

October 2006

The next Society meeting will be held at our new venue – Holtwhites Sports and Social Club, Kirkland Drive, Enfield on Thursday 19 October 2006

Gary Cobden is editing the magazine this month, as your usual editor will be away on holiday when this issue goes to print. (No, he is not – he is overseas taking part in his other love – pong ping – deputy Ed!) Gary is one of the team responsible for publishing the Normidian and is a regular contributor usually on money matters – well he is the Treasurer after all!

Vice President, Peter Dace, points out that amongst the tributes to Ron Hounsell in last month's magazine we unfortunately got Ron's surname wrong on a couple of occasions. We are sorry for the error and apologise for any concern this may have caused. This issue carries another fine tribute, this time by Ken May, who first met Ron in the late 50's.

How did you manage with the new, smaller size magazine? The above-mentioned, Ken May comments that "being the size of a football programme, it is much easier to handle while travelling and for filing purposes". We never thought of that! Life Vice President Frank McNeil is also complementary of the new sized magazine also stating it will take up less storage space!

After being out of action most of last year after undergoing hip replacement surgery, your intrepid editor has begun refereeing again this season. After three games, I am still rusty, especially when dealing with the usual comments from the players. However, my fitness is coming along nicely, mainly due to hours spent in the swimming pool and on the ping-pong table! Thanks for the kind words and support I received during my enforced absence.

Your deputy editor writes:- The October meeting will be organised by the Training Centre and members will have the opportunity to take an FA course in the Laws of Mini Soccer, and follow this up with a multiple choice examination, leading to a new qualification.

According to recent press reports, Manchester United player Wayne Rooney is to be written to by the Premier League/Football Association advising him to cut out his foul mouth abuse towards match officials. This action was evident to all those watching the television coverage of the recent Reading v Manchester United fixture. Rooney was seen directing verbal abuse towards the Referee, Peter Walton, after he had failed to award Manchester United a penalty, and even the least experienced lip reader could make out what was said. What is the point of sending a letter, and why is he not being charged by the FA instead? Can someone explain? Wayne Rooney is not the only culprit of this offence. Our leading professionals should be setting an example to others. What do other members think should be done?

A recent Panorama programme exposed what it called the 'bung culture' in the professional game. At the time of writing, one of the people 'exposed' has lost his job already. I thought it was innocent until proven guilty, but it seems he has been hung out to dry without any proof, and is now consulting his lawyers. Other managers have pulled the plug on interviews with the Beeb as a result – soon they will have nobody to take part in after match interviews! Another manager abruptly curtails his interview with Sky after being asked whether or not he had been directly involved in a 'bung' after previously agreeing to answer general questions on the subject. A further manager is also consulting his legal team over the allegations. Agents taking part in the programme have now denied taking 'bungs' or have stated that they have exaggerated the truth, and the Beeb seem reluctant to hand over their footage to the FA to assist in their enquiries to clean up the game. Whatever is going on in the upper echelons of our game needs to be sorted out quickly, but the FA seem to take an age to deal with anything except match day disciplinary as they have only just suspended the agent involved in the 'tapping up' of Ashley Cole before the start of last season!

Contributions for the November issue of the magazine should be sent to Terry Wilson, as usual, by Wednesday 27 October 2006.

Ron Hounsell – Ken May writes...

It was with much sadness that I learned of the passing in June of Ron Hounsell.

I first had the pleasure of meeting Ron in the autumn of 1958, when at the age of 19 I nervously presented myself at Arnos School to sign on for a North Middlesex training course. He was the first referee I had actually met or spoken to.

I was made most welcome by Ron in his role of Secretary. Although I was not allocated to his training group I was impressed by the very professional and thorough way in which the course was run. I was by far the youngest member on the course and my experience of football was much less than that of my colleagues. However, I was made to feel most comfortable by Ron's style of supervision.

Over the following years, Ron was always readily available for advice, and it became obvious to me when attending Society meetings that he was held in high regard by the membership.

Later, as a member of the Society's Council, I also learned what excellent hosts Ron and his family were when staging meetings at their Southgate home.

One of my duties in the 1970's was to assist North Middlesex in fund-raising. It was my responsibility to issue "Pontoon" lottery tickets. I would slip out of the Chartered Bank in Bishopsgate for a few minutes walk to Ron's office at the Bank of Adelaide in nearby Leadenhall Street, where he was a prolific distributor of our tickets. So Ron was doing his best for North Middlesex even in office hours.

It was while serving as a linesman in the 1970's on the former Football Combination that I learned how forward thinking Ron was as an Assessor. He would use a Dictaphone to record his thoughts, which was quite innovative for the time. His post-match comments to we officials were always constructive and delivered in his unfailing polite manner. In fact, a model for anyone electing to become an Assessor themselves.

The term "legend" is hopelessly over-used in paying tributes to footballers, but Ron truly was a "legend" of North Middlesex.

Many thanks, Ken. Ed.



Fastest Sending Off!!

Did you know that the fastest recorded sending off of a player was just 19 seconds. This happened on 12 March 1994 when Mark Smith was dismissed whilst playing for Crewe Alexandra.

There are also two dismissals recorded as zero seconds! The unfortunate players were Ian Banks of Barnsley who was sent off on 16 December 1989 whilst he was warming up as he was waiting to come on as a substitute. The other player was Walter Boyd of Darlington on November 23 1999 who had just come on as a substitute, and was sent off before play had even restarted!

Information from the Football League website.



A BETTER WAY TO THE TOP – by OBSERVER

When you pass the initial exam and become a fully-fledged Level 7 referee, you are usually filled with a feeling of euphoria and a determination to reach the top. If you are a young man, in all probability your ultimate aim is the Football League, (or Premiership), and the only obstacle to achieving this goal is promotion to Level 6, and then to Level 5.

No problem, you think.

“I am going to prove to everyone that I am a good referee and get my deserved reward”. Your training officer, having duly congratulated you on qualifying, has suggested one or two suitable local leagues to commence your career on and you have applied, and hopefully, been accepted. Now, this is where it all starts -this promotion business.

Being a reasonable person, of course, you know that you need to gain experience, learn how best to position yourself, how to identify match situations in order to make correct decisions and gain the confidence of the players. When you feel that your performances are satisfactory, whether that be over one or more seasons, you will start to get the 'itch' to climb the ladder. This is where the trouble begins!

You will know that in every match both clubs award marks according to how they think you performed. These markings cover such categories as your appearance, your general control, decision-making, etc., and are usually made by the club secretaries, or managers, who are after all, committed to their own team. So, it is very subjective. You may have had a superb game from a referee's point of view, but the team that lost to an 'iffy' penalty might not quite agree with that!

Even the team that won may feel that you deprived them of precious goals by blowing for offside when they thought they had scored! It follows therefore, that the marks you get may, or may not, be fair and/or accurate. And you are relying on these arbitrary markings to further your career. “Ah!” I hear you say, 'But I'll have an Assessor to watch me if I'm going for promotion’ – but not at every match! Yet if they were, then you will have to hope that on the days you are assessed you perform well, and the fair and reasonably minded Assessor hasn't got a headache, or had a row with his wife before he left home!

If all these possibilities are in your favour, then, with luck on your side, you will get your promotion. If you don't, then you will have to go through it all again, (and again, if you fail once more). When you achieve Level 6, you become a senior referee. You should then get a better class of game, probably on a better class of league, and the wheel starts to turn once more. Of course, you will now be judged at that higher level by clubs that MIGHT have more enlightened managers, or they may not! So, even though you are a better referee, you still come up against the problem of subjective marking. This, then, is the point of this article. Do referees have to be so reliant on club markings? League fixture appointments are made based upon them, so too are County appointments. Promotion also depends on them to a large extent.

There has to be a better, fairer system. Under the present scheme, some referees are confused as to how best to further their careers. Do they try to please club managers to get good markings, or do they referee firmly, (but well), and take the risk of a bad rating?

I don't want this to be a 'doom and gloom' story, we all know that the good referees will get there in the end. The County Football Associations get you to Level 5 and from there it is club markings with 5 assessments from the League Assessors that get you further promotion into higher football.

THERE HAS GOT TO BE A BETTER SCHEME.

What do you think?



Gallagher Retained

Referees are early beneficiaries of age discrimination legislation, which comes into effect on 1st October. Referees in **England** will no longer have to retire at 48 (the FA's compulsory retirement age).

The first Premiership official to benefit is Dermot Gallagher, who was due to retire this summer.



Collina for UEFA Post

The Italian Soccer Federation named Pierluigi Collina as its candidate for the European Referees' Committee, which governs all aspects of refereeing from training to technical innovations and applying new rules.

Its first task was to make sure officials at the World Cup implemented a new UEFA zero-tolerance policy on dangerous tackles and "professional fouls".



Did You Know That

Southampton was the first British team to visit South America. In 1904 they played 5 games in Argentina and one in Uruguay, winning them all.



The three items above are from The Chiltern Referee, the magazine of The Chiltern District Society of Football Referees. Ed.



Final Notice!!!

Membership Fees due! Yes my friends, this is your last opportunity to renew your Membership of the Society for season 2006/2007. If you have already paid your fees for the current season, then you have nothing to worry about, and you should already have received your Membership Card. A small number of cards are enclosed with this month's magazine. For those of you who have not yet paid your fees for this season, another Membership Form is enclosed, which I would ask that you complete, and return to me as soon as possible. Fees now payable are as follows – Full Members £23.00; Associate Members £12.00 (your Referees Association fee must be paid through another Society, and the Society must be shown on your completed Membership Form). Junior Members (Under 18) - £13.50. The Full Members fee includes your Referees Association fee. This is your final chance to renew your membership; if you do not renew this month, we will not be able to send you any further editions of the Normidian, and, under the Society Rules, your membership will be deemed to have lapsed.
Gary Cobden - Honorary Treasurer



Ron Hounsell – by Ken Goldman

I first met Ron Hounsell at Lonsar when I joined them to take over the magazine there in 1970 and he was one of those people who always was interested in new members and made them feel at home. Later when I joined North Middlesex he was exactly the same and by that time he had become one of the patriarchs of the Society. He always encouraged me with the editing of the Normidian or on any technical refereeing matters. I well remember sitting with him at least 3 times at Barnet when they were non-league side and being given excellent advice as he analysed the performances of the referee and linesmen especially the signals given by all three whether they be official or unofficial where he was not keen on the latter. Indeed lining was a definite forte and he was renowned for his double act with Owen Venning on the subject. I was able to keep up to date with his health position and lack of it when that occurred thanks to Peter Allen who was another Lonsar Stalwart and I like many others was saddened by his death.

North Middlesex Referees Society - 100 Club

Unfortunately, some of the Membership information for the current season was reproduced incorrectly in last months Normidian. The correct membership for this season is shown below.

Numbers for Season 2006/2007

1. Dave Ackerman	12. John Faithfull	23. Richard Meikle	34. Stan Szplit
2. Dave Ackerman	13. John Faithfull	24. John Metselaar	35. Kevin Wavell
3. Peter Allen	14. George Grant	25. Peter Peters	36. Steve Wildgoose
4. Peter Allen	15. Tom White	26. Peter Peters	37. Steve Wildgoose
5. Peter Allen	16. Tom White	27. Ashley Rogers	38. Terry Wilson
6. P Bowman	17. Robin Jagot	28. Stan Rosenthal	39. Vince Yeudall
7. Dave Chapman	18. Robin Jagot	29. Mike Sibley	40. Lockie Bramzell
8. Dave Chapman	19. Max Lea	30. Mike Sibley	41. Nick Illott
9. Gary Cobden	20. Charles Lifford	31. Malcolm Sonenfeld	42. Tony Ward
10. Gary Cobden	21. Frank McNeil	32. Arthur Stewart	43. Tony Ward
11. Alastair Lovett	22. Richard Meikle	33. Arthur Stewart	44. Frank McNeil

At the September meeting, the draws for the summer months were made, along with the draw for September. For the June; July; and August draws, there were 43 shares subscribed. This resulted in payouts of £30.10 in June and July, and £43.00 in August. The membership numbers shown above relate to the current season, and therefore only to the September winners shown below, which, with 44 shares subscribed, results in a payout of £30.80.

Jun 1st 36 Tom White	£17.20	2nd 22 John Metselaar	£8.60	3rd 35 Tom White	£4.30
Jul 1st 31 Arthur Stewart	£17.20	2nd 26 Peter Peters	£8.60	3rd 4 Peter Allen	£4.30
Aug 1st 7 Ian Breeze	£23.65	2nd 26 Peter Peters	£12.90	3rd 37 Steve Wildgoose	£6.45
Sep 1st 25 Peter Peters	£17.60	2nd 32 Arthur Stewart	£8.80	3rd 3 Peter Allen	£4.40

If you wish to join the 100 Club for the current season, please complete the form below, and return it to me.

NORTH MIDDLESEX REFEREES SOCIETY 100 CLUB

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

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

Renewal information will be included with next seasons Membership Form

Name..... Signaure.....

Society Use - Numbers Allocated.....

Gary Cobden
Honorary Treasurer



Seen at a Premiership match on 1 October

Assistant Referee running the line with one hand shielding his eyes from the sun, and the flag in the other. Can he really do his job properly in this way? Discuss. Answers on a postcard to the Editor please for publication next month.



Middlesex County Football Association County Cup Appointments

Under 18 Sunday Senior Challenge E P L Greig Cup - First Round

Lea Valley United U17 v Real Shepperton U17

Kodak Youth U17 v Hounslow Borough Youth U18

Enfield Town Youth U18 v A.G.V. Youth U18

Ricky Deller [R]

Steven Conway [R]

Lee Addison [R]

Under 16 Harold Whiddon Cup - Second Round

Broadwater United Youth U16 v Harrow St Marys Youth U16

Enfield Town Youth U16 v North Greenford United Youth U16 'A'

Haringey Borough Youth U16 v Kodak Youth U16

Hanwell Town Youth U16 'B' v Edmonton Rangers Youth U16

Gladstone Rangers Youth U16 v Park Place Sports Club Youth U16 'B'

AEK Kalopsida U16 v Hanwell Town Youth U16 'A'

Whetstone Wanderers Youth U16 'A' v Apna Youth Southall U16

Nicholas Ilott [R]

Steve Wildgoose [R]

Paul Watts [R]

Patrick Walsh [R]

David Williams [R]

Stanley Rosenthal [R]

Stephen Reuter [R]

Under 16 Harold Whiddon Cup - First Round

Whetstone Wanderers Youth U16 'A' v West Drayton Explorers U16

Thomas White [R]

Under 15 Jimmy Dyson Cup - Second Round

Whitewebbs Eagles U15 v Pitshanger U15

Whetstone Wanderers Youth U15 'A' v Harrow St Marys Youth U15 'A'

Boundary Park Youth U15 v Hounslow Borough Youth U15 'A'

Broadwater United Youth U15 v Hampstead (Youth) U15 'B'

Michael Mackey Snr [R]

Barry Kyriacou [R]

George Grant [R]

Ian Fairclough [R]

Under 15 Jimmy Dyson Cup - First Round

Brimsdown Rovers Youth U15 v Larkspur Rovers Youth U15

Nicolaos Andrea [R]

Under 14 J N Smith Cup - Second Round

Enfield Youth U14 v Boundary Park Youth U14

Park View Rangers U14 v Princes Park Youth U14

Enfield Rangers U14 'A' v Hampton & Richmond Borough Youth U14

Brimsdown Rovers Youth U14 'A' v Enfield Town Youth U14

Ridgeway Rovers U14 v Acton Ealing Whistlers Youth U14 'A'

Jonathan Harnett [R]

Simon Temerlies [R]

Scott Roberts [R]

John Noblemunn [R]

Jordan Nurse [R]

Under 13 S R Dunn Cup - Second Round

Whitewebbs Eagles U13 v Acton Ealing Whistlers Youth U13 'A'

Enfield Rangers U13 'A' v Manor Youth U13

Broadwater United Youth U13 v Belmont United Youth U13

Hampstead (Youth) U13 v Whetstone Wanderers Youth U13 'A'

Kevin Wavell [R]

Daniel Ingle [R]

Michael Sibley [R]

Gary Haines [R]

Under 13 S R Dunn Cup - First Round

Whetstone Wanderers Youth U13 'C' v Old Isleworthians Youth U13 'A'

Enfield Rangers U13 'A' v Enfield Town Youth U13 'A'

Simon Temerlies [R]

Matthew Webster [R]

Under 12 Dudley G Harper Youth Primary Cup - Second Round

Omonia Youth U12 'B' v Pinner Albion U12

Whetstone Wanderers Youth U12 'A' v Brimsdown Rovers Youth U12

Linkside Cobras U12 v Mill Hill Rangers U12 'A'

Omonia Youth U12 'A' v Headstone Manor Youth U12 'A'

Avram Walerius

Nicolaos Andrea

James McCaig

Matthew Webster

Under 12 Dudley G Harper Youth Primary Cup - First Round

Enfield Rangers U12 'A' v Sandgate U12

Abbey Youth U12 v Hampstead (Youth) U12 'B'

Paul Fuller [R]

Keith Hughes [R]

Under 11 Ray Dodds Trophy - First Round

Haringey Youth Eleven U11 v Pinner Albion U11

Finchley Revolution U11 'A' v Ruislip Rangers U11 'B'

Ian Fairclough [R]

Barry Berndes [R]

Saturday Junior Trophy - First Round

Eaton Manor v Imperial College Old Boys Reserves

J. Noblemunn [R]

Middlesex County Football Association County Cup Appointments (cont)

Sunday Intermediate Cup - First Round

Northmet (Riverside) v CB Hounslow United (Sunday)

S. Reuter [R]

Sunday Junior Trophy - First Round

Sporting Woolpack v Cowley Casuals Reserves
RidgeWAY Rovers Seniors v Chiswick Wanderers

I. Fairclough [R]
S. Wildgoose [R]

Saturday Junior Cup - First Round

The Wheatsheaf v Parkfield B

M. Mackey Snr [R]

Sunday Premier Cup - First Round

Wrentham United v Chiswick Albion
Belstone v Pinner 2002
Hampden United v Acton

S. Conway [R]
P. Smith [R]
N. Ilott [R]

Sunday Junior Cup - First Round

Northmet (Riverside) 3rds v Isleworth
Northmet (Riverside) Reserves v South Ealing Saints
St Marys (Edmonton) v Premier Sports

G. Grant [R]
M. Webster [R]
M. Sibley [R]

Football Association Appointments

FA Youth Cup – Preliminary Round

North Greenford v Corby Town

S. Conway [R]

FA Youth Cup – First Qualifying Round

Staines Town v Ware

S. Conway [R]

FA Womens Cup – Preliminary Round

Staines Town v Riverside Strikers

S. Conway [R]

FA Cup – Preliminary Round

Biggleswade Town v Leighton Town

S. Conway [AR]

FA Vase – First Qualifying Round

Egham Town v Saltdean United

M. Mackey Jnr [R]

FA Vase – Second Qualifying Round

London Colney v Burnham Ramblers
London Colney v Burnham Ramblers
London Colney v Burnham Ramblers
Cockfosters v Stewarts Lloyds

D. Woolf [R]
S. Reuter [AR]
N. Rider [AR]
P. Jago [AR]

Amatuer Football Association Appointments

Senior Cup – First Round

Mill Hill County Old Boys F.C. (First) v Old Malvernian F.C. (First)
Alleyn Old Boys F.C. (First) v Enfield Old Grammarians F.C. (First)

D. Williams [R]
J. Faithfull [R]

Intermediate Cup – First Round

Crouch End Vampires F.C. (Reserves) v JPMorgan Chase F.C. (First)

L. Kyprianou [R]

Junior Cup – First Round

Old Esthameians F.C. (Third) v Old Dorkinians F.C. (Third)

J. Pacleb [R]

Open Vets Cup – First Round

Winchmore Hill F.C. (Veterans B) v Wormley Rovers Vets F.C. (Veterans)

J. Faithfull [R]

If you have a Plum Appointment that you would like published in a future edition of the Normidian, please let our Editor know.





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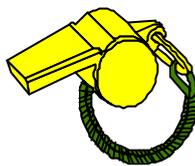
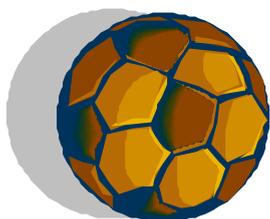
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Society Auditors

As mentioned in recent issues of the Normidian, Brian Langstone, who has served the Society in this position since 1967 has given notice that he has now reached a time where he wishes to relinquish this post, and will do so at the end of this season. The Audit is not an onerous task, and only requires a commitment of around three hours one evening in April each year. If you would like further information, please contact me.

Gary Cobden
Honorary Treasurer



September Meeting

This was the first meeting of the season - at our new venue – Holtwhites Sports and Social Club. It was also our first opportunity to pay silent tribute to Life Vice President, Ron Hounsell, who passed away during the summer, and members stood for a few moments in respect of his memory.

Members were also made aware of the recent passing of Dennis Lewis, who will be familiar to older members. Dennis had visited the Society on several occasions, and was a Football League Assessor.

Stan Rosenthal from the society Training Centre ran through the changes in the Laws of the Game which have come in to place this season. Stan made use of an FA presentation that enabled those present to compare and see the current text of the Laws with those in existence last season. One or two notable items provoked heavy discussion and debate – these included the new text added to Law 12 - Fouls and Misconduct - relating to when a substitute or substituted player is cautioned and shown the yellow card; and the new text added to the instructions relating to mandatory cautions for delaying the restart of play.

Following on from the presentation given by Stan, Michael Mackey Jnr talked through a couple of major incidents that occurred in the Dennis Bergkamp Testimonial match at which he acted as Assistant Referee. During the first half, Michael was the active Assistant when the Arsenal goalkeeper carried the ball outside of the area. Using the buzzer flags for the first time, Michael alerted Premiership Referee Andre Marriner to the fact, however, the ball broke to an Ajax player, so the referee allowed play to continue. The second half was a Legends match between former Arsenal and Ajax players. During the second half, Ajax legend Edgar Davids was through on goal, and was brought down by one of the Arsenal legends. The Dutch referee for the second half awarded a penalty, but did not send off the Arsenal legend Whilst this would have had no material effect as very few of the legends are currently registered players, Andre Marriner advised that he would have had little option but to dismiss the player!

Also, at the September meeting a lengthy discussion was held as to whether members wanted to use a Society meeting for the purpose of undertaking a new recognised qualification as a referee for small sided competitions. The Football Association has now issued a standard set of laws governing these competitions, and there is now a three hour course followed by a multiple choice examination. The general consensus of those members present was that they would like this, and the Society will arrange this in the near future.



Denis Lewis – by Ken Goldman

I knew Denis for the better part of 20 years and he was a most likeable and enthusiastic man no matter what he was involved with. He attended North Middlesex Meetings both as a listener and as a speaker where his normal usual subject was Assessing. He was a Football League Assessor for many years and when that ended he went on to assess at lower level. Denis was also in his time a school teacher and I believe at one time one of his pupils was Ken Friar of Arsenal fame. Furthermore he had a large range of interests especially Jazz and we would often meet at various jazz concerts where if we were not enraptured by the music the subject would naturally turn to football. Indeed he was a lecturer on Jazz at the University of the Third Age. He was a man who got around and once someone who had been in Israel for a holiday said to me I met a friend of yours in a swimming pool there and of course it was Denis in the same way as I heard he had been all over talking football and as indicated our paths crossed constantly. He was therefore well known in the football world and there was a large attendance at his funeral He leaves a wife, Ruth and three grown up children namely a girl and two boys. To them all we wish some belated condolences.



NMRS Dispute with MRA

As members are well aware, NMRS has been in dispute with MRA for some time over the manner in which it increased its subscriptions. Despite a couple of meetings with delegates from the Referees Association (RA), progress has been slow. At a recent meeting of the RA, the following was recorded in the minutes:-

There appeared to be no tangible progress following the recent visits by Alan Poulain and Ray Mallory to North Middlesex to discuss their refusal to affiliate to a county RA. A planned meeting between NMRS and MRA under RAE auspices had still not taken place because the NMRS Secretary had not answered correspondence. Bart O'Toole was now seeking to hold 'conciliation talks' using a neutral intermediary (Ted Ring). The crux of the issue seemed to remain NMRS refusal to pay a £1 per member subscription to MRA. Finance and General Purposes members expressed the view that the matter had been dragging on since May 2005 and effective action needed to be taken, sooner rather than later to resolve the issue, assuming that the 'conciliation' remained unsuccessful. F&GP recommended that the 'conciliation talks' should take place within the next two months; alternatively the Board should consider writing directly to all the individual members reminding them of the rules and informing them that they have three options:

- For the current ABS (NMRS) to affiliate to a county RA (MRA) and pay its subscription.
 - For the members to form a new ABS that complies with the rules.
 - For members to join an alternative affiliated ABS.
 - For members to become Direct Members of the RAE and pay the enhanced subscription.
- Should the matter remain unresolved when F&GP next meet on 5 November, a letter would be drafted for Board approval which should be sent to registered NMRS members.

For the information of members, there are a couple of inaccuracies in the above minute.

- The last meeting with Alan Poulain and Ray Mallory was several months ago.
- Members should note that it is not simply our 'refusal to pay a £1 per member subscription to MRA', it is the fact that our subscription would have increased from £35.00 per season to circa £250.00 per season, when MRA only have operational expenses of around £75.00 per season.
- The NMRS Secretary has answered correspondence; it was delayed due to holiday commitments.
- Additionally, the RA does not mention their lack of response to correspondence raised by NMRS.

NMRS has recently received a response from MRA regarding the 'conciliation talks', and the Society sub-committee is now in the process of progressing this matter further.

NMRS members should also be aware that, if the Society ultimately loses its membership of the RAE, the Society has already explored the possibility of obtaining the main membership benefit of RA membership - Personal Accident Insurance – from alternative sources. Members are currently paying a RA membership fee of £11.00 including insurance, and this is due to rise to around £13.00 next season. The Society should be able to obtain enhanced cover for members at less than or at the same level as the total RA subscription. Additionally, the Society will still be able to obtain Referees Association gear for members, so members will not lose this facility.



Interesting Fact (for some)

We all know that, during seasons 2002/2003 and 2003/2004 Arsenal managed a run of 49 games without defeat.

But did you know that, during season 1912/1913 they managed just three - yes, that's right three – victories.

Information from the Football League website.



NORTH MIDDLESEX REFEREES SOCIETY

Minutes of meeting held on 7 September at Holtwhites Sports and Social Club.

Apologies: As per Society Handbook

Chairman's Welcome: The Chairman welcomed members back for the first meeting of the season and Scott Little who was here for the first time. Scott was presented with a whistle from our Chairman Tom White.

Secretary's Report: The Secretary had only two items to report: a) The latest R.A. minutes were available for members to read. and b) The latest position with the R.A. and MRA.

The R.A. had written to the Secretary suggesting a meeting of mediation between the parties concerned. The Secretary stated that the issue of mediation was discussed by the Society sub-committee and rejected. Charles Lifford outlined confirmation of the latest position and it was now decided that we seek a meeting with the delegates of MRA under an independent Chairman and discuss the issues concerned. The Society had written to MRA and we were still awaiting a response. It was pointed out to members that we had secured R.A. membership for a further season and therefore covered by the R.A. insurance.

Treasurer's Report: The membership stood at: Full Membership – 132 Associate – 3

A number of members who receive their magazine/membership form by email had not received the information.

The treasurer stated he would investigate the matter.

Other Officer's Report: The Training Secretary informed the meeting that the next course starts at Brimsdown Sports Club on Monday October 16th, 7.30pm start.

Any Other Business: Tony Ward enquired why the Society details were not printed in the County Association Handbook? Secretary said he would write to Chief Executive, Peter Clayton and request details be submitted in the next County bulletin. Tony also asked if any members would be interested in running a line for the Arsenal U/16s. Please give their details to Tony after the meeting.

Stan Rosenthal, training, asked if there are any members interested in a Mini Soccer course which could be run at the next Society meeting (October 16th, 7.30pm sharp) A number of members were interested and keen to attend. As no Guest Speaker would be attending it was decided to let the Training Centre present the Course.

The guest speaker for the November meeting will be Barry Firmin from Bedfordshire and the December meeting will be held a week earlier due to the Christmas break and will be on December 14th **not** the following 3rd Thursday December 21st. (Social Evening)

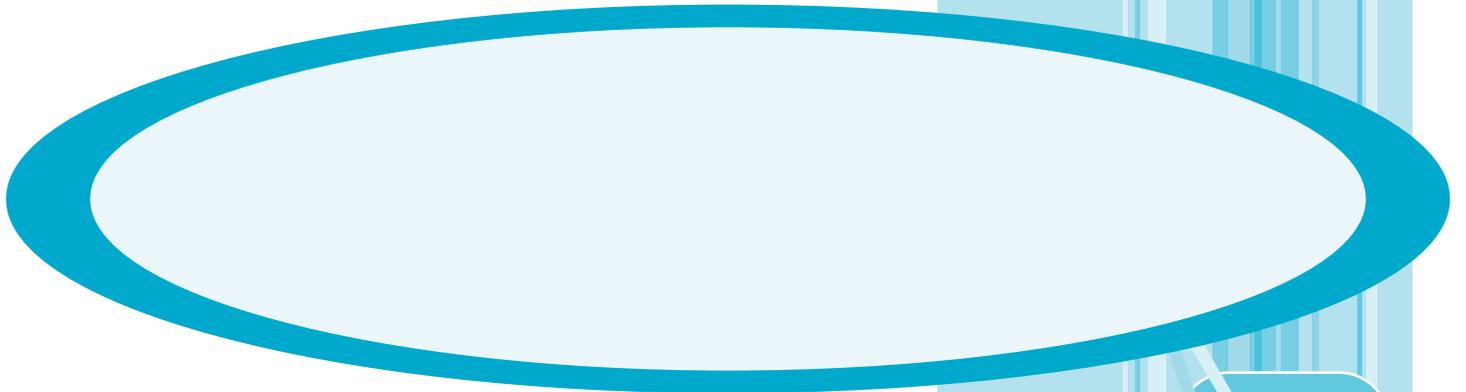
The Guest Speaker for the New Year, Ian Blanchard Head of Refereeing: – January 18th, 2007. (Dates for your Diary)

Chairman:



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