

Normidian – October 2003

The next meeting of the North Middlesex Referees' Society will be held at 7.30pm on Friday 10th October at Cockfosters FC, Chalk Lane, Cockfosters, Barnet, Hertfordshire.

I hope you all received the season's first edition of Normidian, together with any appropriate papers like Membership Cards, Membership Forms, Insurance details etc.

As I am away during the run-up to the printing of this edition of the magazine, I won't be able to put together all your usual contributions in time for the closing date. However, Gary Cobden has "volunteered" to do this job for me this month.

All football throughout London is the poorer with the passing of Dave McCarthy who died on Monday 18th August after a short illness. Dave was well known to many North Middlesex members as the Referees' Secretary of the Amateur Football Combination and of the former Southern Olympian League and was a Vice President of both. He recently stepped down from the AFC and had taken over as Chairman of the Amenities Committee. Dave had been a registered Referee with the RA for 25 years and was a FA Licensed Instructor and an Assessor for both London FA and the AFA.

Terry Wilson

Well, as temporary Editor, I can assure you that this is a position that I do not wish to hang on to for more than one month! Our esteemed Editor, Terry Wilson, is pursuing his other hobby on the continent where he is defending his Ping Pong title – he refuses to tell me just what the title is. I hope you enjoy the Normidian this month, and that it is as interesting as usual.

Ever wondered how the football fixtures are compiled, and what has to be taken into consideration? Then read on - in this issue we have an article reproduced from the Football League website detailing the lengthy procedures involved.

We have the usual monthly reminiscences from an ever youthful Peter Dace - who is still travelling around the world on trains. This month's - from October 1993 - refers to an article from an unnamed correspondent relating to the problems encountered by a Referees Secretary. The correspondent was your temporary editor, and was a follow up an article written several years previously which was featured on the front page of the Football Referee.

Autographed copies available!

What's in The Normidian this month?

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Last season we managed to attract some articles from our younger/newer members who were given their own page within the magazine. Articles of this nature appear to have dried up, so, come on you fellas – get scribbling. It doesn't have to be typed or e-mailed. We will translate your scribbles for the magazine.

Unfortunately, due to the fact that our Secretary departed on holiday immediately following the September meeting, there are no minutes from the meeting in this month's edition – they will be available on the night of the October meeting so that they can be presented and signed, and a copy will be included in next month's magazine for reference.

The deadline for articles for the November magazine is 16 October – to Terry Wilson please.

Gary Cobden

Guest Speakers

For our October meeting, we are hoping to have Dennis Lewis, former Football League Assessor in attendance.

At our first meeting of the season, we were hoping to have Football League Referee Joe Ross. However, he picked up a game at Chesterfield early in the week preceding the meeting, which meant he could not attend. Nevertheless, Joe has vowed to attend later in the season, and it may be that the Society will change the day of the meeting to a Thursday in order to ensure Joe can be with us.

Nevertheless, for the September meeting we were fortunate to obtain an impressive substitute - Bill Hamilton - at a very late stage (Friday afternoon!). Bill is a qualified referee, and he relayed passages from both the FA Book for Boys and the Scottish FA Book for Boys books which he had been given one Christmas. These books convinced him to take up refereeing, and in 1958 he qualified at the tender age of 14 years of age. At the time, he was Scotland's youngest qualified referee, and soon found himself in the media spotlight - a career which he was soon to join. Bill gained his Class 1 (Level 5 for the new guys) in 1970, and has no regrets about his work with the BBC preventing his further progress. Now regularly refereeing locally, Bill has actually refereed in excess of 2,000 games - a feat that can be matched locally by our very own Peter Dace. Bill told us that he recently found all his old match cards and match records (are we sure he was not really Peter Dace in disguise!). Hailing from Dundee, Bill has lived in Hertfordshire since 1979.

He is probably best known as the BBC TV News Home Affairs; Foreign Affairs; and Sports Correspondent. However, since taking early retirement from the BBC, Bill has been a freelance journalist, and has covered several major events including the 50th Anniversary of VE Day and last years Golden Jubilee celebrations.

Bill brought along some videos to help illustrate his talk including one made for the BBC showing the art of linesmanship set to music, and a Hertfordshire FA training video.

However, a topic dear to Bill's heart is the strife suffered by the people of Albania, and he has reported extensively on the crisis covering the appalling living conditions and sports facilities that currently exist there. Bill has also written two books, one of which is entitled Albania, Who Cares?

Vince Yeudall propose a vote of thanks to Bill, after he had entertained us for over 90 minutes!



Albanian Appeal - Referees Kits required

There is an ongoing appeal for sports apparel – including referees kits. If any member has any old kit – that is in a reasonable condition – would they please get in touch with any Officer of the Society – see inside front cover for details – and we will ensure that they are passed on to Bill for onward transmission to Albania.

Many thanks.



Do you know what this represents?



If you are involved with Youth sport then you should. Turn to page 12 for more information.



THE NORTH MIDDLESEX REFEREES SOCIETY 100 CLUB NEWS

The draw for the August and September winners were made at the September meeting. The August prize fund is 100% of the monthly income - £53.00; whereas the September payout is 70% of the monthly income – and with 47 shares now subscribed, that makes a payout of £32.90. The number of shares quoted in the September Normidian was incorrect, although the payouts made were correct. It should have read 53 shares and not 49 shares. Winners for August and September are as follows:-

August

First 9 Trevor Crouchley £29.15
Second 8 Robin Jagot £15.90
Third 15 Peter Smith £7.95

September

First 10 Bob Martin £18.80
Second 1 Peter Allen £9.40
Third 5 Dave Chapman £4.70

The new subscribers since the publication of the September Normidian are:-

44 Tony Ward 45 George Panayi 46 Simon Bullock 47 Frank McNeil

If you would like to subscribe to the 100 Club, please complete the form below, and return it with your remittance to me at the address on the inside front cover of the magazine.

NORTH MIDDLESEX REFEREES SOCIETY 100 CLUB

I wish to purchase.....share(s) in the North Middlesex Referees Society 100 Club at £1.00 per share

Please find enclosed my cheque/postal order for £...00 to cover the subscription for 11 months.

Renewal information will be included with next seasons Membership Form

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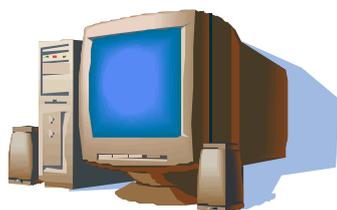
Society Use - Numbers Allocated.....

Gary Cobden

Honorary Treasurer



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??Quiz Nite??



The annual North Middlesex Referees Society Quiz is fast approaching! It will be held on Sunday October 26 at Old Finchleas FC, Southover, Finchley, London, N12. Tickets cost £6.00 each - inclusive of a buffet - are currently available from:-

- Tony Ward – telephone 020 8368 0155 or e-mail refward@talk21.com
- Gary Cobden - telephone 01992 469153 or e-mail garycobden@nmrs.freeseerve.co.uk

So get those thinking caps on. We are looking for teams of six people, but don't worry if you cannot make up a team yourself as there will be other people in the same boat. If you want to attend, let us know, and we will match you up with other people on the night.

In order that we can make the necessary catering arrangements, please let us know in advance that you are coming – even if it is late on the day of the event itself.



Peter Dace reminisces – the Normidian of October 1993

Monthly meeting on a THURSDAY and at Tottenham Hotspur FC with a guest speaker from the coaching staff

In his editorial Ken Goldman includes

- Congratulations to Phil Sharp on reaching the linesman's list of The Football League
- Praising our new monthly venue at Wingate Finchley FC where we enjoyed silence whilst the guest speaker was in full flow
- Bemoaning too few articles for inclusion whilst thanking Robin Jagot for sending a report on RA Conference

In his 'Pearcing comment', Arthur Pearce recalls his first-ever plum and for which, in 1937, he was paid 3s/6d (18p).

An un-named correspondent pens 'spare a thought for the referees' secretary' and reminds members he is not a mind reader and unless you tell him he does not know your non-availability. In conclusion he adds "how many of you would do this job? Not many I'm sure!!"

Andy Mann submits 'assessing the Football League way' starting by reminding us in 1969 the Football League started an assessing scheme with a handful of ex referees. By 1971 the scheme was considered a success and all matches in the League were covered. Assessors were anonymous people and their identity was very much 'cloak and dagger'. Referees and Linesmen received a typed report within a week of the match. The assessors name and the mark awarded were omitted from their copy. The scheme continued in this vein for several years, then assessors were invited to sign the report if they so wished. Andy's conclusion (to a long article) would be to make the following recommendations

1. complete anonymity
2. having ex-referees only, even if it means covering fewer matches
3. a time limit to be imposed (i.e. not continuing as they became out of touch)



FOOTBALL: BAN HIM FOR LIFE

Aug 11 2003 - Airdrie demand boot for Morton fan-referee

Injury hit Scottish referee David Somers was back in the wars yet again on the first day of the new league season. Somers, who was sidelined for much of last season due to injury, was stretchered off after 66 minutes during the second division clash between Morton and Airdrie United. Somers went over on his ankle and was replaced by linesman Martin Monaghan as Morton went on to win 3-1.

Furious Airdrie United last night demanded that fan-referee Chic Kavanagh be banned for life. Diamonds chairman Jim Ballantyne is still stunned that Kavanagh - wearing a Morton strip - was plucked from the crowd at Cappielow on Saturday and allowed to run the line for the last 25 minutes after match referee David Somers twisted his ankle. Ballantyne has called Scottish Football League official David Thomson as a witness to support Airdrie's claim the decision could have caused serious crowd disturbances. Kavanagh - a qualified referee - is alleged to have made gestures to visiting fans. It is also alleged that earlier on Saturday he had refereed a game between Morton and Airdrie supporters while wearing a Morton kit under his referee's uniform. He is then said to have visited a pub with supporters of both teams before suddenly being called from the crowd to make his senior debut. Ballantyne said last night: "We have lodged a formal complaint citing four points.

1. Morton's tannoy announcement specifically asked for this person and did not appeal to any member of the crowd to come forward if they were a qualified SFA official.
2. He was in the middle of a group of Morton supporters and jumped out of the m wearing a Morton top. He ran the line in front of them and they were chanting his name.
3. He came across the pitch and shook hands with some of the Morton players before he took up his duties on the line.
4. At the end of the game, some Morton players came over and hugged him.

"So far as I am concerned he became a representative of the SFA when he took his Morton strip off but he failed to live up to the responsibilities he had been given. That's why he should never be allowed to officiate at senior level again. I'm held to account for the actions of Airdrie's fans because I am club chairman. And we did move very close to major problems on the terracing at Cappielow. Can you imagine what would happen if a Celtic fan came out of the crowd to run the line in front of Rangers supporters at an Old Firm game - or the other way round. They would not put up with this nor should we. So who is going to be held to account for Scottish football's credibility where this matter is concerned? We don't want the game to be replayed, even though I think we could win that decision if Airdrie pursued such an outcome. But we lost the match and I would refuse to let Airdrie take part in a replay if we were offered one. Airdrie have not questioned his integrity as an official, as we lost the match fair and square, but the manner in which he was appointed and the whole episode was just amateurish. However, the matter is now closed as far as Airdrie United are concerned."

Donald McVicar, the SFA's man in charge of referees, last night held talks with supervisor Dougie Hope, who was at Cappielow and sanctioned the introduction of the fan with a flag.

But Kavanagh was forbidden by SFA officials to comment on his 25 minutes of fame. Airdrie manager Sandy Stewart said: "What happened was totally unacceptable and made a laughing stock of the game in Scotland. Rules are rules and the match should have been abandoned rather than have a fan running the line."

SFL secretary Peter Donald last night ruled out appointing fourth officials at all SFL games. He said: "It would cost £50,000 a year to have fourth officials at every SFL match and we don't have the money. That said, the Cappielow incident might have been managed better."





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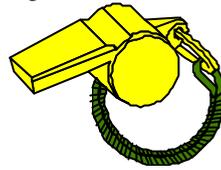
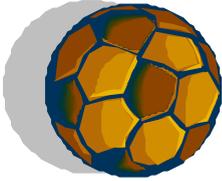
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E-Mail Addresses

A number of Members have elected to receive their Magazines by e-mail; and others have advised us of their e-mail addresses – which will help the Society get in touch with you quicker if there is something that needs to be advised quickly. If you have an e-mail address, and have not yet told us about it, please let Gary Cobden know – e-mail garycobden@nmrs.freemove.co.uk



New Website Domain Name

During the summer months, the Society purchased its own Domain Name and all the content from the existing website - www.nmrs.freemove.co.uk – is gradually being transferred to the new website - www.northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk. We have also purchased the Domain Name www.northmiddlesexreferees.co.uk although this name, for the time being, will not be used. I am also trying to include more items of general interest to Members to make the site more attractive and informative, so if you have any ideas for content that you would like included on the new site, or have ideas as to how the site may be improved, please let me know. It is your website, so all contributions are welcome.

Gary Cobden - Webmaster



Puzzler – from Mike Dearing

Six Players have scored for 5 different Premiership Clubs.
Name the players and the Clubs they scored for.



HOW THE NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE FIXTURES ARE PREPARED - AN INSIGHT

June 19 was the release date for the 2003/2004 Fixture List. But when do you think work starts to prepare the fixture list? A few weeks before the start of the season? The end of the previous season? The day the list comes out?

Try TWO YEARS in advance.

The popular misconception among the general public is that the fixture list is simply churned out by a computer and it is then lumped or left for the clubs and the supporters. But that little list that gets fans across the country so excited each June is the result of an incredible amount of work.

Sandra Whiteside, Head of Fixtures, Events and Competitions, and David Cookson, Fixtures Secretary, have the arduous task of trying to accommodate the requests of FIFA, UEFA, the FA, the clubs, the police and the fans into a 46 week fixture calendar.

With more than 50 years experience at The Football League between them Sandra and David have built up a wealth of knowledge that them to know instinctively what will work and what won't. Sandra said: "There are lots of misconceptions that surround our job. It has got increasingly difficult over the years and there is far more fixture congestion now. But the job is still interesting. "It has become a real balancing act and we do try our best to come up with the fixtures that are balanced. At the end of the day we want a published set of fixtures that the clubs can complete."

The fixture preparation begins when FIFA put out their list of international dates, to which UEFA and other federations around the world respond in a draft format. "These lists remain provisional until very late in the day," David said. "We are currently working on a draft list for 2004/2005 which is subject to change."

Although there is technically a pecking order when it comes to the programme (i.e. FA Cup dates are usually set in stone) all the fixtures are then thrown into the melting pot to get a draft list. "In real terms we have to look at the whole lot together to get any solution," David said. "Whilst there is a pecking order the two leagues (Premier League and Nationwide Football League) and the FA work closely together to find a mutually acceptable schedule."

Pairings have to be established to ensure certain clubs are not at home on the same day (i.e. Manchester United and Manchester City); local events such as the Northampton Balloon Festival, Darlington Orange Festival and Nottingham Goose Festival have to be considered, in addition to requests and observations by the police. These details are collated via a questionnaire which is sent to clubs each March. The experience of the staff involved irons out most of the potential problems before working parties meet in June to formulate the final list.

David said: "It is never simply a case of clubs playing home and away on alternate Saturdays throughout the season. There are various sequences of fixtures that are used and we have to fit pairings, cup dates, international dates and various other elements into these sequences. "There are certain rules, like clubs can't have three successive home Saturday matches or three consecutive away matches. It is a misconception that all clubs can have a perfect home and away sequence." The sequences are worked out by hand and on computers at the offices of Schlumberger in Wilmslow, Cheshire and their draft list is then put before representatives of the clubs, the police, supporters groups and finally the television organisations.

Once the initial list is finalised clubs have a set period in which they can request matches to be moved. This usually takes the form of Wednesday night games moving to Tuesday or switching a fixture to change the home game to away, and vice versa, to accommodate delays in ground improvement works. But nothing is ever as simple as that sounds.

Sandra explained: "It is another misconception that you can simply move a fixture. Any game that is moved involves at least two teams on four playing dates and more often than not you could be looking at reviewing the fixtures for 12 clubs on four dates. This is because teams are grouped with their pairings and any movement will affect pairings up and down the country and may put several sets of fans in one area at the same time. "That is why there isn't usually a great deal of movement in fixtures. The usual movement during a season is for television or when the clubs exercise their right to move a fixture at a weekend. We have a rule that states three matches per weekend can be moved to the Friday or the Sunday, and that does not include television."

The fixtures are usually published in late June, but then come the usual complaints about fans having to travel long distances in midweek or over holiday periods.

"One of the main problems is travel and that is a real stumbling block," said Sandra. "Fans do need to know that we do try and help them as much as we can. But at the end of the day The Football League has to place public order and safety above midweek travel in the order of priority." "In fact some of the dates are down to the clubs themselves. Some clubs prefer to make long journeys in midweek."

Once the list is published and the season is underway Sandra and David's next big headache is the weather. Season 2001/2002 was one of the worst in living memory for postponements meaning that certain teams were left with major fixture congestion towards the end of the season. Many managers called for winter breaks in the League programme but according to Sandra and David this is simply not feasible with the number of clubs in each division. Sandra explained: "Two seasons ago we had 119 matches postponed due to the weather compared to just 17 the year before. When that happens the sequencing just goes out of the window. It is then up to us to find the first possible date for the games to be played. If we broke for two weeks in December or January that's four dates out of the schedule and the task would become almost impossible.

The job of fixture preparation has become more and more complicated over the years, and with ever increasing demands of European competition and international fixtures it is not set to become any easier in future years. "It makes life harder and it makes it harder to sequence", Sandra said. "The more things in the equation the harder it becomes to get an acceptable fixture list. "But the experience and systems are in place to ensure come June each year the fans will have that fixture list for their wall."

This article was written by Ian Christon, The Football League Limited, and was first published on their website. It is reproduced here with permission.

Information relating to John Crane

We have been advised that the above named person has been the subject of an FA order banning him from attending football matches anywhere in the country, and has been made the subject of a Sex Offenders Order, thus preventing him from attending any youth sports match or practice or undertaking any voluntary work involving persons under 18 years of age.

Should you come across this person at any match you are involved in, you are advised to contact the police immediately.

Membership Forms Survey Results

On this season's Membership renewal form, there were a couple of new questions included which the Society asked all members to complete when they returned their Forms. Of the 172 forms received to date, 31 members did not answer either of the two questions: - 'Do you attend Society Meetings regularly' and 'If No, is there a specific reason'. Of those who answered No to the first question (102 members), there were some common reasons coming through in answer to the second question – work; family/other commitments; distance; travel; and choice of night - although 25 members did not give a reason for not attending meetings. There were only one or two suggestions as to 'What would you like to see at Society Meetings'. The full results will be looked at by Council over the course of the next few months.

In answer to the continuing question as to what Social Events you the members would like the Society to organise, a Golf Day; a Day at the Races; and a Disco for younger members have been suggested. Obviously, before the Society can organise any event, we need to know what the level of support would be – if you are interested in any of the suggested events, please get in touch with me – my details are inside the front cover of the magazine.

Membership Reminder

For those of you who have not renewed your Membership for the current season, this is your last opportunity, and a further Membership Form is enclosed with this issue of the Normidian. Amounts due are indicated on the form, and it is in your best interests to return the form and remittance as soon as possible – remember you have no RA Insurance cover until you renew your membership. This is also the last issue of the Normidian you will receive if you do not renew your Membership. For those of you who have paid your fees since the September magazine, you should find a Membership Card and Insurance Certificate enclosed. If they are missing, it may be that they were not received from the Referees Association in time. In that case, you will receive them next month.

Gary Cobden
Society Treasurer

Referees Kit for sale

Peter Smith has a full Umbro Kit for sale – Large shirt and matching shorts. Shirt has MCFA embroidered badge. £15.00 – please contact Peter on 07748 114513



CHELSKI?

A bloke goes into Stansted Airport and manages to eventually get into the departure lounge where his flight home is being called. All around him there are overturned tables, smashed windows, computer terminals broken, upturned chairs and crowd control barriers lying on the floor.

"Crikey, what's happened here?" he asks one of the ground crew.

"Oh yeah...", he replies "Absolutely hopeless we had the Chelsea players in here this morning filming the new Nike ad".



Are you treating players correctly?

At a recent County Training Team Meeting the question of how are we going to deal with the Treatment of Injuries this season was raised, the reason being is that there has been a change in ethos of how we as Referees deal with that aspect of Law 5. The Law was changed in 1998 and has been in force since then, however the correct application has not always been adhered. In fact even though we have seen it carried out at the very top level it has taken a long time to filter down to Local football.

Many of you will now be shouting we CAN'T implement it on a Sunday morning, as we haven't got the facilities to do it. Or it will cause additional confrontation, which we don't need.

A couple of seasons ago a directive went out to Supply League Level and above to get Match Officials to apply the Law correctly, as a result of which there has been a dramatic fall in the amount of stoppage time played. The majority of players when asked if they want treatment, decline the offer, as they know it will leave their Team one short for a period of time.

The procedure is quite simple, if a player is lying down you ask them do they require treatment, if the answer is Yes, you signal for the Sponge Person to come onto the field, they ASSESS the injury and then take the player off for TREATMENT. Once the player is ready, provided the game has restarted they can come on with your permission. Very simple and designed to speed the game up.

So how are you the Local League Referee going to fare if you apply the Law correctly, first I have written to all Leagues within Middlesex highlighting the correct way that Law WILL be applied, that was the easy bit. The hardest bit is going to convince the majority of Referees that they have to change their style to comply with Law. I am not having ago at any particular person but there are a lot of people who are still using the Laws of the Game under which they qualified. Many of these Laws have changed quite dramatically since then, so it is up to ALL of you to ensure that you are applying Law correctly and upholding the standards.

Some of you will be saying that to apply this aspect of Law you will be asking for confrontation. I say you are wrong, provided we all do it correctly. Each week there are a number of you who do apply all Laws correctly, but receive the retort, "the Referee last week didn't do that", the question I would ask you, are you this weeks Referee or the one they had last week. If your honest answer is the latter, then I would ask you for the sake of consistency to become This Weeks' Referee. If not, not only are you letting yourself, your League, County FA and the FA down, but more importantly the Promotion Candidates and Recently Qualified Referees. The Promotion Candidates have no choice but to apply law correctly in all their games. The Recently Qualified Referees know no different, however they soon pick up bad habits from more experienced Colleagues. Unfortunately these are probably the same Officials who berate the Premiership Referees for not applying some aspect of the Law with comments like "How do you expect me to do that, when you don't see it on the TV". Well with regards to the Treatment of Injuries you do see them do it right on the TV.

I know when the issued was discussed at the Training Team meeting there were a lot of varied views, however the correct way to deal with it, is to apply the Law as it is written. Since then I know that some of you have discussed it within your Societies and again there has been good debate. It would be nice for the discussion to continue and at the end of the season we get comments like "Treatment of Injuries, I don't see why we were so concerned", "another Law Change that has benefited the Game".

I wonder?

I am quite happy to discuss any of my comments either as a group of Referees, in a Society meeting or League meeting or a group of friends or Training partners, all you need to do is contact me.

Andy Taylor
County Training Officer MCFA

Now to help you in case you have not been able to get your current copy of the Laws of Association Football (LOAF) 2003-2004, because of the high demand at your last Society evening, I have added the extracts that are relevant sections. Hopefully you will make sure you have a copy of it in your kit bag so that if you do get any problems during a game, you can give a copy to the Secretary/Player.

Treatment of Injuries

Law 5 states “The Referee stops the match, if in his opinion, a player is seriously injured and ensures that he is removed from the field of play.

An injured player may only return to the field of play after the match has restarted”

Is also says “The Referee allows play to continue until the ball is out of play if a player is, in his opinion, only slightly injured”

Finally “The Referee ensures that any player bleeding from a wound leaves the field of. The player may only return on receiving a signal from the Referee, who must be satisfied that the bleeding has stopped”.

In addition to Law 5, you will find on page 76 of the 2003-2004 version of the Laws of Association Football (LOAF) in the Additional Instructions for Referees, Assistant Referees and Fourth Officials you will find a section entitled “Dealing with injured players”, which says: -

The Referee must follow the instructions below when dealing with injured players:

- Play is allowed to continue until the ball is out of play if a player, in his opinion, is only slightly injured
- Play is stopped if, in his opinion, a player is seriously injured
- After questioning the injured player, the Referee authorises one, or at most 2 Doctors, to enter the field to ascertain the type of injury and to arrange the player’s safe and swift removal from the field
- The stretcher-bearers should enter the field with a stretcher at the same time as the Doctors to allow the player to be removed as soon as possible
- The Referee ensures an injured player is safely removed from the field of play
- A player is not allowed to be treated on the field
- Any player bleeding from a wound must leave the field of play. He may not return until the Referee is satisfied that the bleeding has stopped
- As soon as the Referee has authorised the Doctors to enter the field, the player must leave the field, either on the stretcher or on foot. If a player does not comply he is cautioned for unsporting behaviour.
- An injured player may only return to the field of play after the match has started
- An injured player may only re-enter the field from the touchline when the ball is in play. When the ball is out of play, the injured player may re-enter from any of the boundary lines.
- The Referee alone is authorised to allow an injured player to re-enter the field whether the ball is in play or not
- If play has not otherwise be stopped for another reason, or if an injury suffered by a player is not the result of a breach of the Laws of the Game, the Referee restarts play with a dropped ball
- The Referee allows for the full amount of time lost through injury to be played at the end of each period

Exceptions

Exceptions to this ruling are made only for

- Injury to a goal keeper
- When a goal keeper and an outfield player have collided and need immediate attention
- When a severe injury has occurred e.g. swallowed tongue, concussions, broken leg etc.

DAVID'S NOTEBOOK – NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL A QUIZ!

How many of you have used the www.funtrivia.com/ web site? I was rather amazed to see one of my private e-mails to the A.F.A. Society Secretary Bart O'Toole published in the April Argus. I have no objection to this publication and having been in public life I always work under the golden rule "say nothing privately that you would not want known publicly". However, I was trying to give you all a month off from my learned (that's my defence and I'm sticking to it!) discourses on life from a football referee's perspective. So this month let me tell you about the e-mail that I sent Bart on 1st April.

There is a web site as above with nearly 40,000 on-line quizzes on it, which include about 500,000 questions. There are over 5,000 categories of quiz with approximately 300,000 members to the site worldwide. The "home page" has a free instant sign up where you just need to have a code name for other players to know you by and to stop multiple playing. The site compiles a huge number of statistics including how many quizzes that you play, your scores and your percentage accuracy.

Now if you click the quiz category "sports" on the home page, then click "soccer" (not football as this site seems to have originated in America), now click "worldwide football" and finally click "Laws of the game". You should find two quizzes on the laws of our jolly old sport football. So off you go and let us know your scores, or better still your username. As you go into each quiz you can click to get the scores of everyone who has ever played it. We await your report back in the September Argus and anyone with less than 50 % has to go on another training course!

Now, who are writing these quizzes? I am informed that the one called "rialto88" is connected to the A.F.A. and some even more fascinating quizzes are in the pipeline. I believe that you are going to find out about the hidden secrets of the A.F.A. and these will be going on-line shortly. The summer evenings are just going to wiz by doing quizzes like "the last A.F.A. Council meeting".

Bart O'Toole is in charge of finding out who the quiz author(s) are, and we await his investigation. My investigations covered looking at other quizzes composed by the author and clicking the name of the author to get their profile.

I have my suspicions, but no conclusive evidence yet. Before you all start; you can clearly rule me out of the authorship contenders, the slipper won't fit! I don't have enough time and doing these Argus minutes and articles does my head in worse than the three years study that I did in the 1970's! My "spelling and grammar" check on my computer is threatening industrial action for being overworked. That little animal (the one that looks at you while you type on computers) has been carrying a picket line placard lately on mine. These on-line quizzes are the very model of accuracy and presentation throughout the 40,000 available. You would need to be a computer wiz to prepare them.

If all else fails can I ask everyone to send a message to the quiz maker (rialto88) asking him/her who he or she are? You can do this after the answers and quiz score is shown. You click to send a message to the author. So far I have been told that nobody else was interested in this author's I.D. and it has therefore not yet been revealed.

Thanks to David Williams and the AFA Argus. David is also Asst. Sec. of AFA.

So, what is GOAL?



is the 'brand name' for the FA's Child Protection and best practice awareness programme. The FA is now in the third year of the biggest and most wide-ranging sports child protection programme in the world, aiming to tackle everything, from serious sexual abuse, to swearing, head-on. If you are involved with any Youth sport as a participant or an official - not just football - then you should attend a 'Child Protection' workshop. Open to children and adults alike, these workshops can help those inexperienced in detecting the signs of Child Abuse notice the signs. Would you know how to recognise the signs of Child Abuse? Would you know what to do or who to contact if you thought a child was suffering? The FA's campaign has attracted a number of high profile ambassadors to help get the message across, and these include Sir Bobby Robson; Hope Powell; Tony Adams; and Alan Shearer. Additionally, for the first time at one of its GOAL conferences, the Minister for Children, the Rt Hon. Margaret Hodge MP, will be speaking at the annual conference on child protection in October.

Why should I attend one of these workshops I hear you say? What's in it for me? What will I learn?
Read On: -

If you are involved in photography, are you aware that you should register with the event organiser prior to the use of any media images? Additionally, images should only focus on small groups of children or the activity in general, and not on individuals. Where children are shown in photographs, only their first names should be given, and the express consent of parents or guardians must be obtained before the photographs are used.

At a recent workshop one coach described how he awarded a skirt to the worst boy player in training or matches, to be worn for the final part of a session. Is this a harmless bit of fun? Or abuse, subjecting the child to ridicule and humiliation? The issue was discussed fully during the workshop, led by FA tutor and Birmingham City Council Football Development Officer Mark Sanders. "Most of those present were very uncomfortable when the skirt issue was first raised. There were a few sniggers, but most of those on the workshop were shocked and immediately thought the idea was wholly inappropriate," explains Mark. "Towards the end of the workshop we go through an action planning programme where we discuss what we would like to change at our clubs. The coach who had started the skirt issue was big enough to speak out and say: 'I've realised I was wrong. I thought the kids were laughing at the time we handed out the skirt. But now I realise they were probably crying inside.'" "In the end the coach came up to me and thanked me for the workshop," adds Mark. "It was a really useful and worthwhile day."

"Ensuring that our referees act appropriately at all times was a crucial factor in funding the course for over 200 local referees," said Mike Benson, County Secretary at Wiltshire FA in Swindon, "as well as educating them as to what can constitute best practice, particularly when officiating at youth level. A child could fall over and hurt themselves for example, and the natural instinct for an adult would be to check their injury, but in the modern day, the referee should leave any treatment to the club's appointed physio, so as not to open themselves up to any accusations of inappropriate behaviour."

These are just a couple of examples of the forms of Child Abuse and Child Protection that the workshops will help you recognise and understand. The Society is willing to organise a two-hour Child Protection workshop. If the above has opened your eyes, even just a little bit, then please contact: -

- Robin Jagot - 01707 651461 or e-mail jagot.rp@btinternet.com
- Gary Cobden - 01992 469153 or e-mail garycobden@nmrs.freeseve.co.uk

