

**The next Meeting of the North Middlesex Referees' Society will be held at Holtwhites Sports and Social Club, Kirkland Drive Enfield at 7.30 pm on Thursday the 20th of November 2008 when the guest speaker who will address a joint meeting with the AFA Society will be the RAE Chairman Alan Poulain. Get there early as spaces may be short to welcome our distinguished guest.**

### **EDITORIAL**

Listening to David Pleat whilst watching a European game I felt he made a very valid remark to the effect that "when the game is going against their team the crowd always has a go at the Referee". Something similar was said by Martin Tyler when his co-presenter remarked at the crowd's displeasure at the Referee to the effect again "don't they always". This set me thinking about just how much all sections seem to want to blame the referee for anything and everything that does not go their way. How often have we as referees sat in a dressing room at junior level after a hard time with the players on the pitch, only to hear them in the next dressing room talking not about the way they played or the tactics adopted which may have gone wrong, but dealing with each and every decision made by the referee and how he/she got it wrong. Sometimes it is even worse as I discovered recently when again sitting in a dressing room this time getting changed only to hear from next door players talking about what they thought were the mistakes of their referee the week before. If anyone has any experiences of this kind of thing they want to share then please drop me a line, preferably by email.

There was some sympathy however for our last guest speaker our own protégé Phil Sharp for the disgraceful incident at Aston Villa when he suffered a badly cut head from a coin thrown by an idiot. He was such a moron that Harry Redknapp said it was aimed at him. And the fool could not even throw straight. It was typical of Phil that he made light of the problem and he and other "Assistants" found favour with a distinguished sports writer in Giles Smith. Writing in the Times on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October 2008 he pointed out that in a television commentary the two people on air who should have known better "dug out the official for failing to see with the naked eye something that they did not see until shown the incident again from two angles, in slow motion (and quite probably, with additional prompting from the production staff, via their earpieces)." He subsequently went on to write "So who'd be a lino – already required to enforce a law, that essentially requires you to have eyes on two places at once, only for television to come at you afterwards with what Steve Rider smugly referred to as "the definitive slide rule"?

Well written Mr Smith but it is even worse at the lower levels where Phil's experience has often been repeated at the hands and feet literally of a handful of spectators or worse still by members of the playing teams.

Ken Goldman.

## **Peter Dace writes on ‘Matters Presidential’**

On 4<sup>th</sup> November the American People will elect their 44<sup>th</sup> President and incredibly they will have either a Black President or a Female Vice-President. Incredible? Well yes, but so too the North Middlesex Referees Society who have elected as their 17<sup>th</sup> President a ‘Northern Lad’ in the shape of former Editor Terry Wilson.

How we all have to adjust to changing times. Can you imagine our 1<sup>st</sup> President Mr W A ‘Bill’ Huggett popularly known as ‘The Mighty Atom’ supporting Sheffield United, wearing a ping pong track suit to monthly meetings whilst muttering Eh oop and with a ferret down his trousers! Surely not.

At our well-attended monthly meeting in October we listened to the amazingly modest Phil Sharp detailing his early days as Hertfordshire FA’s Referees Development Officer, our President was invited to sit at the top table but his modesty decreed that as a self-styled ‘working class’ President he should remain in the back row.

Now I say we need to see the President. Does he have any bad habits, does he pick his toes during meetings etc, if so we should be told. Does he have a tie? If so there have been no sightings since his ennoblement at our AGM in May.

On the subject of Presidents it was remarkable at the same meeting that in addition to our current President no fewer than six Past Presidents were also in attendance – Terry Hayne, Robin Jagot, Tony Ward, Mick Osborn, Ken Goldman and myself. Indeed there are only two other living Presidents – George Basten now annexed in distant Ramsgate but a Society supporter through and through, and the further distant Dave Ackerman.

The Honourable Wilson was proudly wearing his Chain (well ribbon really) of Office detailing his predecessors and with the Society’s 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary looming on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2009 I detail those names on display.

W A Huggett 1949-59; H F Barnard 1959-64; L T Saunders 1964-69;  
A G Pearce 1969-74; L G Davis 1974-77; R O Hounsell 1977-80;  
R F Tossell 1980-83; G W Basten 1983-86; T Hayne 1986-89;  
P E Dace 1989-92; D J Dickinson 1992-93; R P Jagot 1993-96;  
A W Ward 1996-99; Mick Osborn 1999-2002; K Goldman 2002-05;  
D Ackerman 2005-08.

## **I HAVE TO REPORT THAT.....**

**by Mick Osborn**

Do you find that writing misconduct reports is a chore and the quicker you get it done the sooner you can get on with the rest of your life?

Some years ago I read an article by someone that sat on disciplinary commissions. He wrote that many players get off charges not necessarily because the referee was wrong but because the reports were so poorly presented that the benefit of the doubt had to be given to the player. Nobody said that writing a report is easy. But then, neither is refereeing.

Over the years of reading candidates' examination pieces, the things that have disappointed me are not so much that many do not have literary skills but their apparent lack of interest in following the instructions before completing the form and putting their thoughts into words and the absence of pride in trying to do a good job. Of even greater concern is that some experienced referees, excellent as they may be on the field of play, have the same shortcomings when it comes to this part of the business.

The F.A. has a booklet called, "A Guide to Misconduct Report Writing." In it is a summary of report writing procedure. An important piece of advice it contains is the ABC of report writing. - "Report the incident accurately, briefly and clearly."

Accurately: Describe exactly what you saw and/or heard. A brief note on your match record card at the time will help your memory.

Briefly: Only report what is relevant. Does it really matter whether it was a wet and windy afternoon in February and it looked like it might snow before you got home?

Clearly: Make sure your writing is legible and that what you have written makes sense. If your handwriting is difficult for others to read, then please print or type your report if at all possible. Do check your spelling! Almost every important word that you will need to use is in the "Laws of the Game". The others are probably of only four letters and fairly easy to spell; and then there is the dictionary. The use of punctuation is still important. For years it has been a joke among musicians to include a comma when announcing the song by Cole Porter, 'What Is This Thing Called Love?' "What Is This Thing Called, Love?" has an entirely different meaning!

There is also a checklist for misconduct reports, in which the referee is asked if he has entered correctly the full names of the competing teams, the complete title of the competition, the venue and date of the match, full name of the player/club being reported, the team for which he or she played and the correct code for the offence, etc.

This is a good tool of the trade. It is there to help. Why not use it?

Read your report before you send it. Are you satisfied with it? A little time and attention to detail could mean that justice is swift, saving you the trouble of a trip to a hearing at County H.Q. and your reputation is enhanced.

## **“Off the Post”**

Dear Sir,

In reply to the letter from Len Wilcock published in the latest issue of the Normidian:-

As a referee that officiates almost exclusively in youth football I take exception to the idea that if he referees eight youth games a season he should be entitled to officiate at a County Cup Final. I referee approximately sixty matches a season from Under 8 to Under 18 and have been fortunate to be asked to be Assistant Referee in each of the past two seasons at Hertfordshire County Cup finals. I do agree that many referees do not like to take on youth matches, but I can't understand why. So far this season I have refereed in five County Cup games and would hope that again this season I will be picked for a Final. The selection of referees that officiate at adult levels for County Cup finals does annoy me as they quite often only contribute that one game a season to youth football where there are many referees that miss out on their big day. The standard of play in youth football is also questioned, but this is due to the fact that most youth players are still learning the game and you should not expect Premiership standards of play from seven to seventeen year olds, unless you are lucky enough to referee Academy matches. The standard of play in a lot of older age group games is far superior to most of the adult Sunday morning, and some Saturday afternoon, matches where half of the participants are either under the influence of alcohol or just want to kick lumps of the opposition anyway.

**Stuart Walden**

## **LAST MONTH'S GUEST SPEAKER**

One of the largest attendances we have had for a very long time turned up to hear one of the Society's favourite sons Phil Sharp. In a very modest speech he indicated that "Everyone has an opinion but somebody will have the right answer that is why I always learned so much from coming to this Referees' Society. You can never know it all so everyone can learn from what they hear and I have actually missed coming to this Society over the passed few years." After outlining his work as the Referee Development Officer for Hertfordshire County and telling some amusing anecdotes about what he has found since taking over from Paul Taylor (having originally missed out in an earlier application, but subsequently having been offered the job) he went on to mention certain of his "lining" experiences. He also brought us up to date with the current intentions of FIFA regarding their Assistants and pointed out that "When I go abroad I ask most other Officials where they referee and they basically say they don't, but only run the line. As from this season FIFA Assistant Referees no longer referee and are regarded as "specialists" instead."

It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening with the usual question and answer session at the end and Phil had time to join with Middlesex 20 year Award winners Bob Martin and Nick Ryder for a celebratory photo. Terry Hayne gave the introduction and Roger Fox proposed the vote of thanks.

## **Member Interview No.1 – Steve Reuter**

We caught up with one of our oldest members Steve Reuter during his appearance as a Referee in the Gay and Lesbian World Cup Finals at Regents Park in August 2008. This is what he had to tell us about the tournament:-

“It has been good fun to referee in the competition which was just about football with no other connotations so far as I am concerned. The standard of play was your average Sunday morning park football in the second of the two divisions but slightly better in the higher first division, as the teams were split into two. I refereed in the men’s eleven-a side competition but there was a women’s seven-a side section as well. From my point of view it was only a one day session out of the three played at Regents Park although the men’s final was on Leyton Orient’s ground at the end of the week. I certainly would have been pleased to have refereed more. We tended to run the line in one game and then do a middle in another. I found out about the tournament from the Referee magazine and also from someone that I knew. So far as I understand everything went well in the tournament because I heard from a couple of players that they were very impressed with the organisation and the way things had worked out. The discipline so far as I saw it was very good both towards each other as players and to the officials.

**ALSO REFEREEING** at those Games was Betsy Ogburn a 50 year old from Richmond Virginia who refereed in the Women’s 7-a-side section of the competition. She told this magazine that she too had no real problems but added “there have been just a few tempers shown but overall the teams have been very well matched and compatible and in the main well disciplined. I have been refereeing in the USA for 13 years and not only officiate in IGLA tournaments but also in youth football from the under 10’s all the way up to high school and college football. There is a massive amount of football played in the States and it allows me to referee coach and play. I hope to go on refereeing and playing for a long time yet even though I wanted to go onto to 50 initially, but as I only started late by playing when I was 25 I feel that I am fit enough to continue my regime. That is refereeing on a Saturday and playing in a women’s over 30 league on a Sunday. I have even been known to referee at under 18 level on a Sunday morning and play for my team the same afternoon.

**PAUL FAIRCLOUGH** is both the Manager of Barnet FC and also of the England “C” Team. Here he explains both the dual roles and his pride in holding the International position.

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I always thought it was important to have the name “England” in the designation of the Non-League Representative side and so I am pleased to say that it was duly changed from being lastly the National Game Eleven to the England C Team. I am happy with that because it has now settled the name of the representative side which has been called various things such as the England Non League Team and the England Semi-Professional Team.

Obviously there is something of a balancing act between being Manager of both Barnet FC and the England C Team but the latter I find very easy and it is also a big advantage to Barnet. At Underhill we have to look at grass roots players to build our team so I and my scouts are always out there looking for various candidates and we also get a great feedback at those levels so it is like having an extended network.

### **Balancing the Two Roles**

In terms of time to do both jobs, again there is no problem since with the England situation we play the Four Nations Tournament which is off-season, which I also tend to take as my holiday much to the joy of my wife. There has also been introduced a very prestigious European Trophy which is only two games per season and as that has now been put into the FA calendar it does not affect me with Barnet. When we go away to play in midweek it is just nice to leave the Club behind for 3 or 4 days because it freshens me up and brings me back brighter and as I say refreshed for Barnet as well. I must add here that the Club are very supportive of me in my current International role, which of course enables me to do both jobs.

I have held the England post now for about 4 years and I have only ever signed one player for Barnet who has ever played for me in the Representative side and that player was Neil Bishop. Conversely I have taken a number of Barnet players to play for the team. Indeed I have always tried to show everyone that there is no bias and I am simply trying to pick the best side. On the other hand I also do not see why Barnet should be disadvantaged in any way because actually it is free for all out there nowadays. There should be no problems if I select a player for England and he is a free agent, but I certainly stress that I would never talk to a player while we were on duty but if he is available then just because he has played for my Representative side or as a result of that he is of interest to me for Barnet then I will put our Club into the race with all the other Clubs and their Managers.

### **Playing At Wembley**

My actual connections with the game at my current level of involvement do not go back as far as the England Amateur Teams. But I do know several players who played

in some of those sides, including Tony Jennings and Ian Wolstenholme. Indeed I remember going to Wembley to watch the Great Britain amateur side and I fully intend now to be banging on the FA's door to make sure my team gets an opportunity to play at Wembley as well. The new Stadium is absolutely awesome and that is only just being in the Stands. Then if you go down to the pitch level and see things from that perspective it is simply amazing. I think that all National teams no matter at what level they are should play there and if anyone is representing their country they should have the opportunity of playing on that pitch. When Barnet's League season is over I always go to watch the finals of The FA Trophy and FA Vase, usually with a mixture of excitement and expectation. I never forget to take my pen and notebook with me, always finishing up feverishly taking notes.

### **Pride In Our Achievements**

I feel it is a fantastic honour to be the Manager of the England C Team. I can remember when I first took over the job my first game was against Belgium and for some reason there was a boycott by the Conference Chairmen regarding the team. We were due to go out the Monday before the match, but by the Sunday we did not even have a team. I had to work furiously at FA Headquarters on the Sunday and somehow we managed to cobble a team together made up of Ryman's League and Southern Premier teams. We gave a fantastic performance in that tournament which itself has grown and grown since then. The European Tournament for our level which initially started off with 4 teams now has 8 and that will definitely grow to 16 or even 32. My vision, if I am still involved long enough, is to see an English team from our level entered into the Commonwealth Games and maybe even then the Olympic Games.

Finally I must say something more about Barnet. We are trying to play some quality football at the Club and last season we decided to pre-empt the FA's "Respect" campaign by insisting that only our captain could speak to the Referee. This improved our disciplinary record enormously. As anyone who knows me will testify, I am firmly bedded at the grass roots level of the game and I am very proud of that and get a big kick out of going to all the non-league grounds be they Hemel Hempstead, Wingate & Finchley, Harlow Town or Northwood and indeed many others. That is why I arrange pre-season friendlies with the smaller clubs because I believe in putting something back into football to help those types of clubs.

## Middlesex County FA County Cup Appointments Season 2008/2009

### MCFA Premier Cup Round 2

Northwood F.C. Reserves v Hanworth Villa F.C. First P. Jago Asst Referee

### MCFA Junior Cup Round 2

The Wheatsheaf F.C. First v North Greenford United F.C. 3rds J. Stockman Referee

### MCFA Junior Trophy Round 2

Larmans F.C. First v Inter Markfield F.C. First J. Stockman Referee

### MCFA Sunday Intermediate Cup Round 2

Locomotive Enfield F.C. First v AFC Real First J. Noblemunn Referee

### MCFA Sunday Junior Cup Round 2

Oak Wood F.C. First v Hampton Village F.C. Reserves S. Wildgoose Referee

Whitewebbs Eagles F.C. First v Queensbury Park Rangers F.C. First B. Kyriacou Referee

### MCFA Senior Youth Cup Round 1

Enfield Town F.C. U18 v Wealdstone F.C. U18 S. Reuter Referee

Enfield Town F.C. U18 v Wealdstone F.C. U18 S. Rosenthal Asst Referee

Enfield Town F.C. U18 v Wealdstone F.C. U18 P. Bowman Asst Referee

### MCFA Youth Under 18 Cup Round 1

Muswell Hill Youth FC U18 v Enfield Town F.C. U18 J. Noblemunn Referee

Omonia Youth F.C. U18 v Lea Valley United F.C. U17 B. Berndes Referee

### MCFA Youth Under 16 Cup Round 2

Trent Park Youth F.C. U16 v Headstone Manor Youth F.C. U16b P. Fuller Referee

Whitewebbs Eagles Youth F.C. U16 v Enfield Town Youth F.C. U16 N. Ngoma Referee

Panathinaikos Youth F.C. U16 v Panathinaikos Youth F.C. U16 N. Nicolaou Referee

### MCFA Youth Under 15 Cup Round 2

Omonia Youth F.C. U15a v Hanwell Town Youth F.C. U15a B. Kyriacou Referee

Omonia Youth F.C. U15b v Hayes Gate Youth F.C. U15 B. Kyriacou Referee

Limassol F.C. U15 v Old Isleworthians Youth F.C. U15a S. Rosenthal Referee

Whetstone Wndrs Yth F.C. U15a v St Marys Parish F.C. U15 S. Reuter Referee

Whetstone Wndrs Yth F.C. U15b v Whetstone Wndrs Yth F.C. U15d S. Reuter Referee

### MCFA Youth Under 13 Cup Round 2

Panathinaikos Youth F.C. U13a v Hampstead FC. U13a N. Nicolaou Referee

Ridgeway Rovers F.C. U13 v Greenford Celtic F.C. U13b J. Stockman Referee

Magix Yth F.C. U13 v White Wings F.C. U13 S. Wildgoose Referee

### MCFA Youth Under 12 Cup Round 2

Enfield Rangers F.C. U12a v Staines Town F.C. U12b J. Burnikell Referee

Magix Yth F.C. U12 v Edson Youth F.C. U12 S. Wildgoose Referee

Spartans Youth F.C. U12a v Hayes Gate Youth F.C. U12 P. Bowman Referee

These Appointments are correct as at 21 October 2008



## North Middlesex Referees Society - 100 Club Season 2008/2009

Two additional membership numbers for this season are shown below.

42. John Faithfull                      43. John Faithfull

The draws for September and October will take place at the October society meeting. With 43 shares subscribed, the monthly payout is £30.10 and the winners are shown below.

September				October			
First	7	Kevin Wavell	£17.20	First	25	Peter Allen	£17.20
Second	32	Arthur Stewart	£8.60	Second	11	Bob Martin	£8.60
Third	36	Stan Szplit	£4.30	Third	29	Cos Fernandes	£4.30

Winners cheques are enclosed with the magazine, or will have been posted if you receive your magazine by e-mail. Due to an administrative error, last months cheques were not produced in sufficient time for distribution, and are being sent out this months.

Should you wish to join the 100 Club for the remainder of the season, please forward a remittance of £10.00 per share, accompanied by the form below.

### 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



## HENRY TILLY LTD

Sports Goods Suppliers of 94, Turners Hill, Cheshunt  
are again please to continue their support of

### North Middlesex Referees Society for Season 2008/2009

We will also be providing some goods for sale through the  
Society Gear Supplies

Contact us for all your sporting requirements

Telephone 01992 623714



## Middlesex County FA Long Service Certificate Presentations



Phil Sharp, who was Guest Speaker at our October society meeting, presented Middlesex County Football Association twenty year Long Service Certificates for Refereeing to Society members, Bob Martin and Nick Rider. Pictured left are, from left to right, Terry Wilson, Society President, Bob Martin, Phil Sharp, and Nick

Rider.

Phil, who is an NMRS Society member, but due to other commitments, has been unable to attend many meetings over recent seasons, commented after the meeting:-  
"It was GREAT to be back".

He also thanked all those members and guests present for their participation and contributions during the evening.



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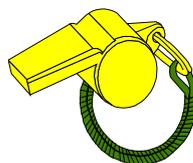
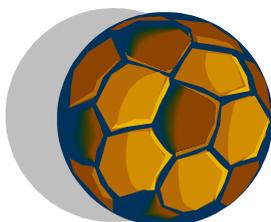
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**Are again pleased to continue their support of North  
Middlesex Referees Society in Season 2008/2009**



## **North Middlesex Referees Society – On-Line Shop**

With Christmas coming up, now's the time to think about doing your shopping on-line. Visit your favourite stores, but access them through the [www.buy.at/nmrs](http://www.buy.at/nmrs) portal. Not only will you see the same bargains as if you shopped direct, you will also be helping the Society at the same time.



Just complete a Consumer Lifestyle survey on-line and the Society receives a small contribution – it only takes a few minutes of your time – if everybody did this, it would help the Society considerably. Sign up to a Sky package, and we receive £70.00; shop at M&S and we receive 5%; from ASDA we receive 2.5%; HMV give us up to 4%; Next 2%; and we get 5% from Waterstones.

Take a look for yourself to see who is there and what you can purchase, helping North Middlesex at the same time. It doesn't cost you a penny more, and may even offer you savings.

**Gary Cobden**  
Honorary Treasurer



## **Membership Renewals**

At the end of last month there were some 50 members from last season who had not rejoined for the current season. In accordance with our usual practice, all of these former members have been written to and offered one final chance to rejoin the Society. If you know anyone from the Society who has not rejoined this year, please either encourage them to do so, or ask them to let us know why they have not rejoined.

**Gary Cobden**  
Honorary Treasurer



# QUIZ TEAMS NEEDED TO FIGHT THE ***'BATTLE OF THE BRAINS'***

We have received an enquiry from a production company, Shine, who are looking for exceptional quiz contestants for the second series of the successful BBC series, 'Battle of the Brains'. If you are a superior quizzier and think you have what it takes to beat some of the best teams in the country they want to hear from you. Shine are looking to field a team of Referees in the next series. Ultimately, we would need seven people to form a team. Please let me know if you would be interested in taking part in a Team to represent the Society.

## **NORTH MIDDLESEX REFEREES SOCIETY**

**Minutes of the Society meeting held on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2008**

**Apologies:** None – or as signed in the Society handbook

**Chairman's Welcome:** The Chairman welcomed back members from the summer break and our Guest Speaker and Society member Phil Sharp, who had just returned from a European match in Austria.

**Minutes of the Last Meeting:** The minutes of the last meeting held on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2008 were read and approved as a true record.

**Matters Arising:** None

**Secretary's Report:** Secretary reported that he had received correspondence from the RA and RAE including the Centenary brochure, which included the RA AGM minutes. The 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner event to be held in January/2009 – ticket applications were going very well and the number of people who had confirmed to date was fast approaching the seventy mark.

Members were reminded that the November meeting would be a joint meeting with our colleagues from the AFA Society and the guest speaker will be Alan Poulain –Chairman of the Referees Association of England. I am sure there will be lots of questions to Alan especially as to the future of the RA and its national membership.

**Treasurer's Report:** Full Membership – 104 Associate Membership – 5  
The treasurer mentioned that a T V company had made enquires about referees taking part in a national quiz and if any referee was interested in taking part would they let Gary know.

**Editor's Report:** The editor requested members to continue to forward articles of interest to him.

**Other Officers Reports:** None

**Any Other Business:** The editor informed the meeting that the London Coaches would be holding their Annual Dinner at the end of November and if anybody would like to attend the cost for a ticket is £60.

The Chairman closed the formal part of the meeting and a discussion then took place on match incidents. A break was then taken and our Guest Speaker was welcomed and introduced by Terry Hayne – Life Vice President.

**Chairman -**