

November 2007

The next meeting of the North Middlesex Referees' Society will be held at Holtwhites Sports and Social Club, Kirkland Drive, Enfield on Thursday 15th November 2007. The meeting starts at 7.30 pm.

Would members please note that the December meeting will be held on Thursday 20th December and not on 13 December as printed on the cover of the magazine.

Thanks to Gary Cobden and the rest of the Normidian publishing team for looking after last month's issue of the magazine in my absence – great job boys!

As stated in last month's magazine, we were due to have a presentation evening in October to mark the retirement of Society Auditor, Brian Langstone, after an incredible 40 years in post. Brian, who is also a Society Life Vice-President, was unable to attend due to illness. We wish Brian a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing him and wife Clair at a future meeting where members will have the opportunity to honour his outstanding contribution to the Society.

Also in last month's magazine Life Vice-President, George Basten, paid a warm tribute to his great friend and sterling servant of the Society, Frank McNeil, who passed away recently after a short illness. I feel sure Frank's wife, Joan, and children Fiona and Barry, were comforted by your words, George, thank you for sharing them with us.

When I read Mick Osborn's entertaining article, "A Good Innings", in the October edition, it struck me that we might lose one of our best, and always welcome contributors to the magazine now that he has hung up his boots. I needn't have worried, as on my return to the Editor's chair, I found he had written "For the Want of a CRB Clearance" a thought-provoking but easily-read piece set in Mike's true fashion and included in this issue.

Tony Sharples from London CFA was guest speaker at last month's meeting and the Society was very grateful to Tony for standing in so late in the day. Tony gave us glimpse of how the FA works from a 'Committee man's' perspective – see elsewhere in the magazine.

The minutes of the October Society meeting, included as usual, record the great concern to Council of the continued lack of members attending our meetings – with over 140 members, how can this be? If anyone has any ideas on how we might reverse this trend, please write to the magazine or contact any Council member as soon as possible!

Also highlighted in the minutes is a reminder that the Society celebrates its 60th Anniversary in January 2009. Those who came to the successful 50th Anniversary celebration will remember the warmth and comradeship of seeing the Society giants of yesteryear rubbing shoulders with those of the present and the new up-and-coming stars of today. Please let Council know your thoughts of how we might celebrate the occasion.

Contributions for the December magazine by Wednesday 5th December 2007, please.



Please excuse me while I have a rant on the subject of last month's article, "Refereeing without CRB check?"

For the last few years, we, as referees, have had to submit to investigation by the Criminal Records Bureau to prove mainly that we are not paedophiles. No person will be registered as a referee for season 2007/8 unless they have successfully survived these checks. If you're new to this game, may I remind you that the clearance you may have received as a teacher, scout/guide leader, swimming coach, etc. is not accepted by the Football Association? You've got to go through it again.

We now discover that, according to legal opinion, all refereeing is a "regulated activity" under the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act, 2006 and anyone in breach of this piece of legislation and foolishly officiating in a match, will be liable to a maximum fine of £5,000 as will the officers of the County, League or Club that appoints him or her.

According to the Middlesex County F.A. Handbook there are 367 clubs, registered as Junior Clubs, fielding 477 sides of adult players. Referees registered with MCFA of level 7 and above number approximately 400. Without considering whether the clubs play on Saturdays or Sundays, or if all the referees are available for these games all the time, (my requests for more detailed information received no response,) a simple calculation shows that each week there could be a surplus of around 162 officials less those that may be on Assistant Referee or Fourth Official duties or officiating outside the county. On the face of it, no problem for Clubs in Middlesex, then.

There are twenty-four associations and competitions in membership of the AFA. In the five major leagues, there are 71 divisions composed of some 736 teams, most of which play on Saturdays. Referees of level 7 and above number around 212. Let us assume that all these teams will be in competition within their respective divisions (368 matches,) and that all the referees are regularly available. A simple calculation shows that each week there could be a shortage of around 156 referees for these five leagues alone. A lot of referees registered with other counties provide their services to AFA Leagues but according to a prominent Referees' Secretary of one of these leagues, on average there are 80 to 90 games in the lower divisions to which clubs have to provide their own officials. These usually come from their own club members. However, he says that many of these do have CPC and CRB clearance.

It is difficult, if not impossible, to obtain accurate information, so of those 80 – 90 games, let me assume that just 30 will not have cleared referees. What is going to become of those 660 players plus substitutes? Maybe good Samaritans from the clubs will referee, like they always have. But they will all be subject to the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act and could get a whacking great fine, as would the club that asked them to help out.

I can see it now: The home captain saying to the visiting captain, "Well we'll take care of the ref's fee, of course, but do you think your blokes will agree to a whip round for the fines?" Or perhaps they will all give up playing football and stay at home and watch the telly or maybe find someone to chat to on the Internet!

October's Special Guest – Tony Sharples FA Council Member London FA

Chairman, Tom White, introduced the Society's special guest, Tony Sharples, who explained, "He had never done this!"

Tony thanked Tom and began by pointing out that as someone previously from Lancashire with a Rugby League background he had never played football. His first involvement in the game was some 40 years ago when he was asked to form a football team at the small youth club he and his wife, Pat, were running at the time – it was a learning curve for everyone!

Tony then led those present down the long winding road of his career, explaining the type of work involved and how the various Committees in the game are structured and carry out their disparate duties.

After being Secretary at St Joseph's for 13 years, Tony was invited in 1979 to become The General Secretary of The Mercury Waltham Sunday League, which had at one period 13 Divisions with over 120 clubs – two of which won the FA Sunday Cup Competition. He also refereed for 20 years, before retiring on ill health to become an Assessor for Herts FA. Tony relinquished this post in 2000, when elected to represent The London County FA upon Council, and is now Chairman of London FA having been a member since 1981.

Tony has since served on many Committees including Rules; Sanctions and Membership; FA Women's; Pitches and Facilities – from local Councils to Premier League Clubs; and as Chairman on The FA Development Committee and The Board of Appeals. He discussed some of the challenges faced in London by his Association in order to provide football for all. He said that he regarded representing London FA on Council to be a great honour and one he takes extremely seriously and that once a decision is by the majority of 'The National Game' he will fully support and work to achieve its aim. He also enjoys travelling abroad representing The FA.

A discussion took place on the Burns Report, which recommended a number of actions to be carried out. Welfare Officers and Child Protection issues were also discussed. The popularity of Power Leagues and Futsal was also discussed and it was of concern to some that these relatively new competitions were contributing in no small way to the demise of teams playing in more traditional local leagues. Other topics put to Tony and discussed included: County FA's, their worth and benefit to the Football Association; streamlining of the FA hierarchy; a Referees' Director; the London North/South divide; County Cups vrs League games; the popularity of girls football and the proposal for mixed football (boys and girls) up to 14 years.

As to all the work he does for football, Tony said he couldn't do it without the support of his wife and being retired.

Martin De La Fuente gave a vote of thanks to Tony for all his hard work for the game and for being our special guest for the evening. To generous applause the Chairman presented Tony with a copy of the "The 50 Year History of the North Middlesex Referees Society" as a memento of his visit.

NORTH MIDDLESEX REFEREES SOCIETY

Minutes of the Society Meeting held on Thursday October 18th, 2007 at the Holtwhites Sports Centre

Apologies: Lockie Bramzell, Roger Fox, Percy Brown, Vince Yeudall and as per Society Handbook

The Chairman opened the meeting, which most likely was the poorest attendance ever in the Society's history. The Chairman was pleased to welcome Tony Sharples, from the London CFA and also their F.A. Representative, having stepped in at the last minute due to the sudden cancellation of the presentation evening - 50 year F.A. award to LVP- Brian Langstone.

Unfortunately Brian had to enter hospital suddenly, and the Chairman on behalf of the Society and members present wished him a speedy recovery. It is hoped to hold the event once the situation becomes clearer on Brian's recovery progress.

Minutes of the Last Society Meeting: The minutes of the last Society meeting held on Thursday 20th September 2007 were duly signed as a true record.

Matters Arising: The Secretary asked members if they knew of any members who had attended the Famao Evening held at West Ham United FC on October 11th, 2007. It was reported that over 150 people attended the evening, which proved to be an enjoyable evening with Rob Styles as the chief guest.

Secretary's Report: The Society Council meeting due to be held in mid-October was cancelled due to insufficient business and would now be held in January 2008. RA awards and 50-year FA awards are now being considered, with RA nominations to be confirmed to Head Office by 31st October 2007.

The Society celebrates its 60 years in January 2009 and members need to decide how and when to celebrate the occasion. So please put your ideas forward to Council.

Treasurer's Report: Full Membership – 139 and Associate Membership 3. The number of members who have not joined this year was 33.

Editor's Report: The editor thanked Gary for producing the magazine for October, as he was involved in a Table-Tennis Tournament in Turkey.

Any Other Officer's Report: None

Any Other Business: Discussion took place on why the numbers had drastically reduced in attendance at monthly Society Meetings. The old chestnut that changing from Friday evening to Thursday evening came up, yet the membership at that AGM clearly voted overwhelmingly for it. The quality of speakers was mentioned. The Secretary stated that it was extremely difficult to obtain high profile speakers, as now it is not unusual for them to demand a fee. Several views were taken into account and only recently in the Society magazine, members were still being asked for their observations.

Council will discuss the issue in January, and it was even suggested that if the trend continues it is possible that bi-monthly meetings could be introduced along with a bi-monthly magazine. We shall have to wait and see.

After a five-minute break the Chairman introduced our Guest Speaker, Tony Sharples, FA Council Member LFA.

Chairman:



All purchases through our webshop at
www.buy.at/nmrs
and help raise money for
North Middlesex Referees Society



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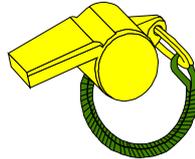
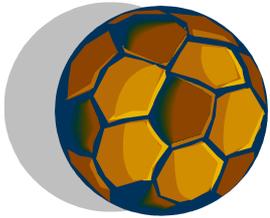
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**North Middlesex Referees Society
for Season 2007/2008**

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Contact us for all your sporting requirements

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Middlesex County FA – County Cup Appointments – Season 2007/2008

Youth Division Appointments

Under 15 Cup – Round 2

Park View Rangers F.C. U15 v Harefield United Youth F.C. U15 Paul Fuller (R)

Under 14 Cup – Round 2

Limassol F.C. U14 v Mill Hill Rangers F.C. U14b Gary Haines (R)

Omonia Youth F.C. U14b v Pinnacle Youth F.C. U14 Andy Savva (R)

Whetstone Wanderers Yth F.C. U14b v Ealing Rangers F.C. U14 Phil Bowman (R)

Omonia Youth F.C. U14 v Hayes Youth F.C. U14 Barry Berndes (R)

New Orleans Griffins Comm F.C. U14 v Charville Athletic Youth F.C. U14 Barry Kyriacou (R)

Under 12 Cup – Round 2

Enfield Rangers F.C. U12 v Wealdstone F.C. U12 James McCaig (R)

Carpenters Youth F.C. U12 v Finchley Revolution F.C. U12b Mike Sibley (R)

Ridgeway Rovers F.C. U12 v Whetstone Wanderers Yth F.C. U12 Matthew Webster (R)

Senior Youth Cup – Quarter Final

Edgware Town F.C. U18 v Bedfont Green F.C. U18 Michael Mackey Jnr (R)

Edgware Town F.C. U18 v Bedfont Green F.C. U18 Peter Jago (AR)

Parent Body Appointments

Premier Cup – Quarter Final

Harrow Borough FC Reserves v Hayes and Yeading United FC Reserves Peter Smith (R)

Wealdstone FC Reserves v Enfield Town FC Reserves Michael Mackey Jnr (R)

Intermediate Cup – Round 3

Park View FC First v Harrow St Marys F.C. First Stephen Reuter (AR)

Park View FC First v Harrow St Marys F.C. First Barry Kyriacou (AR)

Junior Cup – Round 3

Parkfield F.C. Reserves v Northfield Shamrocks F.C. Reserves Nick Illott (R)

North Greenford United F.C. 3rds v Hayes Gate F.C. Reserves Patrick Walsh (R)

Sunday Premier Cup – Round 2

Belstone F.C. First v K.D.A. F.C. First John Noblemunn (AR)

Belstone F.C. First v K.D.A. F.C. First Stan Rosenthal (AR)

Sunday Intermediate Cup – Round 2

McKenzie Rangers F.C. First v Tyson Lee F.C. First Stephen Reuter (R)

Oakwood F.C. First v BAA Heathrow (Sunday) F.C. First Stan Rosenthal (R)

If you have a County Cup or other Plum Appointment, and would like it recorded in the Normidian, please let the editor know.



Long time member, David Williams, writes, “Just to kill any rumours that I have quit and put my feet up, plums received so far this season are below”:

AFA Intermediate Cup Preliminary Round: Referee: Old Esthameians Res. vrs St John’s Arsenal

AFA Closed Vets Cup-Preliminary Round: Referee: William Fitt vrs Norsemen “A”

AFA Open Vets Cup-Preliminary Round: Referee: Old Camdenians vrs Old Parmiterians “A”

AFA Open Vets Cup-Preliminary Round: Referee: William Fitt “A” vrs Whitewebbs Wanderers

AFA Junior Cup Referee: Globe Rangers Reserves vrs Old Wokingham Reserves.

AFA Senior Cup-Qualifying Round: Referee: Leyton County OB vrs Weirside Rangers

AFA Closed Vets Cup-1st Round Proper: Referee: Winchmore Hill “A” vrs Met Police (Chigwell) DA

AFA Middlesex/Essex Senior Cup 1st Round Proper: Referee: Southgate Olympic vrs Old Hamptonians

Representative Game: Assistant Referee: AFA U18 Youth vrs Kent U18



COMMON SENSE ON THE LOCAL PARK

Around the Edges: Changing Rooms and Touchlines

It is, of course, our performance on the pitch during the 90 or 120 minutes that REALLY matters. Having said that, it is perhaps appropriate to devote one article in eight to a consideration of our responsibilities 'around the edges' of a game. We certainly have responsibilities beyond the match itself and our match control may be made even easier or more difficult by our handling of situations off the field of play

BEFORE THE GAME

How would you deal with the following situation?

On your arrival at the ground the home club secretary greets you with these words: 'Hope you're better than the 'effing' ref we had last week: he was 'effing' useless.'

There are various possible responses to this. My favourite is, 'Oh, I thought you wanted consistency,' although 'Really? Did you win?' comes a close second. You could of course cock a deaf ear, or even remind the speaker that it is your duty to report the behaviour of 'team officials who fail to conduct themselves in a responsible manner.

This last possibility might seem a little heavy at such an early stage of your time with the club - better to keep your heavier artillery in reserve for later! Smiling is probably the best policy in this and other situations.

There is, however, a delicate balance to be struck between friendliness and formality in pre-match relationships. Earlier this season I was laughing and joking with the home club in the changing room I shared with them, only to be asked as I handed out the 4th caution of a difficult match: 'What's up with you? You were great before the game!' In hindsight I felt that I had been too relaxed and friendly before the kick off.

Certainly in conducting all the necessary business concerning the substitutes names, match balls and club assistant referees it is important to create a no-nonsense impression of efficiency and competence. Polite, friendly formality is probably more likely to achieve this than a more casual, relaxed approach.

DURING THE GAME

We have a responsibility to be aware of the behaviour of those on the touchlines. Under no circumstances can club officials or spectators be allowed to use the offensive language which you are preventing the players from using. It is difficult to identify the culprit(s) while play is in progress, and you have to decide whether to go to the touchline and issue a general warning or hold back from this in the hope that you will be able to spot the guilty party next time.

What you do will depend upon the number and nature of the people on the touchline and upon your estimate of the likely effect of a brief speech addressed to them all. Certainly a 'nip it in the bud' approach should be adopted because you can be sure that the use of unacceptable language will increase rather than cease if you do nothing.

A request to a club official or captain asking them to speak to the offender(s) is another possibility. In this case you need to have judged their characters sufficiently well to be

confident that you will get their co-operation. Otherwise, you may only have increased your difficulties.

Law 5 tells us to 'ensure that no unauthorised persons enter the field of play.' This is most likely to happen when a player requires treatment for injury. There can be a potential flash point if the player has been hurt by an illegal challenge and a trainer and three substitutes come on to deal with the matter. The referee may need to be very much present in these circumstances, exercising the full range of his management skills to diffuse the situation.

If necessary he will have to note the trainer's misbehaviour and report it to the appropriate authority. In the case of an invading substitute the Law requires that he be cautioned (and shown a yellow card). Of course, if he indulges in violent conduct or employs offensive, insulting or abusive language he will have committed a red card offence.

We must hope it doesn't come to this, and common sense suggests that allowance should be made in the case of pitch invasions by mothers, fathers and lovers rushing to the aid of injured loved ones.

AFTER THE GAME

We are obliged to report 'incidents which occur before, during or after the match.' This includes anything that happens up to the time we leave the ground (or the bar!).

I attend local parks matches ready changed under my (black) tracksuit; this enables me to make a quick getaway on those occasions when the alternative seems to be a lot more paperwork! To make this an even more viable option it is a good idea to ask for the match fee before the game; some competition rules require clubs to do this in any case.

Sometimes, however, it is impossible to escape in time. Recently, I failed to detect a handball by a defender in his penalty area in the last minute of a crucial top of the table clash. At the final whistle I was in receipt of a number of opinions from the player whose side had been denied a penalty. One of them in particular insisted on repeating several times that 'You saw it and didn't give it. You know you saw it. In fact, I hadn't seen it because, from my position on the goal line following a corner, I was unsighted.

Eventually I had to ask the player his name in order to report his remarks to the County FA. He had, after all, called me a cheat in all but name.

CONCLUSION

Up to a point we can perhaps walk away from situations 'around the edges' of a game. Common sense might seem to suggest that we should. Equally, though, common sense also says that we have responsibilities to the Laws, to our colleagues and to the game we love, and that there are, therefore, many occasions when **WE MUST DO OUR DUTY**

Observer



North Middlesex Referees Society - 100 Club Season 2007/2008

The first draws for the 100 Club for Season 2007/2008 were made at the October Society Meeting. Details of the winners are shown below.

September			October		
2	Gary Cobden	£14.80	37	Martin de la Fuente	£14.80
38	Cos Fernandes	£7.40	22	Tom White	£7.40
23	Nick Illott	£3.70	11	Charles Lifford	£3.70

Cheques for the winners are included with the Magazine; if you receive your magazine by e-mail, the cheques will be sent under separate cover.

If you would like to join, please complete the form below, and return it to me.

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 10 months.

Renewal information will be included with next seasons Membership Form

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

Society Use - Numbers Allocated.....

Gary Cobden
Honorary Treasurer



On 24 October, Peter Clayton, Chief Executive Middlesex County FA, circulated a Memorandum to Referee Assessors, Examiners and Instructors explaining that a number will need renewed passes.

The memo states:

Please forward a passport size photograph to Chris Dennis, Club and Membership Services Officer at the Headquarters and he will be happy to produce a new card and post it out to you.

If you hold a card which already has a photograph which you consider is still a good likeness (remember, the camera never lies and we don't have air brush facilities to take the years off 😊), please call Chris on 020 8515 1920 or e-mail him at chris.dennis@middlesexfa.com and we will have a look to see if we still hold the image to avoid you the need of sending in another.

Naturally, if you have joined our list since the first issue of cards and have never received one, you will need to supply a photograph.

If submitting a photograph, please write your name on the reverse and give Chris a note of what role you operate in order that he can produce a card with the correct legend.

Kind Regards

Peter





The Referees' Association of England

News Digest October 2007

Restructuring

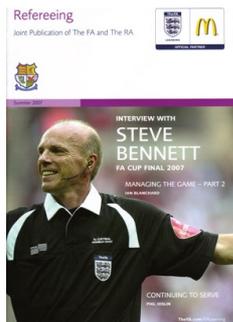
Following the approval of the South Bedfordshire Notice of Motion at the RAE AGM in June, the Board has corresponded with NIRA & RAW to seek their opinions of further administrative changes. Following their responses a sub committee has been formed to investigate the feasibility and implications of various options.

It is understood that the current structure of three independent autonomous National Associations and a separate administrative organisation which is responsible for the matters of common interest to the National Associations appears to be confusing to many members and it is hoped that any further administrative changes will maintain the heritage of this Association and the operational ties between the three National Associations.

"Refereeing" magazine

It is a little over a year since the joint RA/FA magazine was first produced by an editorial team including members of the RA and FA.

The latest issue has just been despatched from the printer.



The publication is funded entirely by the FA and is distributed directly to every Registered Referee in England, whether they are a member of the RAE or not.

A magazine for those members who are not FA Registered Referees will be supplied to their ABS upon request to Head Office.

Copies are sent to ABSs in Wales and Northern Ireland for distribution to their members.

Editions include articles detailing the benefits of membership which it is hoped will assist ABSs to recruit new members.

RA Centenary Conference

This will be held on Saturday 5th July 2008 at the Renaissance Hotel, Solihull. Please put the date in your diaries NOW.

The programme for the weekend will be sent to all ABS Secretaries early in the New Year when the key note speakers and workshop session leaders have been confirmed.

Geoff Thompson, Chairman of the FA and a Vice President of UEFA and FIFA will be Guest of honour and will be with us for the weekend.

Pierluigi Collina has been invited to join us for our Gala Dinner. Due to his work commitments he has not yet been able to confirm whether or not he will be able to attend.

The cost to hold our Centenary Conference will be higher than usual and we need to identify potential sponsors for elements of the Conference.

Members with any suggestions for a potential sponsor are requested to contact Head Office.

Sponsors will be acknowledged in the Centenary Conference Brochure.

Board Elections

The following 4 members have put their names forward for election to the Board for the period 1st January 2008 – 31st December 2010.

Nigel Genner (Stourbridge)

Colin Harris (Bristol)

Eddie McGrath (Bootle)

Ray Mallery (Croydon)

Voting papers have been sent to ABS Secretaries. They should be completed and returned to RA Head Office by Thursday 15th November.

RA Centenary

The RA Board is considering commissioning a Commemorative cover to mark this special occasion.

We would ask members with special knowledge of this area of collectables and who are willing to assist the Board to please contact Head Office.

RA Supplies

Our new kit, illustrated in the previous edition, is selling extremely well and we are receiving very positive feedback on the style, quality and price.

Members can purchase items from our extensive range of products post-free either directly from our supplies department at RA Head Office in Coventry, on 0800 328 9474 or by logging on to our dedicated website:

RAshop.co.uk



Alternatively members can obtain our products from their ABS who can purchase goods at discounted rates for bulk orders.

The profit from our supplies operation is retained within the Association to help fund our operating costs which helps to keep membership subscriptions as low as possible.

It is known that some ABSs encourage their members to purchase kit and supplies from our competitors who make a donation to their Society funds.

Like every business we are keen to maximise our sales and request those Societies with such an arrangement to contact us.

Please support your Association and help the Board to help you.

Head Office

In 1989 the Association purchased the leasehold of the land at Head Office which has been developed and improved over the past 18 years.



Due to the expansion of our Supplies operation and current employment legislation, the building no longer suits our needs so the Board are currently investigating the feasibility of relocating to new premises.

Membership figures

The Membership year is from 1st April in any year to 31st March the following year and membership subscriptions are due for renewal on 1st April every year.

Half way through the membership year, there were 9,430 members recorded at Head Office on 30th September 2007, 69 less than on 30th September 2006 and just less than 80% of the 11,829 recorded on 31st March 2007.

Where are the other 20%? Have they stopped Refereeing or just not yet renewed their membership??

If you haven't renewed your membership you aren't covered by the RA Group Personal Accident Insurance Policy.

Details of membership numbers supplied from Head Office show that 13 out of 281 ABSs have not yet registered any members.

A report on membership trends compiled by the Treasurer is available from your County RA Secretary.

Referee Recruitment

The Football Association and County FAs are responsible for the recruitment of Referees into the game. It is of course in our interest to do whatever we can to assist with the recruitment of Referees by encouraging ex players and others interested in the game to take up the whistle.

FA Referee numbers

As Referees, we are required to register annually with our Parent County Football Association and it has been reported that Referee numbers recorded in County handbooks has declined this year by an average of about 25%, possibly as a result of the FA CRB initiative. It is therefore encouraging to note that our own membership has declined by just 69 from this time last year

The FA's expressed aim is that every match of football should be controlled by a Registered Referee, this currently looks a long way off but it is in everyone's interest to help to attain that goal.

100% Membership

This has been a goal for many years and is something that the Board is striving to achieve by working with the FA to try to encourage non members to join their local ABS.

It is known that there is 100% membership in Northern Ireland

where Referees pay their FA, Divisional FA, Society, National RA and RA Subscriptions all to their ABS Treasurers who distributes subscriptions appropriately.

If we can achieve such a position, the Board will be able to **reduce** subscriptions.

Assaults on Match Officials

None of us think that we will ever be assaulted but records show that regrettably this problem persists within our game.

The FA maintains records supplied to them by County FAs but the Board has minimal information on the extent of the problem as far as it affects our members.

When an assault has occurred, the individual will feel isolated and the best way to overcome this is to talk through the incident with a senior member of the local society such as a society mentor who can offer immediate and ongoing assistance, counselling, support and advice.

The Board has developed a form which can be downloaded from the RA website for members to report such incidents to their ABS Secretary, to their County RA Secretary and to Head Office.

By completing and forwarding the forms, the County RA will be able to monitor the situation and Head Office and the Board will be able to collate information on assaults on members which can then be discussed with the FA.

A reportable assault is any form of unwanted and unwarranted physical contact upon a victim by an assailant. Technically, highly aggressive, non-contact violent conduct towards a victim may also constitute an assault. At its mildest, it may just be a 'poke in the chest' with a pointed finger. More serious assaults go as far as inflicting grievous bodily harm or worse.

RA Website

We are pleased to advise that following serious issues with our host company, we are now back on line and have moved to a new host company.

For the latest news on metal cup hooks and much more Surf to

www.footballreferee.org

CRA Liaison Meetings

A series of four meetings in various locations around the Country has been arranged for early December.

County RAs have been invited to send a representative to attend their nearest venue where Board

members will be available to discuss RA & RAE matters.

Publications

The original quantity of the "Don't stand alone leaflet" has almost been exhausted and will shortly be revised.

A recruitment poster for the use of ABSs and CRAs will be developed.

Members with specific design expertise and who are willing to assist the Board are asked to contact Head Office.

A Manual of Guidance was issued to every County RA and Society Secretary following Conference 2005 and the pages are being updated periodically. Members can access and download the pages of the Manual of Guidance from the RA website.

Strategic Plans

The current versions can be viewed on the RA website. Ask your secretaries for information

RAE Board meeting

The Board met on Saturday 1st September and the minutes of the meeting can be viewed on the RA website.

RA Board meetings

An EGM was held on Saturday 1st September and a Board meeting was held on Sunday 2nd September minutes of both meetings can be viewed on the RA website.



Head Office team

Arthur Smith
Head of Operations

**Linda Saunders and
Josephine Clarke**
Administration Officers

Duncan Macaulay
Supplies Officer

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