gary Cobden

HONORARY AUDITORS 2010-2011

Jim Taylor 020 8560 8262 Tim McGowan 07793 402610

LIFE VICE PRESIDENTS

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

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

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

The next Meeting of the North Middlesex Referees' Society will take place on Thursday the 19th of May 2011 at the Holtwhites Sports and Social Club, Kirkland Drive, Enfield, Middlesex and will be this season's AGM. Full details appear in later pages of this magazine. Members are requested to please attend this important night.

EDITORIAL

One small section in an article by Observer relating to foul language has surprisingly brought forth more responses to this magazine than anything else I have received in the last three years. Stan Rosenthal had the first reply followed by a "match Incidents" question in a subsequent monthly meeting and now we have the several other pieces recorded in this edition of the magazine. All this of course BEFORE Wayne Rooney swore on a televised match with no expletives deleted. Correctly he received a 2 match suspension which was upheld on appeal but few media pundits seemed to quote the rules relating to the Disciplinary Sanctions specified in Law 12 which make it clear that using abusive, offensive or insulting language to even spectators (covered by the "or any other person" section) carries a dismissal sanction. It seems quite amazing how many outbursts come from Rooney when you consider that he keeps his mouth embarrassingly, infuriatingly and firmly shut when the majority of his team-mates are quite happy and proud to sing the National Anthem when on duty at England Internationals. To make matters worse Sir Alex Fergusson has alleged that the referee for that game Lee Mason was encouraged to report the incident. That seems unlikely as the Official would not have heard what was said into the Sky camera and therefore could not send Rooney off nor report what he said. That left the door open for the FA to sanction Rooney for his foul language but surely they were also entitled to bring a disrepute charge as an alternative. It was another uncharitable and uncalled for remark by the Manchester United Manager and even the mild mannered Avram Grant who received a 2 match touchline ban for his comments has suggested that Managers be told what they can and cannot say about officials. Perhaps all Managers and coaches should be reminded of that old saying "if you can't say anything nice about someone, don't say anything at all".

And so from a North Middlesex domestic point of view another season is coming to a close. Some will get promotion, some will get plum appointments and the remainder will have to be content with what our March Speaker John Cook referred to as the "love of the game". Whilst the International Board has deliberated on proposed changes, that still leaves us with our dreams and wishes over what we individually would like to see as changes to football's Laws. Over the close season having witnessed my own views expressed here, perhaps in turn we could receive for publication some personal views from the membership as to their hit or wish list for the future regarding such changes in the Laws. So here goes and no apologies for repeating some of these. My number one would be that we get a new FULL Law i.e 18 or 8A on what has become chaos on the "drop ball;". I for one am fed up with players telling me where to drop the ball or who they should kick it to and pretty much refusing to have a contested one. Furthermore it is demeaning to know that through an absence of power in the Law as it stands that you know you have no OFFICIAL rights in that Law to tell players how to deal with the incident which can lead to squabbles and dangerous confrontations and worse still on occasions can result in an unintended goal or an unnecessary caution. All this while the referee has to manage the incident and control the match. Surely as there are many instances where the Laws have a requirement that a decision shall be "in the opinion of the referee" it should actually be up to the match referee to have power to decide whether the "drop" should be contested and if not who should kick the resultant ball after it has touched the ground – that really would be managing the game. However arguing against myself to a limited degree on a brand new Law, would it not be simpler under the section of the "Powers and Duties" of the Referee in Law 5 and after the bullet point "indicates the restart of the match after it has been stopped" to add the words "and in the case of a drop ball with whom and by whom it should taken when dropped by the referee". That would allow two players to contest it or alternatively one to play it. Another choice would be to make my suggested fresh Law one whereby it could contain a combination of these things. The remainder of my desired changes, apart from wanting sin-bins and a 2 referee system which I have advocated at length in the

past I would also like to see the deliberate kick to the goalkeeper or as it is misnomered "back pass" rule abandoned and instead allow the keeper to have only 4 seconds to dispose of the ball. This would reduce so many silly goals, balls hacked aimlessly into touch and danger to players particularly the goalkeeper being avoided. Well that's my lot for now so over to you.

Finally it falls for me as usual to acknowledge those people who have particularly contributed to the magazine this season. I would therefore like to thank for their efforts Keith Hiller alias Willy the Whistler, Mick Osborn, Gary Cobden, Charles Lifford, Robin Jago and Observer. Hopefully they will all be prepared to do it again next season allied to some new contributors.

Ken Goldman

Editor

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Mick Osborn gets us going with the bad language discussion, by putting forward a view which endorses that of the Chief Constable of Wolverhampton, scoffed at by the Manchester United hierarchy.

"I thought the following might be a subject for discussion at the next meeting or a later magazine. I'm no lawyer but, according to Wikipedia.....

Section 5 of the Public Order Act 1986 states:

- (1) A person is guilty of an offence if he:
 - (a) uses threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaviour, or disorderly behaviour, or
 - (b) displays any writing, sign or other visible representation which is threatening, abusive or insulting?

within the hearing or sight of a person likely to be caused harassment, alarm or distress thereby."

The offence has the following statutory defences:

- (a) The defendant had no reason to believe that there was any person within hearing or sight who was likely to be alarmed or distressed by his action.
- (b) The defendant was in a dwelling and had no reason to Believe that his behaviour would be seen or heard by any Person outside any dwelling.
- (c) The conduct was reasonable.

There seems to be one defence left off. "The defendant is a professional footballer or a fan of one team or the other."

Treasurers Missive!

This is the final opportunity for you to renew your subscriptions before the start of next season. You are reminded that, if you have not renewed your membership before 31 May 2011 you will not be covered by the Referees Association Personal Accident Insurance until such time as your fees are paid. Please bear this in mind if you are officiating in summer tournaments or pre season matches.

If you who have already renewed your membership for season 2011/2012, thank you for your prompt response, but if you have yet to renew your membership for Season 2011/2012, it became due on 1 April 2011. If you normally receive your magazine by e-mail, you will, by now have received a third copy of your personalised Membership Form in this way; for everybody else yet to renew, a third Membership Form is included with this month's Normidian. Individual fees due are shown on your personalised Membership Form. Due to time constraints, I apologise if you have received an additional form, despite having paid recently. Membership Cards will be distributed upon receipt from the Referees Association; it is hoped that some will be distributed with this issue of The Normidian.

The Society Fee is again being held at £10.00 for those who elect to receive their magazine by e-mail, or £12.00 if you receive you monthly magazine by post. This will be the eleventh consecutive season that the basic society membership fee has remained at £10.00 – the last increase being at the commencement of the 2001/2002 season. The Referees Association has increased its subscription again; this year by £1.00 to £16.00 but has also introduced Physiotherapy cover as an additional voluntary benefit – see below.

Membership Fees payable are as follows:-

- **Full Members**

- **£26.00 if magazine by e-mail.**

- **£28.00 if magazine received by post.**

This includes your Referees Association fee of £16.00 including the Insurance Premium of £4.00. If you are over 75, you are not automatically covered by the Insurance Premium, and you fee payable will be reduced by £4.00. However, should you wish to purchase insurance cover, this can be arranged on request. Please contact me for a proposal form which you need to complete and return to me.

- **Associate Members**

- **£10.00 if magazine by e-mail.**

- **£12.00 if magazine received by post.**

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

- **Junior Members**

- **£15.00 if magazine by e-mail.**

- **£16.00 if magazine received by post.**

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

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

It would be appreciated if you could you all check your details shown on the Form, and amend any information that is shown incorrectly. Please also specifically check e-mail addresses shown carefully, as some that we have on file are resulting in rejections. Additionally, please check that the NPD Number (Registration Number) where shown is correct, and complete it if it is missing from the Membership Form. The number can be found on your County FA Registration Form. If you are not currently registered with a County FA, please indicate on your form as Not Registered. Please also indicate where requested whether you are an Assessor; Examiner; Instructor; or Mentor.

Additional Benefit - Referees Association Physiotherapy Insurance - Overview

To provide the members of the Referees Association with a scheme which provides them with (immediate) access to physiotherapy and rehabilitation if they suffer a musculoskeletal disorder (MSD), which prevents them from being able to perform their duties as a referee. Cover is only available to members between the ages of 14 and 75, and is provided by IPRS (www.iprsgroup.com), and it is provided at a cost of £5.00 per season.

Description

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

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

Treatment will not be provided for an MSD:

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

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

However, remember that unless you already have insurance cover, a visit to a physiotherapist is going to cost you at least £30 to £40 a session. Four visits for each of up to four separate injuries – a theoretical benefit of up to £500 for £5, appears to be remarkably good value. You should also remember the 5 day qualifying or waiting period, and a critical delay in receiving specialist treatment. If you have to wait 5 days after an injury before contacting the Insurer, and they take 2 days to respond (and inevitably it will then take several more days to fix a convenient appointment) the first specialist treatment for the injury may not take place for 10-14 days after the injury occurred. For most injuries sustained during a game, the medical advice is that treatment starts immediately. For instance, the typical advice for a pulled hamstring is *RICE (Rest, Ice, Compress, Elevate), and early mobilisation with stretching and strengthening exercises within the pain free range. And a Sports Injury Specialist can help through sports massage, ultrasound, and a rehabilitation programme.* The data from a FIFA study would suggest that 40% of injuries prevented referees from officiating and training for up to 14 days. So the RA Insurers waiting period could effectively exclude 40% of injuries from receiving physiotherapist treatment.

Gary Cobden
Honorary Treasurer



Match Based Discipline launched

From next season, The FA will be introducing Match Based Discipline to all Clubs who participate in open aged 11-a-side football in England. This will mean that players at a local level will now receive the same sanctions as players in the Premier League and Football Leagues, based on numbers of matches rather than a period of time. Throughout the last five seasons, Match Based Discipline has been operating at Steps 5 and 6 – predominantly regional league structures – in the National League System and was extended to Step 7 – county and local football – last season.

A pilot scheme, which has run for the last two seasons across Saturday and Sunday football, has seen the implementation gratefully received and The FA will now be extending the Match Based system to those outside of the National League structure.

The FA Disciplinary Manager, Mark Ives (who visited North Middlesex earlier this season), will oversee the roll-out. He commented: "This is a fantastic move forward for football at local level, made possible by the hard work and commitment of those County Football Associations (CFA's) and the seven Leagues associated with the trials. In short, this will mean that any player sent from the field of play in adult football will receive sporting sanctions the same as those received at the top flight, based on numbers of matches rather than a fixed period of time. The effect on this is a fairer and consistent sanction for all."

Working with the media and CFA's, the implementation of this system will be advertised widely. CFA's will be attending League meetings to talk directly to Clubs so as to inform them of the upcoming changes and how it affects everyone involved. This will enable Clubs to receive the latest information and be informed of the new Regulations, and know what is to be expected of them moving forward. The FA will be hosting an online training event on Monday 6 June 2011, where Clubs, Leagues, players and match officials will be able to register and login to view a live video feed of the event, that will be hosted at Wembley Stadium. This will include the opportunity to view the presentation and ask questions regarding the system to the Discipline Manager and a select panel of experts. More information surrounding this event will be released shortly.

An FA Discipline Handbook has also been produced and will be released to all Clubs to assist with the running of the Club, and in the first instance is a learning tool also for the new system and what is required of a Club Secretary through its implementation.

More information surrounding the release of information and launch will be issued in due course, so please keep checking TheFA.com for further information.

www.thefa.com (18 April 2011)



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



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

The results for the March draw are shown below. With 42 shares subscribed, the total amount payable is £29.40.

1st 8 Daniel Webster £16.80 2nd 19 Steve Wildgoose £8.40 3rd 29 Donald Stewart £4.20

To rejoin the 100 Club for Season 2011/2012 please either complete the form below, or include your remittance with your membership Form for next season.

NORTH MIDDLESEX REFEREES SOCIETY 100 CLUB

I wish to purchase.....share(s) in the NMRS 100 Club at £1.00 per share per month.

Please find enclosed my cheque/postal order for £...00 to cover the subscription for 12 months.

Name..... Signature.....

Society Use - Numbers Allocated.....

Gary Cobden
Honorary Treasurer



Information for New Referees

At this time of the year, you are likely to receive a plethora of forms from the leagues on which you officiate on; the County Football Association (CFA); and ourselves, with the latter two asking you for money. The form from the CFA form will also show the badge of your parent CFA, and may also show the 'three lions' badge of the Football Association.

When you successfully completed your six matches, following your completion of the Referees Examination, you were automatically registered with a CFA appropriate to the area in which you live, and this is most likely to have been either Middlesex; London; Hertfordshire; Essex; or the AFA. During your training, you will have been enrolled as a Trainee Member of NMRS, and you will have also been enrolled as an Associate member of the Referees Association; however you do not receive the full benefits available. Full Membership of the Referees Association is only available by joining a Referees Society.

If you want to continue with your refereeing, then registration with a CFA is a compulsory requirement. However, the CFA's and RA-FA (a partnership between the Football Association and the Referees Association) are unable to offer you the benefits available locally through NMRS. Whilst your membership of NMRS is entirely voluntary, it is strongly recommended by the FA as you will be able to participate in regular meetings held throughout the season - on local territory - with the opportunity to discuss relevant local matters; meet and hear Guest Speakers; and receive regular training updates, together with other benefits including Personal Accident Insurance and Physiotherapy Insurance. You are also entitled to support and advice if you should be assaulted or if allegations are made that result in disciplinary proceedings. Also, if you are a newly registered referee, the Referees' Association will issue a £10.00 voucher redeemable against the purchase of supplies from it.

If you need any further clarification, please contact me.

Gary Cobden – e-mail treasurer@northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk – Tel:- 01992 469153



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of North Middlesex Referees Society will be held on Thursday, 19th May 2010 commencing at 7.30 pm at Holtwhites Sports and Social Club, Kirkland Drive, off Holtwhites Hill, Enfield, Middlesex. EN2 0RU

Agenda

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

The following changes of Rules have been duly proposed and seconded:-

Rule 8a – delete the position of Training Officer.

Reason: The Society is now no longer involved with the training of candidates who apply to join a Referees Course. This has now been taken over by the County Football Associations with all aspects of referee training being governed by the Football Association.

Rule 8b – amend to read:-

The Council shall consist of the Officers specified above, the delegate to the County Referees Association, the Training Liaison Delegate, together with three other members elected at the Annual General Meeting.

Reason:- As the Society is not involved with training we do need to maintain strong links with the County Training Team to encourage future membership of the Society.

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

The following persons have been duly proposed and seconded to stand for election for the forthcoming season:-

President		Chairman	Tom White	Vice-Chairman	Vince Yeudall
Secretary	Robin Jagot	Treasurer	Gary Cobden	Social Secretary	No Proposal
Magazine Editor	Ken Goldman	Gear Supplies	Percy Brown		
County RA Delegate	Charles Lifford-	Council Members:			
	Martin de la Fuente	Terry Wilson	James Morris		

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

11. To CONSIDER the following motion:-

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

12. Any Other Business

Robin Jagot

Honorary Secretary
24 Tiverton Road
Potters Bar
Hertfordshire
EN6 5HY



New Football Video Game Announced

There is some rather interesting news for those of you that are getting a bit tired of football-related video games such as the FIFA and PES series and perhaps want something a little different. Footballtainment is pleased to announce the upcoming launch of Football Referee. Football Referee allows gamers to take over the referee's job, making decisions on scenes that might occur during the course of a match. The game also includes a section called "How to Become A Ref" which provides instruction and rules on refereeing. The first edition of Football Referee will be released online and will be free for everyone to play. It doesn't matter how old you are, all you need to be is a fan of football. The gameplay and the language of the game which is based on a trivia system is simple and straightforward. Some key features of Football Referee are:- "Be A Ref" mode; Get a referee rating; Refereeing instruction & guides; Laws of the Game; and Free to play and web-based. Football Referee is still under development, the release date and further details will be released soon.

http://www.gamasutra.com/view/pressreleases/70432/Football_Referee_Coming_Soon.php



NORTH MIDDLESEX REFEREES SOCIETY
Income and Expenditure Account for the Year Ended 31 March 2011

<u>2010</u>	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>2011</u>		
1,039.50	By Subscriptions (95 Full Members; 6 Associate Members)	1,062.00	2.16% Better	22.50
96.74	.. Bank Deposit Interest	6.29	-93.50% Worse	(90.45)
95.90	.. Donations	75.27	-21.51% Worse	(20.63)
11.00	.. Raffle Proceeds	99.00	800.00% Better	88.00
160.00	.. Advertisements	170.00	6.25% Better	10.00
0.00	.. Social Events	233.00	100.00% Better	233.00
125.40	.. 100 Club	134.80	7.50% Better	9.40
62.04	.. Gear Sales Surplus	245.15	295.17% Better	183.11
20.59	.. 50th Anniversary Book	31.77	54.30% Better	11.18
31.20	.. Miscellaneous Income	34.17	9.52% Better	2.97
<u>1,642.37</u>		<u>2,091.45</u>	27.34% Better	449.08
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>				
684.89	To Normidian Expenses (including Postage)	591.21	-13.68% Better	(93.68)
28.37	.. Postage/Telephones/Stationery/Misc	36.99	30.38% Worse	8.62
360.00	.. Hire of Meeting Halls	360.00	0.00% No Change	0.00
47.40	.. Guest Speaker Expenses (inc NMRS Books)	150.00	216.46% Worse	102.60
69.00	.. RA Conference Delegate	0.00	-100.00% Better	(69.00)
231.00	.. Life Vice Presidents	227.00	-1.73% Better	(4.00)
13.00	.. Miscellaneous Expenditure	90.60	596.92% Worse	77.60
248.48	.. Presentation Expenses	70.27	-71.72% Better	(178.21)
<u>1,682.14</u>		<u>1,526.07</u>	-9.28% Better	(156.07)
(39.77)	GROSS EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	565.38	1521.62% Better	605.15
<u>DEPRECIATION</u>				
51.22	Internet Domain Name	55.18	7.73% Worse	3.96
0.00	Gear Stocks (Note 1)	70.00	100.00% Worse	70.00
0.00	50th Anniversary Books (Note 2)	174.93	100.00% Worse	174.93
<u>PROVISIONS</u>				
(9.25)	Provision for Corporation Tax (Note 3)	(21.53)	132.77% Better	12.28
0.00	Provision for Presentation Evening (Note 4)	200.00	100.00% Worse	200.00
(81.74)	EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	86.80	206.19% Better	168.54
<u>(81.74)</u>		<u>86.80</u>		

Note 1:- To write down the value of shirts and shorts not necessarily saleable. (2010 - None).

Note 2:- To write down the value of Anniversary Books not necessarily saleable. (2010 - None).

Note 3:- The Provision charge is an adjustment to the existing provision. (2010 - same).

Note 4:- To allocate funds to cover costs associated with October 2011 Presentation Evening. (2010 - None).

Prepared By
G. J. Cobden ACIB
Hon. Treasurer
06 April 2011

Audited and Found Correct
T. McGowan
FJ Taylor
Hon. Auditors

NORTH MIDDLESEX REFEREES SOCIETY
Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2011

<u>2010</u>	<u>LIABILITIES</u>	<u>2011</u>
<u>GENERAL FUND</u>		
11,030.65	Balance as at 1 April 2010	10,948.91
-81.74	SURPLUS for Year	86.80
322.31	Provision for Corporation Tax (See Note 1)	300.78
<u>0.00</u>	Provision for Presentation Evening (See Note 2)	<u>200.00</u>
11,271.22		11,536.49
3,247.88	BENEVOLENT FUND	3,170.88
<u>14,519.10</u>		<u>14,707.37</u>
Represented By:		
<u>INTANGIBLE ASSETS (At Cost, Less depreciation over life)</u>		
65.00	Internet Domain and WebSpace	9.83
<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>		
<u>BANK:-</u>		
1,157.80	Current Account	924.09
3,203.33	High Interest Account	3,127.92
9,307.20	Bonus Saver Account (See Note 3)	9,611.90
166.15	PayPal Account	156.60
123.04	Cash/Cheques in Hand	<u>382.87</u>
13,957.52		14,203.38
<u>STOCKS</u>		
938.10	Gear	966.66
828.16	NMRS Book	595.00
<u>19.92</u>	Magazine	<u>6.58</u>
1,786.18		1,568.24
94.40	Payments in Advance (See Note 4)	93.93
<u>26.00</u>	Debtors (See Note 5)	<u>0.00</u>
120.40		15,865.55
<u>Deduct CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>		
877.00	Subscriptions in Advance	716.00
<u>533.00</u>	Accruals and Other Creditors (See Note 6)	<u>452.00</u>
1,410.00		1,168.00
<u>14,519.10</u>		<u>14,697.55</u>
		<u>14,707.37</u>

Note 1:- The Provision charge includes an adjustment to the pre-existing provision. (2010 - same).

Note 2:- To allocate funds to cover costs associated with October 2011 Presentation Evening. (2010 - None).

Note 3:- The Balance for the Bonus Saver Account includes £3,170.88 relating to the Benevolent Fund. (2010 - £3,247.88).

Note 4:- Payments in Advance represent accruals for Normidian Postage and Hall Hire. (2010 - same).

Note 5:- Debtors (2010) relate to monies due from Gear Sales and EoF Rally ticket.

Note 6:- Accruals and Other Creditors relate to 100 Club prepayments, and Advance Donations received. (2010 - same).

Prepared By
G. J. Cobden ACIB
Hon. Treasurer
06 April 2011

Audited and Found Correct
T. McGowan
FJ Taylor
Hon. Auditors

Treasurers Report for Season 2010/2011

On the previous page you will have seen the Society Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2011. I am pleased to report that this season the Society has returned a surplus after two years which saw our expenditure exceed our income.

There are a few points notable of comment in relation to the surplus this year. The out-turn was notably enhanced by the Quiz Night which was held on 25th March, just prior to the year end. Forty Five contestants took part in what was an enjoyable evening, with Roger Fox and his good lady ably organising all the questions and marking the answer papers. Unfortunately, only a handful of society members who were not members of Council attended the event. We hope to arrange a similar event next year; and hope that more members choose to participate on this occasion – for a small outlay you will enjoy a fun evening, and may even help the Society refrain from having to increase subscriptions. Our Gear Sales returned a healthy profit this year, partially due to increased sales via the internet from non-members and this included sales to Australia and The Netherlands. Raffle proceeds also increased significantly, initially due to a bumper attendance at our April 2010 meeting, followed with reasonable attendances at other meetings making it economic to again run a raffle.

On the expenditure side, we only produced eight magazines this season (a joint issue was produced for December and January), but even if we had produced nine issues, the cost would still have been on a par with last season. Both this season and last we produced a magazine with an average print run of 16 pages (including the cover). We are still subsidising members who opt to receive their magazine by post, as we only charge them an additional £2.00 on their subscription over the course of a season, whereas the cost to the Society is £2.60, and with the recent increase in postage, is likely to be £3.30 next season. Expenditure on Guest Speakers increased considerably, mainly due to the cost incurred with bringing World Cup Final Referee Jack Taylor to the Society in April 2010. This season also saw a reduction in Presentation Expenses – in 2009/2010 we provided an LMSA Presentation for Mick Osborn and in 2010/2011 we made a presentation to Peter Dace in recognition of the number of games he has refereed - and there were no RA Conference Delegate expenses this year as our delegate was unable to attend due to illness. Even if we had produced nine magazines throughout the season, and our delegate had been able to attend the RA Conference, the Society would still have returned a surplus for the season.

In October 2011 the Society will be hosting a Presentation Evening, and, whilst the cost of tickets will cover the expenditure on the meals for the evening, we have taken this opportunity to make a provision of £200 to cover any unexpected expenditure that may arise in connection with this event.

Additionally this year we have written down the value of the Books we hold in stock. These books were originally purchased by the Society some twelve years ago, and we still have 119, which we have reduced to a book value of £5.00 from their original cost price of £6.47. It is hoped to further reduce the value of these books again in the forthcoming seasons. We have also taken the opportunity to write down the value of the coloured shirts and black shorts that were purchased many years ago, of which we still hold 70. The book value of these has been written down by twenty-five percent to £3.00 each. The shorts are being used as raffle prizes; however, it is likely that the shirts will be unsaleable.

You will note from the Balance Sheet that the Benevolent Fund balance has reduced this year; two donations were made during the season totalling £77.00. The Gear Stock is also slightly inflated, as a number of readily saleable items had been purchased prior to the year end to show and sell to the trainees who were sitting their examinations on 2 April.

Should you have any questions on the accounts, or any other financial matter connected with the Society, please contact me in advance, or raise a question at the Annual General Meeting on 19 May.

Gary Cobden
Honorary Treasurer



NORTH MIDDLESEX REFEREES SOCIETY

Annual General Meeting of NMRS held at The Holtwhite Sports Centre Enfield on Thursday 20th May 2010

Apologies: Roger Fox, Stan Rosenthal, Mick Osborn, Peter Bailey, Charles Lifford, Vince Yeudall and John Metselaar. The Chairman welcomed Lauentiu Hantea who had recently completed his referee training to the meeting and hoped this will be the first of many. A presentation then took place by our President Terry Wilson to Life Vice President Peter Dace of a tankard inscribed suitably with the words of officiating in 3000 matches from October 1972 – March 2010. Peter thanked the members present which had come as a complete surprise to him.

Minutes of previous AGM meeting: These were signed as a true record.

Matters arising: There were no matters arising.

Secretary's Report: Secretary informed the meeting that over the last season there had been an increase in attendances, most notably the April meeting with the visit of former World Cup Referee Jack Taylor. An excellent attendance was present at Mick Osborn's MSA evening in December. One hopes it will continue for the future. The Secretary took the opportunity to thank the officers and members who had helped to keep the Society on a firm foundation. Membership had fallen but this is a trend with all Societies nationwide. It is interesting to note that the total RA membership now stands at just over 10,000 members, and since the formation of the RAE the RA have lost over 7,000 members and several well known Societies.

Treasurer's Report: The annual accounts were presented to the meeting and an overall loss over the year was £81.74. The loss was considered minimal considering that no functions had taken place to help boost the funds. It may be appropriate to consider next season to hold fund raising events which Council will discuss at their next meeting. The Chairman congratulated our Treasurer once again for an excellent set of accounts, which was endorsed by members. Our Auditors, Jim Taylor and Tim McGowan had duly checked the accounts and stated how healthy and accurate the Society Accounts were. Finally, the Treasurer asked the members to ratify the Society subscriptions for next season. This was endorsed by the members present that there shall be no increase in subscription charges for next season.

Editor's Report: The Editor wished to place on record his thanks to all those who had contributed and sent articles for the magazine over the season. Particular thanks to Peter Dace, Mick Osborn and one of our anonymous members whose articles were very much appreciated over the season. The Chairman thanked Ken for all his hard work over the season.

Election of Chairman: The election of Chairman duly took place and President Terry Wilson asked for nominations. Tom White was once again elected as Chairman for season 2010/2011.

Election of Officers: The following Officers were elected 'en bloc'. Proposed – John Nobleman, seconded Paul Keown.

The following Officers were duly elected: Vice Chairman Vince Yeudall. Secretary Robin Jagot. Treasurer Gary Cobden. Editor Ken Goldman. Training Officer Stan Rosenthal. Gears Supplies Percy Brown. RA Delegate Charles Lifford.

Election of Council Members: Michael Mackey Senior, Michael Mackey Junior and Martin De La Fuente were duly elected.

Election of Auditors: Tim McGowan and Jim Taylor were duly elected.

Graham Weaver proposed a vote of thanks to the Officers and Council members for the past year's work.

Any Other Business: The Secretary informed the meeting that certain members can apply to receive the Football Association 50 year Award and also the Referees Association 50 years and 20 years Award. Applications by the Secretary will be put forward to both Associations in the very near future.

The Chairman reported the sad loss of one of our former members Ray Holmes due to a recent tragic works accident. It was reported also that Terry Flack's wife Sue had been suffering from ill health. Peter Dace informed the meeting that Paul Taylor has now retired from the Football League and would contact him in the near future. The meeting was informed that a new Referee Development Manager had taken over at MCFA and one of his first tasks is to visit all the local Societies including North Middlesex.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.10 pm which was followed by a General Knowledge Quiz presented by the Secretary.

Chairman:

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There were no Minutes of the April Meeting owing to the fact that the allotted time went to our important Guest Speaker Mike Riley rather than Officer's Reports.

GETTING TO GRIPS WITH LANGUAGE BY CHARLES LIFFORD

Much can be written on this subject although very few members do not seem to be able to spare the time to write to the Editor to give their views or advice on this subject. What is abusive or insulting language to one man may not be objectionable to his friend. The difficulty is to understand that most of the language used during a game of football is accepted or ignored by the match official, although he would not accept it if it was used in front of him in his normal way of life. That said, however, we are all aware of certain words that offend large numbers of people. Take, for instance, that four-lettered word beginning with 'C' that is so often used, in nothing but an offensive manner, to address someone of whom the user does not, for some reason, approve.

This particular word, if used audibly in such terms as described on the field of play, must be punished properly. That four-lettered 'C' word is very often preceded by a seven-letter word beginning with 'F'. There is far too much widespread use of this word on football pitches which, sadly, often goes quite unchallenged by the referee.

Why, does it go unchallenged? An article in last months' magazine suggested that it is due to the 'emotions of the game', but most of the time is it not due to Referee neglecting his responsible by not have a quick word with the player. Noone with any common-sense has ever suggested that every so called foul word, no matter in what circumstances it is uttered, should be punished with dismissal from the field of play. Human behaviour being what it is, we would hardly ever complete a match. However, the Laws contain the words "offensive, insulting or abusive language" for a reason.

The Laws outline clearly what the punishment should be for such an offence. If the referee implements the dismissal, he is correct. The player can have no justifiable complaint. The referee is honour bound to do something positive if a player transgresses in this way. This often amounts to either a word of warning or even taking stronger action. You can be surprised what a 'quiet word' with the player can achieve. If you have not already done so, try it. It is certain that if the referee, having heard the words, does nothing at all about them, he is cheating several people as well as himself. He is cheating all those other match-officials who take it upon themselves to do something about this problem. He is also cheating those players, officials or spectators who, being on the receiving end of the 'foul' language, have a strong moral objection to being so abused and there are a lot of such people, if the truth were acknowledged.

All referees should mount an attack on four words, namely C***; F***; F*****; and W****R.

We all know which four are meant, if every referee simply refused to accept without a solid verbal challenge or a dismissal those four words and refused to accept them every week, there would soon be an end to the problem that so pathetically besmirches our game. The unacceptable language problem would go away.

Certain words must never be accepted when directed at the referee or his assistant. The word that must be totally outlawed is 'cheat', which, if directed at an honest Referee, is the supreme form of abuse. Words signifying the same idea, like 'bent' and 'biased', might easily prove offensive.

Again, if referees refuse to tolerate such abuse, the problem can be made to disappear. The referees of this world have it in their power, and if they use the ultimate sanction they will be supported by the powers-that-be, for the Laws demand it.

Assessors can play a strong supporting role. Very often they know only too well if a referee has heard the 'foul-mouthed shout', and if the referee does nothing at all about it there should be a mention in the report. The appropriate body in control must then do something to bring the referee into line.

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Quiz Evening

The Society held a Quiz Evening on Friday 25th March, at the usual venue, Holtwhites Sports and Social Club. The event was well attended by members and their partners who also enjoyed a supper of fish/chicken and chips. Quiz Master, Roger Fox, kept heads scratching with a variety of questions. Thanks to Robin Jagot, Gary Cobden and everyone else who helped and supported this excellent evening.

Terry Wilson

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We are sorry to record the deaths of Arsenal Director Danny Fisman and ex- Manchester United, Leicester and England International Johnny Morris.

Re: Letters of the Law, April 2011 magazine. From **Mick Osborn**

Following Observer's article in the February edition, Stan Rosenthal asked, "What would you have a referee do about the expletives from the striker who has just missed an open goal?" His advice was that the referee must consider (a) whether the expletives could be described as offensive, insulting or abusive; (b) whether the player was young; (c) whether the player was among the majority of young people presumed to be in the habit of using such expletives every day; and (d) where the match was being played.

Under the Law of the Land a youngster under the age of 18 years, even if playing in an adult team, is considered a child. In the FA's Child protection workshops, among the recommended best practices for adults, is the requirement to "never allow children to use inappropriate language, always challenge this behaviour." I seem to have missed FIFA's directive that the player's normal use of language and whether it was meant to be insulting or abusive to the recipient, must be taken into account, but after reading Law 12 again, I would say the player in this case must be sent off for the use of offensive language.

Consider if you will, a cup match between Red United and Blue Rovers. The game is played at Hackney Marshes, where the pitch seems to be in the middle of nowhere. Red United's striker, misses an open goal. "***>! ***<!", he loudly exclaims. Referee considers: (a) To the ordinary man in the street, the expletives would be offensive, but the player is young and did not direct his outburst at anyone. (b) The referee heard him talking with his mates before the match and such words seemed to be part of their normal every day language, and apart from the teams on the next pitch, no-one would have been in earshot anyway. Decision: Take no disciplinary action.

The match was drawn and in accordance with the competition rules, there is a replay the following week at Blue Rovers' ground at Vicarage Playing Fields in a quiet leafy suburb, where there is a children's play area within a few yards of the pitch. The match is to be refereed by the official who took the first game. In very similar circumstances, the home team's striker misses an open goal. "***>! ***<!", he shouts. Referee considers: (a) To the ordinary man in the street, the expletives would be offensive. (b) Although the expletives were not directed to anyone the referee heard the youngster talking with his mates before the match and such words did not seem to be part of his or their normal every day language. Decision: Send the player off for the use of offensive language.

The referee is angrily criticised by the manager of Blue Rovers for sending off his player when he did not dismiss the Red United striker the week before. The referee reports him for dissent.

Question: If you were that referee, give your explanation for your apparent lack of consistency and non-adherence to the Laws. .

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50 Years of History – Charles Lifford.

In 1999, a book relating to the 50 years History of the North Middlesex Referees 'Society' was published. Whether you purchased a copy is neither here nor there, what is important, and it should be to you, is that I have been keeping the History up to date, 62 years, in total. What have you sent me since that date? Have you had a County Cup Appointment? Does the Society know? Have you done a local Cup Final during this period, about which you can send me details? Have you had a photograph taken whilst refereeing, or been part of a group photo of referees that may be of interest to anyone in the Society? A full record has been kept of the 50 years up to 1999. If you don't do your bit –and it only needs to be a little bit – the History will not be maintained. Please send me as much or as little as possible.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Here are the reports from the March and April Meetings of our two excellent guest speakers-

In March we had a presentation by John Cook of the AFA Society whose topic was "Match control". Introduced by Roger Fox, John went on to give a humorous and insightful talk starting with the question "is it right for referees to laugh?" and then stated yes providing everything is kept under control. He confirmed that body language is now being considered at course level and therefore it is important to be enthusiastic and to remember that the players' perception of the referee is determined by the messages he appears to be giving out. One of these is at the toss up so perhaps the longest loudest whistle of the match should be to summon the captains to the centre circle for the spin of the coin. Likewise the referee is in control of the impression he/she gives and repeated the adage that there is no second chance to make a first impression. A referee needs to identify the players that he/she feels are going to need managing during the game was his next suggestion. In regard to the suggestion under the Respect champagne that it is sensible to exercise the option to call the Captain over with the player that you are going to admonish, John felt that that was a move in the right direction as it helped in keeping the lid on things. It was especially important for referees to "sell" their decisions whilst sometimes a smile helps to diffuse things or encourage acceptance of those decisions. He then asked the question "does a substitution change the game" and then went on to explain why it does in both positive and negative ways especially in regard to upping the tempo of the match and emphasised it was something for the referee to consider immediately the new player came on. He next gave advice on the need to be vocal which should help players understand the decisions being made. Especially important was the need for self-analysis definitely post match but if a chance occurs then possibly during it. One that we all knew in his address was that it is vital to get the important decisions right but the next point was a poser as to whether at free kicks the referee should hold the whistle up to show "on the whistle" for the restart as it could get confused with the signal for an indirect free kick. John thought that instead of doing that the referee could point to the whistle at any angle that could be seen and that would avoid such possible confusion.

Again we were lucky to have had such an excellent speaker who gave us sound practical advice which was coupled with humour throughout.

The vote of thanks was given by Stan Rosenthal

The Adventures of Willy ‘The Whistler’ Woodwork

Part 10 –Count to eleven

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

It must take all of three seconds to count to ten or as a referee to count to eleven. Not a difficult thing to do and something I should have done prior to this match before we kicked off. There was no excuse not to do it but because I had spotted the assessor standing by the trees it made me a little apprehensive and to be honest I just simply forgot! Always make sure that you count all of the players from both sides just before they kick off and the second half or the following could happen to you.

Two such incidents occurred with the first being very early in the match. Reds Rovers scored a goal and as I walked back to the centre spot the Rovers captain said “Hey ref, what a good team we must be. We’ve just taken the lead and Casuals are playing with twelve players”. ‘Oh dear’ I thought to myself. I counted all the players on the pitch and unfortunately the Rovers captain was correct. I approached the Casuals captain and told him of his error. He was very apologetic and then added “It is clearly against the rules to play with twelve players and since this is only the second minute of the match I appreciate you now have to abandon this match and start again”. Was he right?

This seemed to put me in a bit of a dilemma. The laws clearly state a side can consist of up to eleven players but it was the team with eleven players who had scored the goal and I felt it would have been wrong to punish them as they had done nothing wrong in law. I also knew that I had to caution the ‘twelfth’ player for entering the field of play without my permission. I awarded the goal and noticed the assessor busy scribbling notes on his notepad, obviously stating how good I was and how well I was at applying the laws.

The tempo of the game became very frantic with the play moving from end to end. It certainly kept me on my toes literally. I knew how important it was to always be in the best position to give the right decision.

Shortly afterwards Casuals signalled to make a substitution. I was in the goal area at the time and thought the club linesman would deal with it. The club linesman had helped me before at a previous match and was very honest and I even saw him make a note of the substitutes name as he checked the players’ boots.

Unfortunately what my linesman and I both failed to notice was Casuals taking one player off but two players entering the field of play. Possibly another innocent mistake by the Casuals captain, but twice in one match? This of course meant that the Casuals once again were playing with twelve players.

Maybe what happened next was ironic but Casuals scored a goal. The Rovers captain duly pointed out once again how many players they had on the pitch. Naturally the Casuals captain was extremely apologetic and immediately offered to take one of his players off after I had of course cautioned the ‘twelve player’. I disallowed the goal and restarted with an indirect free kick to the Rovers instead. The Casuals captain queried my decision “They score and you allow the goal and now we score and you disallow the goal. How inconsistent is that Ref!” That was not dissent but I decided to caution the captain for unsporting behaviour. After all, the captain should be responsible for his own teams’ substitutions and this captain had not done a good job thus far. Again I took the opportunity to count all the players on the pitch before we restarted.

At this stage it may appear that it was only Cockfosters Casuals that were attempting to cause me problems. Unfortunately Reds Rovers were just as guilty.

Barely a moment passed and Rovers scored a goal but I did not remember seeing the player who had just scored before. Apparently despite their claims of innocence, Rovers had made a substitution and not informed me. They insisted the club linesman had been notified and when I asked him he confirmed that he had been notified of the substitution. Of course he would say that.....he was the club linesman from their side and one of the named substitutes! Now was the time to stay calm, cool and collective but what should I do?

Firstly without being paranoid I counted all the players on the pitch yet again. Both sides had eleven players each on the pitch and the goal had been a perfectly good goal. I decided to award the goal but I did caution the 'sub' for entering the field of play without my permission. The law clearly states the referee must be informed of substitutions so I felt it was irrelevant that only the club linesman had been informed. Again the assessor was busy making notes, obviously noting how well that I had dealt with all these situations. What a good game I was having.

Later on in the game when the remaining substitutions were made I ensured the procedure was carried out thoroughly. I checked that all players coming on entered on the half way line and that I checked their boots, made sure they were wearing shin guards, checked that the bicycle shorts were the same colour as their shorts and also made double sure they were not wearing any jewellery. In addition I checked that all the players coming off also left on the half way line. That would surely impress the assessor. Anyhow what was he still writing?.....Surely the assessor knew how to spell the word excellent?

So now you know the importance of counting to eleven. Always count the number of players before the kick off and prior to the second half commencing. Also ensure the substitution procedure is carried out correctly. There are not many referees who know the laws as well as me! Surely you agree with all my decisions to date?

Keep on whistling.

Regards,



Willy Woodwork

Willy 'The Whistler' Woodwork

STAR INTERVIEW - SASA IHRINGOVA

I am pleased to say that I am one of three female Officials on the National List the others being Sian Massey and Emily Fearn. As an Assistant Referee in the three lower divisions I find every game enjoyable and it is great to have the chance to be involved. I became attracted to football because my uncle, who was also a football referee, tried for a long time to convince me to get me involved in the game I resisted for a long time but eventually decided to take up the challenge about which I have no regrets

I started as a player but unfortunately I was not very good and so I tried becoming a referee and attended a course for female officials in 1995. It has been a long process over 15 years in all, but I am now in the situation that more than 25000 referees in England would simply dream about, so I cannot be anything else but really happy.

On the National List the Assistant Referees meet regularly but not as often as the Referees but so far as fitness is concerned most of us train with our own Referees' Societies, my own being Shropshire.

We all have ambitions but I have only been in England for 5 years so I am just happy to be on the National List here which as I have said is already a dream come true. However at the same time I am Lining I am of course refereeing as well and I am in the Middle as a Level 3 Contributory League referee in the Southern League and the Northern Premier League most of the time. The next step up would be to the Premier League Line where Sian Massey is, but my main priority this season is to referee in the Women's World Cup Finals in Germany during .this summer. I am able to do this as I am on the Women's International List which I gained when I came here from Slovakia. I would love to be there and again it has always been an ambition of mine from the age when I took up refereeing. I have had previous International experience with the Under 20 Women's World Cup Final in 2008; the Women's European Championship Final in 2005 and the Women's UEFA Cup Final in 2008. Therefore whilst that aim of reaching the current Women's World Cup Finals is the main part of my focus I am delighted to say that I have been invited to referee in the new FA Women's Super League and accepted immediately the invitation was received.

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It was also good to see that after the traumas of the Gray/Keys debacle that Sian Massey is back Lining and our April guest speaker Mike Riley in his address paid tribute to her nerve and verve in coming through an ordeal, that was none of her making, with flying colours. Contrary to chauvinistic concepts I have heard two very experienced Managers, namely Mick McCarthy.in the case of Ms Massey and Peter Reid relative to Ms Ihringova being highly complementary. – ED.

MCFA ADULT CUP APPOINTMENTS

After thinking for several years that all MCFA cup final appointments were made according to service to the county etc. I have now discovered that all adult men's finals (middle's) and the vast majority of lines/fourth officials are reserved for level 5's and above. The enclosed forms were sent to me by the referees' appointment officer recently after I spoke to him. I was also told these criteria were slightly relaxed in 2009. These criteria have never been published in the MCFA handbook and they are not available online. I have asked MCFA to send out these criteria to MCFA referees with the annual membership renewal forms but there seems to be reluctance to do so. CFA's are supposed to be transparent and open.

As a class 6 or below you may be offered a line on certain limited adult finals but you will never act as a referee as your class, or lack of, prevents you from being considered.

I think that most teams that play in the adult junior cups get level 7 or 6 referees week-in week-out as these teams are normally in the lower divisions of the local leagues. Do they really need a level 5 or above "reffing" their final?

Even though level 7 and 6 referees are allowed to referee the earlier rounds of the MCFA Cups we are not considered to be good enough to referee any of the finals because we are not level 5 and above. As over 60% of referees are level 6 and below, the majority of referees in MCFA are currently barred from "reffing" any adult finals.

You have to ask yourself: what's my motivation for refereeing MCFA cup games if I am not considered eligible to referee any of the adult men's finals?

I keep getting told "if you don't like it go for promotion!" Why do I need to do that to be considered? If I got promoted I would be part of the minority getting finals and therefore actively help the county alienate the majority. The bigger problem here is that most referees do not know about the criteria.

As for the MCFA Cup appointments for this year, nearly 40% of the referees were involved in the finals last year. Hardly seems fair, does it? And, to make it worse, some of those appointed last year were not even MCFA referees, they are associate members! Can those referees not referee on their own county's finals? Is MCFA so short of their own referees they have to use associate members to officiate?

As we move into a society that is supposed to be more inclusive we seem to be doing our best to exclude the majority of referees from adult finals. Can anybody tell me why these criteria are deemed acceptable when they exclude so many?

Steve Wildgoose

[Happy to receive any comments on this for the September edition – ED.]

MICK OSBORN RECALLS - “THE PROSPERITY OF FOOTBALL”

LEAGUE GAMES REALISE NEARLY £70,000 IN FOUR MONTHS

The finances of football are a sure key to the popularity of the game, and the sudden jump in the takings at the turnstiles is very significant. It is not possible for the sport to regain its old position this season, though if a national cup competition had been promoted it would, undoubtedly have been a big success, but there is an assured era of prosperity ahead.

During the first four months in the season – from September to December - £55,953 was spent on football in Lancashire and the Midlands. The London clubs make a secret of their receipts, but on the average they have been a good deal higher than those in the provinces, and it is reasonable to add £12,000 as their share, making the total nearly £70,000. These figures are, of course, small as compared with the season before the war, when between 15,000,000 and 16,000,000 people watched the League matches.

The figures for Lancashire and the Midlands are up by nearly £20,000 as compared with the same period in 1917. Coventry City’s revival has meant a considerable accession of financial strength, for in this busy munitions area the attendances have been extremely good, averaging nearly 10,000 a match. What poverty there is, is in Lancashire, curiously enough. Here on occasions gates have fallen below £50, and a large percentage of the £25,523 has gone to the prosperous Liverpool and Manchester clubs.

Another snippet of sports news announced -

NO LONDON AMATEUR CUP-TIES

The London F. A. Council met last night (Jan. 7,1919) for the first time since May 1915. The one decision arrived at was that it was useless to attempt to start any of the Cup Competition before season 1919-20.

It was pointed out that one question demanding attention was the provision of grounds for juniors. This matter was left to officers to use their influence to try to obtain in any scheme of reconstruction by the Government, the insertion of a provision for open spaces for football and other sports.

As it is expected that football will be played all through May, the annual meeting will not be held till June.

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Congratulations to Martin Atkinson and his “team” for their appointments to officiate at this season’s FA Cup Final. Let’s hope they all do well and there are no controversies. Likewise congratulations to all of our members who have received cup final plums.

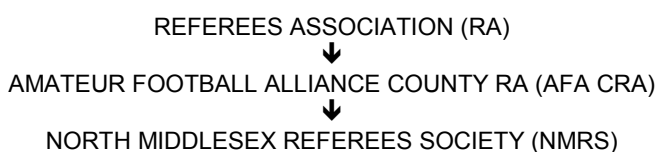
INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR SOCIETY

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

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

So what is the link between the Society and the National Body? All Societies must be a member of a County Referees Association (CRA). North Middlesex, together with the AFA and London Society of Association Referees, form a County Referees Association known as the Amateur Football Alliance County Referees Association (AFA CRA). This Association operates with Officers and a delegate from each Society who, like the Officers and Committee of this Society, are elected annually in a democratic manner. The AFA CRA send a delegate to the locally held annual RA Liaison meeting which reports back to The RA Board, who meet at least four times a year. All delegates and officers of the AFA CRA Committee are elected annually in a democratic manner.

The National Structure for the Society is:



As a full member of NMRS you are a member of the RA.

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

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

What are the Benefits of RA Membership?

Insurance - The major benefit is the Personal Accident Insurance Policy. For a small amount, the insurance policy covers you whilst actually refereeing; travelling to and from a match; attending meetings (including travelling to and from home); attending organised training; and loss or theft of kit whilst at a match. Full details are available to members on request, as it is now no longer a requirement that each member who has paid the insurance premium is supplied with a copy of the terms of insurance. A range of increased benefits are also available - for an additional premium - and members should contact the insurers direct if they wish to take up these benefits. Additionally, active referees who are over the age of 75 can now be covered by the Insurance subject to an additional premium being paid.

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

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

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

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

Note

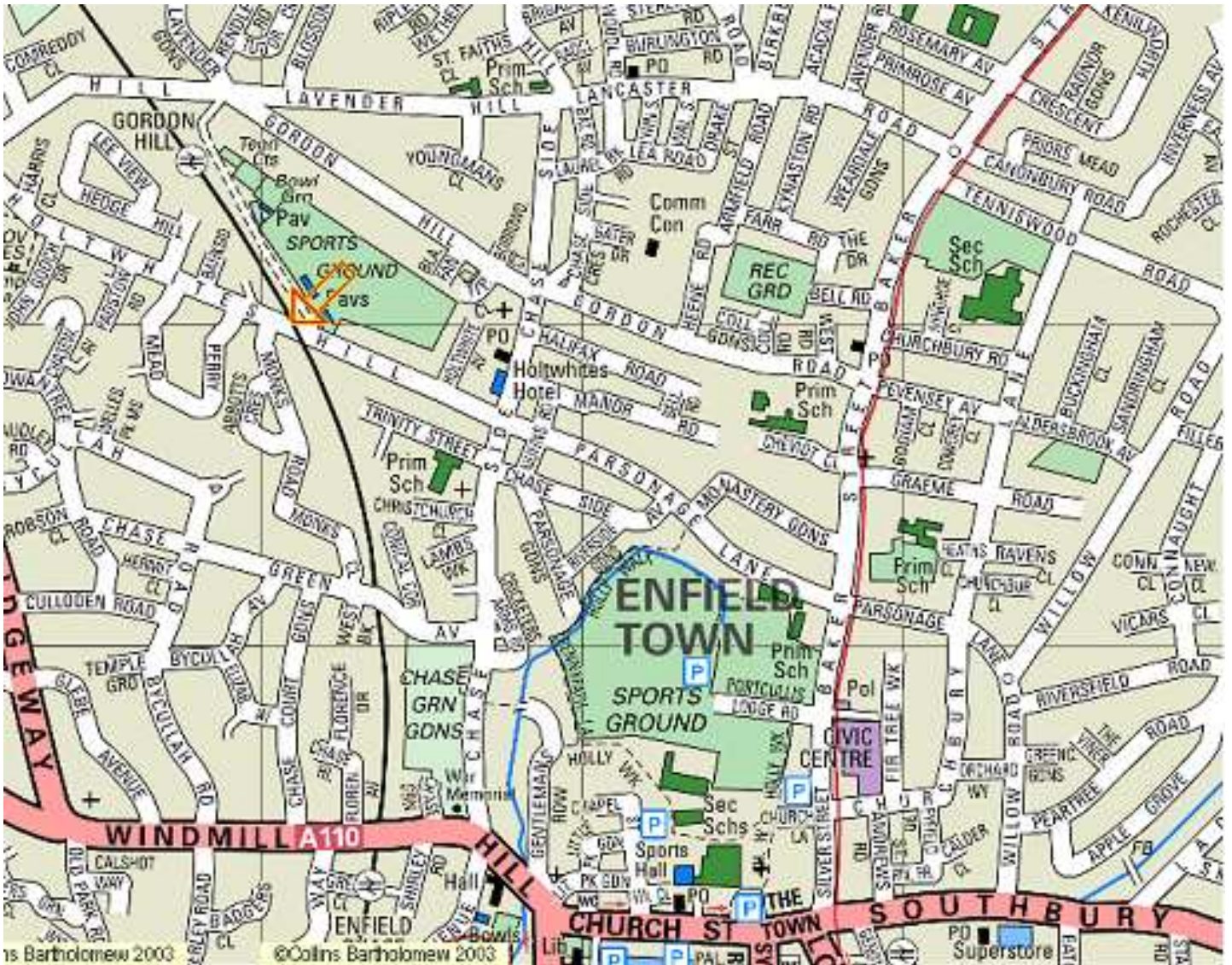
Abbreviations that are commonly used in magazine articles or in reports at meetings.

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

Updated July 2010

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Are held on the third Thursday monthly (except April 2011 - first Thursday),
commencing at 7:30 pm, at
Holtwhites Sports and Social Club, Kirkland Drive, Holtwhites Hill, Enfield, Middlesex, EN2 0RN
Telephone: 020 8363 4449
Dates for Season 2010/2011:- September 16; October 21; November 18; December 16 2010;
and January 20; February 17; March 17; April 7; May 19 2011



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

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

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

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

PERMISSION IS GIVEN TO REPRODUCE MATERIAL WITH A SUITABLE ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

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