

October 2002

The next meeting of the North Middlesex Referees' Society will be held at the JVC Centre, Arsenal FC, on Thursday 24th October at 8.00 pm. Guest Speaker is Gary Lewin Arsenal's Physiotherapist, who will talk of his World Cup experiences. Members wishing to go on a tour, which includes the dressing rooms etc and the museum, should be at the ground near 7.00 pm. No under-12's, please. We are sharing the evening with Uxbridge Referees' Society so there will be little, or no, Society business.

If size is anything to do with success, then the Normidian is just that. However, there is a sting in the tail! Because of its size, some members are paying extra postage for their magazine, and although the Treasurer has indicated he will authorise refunds I am asked, nay instructed, to keep the number of pages to no more than 14 (12 next month as it will contain membership forms, etc) – or reduce the font size. Another suggestion is to use thinner paper. I don't know about you, but I hate reading small print on rubbish – I suppose we could use microfilm! Are there any ideas out there? Gary or I would be interested.

Our fantastic new website is now up and running, why not have a look? Details are in this magazine.

A presentation evening has been held for Life Vice President Frank Collins' family. As readers of the Normidian are aware Frank died in July this year. Robin Jagot highlights the event in the September minutes printed in this issue.

Phil Sharp, last month's guest speaker, did us proud. A full house heard him recount his experiences at The World Cup 2002. A summary of Phil's talk is included elsewhere in the magazine. Oh yes, and in between all the other exciting happenings, Debbie presented Phil with a bouncing 6lb 5oz baby boy – Ben, Anthony James Sharp, at 8.25 pm on Thursday 19th September. So, congratulations again to Mum and Dad.

Maxie Lea tells me that Life Vice President, Ron Hounsell, celebrated his 80th birthday on 14th September. We trust you had a good one, Ron!

The Society meeting 10 years ago this month was, coincidentally, held at Highbury and the guest speaker was, you've guessed it, Gary Lewin. Were you there? See Peter Dace's reminisces in this issue.

President, Ken Goldman, follows up his article in last month's magazine entitled, "The 33rd Team", with "Part Exchange Laws". Interesting stuff!

Mick Osborne has taken the point about the magazine being too big, to heart. He has decided not to contribute this month. He claims it's "writers block", but I reckon Gary has got hold of him. And he's gone away – to make up some testing questions for the Quiz Nite on Sunday, 27th October at Old Finchleas?

Robin Jago, our new Secretary and hardworking Training Officer is also off – to Florida, USA, for a well-deserved holiday. What he and his missus see in all those white-knuckle rides, heaven knows. Still, it makes a change from trying to get yet another group of candidates through their referee's course.

Closing date for the November magazine is 16th October.

September's Guest Speaker, Phil Sharp – World Cup Assistant Referee

President, Ken Goldman, asked Tony Ward to introduce our special guest. Tony said he had seen Phil Sharp's career develop over many years and has always been impressed with his dedication, whatever the level he has attained.

Phil expertly used slides throughout his talk, which enabled those present to become closely involved in the atmosphere of what is the most prestigious event in the Football calendar.

Our special guest began by urging the younger members present to always do their best, and to dream of what might be achieved with hard work and dedication.

Phil went on to describe how he first found out about his selection as an Assistant Referee for the World Cup. This involved numerous phone calls from Graham Poll, World Cup referee, and a personal friend. Phil explained that when the news of his selection broke he was at his mum's in Barnet and hadn't bothered to take his mobile phone. When he arrived back home with wife Debbie, the answer-phone was full of messages asking him to call Graham. When he finally did so, he was asked if he had heard the news. "What news?" said our guest! As all the details became known, Phil said his selection became no burden to him but an honour. Out of 72 match officials selected only 3 were from the UK: Hugh Dallas, Scotland, Graham Poll, England, and himself.

Different-coloured kit he might be called upon to wear – all provided by sponsor, Addidas and FIFA (boots) were all shown by Phil in neatly laid-out rows. It was a fascinating glimpse into what the highest profile event in world football involves.

The training and conditioning of the officials and seminars, all in the heat of Seoul, South Korea, were well described and illustrated by our guest. Phil explained that everybody encouraged each other during the fitness tests, which were followed by trips to the swimming pool to rest and wind down! Then it was over to Tokyo, Japan, to meet the Crown Prince and Princess, complete with a police escort. Some time-off allowed sightseeing and the chance to soak-up the atmosphere of the country, and take more photographs. "The dream was finally alive and running", said our guest.

After an internal flight, the preparation of Phil's first match, Italy v Ecuador (2-0) in Sapporo was discussed and shown in picture form. The stadium, normally used for baseball was a fantastic sight – as were all the grounds illustrated in Phil's talk.

More pictures – temples and other sights including groups of fanatical Oriental fans. Phil took the opportunity to watch other games in the competition, adding to his own preparation.

Despite all the excitement Phil, said he would pause and remember Debbie – it was his Wedding Anniversary while he was away – and other family and friends who had supported him throughout his career. He also thought of his recent house move – and of course, his new baby-to-be.

Phil's second match at Ibaraki, a stadium he had already visited, was Italy (again) and Croatia (2-0). On the language barrier, Phil said the international language of football was English!

Phil's third match, Belgium v Russia, score 3-2, in Shizuoka also gave the opportunity for a ride on the famous Bullet Train and to see Mount Fuji. Pictures were shown of the train, but the mountain was covered in a thick fog - more shopping and relaxing by the pool.

Looking forward to Korea – Germany v USA (1-0) meant a flight from Japan with Hugh Dallas for company. Besides the match, there was an opportunity to see some Sumo wrestlers in action – again great pictures! “That’s my last match in the World Cup”, thought Phil.

After the Semi-Finals, all the officials were grouped together to hear the news of the Final appointments. When his name was read out along with Collina, Lindberg and Hugh Dallas the 4th Official, Phil said he just couldn't believe it! He felt humbled by the reception he and his other chosen colleagues received from everyone else present.

The four officials for the Final did virtually everything as a team in the time prior to the big match, said Phil. He was impressed with Pierluigi Collina's handling of the Press Conference before the game, particularly when said he would be dedicating his performance in the Final to his wife and two daughters!

Phil showed pictures of himself and other officials having haircuts. He was then pictured sitting in the dressing room before the match with photos of Debbie and other members of his family displayed on the wall behind him. Another photo showed the four match officials on the pitch before the game – not normally allowed – but it was the Final!

During the game itself, Phil remembers a world-famous player querying a decision he made. Eye to eye contact, a brief smile and the incident was over and forgotten. Brazil's 2-0 win over Germany was eventually achieved without any controversy.

After the medal ceremony, Phil said he and his colleagues stayed to watch the fireworks. And then it was over. All that was left was to enjoy a special moment to think of all those who had helped him in any way over the preceding months and years. Phil concluded that The World Cup 2002 had been a once-in-a-lifetime experience, and quoted from one of his favourite songs by Simply Red, “We're in this together, forever”.

Phil said he had brought three souvenirs to the meeting, in the shape of a Brazil team shirt, a German team shirt and, of course, his World Cup Final medal. All were put on display for those present to see and enjoy.

At the conclusion of Phil's presentation, Chairman, Tom White, invited questions from the floor. Phil was asked if he had anything left in the game to achieve, he replied that his next goal was Portugal in two years time for the European Championships. Other questions included one from President, Ken Goldman who wanted to know if top officials “buy the same dummy defenders do?” Phil's answer was to never assume anything during a game. Asked if he wanted England to reach the Final (knowing that any possible chance of his appearing in the game would disappear), Phil replied that he wanted England to go as far as possible in the competition – and in any case, he never thought he would eventually be there in the Final.

Tony Ward gave a vote of thanks to Phil who he clearly remembered seeing as a 17 year old at Arsenal in an Islington Schools competition, and saying to his wife that he had seen someone very special that day. Then, at a Barnet Sunday morning game he recalls seeing Phil before his match looking very smartly turned out, something he has always endeavoured to be, irrespective of the level of the league or competition. Tony explained

that Phil has always paid tribute to North Middlesex and the Training Centre in his rise to the top, also the contribution made by his wife, Debbie. His dedication, said Tony, has resulted in him reaching the pinnacle of the game – The World Cup. Tony concluded by presenting a small gift to Phil from the Society, saying he was personally very proud of him. He then asked the meeting to stand in showing their appreciation of a very special North Middlesex guest.



Youth Section

I hope you have all started the season by now and enjoying yourselves. One thing that came across from Phil Sharp speech was the fact that you should try to enjoy your game as much as you can. If you do not have a league at the moment, then please contact me 020 8364 5484 and I will help sort one out for you.

I hope you all make an effort to attend the next meeting, which is at the Arsenal Football Club. If you wish to see the changing rooms and the trophy cabinet etc you must be there for 7.00pm – well worth a visit.

I wonder how you all feel about an end of season 11-a-side match against the older members of the society, who think they can still play football. It will be down to you if you want this to go ahead. Again, please contact me if you wish to be involved. If this is a success we might organize a couple of 5-a-side teams to enter some local competitions next summer.

I will be trying to contact as many of you as possible to find out what leagues you are refereeing on this season, so that I can make sure that you are all ok.

If you are over 16 and want to go for promotion next season, you need to write to Colin Downey by the 31st December this year. If you need any help please ring me.

In closing, I would just remind everyone that if you would like to come to the next Society meeting at Arsenal FC and need a lift, we will try and arrange something for you – just let me know.

All the best

Jeff

Youth Development Officer.

PS For the record, I am willing to help any Ref with a new league, or any other matter – whatever your age.



What should a football manager do if the pitch is waterlogged? Bring on his subs.

Vince told his mate Percy, “I reffed a game last week and Beckham was playing”. “You’re having me on,” said Percy, aghast. “Well”, said Vince, “A player said to me, if you’re a referee then I’m David Beckham”. Hmm.



PART EXCHANGE LAWS – By Ken Goldman

It has become a convention that no major Law changes occur in a World Cup year. That's a pity because there are several I can think off which might have proved most useful. Currently, there are three main alterations I would recommend to the International Board for future consideration.

The first, and simplest, concerns a reclassification as to who leaves and enters the field after an injury. No Arsenal supporters will not forget in the season just gone, Thierry Henry being fouled in the Tottenham match at Highbury and having to go off rather than take the penalty. That incident highlights the problem we have. However, if the Spurs player committing the foul had been cautioned, Thierry would not have had to leave the field. That is because it was one of the two exceptions. The other, which seems altogether perverse and bizarre, is that if a player has a head injury and is treated on the field he DOES NOT have to go off. Frankly, it should be a case of all off or none off, and preferably none off, unless the Referee, in his discretion, thinks it is going to be too long a treatment to remain on. After all, it was only introduced for the USA World Cup to stop cheating and is not a Law but a ruling.

Secondly, it automatically follows that an Assistant Referee or Fourth Official should be able to return an injured player to the field, rather than wait for the Referee's signal as now happens. How often have we seen Gary Lewin and other physios "windmilling" their arms frantically to attract the Referee's attention to get a player back who has been waiting several seconds to return

Next, I would remove the right for an attacking player to stand amongst his opponents in the defensive wall. This causes hassles with the danger of flare-ups; punch-ups; and cheating, when defenders are pulled and pushed out of the way to create a gap so the ball can be struck through it at goal.

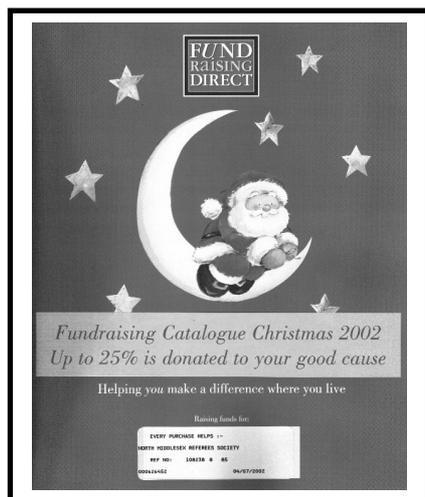
Finally most importantly is the need to sort out what happens when a player is injured whilst the ball is in play. Historically, this was never a difficulty, as it was stopped by the Referee and restarted with a traditional 'drop ball'. Then a new "sporting philosophy" appeared whereby the ball was returned to the opposition at throw-ins and drop balls. However this has usurped the power of the Referee under the Laws, so if one side does not return the ball confusion and worse occurs. Arsenal elected to replay a FA Cup tie when their players made the mistake of taking advantage of a throw-in in these circumstances, yet twice conceded goals in league matches when the opposition did it to them. The same applies at a drop ball where recently a player, admittedly by accident, kicked a drop ball straight into his opponent's net. To obviate the problem, a very simple new understanding should be followed. If a player kicks the ball out when an opponent is injured, the ball should be thrown back to that side, but if it is kicked out to get his own player to receive attention it should not. As to drop balls, these should be reinstated as competitive, save where a goalkeeper is injured, wherafter upon his recovery, the ball should be dropped for him to kick off for a throw-in.



For the record, Peter Smith refereed the Rural Friendly Cup Final last season, and was 4th Official for the Middlesex County Football league, Open Cup Final. Well done peter - Sorry for the delay in publishing your Appointments. Ed.



CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISING



As a possible opportunity to increase our Fund Raising, the Society has a number of Christmas Gift and Stationary catalogues available for Members if they so wish. How does it work I hear you ask. The catalogues are ideal for passing around family/friends/work colleagues, and each contains a number of order forms. Complete the order forms with your requirements, and send it off direct to the catalogue. Your goods will arrive at your door later. The Society will then receive a percentage of income from all orders placed at a later date. If you would like to help the Society raise additional funds, and would like a catalogue for yourself, please contact me at the address on the inside cover of the Normidian.

Gary Cobden
Honorary Treasurer

MEETING DATES - SEASON 2002-2003

We will again be holding our Monthly Meetings at Cockfosters Football Club, Chalk Lane, Cockfosters, Barnet, Hertfordshire, EN4 9GJ

All meetings will be on the second Friday of the month unless notified otherwise – See October

Meeting Dates - with confirmed Guest Speakers for the forthcoming Season are as follows:-

- **13 September 2002** - Phil Sharp - Society member - World Cup Final Assistant Referee
- **24 October 2002** - Gary Lewin - Arsenal and England Physio - AT HIGHBURY - Date subject to change
- **8 November 2002** - Eddie Stone - Football Association Regional Manager
- **13 December 2002**- Social Evening - no Society Business
- **10 January 2003** - Training Evening
- **14 February 2003** - To Be Advised
- **14 March 2003** - Alan Robinson - Former National List Referee and PRO for the Referees Association
- **11 April 2003** - To Be Advised
- **9 May 2003** - Annual General Meeting



QUIZ NIGHT

?????

SUNDAY, 27th OCTOBER

?????

at Old Finchleas FC
Southover, Woodside Park, N12
Tickets £5.00

Phone Mick Osborn – 01707 650804

SUPPLIES

All your Kit Supplies will be available at every Society meeting. See Percy brown for details, or telephone 01707 850674

NORTH MIDDLESEX REFEREES SOCIETY

**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 13TH 2002
AT COCKFOSTERS F.C. CHALK LANE.**

The Chairman requested that all members and guests be upstanding for a minute's silence in respect of Life Vice President Frank Collins who passed away in July. Tributes were paid to Frank. Tony Ward, Chris Proud and Robin Jagot represented the Society at the funeral.

APOLOGIES: *As recorded in the attendance book.*

The Chairman welcomed members and guests who were here for the first time particularly those members who had just completed a training course. The President congratulated them and presented them with a Society whistle. Further presentations were made to two members by the County Training Officer.

PREVIOUS MINUTES OF APRIL: *Were signed as a true record.*

MATTERS ARISING: *There were no matters arising.*

SECRETARY'S REPORT: *The Secretary reported that he had received two very sincere letters from Joan Collins thanking the Society for the wonderful presentation evening, which was arranged at very short notice, and brought back many happy memories for her and the family. The Secretary also reported that the National R.A. Award for 50 years for Frank would be dealt with at the next R.A's September Meeting. The President requested that we minute a vote of thanks to the ladies who organised the buffet arrangements. Secretary informed the meeting that a letter of thanks has been sent to all the ladies by our Social Secretary.*

SOCIAL SECRETARY: *The Social Secretary reminded members and guests that the Society would be arranging a Quiz Night on Sunday October 27th 7.30pm at Old Finchleas Sports Club and that Teams would be made up of six. A ploughman's supper will be provided. Tickets priced at £5.*

TREASURER'S REPORT: *The Treasurer reported that the membership stands at 208 members plus 10 associates. Several members had not yet completed their membership forms and a reminder will be sent out with the next Society magazine.*

MAGAZINE EDITOR: *The Editor was happy to report that a number of articles were being received. He asked members to continue on this theme and thanked them for their support. The Editor reminded members that the cut off date for the next magazine is September 18th 2002.*

GEARS SUPPLIES OFFICER: *Happy to report that most items were in stock.*

M.R.A. REPORT: *The Secretary informed members that he will advise our MRA Delegate that the first meeting for this season will take place on Monday September 30th 2002 at 7.30pm at Middlesex County H.Q.*

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT OFFICER: *The Y.D.O. reported that he was hoping to arrange a match between the more senior members of Society and our Youth members. The Y.D.O. stressed how important it is to keep in close touch with our youth members as they are the future of the Society. These sentiments were very much echoed by our Chairman. It was also hoped to arrange a 5 aside Competition later in the season.*

ANY OTHER BUSINESS: *L.V.P. Tony Ward spoke to members and guests about the next meeting which will be at the Arsenal Football Club, and the guest speaker will be Gary Lewin the Arsenal Physio. The meeting will start at 8.00pm on Thursday October 24th 2002. Members may arrive earlier (7.00pm) if they wish to go on a conducted tour of the ground and visit the Museum.*

Gary Cobden asked if there were any members available to help with some Chelsea U16 games on Sunday September 15th 2002, would they please contact him after the meeting. A request was also made by Len Wilcox for a match at Hertford Town's ground for the same day.

There being no other business the Chairman requested that the President introduce our special Guest Speaker Phil Sharp, who was given a very warm welcome.

Peter Dace reminisces – the Normidian of October 1992

Monthly meeting held at Highbury Stadium and jointly hosted by Lonsar. Guest speakers Gary Lewin and Stewart Houston

Editor Ken Goldman refers back to last months excellent meeting with the talk from Football League Referee Kelvin Morton. Much centred on the new ‘pass-back rule’ although Ken felt it should be referred to as “Dick-Heads” (deliberate intentional cunning kicks – handling everything always definitely stopped). Much discussion took place on who would be cautioned if player one chips the ball to player two to head back to the goalkeeper thus circumventing the deliberate pass back with the foot. Or should the goalkeeper then be cautioned for handling the ball – but what if he does not handle and kicks instead? Ken says this is akin to a Court convicting an accused of handling stolen goods when nothing has actually been stolen!

Dave Dickinson writes as ‘your wheelchair President’ welcoming all new comers and wishing them a long and enjoyable stay.

Tony Ward writes an appreciation on the late John Meade who died aged 78 on 10th August 1992.

Dave Ackerman asks ‘Referees and Telepathy?’ and opines ‘to blow or not to blow that is the question. Whether tis nobler in the minds eye to caution or not’. His concerns are on the new back-pass and feels the law change will be good for the game but wishes that the powers that be had not left so many loose ends.



North Middlesex Referees Society – Web Site – www.nmrs.freeserve.co.uk

Have you paid a visit to our Web Site recently? If you have, you will notice the beginning of some major changes that are taking place which will make it easier to navigate round, and find items of interest. All the major links will be down the left hand side of the screen, and similar links will soon be found on all pages – the revised pages are all in course of construction, and, for the time being, some of the links will still be to the old style pages. You can see the new, revised, ‘Home Page’ – www.nmrs.freeserve.co.uk – elsewhere in this edition. Please let me know what you think of the new site – e-mail me at garycobden@nmrs.freeserve.co.uk or use the feedback page – which is not currently linked from the new Home Page – but may be by the time you read this – at www.nmrs.freeserve.co.uk/feedback.htm. If there is anything you would like to see added to the web site, please let me know.

Gary Cobden
Honorary Treasurer
And
Webmaster

Welcome to the North Middlesex Referees Society Web Site

This new-look home page is the first of several enhancements we hope to make over the coming months

▶ NMRS Officers
▶ Training School
▶ Magazines - The Normidian
▶ Gear Supplies
▶ Meeting Dates
▶ Society Information

North Middlesex Referees Society is a Member of the



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Contact [The Webmaster Here](#)

Visitors to this site since January 2002



Society member Phil Sharp enthralled when recounting Cup at our first meeting of last Friday. A full report of October Normidian.

The October Meeting will and will be a joint meeting on our usual night - it will There will be limited Socie will be Gary Lewin - Arser will be talking about his W meeting will commence at Dressing Rooms and Muse 7:30pm.

There are a couple of links from the old home page that are current page, but these will all be restored in the next couple of days.

Please give us your feedback on the new look Home Page by recording [Feedback Page](#)

Major RA Prize Draw Winners - [Click Here](#)

Laws of the Game - [2002/2003](#)

Site Last Updated - 17 September 2002 - Society Information pages

THREATS

Some top international referees are still using some unwelcome personality traits, which are watched by thousands of 'up and coming' referees. This is not a good example as players are being controlled by threats, which is not a part of refereeing.

The attitude of the troublesome coach may be a problem, because he is in a position to alter the behavior of his team with his ranting and raving. Maybe a warning in the first instance and a quick point to the dressing room for an encore is the only answer. It appears that not enough referees tend to be so strict.

HESITANCY

The attitude of players towards a referee changes when decisions have an air of hesitancy about them, or when the assistant's signal is either missed or signalled belatedly. Players and spectators easily pick up most of these omissions and hence their attitudes towards the officials concerned, change regardless as to whether the official is experienced or not.

A lackadaisical manner towards the game creates problems, as the evident body language will be apparent to all. Enthusiasm for the game enhances the right attitude, as against a defacto relationship towards it, and it will make for a good referee, with the help of some good qualities inherent in a referee's personality.

Observer

NORTH MIDDLESEX REFEREES SOCIETY 100 CLUB

The Draws for August – the last in the Season 2001/2002 cycle – and September – the first in the current Season's cycle – were undertaken at the first meeting of the Season by Society Chairman, Tom White. For the August draw, we payout 100% of the monies subscribed for that month - £55.00. For the September draw, we payout 70% of the monies subscribed - £35.00.

The winners are as follows:-

	August				September		
1st	51	Peter Peters	£30.25		28	Geoff Jacobs	£20.00
2nd	25	Max Lea	£16.50		15	Peter Smith	£10.00
3rd	33	Stan Rosenthal	£8.25		47	Arthur Stewart	£5.00

If you would like to have the chance of winning cash sums like this every month, please complete the form below, and return it to me with your remittance - £11.00 – to cover you for the remaining draws this season.



.....

NORTH MIDDLESEX REFEREES SOCIETY 100 CLUB

Application for/Renewal of membership – Season 2002/2003

I.....wish to become a member of the North Middlesex referees Society 100 Club, and subscribe to.....shares each month.

I agree to make payment by cheque/standing order – please delete as appropriate. (If you decide to pay by standing order, bank details will be provided).

The current term of membership is for the remaining 11 months of the season; renewal details will be included with Season 2003/2004 Membership Forms.

Please return this completed form to Gary Cobden, Honorary Treasurer



Free Kicks

- Make sure that players from the offending team retire 10 yards from the ball unless the side taking the kick wants to take it quickly.
- As a guide to working our 10 yards, use the pitch markings. If there are no close pitch markings, it may also be helpful to try and picture 5 players lying down head to toe in a line between the ball and the nearest player from the offending team!
- Do not allow offending players to stand over the ball to delay free kicks or to organise the 'wall.' Remember that there is a mandatory instruction to caution players in this situation.
- Make sure you are always on the alert for bad fouls such as:
- Players raising their boots to kick a ball which is at or near head height when an opponent is close by.

Observer

North Middlesex Young Referees

COURTING DANGER

Since the cases in Northern Ireland where our colleagues were subjected to court proceedings over referees legal liability following players injuries due to the state of pitches, members have obviously become more aware of the importance of stringent pitch inspections prior to every match.

It is reassuring that notice of this commitment has been emphasised in the majority of Society magazines, and The Football Association has promised help should the need arise in a court case within the boundaries of England. That is provided the referee has acted in a responsible manner and they feel the situation demands such support. Besides ensuring the pitch and appurtenances are in order there is another task we must attend to prior to the kick off.

With more and more injuries inflicted through various forms of jewellery, referees must look at the participants to see what they are wearing. This can be quickly done at the kick-in just before the toss up on the local park.

It appears that at more senior level players are aware of their responsibility and such problems are not so prevalent in that class of football.

Not only can a player be a danger to an opponent, but also to himself. Swinging necklaces, especially in heading duels could take eyes out, cause cuts or even strangulation to the wearer. Earrings might possibly inflict facial injuries, and could be torn from the lobe.

The small stud or ring type can be just as dangerous as the more ornamental style. Similarly the reverse side could puncture behind the ear if subjected to pressure from any form of blow. Rings and bracelets easily cause nasty cuts and abrasions if they come into contact with an opponent

Some players forget to remove their wristwatches before coming on to the field of play. Naturally such an adornment on a flaying arm may deliver an injury requiring stitches. The wearing of glasses is perhaps the best example of an item that could prove more dangerous to the wearer than anyone else. Not only the lenses but the frames are vulnerable and so it is not advisable for a player to partake in a game with such aids to vision, far better to use contact lenses, which are favoured by some professionals. Obviously these are advantageous when a game is played in rain.

The worse danger is a player who has metal in a knee or leg support. Do not be fooled check them, do not make to assumption that they are safe.

In cases of dangerous objects the easiest solution is to request for the removal of the offensive item, but if this cannot be done with jewellery then it must be padded and taped up. Perhaps we should set an example and take off similar keepsakes, but then the referee should not come into direct contact with anyone on the field of play. It is your duty to ensure the safety of players and there has been a constant reminder for the past few seasons in the leaflet containing the amendments to the Laws of the Game issued by The Football Association.

So we must go out and protect the participants by living up to our obligations for the well being of the game.

Observer

Young/New Referees. Look for other useful articles by "Observer?" and the Youth Development Officer in this issue. Ed.