

October 2007

The next meeting of the North Middlesex Referees' Society will be held at 7.30 pm on Thursday 18th October 2007 at Holtwhites Sports and Social Club, Kirkland Drive, Enfield.

Normidian editorial team member, Gary Cobden, has kindly offered to edit this issue of the magazine while your erstwhile editor is away enjoying himself in foreign climes.

Terry.

Well, thanks Terry. When you are going away and leaving me to write the Magazine for a month, you normally leave me at least half a page of Editorial. So, as the above 60ish words is all that you have left me, without further ado, you will now have to put up with my ramblings on the rest of this page.

The October Meeting will have the absolute minimum of formal business, as it is to be a presentation evening, when the Society will be honouring our recently retired Auditor, Brian Langstone, who served in the position for 40 years, but stood down at the AGM in May of this year where he was also made a Life Vice President of the Society. And here I must apologise, as I omitted to include Brian's name in the list of Life Vice Presidents when I submitted the Magazine Covers to the Printers.

George Basten writes a personal tribute to our former Life Vice President Frank McNeil who passed away earlier this year.

Included in this months edition are the regular items including County Cup appointments, and the 100 Club Draw results for the last four months of the season 2006-2007 cycle. We also include the article on Goal Post safety that was issued by the Football Association in September. This article was distributed to members by e-mail where possible, but it is reproduced here for those people without access to this facility. It outlines exactly what is now permissible as fittings for goal nets.

Regular contributor 'Observer' writes on motivation, whilst Mick Osborn tells us why he has decided to 'hang up his boots' at last.

Terry tells me he was based in Famagusta, the home of Spurs recent UEFA Cup opponents, during the war. He also thought that it looked like they still had the same players in their team!!

The new cover was discussed at the recent meeting, and we include the exchange of e-mail correspondence between Life Vice President Mick Osborn and our Treasurer on the subject.

With my other hat on, there is a reminder that this is the final opportunity for those of you that have not rejoined to do so now, or this will be the final edition of the Normidian that you receive.

Last month saw the first major Premiership Management casualty of the season, and there is an interesting snippet on the new Chelsea boss included courtesy of the BBC website.

Terry returns to edit the November magazine after his spell overseas playing pong-ping (again), and asks that any contributions for the November magazine be sent to him by 30th October, please.

George Basten reflects on the recent passing of Life Vice President Frank McNeil

It was with great sadness that we received news that Life Vice President Frank McNeil had passed away after a short illness.

Older members will well remember the sterling work he did for this Society over a number of years, mainly as Society Treasurer which dates back to 1954. The main event in the social calendar was the Annual Dinner and Dance, where Frank inflicted his charming personality into cajoling members to purchase tickets for the big event.

This apart, there were many football and cricket matches against other Societies to arrange, and I personally found Frank knocking at my door to inform me that I was playing in two games of football that had been arranged for that particular week. How could one resist his smiling face? So there was I with two games to play, and wondering how two tickets for the Dinner and Dance had come to be in my pocket!

From that moment in time, we became good friends, but in 1968 he and the family moved to Swindon, where he took up the post of Assistant Electrical Engineer for the Local Authority. Distance did not destroy our friendship, as weekend visiting became the order, and they continued to travel to Cockfosters to attend the Society Dinners.

His refereeing commenced in 1950 when he attended our training centre which was in the hands of our very own Arthur Stewart, who was ably assisted by the LATE Les Davis, and in March 1951 he passed the examination and registered with Middlesex County FA. He officiated in the first instance on the Wood Green, Southgate and District League, and in time graduated to the Athenian, Corinthian, Isthmian, and South East Counties Leagues.

In 1954, after attending a course at Lilleshall, he became a qualified FA Coach, and looked after the London Boys Club team called Samuel Lithgow, with whom eight seasons were crowned with success, when they won the London Federation of Buys Clubs League and Cup competitions in the same season.

Among his other activities were some that made life easier for referees, including his time as Referees Secretary of the Enfield League and Cup competitions, and of the Enfield and Tottenham Combination, of which he was a founder member. His excellent work was acknowledged by that League when they made him a Vice President of the Competition.

In 1961, Frank – on medical advice – had to cut down on his many commitments, and ceased to be Society Treasurer. In 1962 our Society honoured him with the Life Vice Presidency for his outstanding services, an award he was extremely proud to receive.

It is probably not widely known that, towards the end of the 1939-1945 conflict he enlisted into the Royal Air Force and qualified as a pilot. He went over to Canada for his training, and qualified in Harvard aircraft, graduating to the famous Hurricane fighter on returning to the UK, but too late to be involved during the war years.

At a Society Dinner in 2002 he was presented with the 50 Year Service certificate from the Football Association.

Without doubt his type is the salt of the earth, and the Society is much richer for him having been a member.

Frank will always be remembered with affection by all who have been privileged to have known him. Our thoughts go out to his lovely wife Joan, and his children Fiona and Barry.



A GOOD INNINGS

by Mick Osborn

It has nothing to do with global warming that I will be getting no more plums, but from my decision, at the close of season 2005/6, to lay my whistle to rest.

Over the years friends and acquaintances have asked, "Are you still refereeing?" with the emphasis on the word "still" getting stronger each time. Now that I answer, "no," they ask what lead me to make the decision, and then offer suggestions such as, "foul language?" ... "bad behaviour?" ... "violence?" To all of these I can honestly say, "No". My wife provided the answer when I first told her of my intention. "Well," she said, slightly mixing up her sports and diplomatically avoiding the word, "age". "You've had a good innings." Yes, I really think I have.

I qualified as a referee with the North Middlesex Referees' Society in 1978, when I discovered that I had volunteered to run the cub pack's football team to which my son was a member. A few years later, I casually told the Referees Secretary of the Nemean League, in which I had played since leaving school, that if he was ever stuck for a referee, I could help out. Having given up playing, I hardly missed a Saturday afternoon of football from then on. For a number of years, I had planned that retirement would take effect on the joint occurrence of the end of the season and the disintegration of my boots. However, my footwear had always timed their demise for around February and, having bought another pair to fulfil my commitments, I would re-register for the next season to save wasting them. In 2005/6 they just about hung on to the end. It was a sign!

As it happened, it wasn't really the end. A plaintive cry from the AFA early in the 2006/7 season, pleaded with me to referee a cup match a few days hence. Well, "plaintive" and "pleaded" are perhaps not quite the right words as anyone who has received a call from Trevor Syms will tell you. I said I would, took down the particulars and hung up the phone. It was then that it dawned on me. In those few seconds of trying to be helpful I had forgotten a critical element. My boots, mud and all, were buried in some far distant landfill site!

It is not in my nature to renege on a promise so I bought a cheap pair of boots and mentally, (too late for physically,) prepared for the meeting of two reasonably strong third teams in the first round of the AFA Junior Cup. The pitch was in excellent condition, the weather was fine and the teams played a cracking game in a sportsmanlike manner. An air of normality was maintained by the multi-purpose accommodation which served as referee's changing room, boiler room and store shed, with its collection of goal nets, flag posts, pots of paint and other accoutrements of a groundsman's trade, and the total lack of facilities for post match ablutions.

Since that moment of weakness, I feared the phone ringing; the siren voice offering me a game. Would I be strong enough to say "no"? I kept away from football grounds as much as I could. I even joined Exrefs Anonymous. Then, a few weeks ago it happened. Through the post came an appointment to referee a cup match. I declined. My therapist is so proud of me. But, please, no more temptation. No more cries for help. No more plum appointments. I've had a good innings.



Monthly Meetings

With just twelve people in attendance in September, I would just like to ask:-

What is stopping you from attending?

What can we do to get you there?

What do you want us to do that would entice you to attend?

Answers on a postcard please to the Secretary, Robin Jagot, contact details on the inside front cover.



MESSAGE FROM THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

Goalpost Safety

The Football Association, along with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, the Health and Safety Executive and the British Standards Institute, would like to draw your attention to the following guidelines for the safe use of goalposts.

Too many serious injuries and fatalities have occurred in recent years as a result of unsafe or incorrect use of goalposts. Safety is always of paramount importance and everyone in football must play their part to prevent similar incidents occurring in the future

1. For safety reasons goalposts of any size (including those which are portable and not installed permanently at a pitch or practice field) must always be anchored securely to the ground;
 - o Portable goalposts must be secured as per the manufacturer's instructions;
 - o Under no circumstances should children or adults be allowed to climb on, swing or play with the structure of the goalposts;
 - o Particular attention is drawn to the fact that if not properly assembled and secured, portable goalposts may overturn; and
 - o Regular inspections of goalposts must be carried out to check that they are properly maintained.
2. Portable goalposts should not be left in place after use. They should be dismantled and removed to a place of secure storage.
3. The use of metal cup hooks on goals will be banned from the commencement of season 2007/08 and match officials will be instructed not to commence matches where such net fixings are evident for safety reasons. Nets should only be secured by plastic hooks or tape and not by metal cup hooks. Any metal cup hooks should be removed and replaced. New goalposts should not be purchased if they include metal cup hooks.
4. Goalposts which are "home made" or which have been altered from their original size or construction should not be used. These have been the cause of a number of deaths and injuries.
5. There is no BS/CEN standard for wooden goals and it is unlikely that wooden goals will pass a load or stability test. The FA recommends that wooden goals should be replaced when necessary with compliant metal, aluminium or plastic goalposts. All wooden goals previously tested by independent consultants have failed strength and stability tests.

For reference, you should note that The FA and BSI, in conjunction with the industry, have developed two standards for goalposts – BSEN 748 (1998) and BS 8462 (2005). It is strongly recommended that you ensure that all goals purchased comply with the relevant standard. A Code of Practice BS 8461 has also been completed and copies of all of these three standards are available from the British Standards Institute.

Funding for replacement goals is available via the Football Foundation and eligibility criteria and further details can be obtained on their web site – www.footballfoundation.org.uk The FA together with representatives from the industry, sports governing bodies and Government have prepared guidance notes for pitch users and pitch providers, which summarise the key priorities of the BSi's Code of Practice and provide further details on the information included above.



This article was recently published on the Football Association website, and was distributed to all members for which the Society holds an e-mail address. It is reproduced here for the benefit of those who do not have that facility, as it is deemed to be an important message.





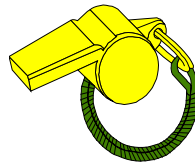
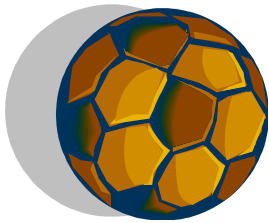
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**Are pleased to continue their support of North
Middlesex Referees Society in Season 2007/2008**



Magazine Cover

Received recently from Mick Osborn – by e-mail

Regarding the new cover of the Normidian, I assume a different picture will be featured each month. If this is the case, the idea is excellent. If it is not, then I think we need a general picture that represents the whole of the Society and its members. The cover picture should be identified in the mag.

Best wishes

Mick

On behalf of the Society, the following response was sent:-

Mick

This was not an attempt to highlight specific individuals, but more to show that anybody can referee anywhere (as you've probably identified, it's at the Emirates).

The decision was taken to 'update' the look and feel of the Normidian, and, as in previous seasons, this will be the cover for the whole year; it is too costly to prepare a different cover each month

Regards, and thanks for your comments

Gary



HENRY TILLY LTD

Sports Goods Suppliers of Turners Hill, Cheshunt
are once again continuing their support of

North Middlesex Referees Society for Season 2007/2008

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

Contact us for all your sporting requirements
Telephone 01992 623714



We are advised by Mike Brown, Chief Executive Officer, Amateur Football Alliance that Dennis Whitehall, a Past President of the Alliance, sadly passed away recently.

Our thoughts are with his wife Dapne at this time.

We are also advise that Peter Holliman of the AFA also died earlier this year “a great servant of the AFA” - Bart O’Toole.

Our thoughts are also with his family.



Society member Vince Yeudall was recently taken ill whilst waiting for a plane to go on holiday to Florida. We are pleased to report that he is now fit and well after his holiday – he had to spend a night in hospital before flying. Tough as old boots, he wasn’t going to let a drop in blood pressure prevent him and seven(!!!) family members enjoying the trip and was off on the first available plane!



When Harry Met Avram

A source at Portsmouth Football Club has given an interesting insight into the workings of Chelsea’s new manager, Avram Grant.

Grant was brought in as Pompey’s technical director by co-owner Alexander Gaydamak, much to the displeasure of Harry Redknapp.

I’m told that during the time that they worked together, Harry used to ask exactly what Grant did as technical director. Others at the club said they were not sure exactly, but saw him walking around using his mobile phone a lot.

Unlike the man he replaces at Chelsea, he wasn’t known as a great communicator although he did help to put together a motivational video at Pompey. He remained in constant touch with Abramovich during his time on the south coast and, when he finally came to leave for Chelsea, Harry offered to give him a lift up the A3!

Mihir Bose on www.bbc.co.uk



MOTIVATION

What has motivation to do with refereeing?

Motivation is the main difference between a good game, an average game, or indeed the worst game an official might have in a season. It is the driving force behind every match.

That little bit extra that the referee puts into a Cup Final or the game on the local park when he believes there is an assessor watching.

Motivation is that additional effort and determination that should be put into every game.

One way of showing that motivation is important to a match is to indicate the times when there is distinct lack of it.

How many times have you heard the following comments at various times when in the company of refereeing colleagues?

"I had a good game last week, but I am only running the line, this Saturday."

"My cup tie has been postponed, and I've got this junior match instead, and I was really looking forward to the other match."

Do not these examples explain the point?

No doubt there are many other such phrases, which could be included.

To my mind, every game should be treated the same, whether one is refereeing or running the line. All must be equally important.

To the lads playing in the lower divisions of any league, their matches on a Saturday afternoon or Sunday morning are more important than those in the Football League. They should therefore be treated as important by the referee. The fact that a better class of football is being played on an adjoining pitch should not be allowed to interfere with the referee in his own game. An official should treat every match as the most important in his career - as though it was his World Cup Final. If such thoughts put that extra zip into his performance then he is advised to use it each weekend.

The individual means of motivation is a personal thing, but I believe it falls into one or more of these categories:

- a) Love of the game.
- b) Personal satisfaction
- c) Advancement with the game
- d) Confidence.
- e) Pride in being as perfect as one can be.

The knowledge that one knows the Laws of the Game and is able to put them into practice gives the confidence to motivate a referee through a game.

The Referees' Association provides great help in stimulating interest amongst members, and to my mind every referee should join as a first stage in motivating himself for every weekend with the whistle.

A referee must be fair to all teams, no matter what the standard of football, giving his best whatever the circumstances.

He should always motivate himself which will inevitably lead to greater things.

Observer

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

Parent Body Appointments

Senior Challenge Cup – Round 2

Enfield Town FC	v	Bedfont FC	Peter Smith (R)
Enfield Town FC	v	Bedfont FC	Stephen Reuter (AR)
Northwood FC	v	Hayes and Yeading United FC	Michael Mackey Jnr (R)
Potters Bar Town FC or Bedfont Green FC	v	Ruislip Manor FC or Uxbridge FC	Paul Watts (AR)

Premier Cup – Round 1

Harefield United FC Reserves	v	Wealdstone FC Reserves	Michael Mackey Jnr (R)
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Sunday Intermediate Cup – Round 1

Belstone FC Reserves	v	Bedfont Sunday FC Reserves	Stephen Reuter (R)
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Sunday Junior Cup – Round 1

Northmet (Riverside) FC Reserves	v	Spelthorne Sports Club Sunday FC Reserves	Barry Kyriacou (R)
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Sunday Junior Trophy – Round 2

FC Grasshoppers First	v	Northolt Saints Sports & Social (Sunday) FC Reserves	John Noblemunn (R)
Northmet (Riverside) FC A Team	v	Fulwell City FC First	Carl Fernandes (R)

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



North Middlesex Referees Society – On-Line Shop

Do you shop on line? If so, then why not access a whole range of your favourite suppliers through our website, www.northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk, and click on the link at the top right of our home page to take you to www.buy.at/nmrs. You will then be able to access a whole range of suppliers.

The following are just a small sample of the suppliers available through the website, and they give us the benefits indicated. Some suppliers also offer discounts off orders.

Marks and Spencer	5% of the order value
CD-Wow	4% of the order value
dvd.co.uk	4% of the order value
National Lottery	£0.50 when you register plus £3.50 when you buy your first ticket
Tesco	£5.00 for each new customer registering an on-line grocery order, and 2% on other products
David Lloyd	register for membership and we receive £30.00
on-line surveys	up to £1.20
Powergen	up to £35.00 when you switch suppliers
John Lewis	2% of the order value
3 Mobile	£28.00 when you take out a contract, and £4.00 on a PAYG phone

Why not take a look for yourself to see who is there and what you can purchase, helping North Middlesex at the same time. It doesn't cost you a penny more, and may even offer you savings. Why not just spend a few minutes completing an on-line survey, and help us raise a few more pounds.

Gary Cobden
Honorary Treasurer



North Middlesex Referees Society - 100 Club Season 2006/2007

The final draws for the 100 Club for Season 2006/2007 were made at the September Society Meeting. Details of the winners are shown below.

May			July		
10	Gary Cobden	£18.00	23	Richard Meikle	£18.00
1	Dave Ackerman	£9.00	28	Stan Rosenthal	£9.00
2	Dave Ackerman	£4.50	18	Robin Jagot	£4.50
June			August		
15	Alec Holloway	£18.00	16	Alec Holloway	£24.75
19	Max Lea	£9.00	21	Frank McNeil	£13.50
32	Arthur Stewart	£4.50	38	Terry Wilson	£6.75

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

Season 2007/2008

The first two draws for the current season will take place at the October meeting. If you would like to join, please complete the form below, and return it to me.

NORTH MIDDLESEX REFEREES SOCIETY 100 CLUB

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

Please find enclosed my cheque/postal order for £...00 to cover the subscription for 12 months.

Renewal information will be included with next seasons Membership Form

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

Society Use - Numbers Allocated.....

Gary Cobden
Honorary Treasurer



Refereeing without CRB check? £5,000 fine!

The FA has told County Associations that referees who officiate from September 2008 without completing the Child Protection Course (CPC), enhanced Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) check, and then been 'accepted' into football, will be committing a criminal offence and liable to a fine of up to £5,000. Similarly officers of a County, League or Club that appoint a referee without CRB clearance will also be liable to a fine of up to £5,000.

This is the result of a QC's legal opinion obtained by the FA on the implications of the 'Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act' passed in November 2006. The legal opinion appears to confirm that all refereeing is a 'regulated activity' under the Act, because officials even in open-age football could be frequently 'in contact with children' (age up to 18) and anyone who seeks to referee must apply to be 'subject to monitoring'.

The FA has already decided that no referee can be registered for 2007/8 season unless they have satisfactorily completed the CPC and CRB checks. The FA also says it is in dialogue with the Home Office regarding the implementation of the Act and particularly in relation to open-age football.



Membership Fees for Season 2007/2008 are now due! Yes ladies and gents, it's now your final opportunity to renew your subscription for Season 2007/2008, which became due on 1 April. If you have still not paid – and there are nearly 70 members from last season who have not paid - where the Society has an e-mail address on file, you should have received another Membership Form; for the remainder, a final Membership Form is included with this issue of the Normidian. Membership Cards are included with this edition for those who have recently paid their dues; for those who have recently paid, and receive their magazine by e-mail, your card will be sent under separate cover. If you have not paid, the NMRS Membership Fee is now £12.00; the Referees Association subscription has been increased by £2.00 – to £13.00.

Membership Fees payable are as follows:-

Full Members - £25.00 (This includes your Referees Association fee including Insurance Premium of £4.00. If you are over 75, the Insurance Premium is not automatically included; if you require cover it is available at an increased premium of £8.00).

Associate Members - £10.00 (You must pay your Referees Association fee through another Society, and this should be shown on your Membership Form).

Junior Members - £14.50 (Members Under 18 years of age at 1 April 2007 - includes your Referees Association fee of £8.50).

Individual fees payable are shown on your personalised Membership Form. You are reminded that, if you have not yet paid, you are not covered by the RA Insurance. Please complete and return your Membership Form as soon as possible.

Would you please check your individual details shown on the Forms, and amend any information that is shown incorrectly. Please also check e-mail addresses shown on the form carefully, as some that we have on file are resulting in bounce backs. Additionally, please check that the NPD Number (Registration Number) shown is correct, and complete it if it is missing from the Membership Form. The number can be found on your County FA Registration Form.

If you do not take this final opportunity to renew your Membership, this will be the last edition of the Normidian that you receive, and your membership will cease.

Gary Cobden
Honorary Treasurer



Brian Langstone

This month's Society Meeting will be a social event to thank Brian Langstone, the Society Auditor who stepped down at the May Annual General Meeting after serving North Middlesex Referees Society in that position for 40 years.

Brian's first connections with football began in his youth in the West Midlands, when he was fortunate enough to play in a very successful youth team, and played in County Cup Finals at various age groups. He was fortunate to play in finals staged on the grounds of Birmingham City; West Bromwich Albion; and Aston Villa. After moving to London, Brian played football for the Army, and also for the War Office.

Brian also took up refereeing, and could regularly be seen on the local parks refereeing on the former Enfield and District Sunday Youth Football League – which bore many players who subsequently went on to greater success in the professional game. He retired from refereeing when he reached the age of 60, but continued his involvement in football - and refereeing - until the end of last season, when he retired as North Middlesex Referees Society's longest serving 'officer'.

Brian took up the post in 1967, not long after the Society's then Bankers, Sale & Co, collapsed with the Society's account – and balance of circa £85 – being frozen. This amount was never recovered. The first Treasurer that Brian worked with was Brian Adderley in 1967, followed by Ken Morgan until 1974, at which time a certain Peter Dace took over until 1989.



HAVE YOUR SAY?

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE HAVE A SAY IN THE WAY THAT REFEREEING IN MIDDLESEX SHOULD PROGRESS IN THE NEXT 5 YEARS?

MCFA, as well as every other County, has to prepare a 5 year Development Plan, starting next year to go through to 2012, so you have an opportunity to help in the process, as part of the planning is the involvement of all interested parties. To facilitate this I have arranged a meeting at MCFA HQ, 39, Roxborough Road, Harrow on Wednesday 10th October starting at 7:45pm.

Who is invited? Any person who is involved in refereeing and feels that they have something to say, so is this you?

Also it would be an advantage if individual Societies were involved, as they are a focal point of the development of all Referees.

If you would like to attend, what do you have to do?

Very simple! Let me know, so that I can ensure that there are sufficient refreshments available for all attendees, then turn up on the day.

Remember this is your opportunity to have your say, so please think about it and come along. If for other reasons you are unable to attend, then either let somebody else, who is coming, have your opinions or send them through to me.

For more information please contact:-
Andy Taylor MCFA RDO andyjc.taylor@middlesexfa.com
07957-626270



London/AFA Referees Society – Meeting Thursday 11 October

At this meeting, the guest speaker will be Rob Styles. The meeting will be held at west Ham United FC, Boleyn Ground, Green Street, London, E13 9AZ. Doors will open at 5pm for a 7pm start.

If you plan to attend, please note that street parking is limited in the vicinity, but the venue is easily accessible by public transport.



Does Lawrie Sanchez have a point???

The Fulham boss launched a scathing attack on referees after his side had a goal disallowed during their 2-1 Carling Cup defeat to Bolton.

"I'm getting fed up with goals getting disallowed for no apparent reason. It's ridiculous. Referees and linesman are costing us week in week out," he fumed. "They aren't up to the job and something needs to be done."

Sanchez was furious after referee Steve Bennett ruled Diomansy Kamara's effort offside with the score at 1-1. He continued: "Whether they think they are coming for a nice trip to the seaside or something, I don't know. But we have seen the goal, and it is definitely onside. "He's blatantly onside by a yard at least, if not two yards, when the ball's been shot by David Healy."

Maybe a swift visit to Lancaster gate will be on the cards for the Fulham boss!



NORTH MIDDLESEX REFEREES SOCIETY

Minutes of the Society Meeting held on Thursday September 20th, 2007 at Holtwhites Sports Centre

Apologies: Gary Cobden, David Ackerman, Lockie Bramzell, Paul Fuller and Charles Lifford

The Chairman opened the meeting and was pleased to welcome at his very first meeting John Metsalaar's son Patrick who recently qualified on the Brimsdown Sports Centre Course in June 2007. Peter Dace our Life Vice President presented Patrick with a "Whistle and Red/yellow Cards" and wished him well for the future.

Minutes of the Last Society Meeting: The minutes of the Society Meeting held on Thursday April 18th, 2007 were signed as a true record.

Matters Arising: There were no matters arising.

Secretary's Report: An invitation from the London County FA to attend a FAMOA Evening at the West Ham Football Club on Thursday October 11th 2007 starting at 7.00pm. The LFA wishes to invite two members from our Society. If any member wishes to attend would they please inform the Secretary as soon as possible. A letter from the MCFA Development Officer on the future Referees Development Plan for the next five years advising us of a meeting at the Middlesex County H.Q. Roxborough Road, Harrow on Wednesday October 10th 2007. If any of our members wishes to attend and take part they will be made very welcome. Refreshments will be laid on. The Telephone Number to contact is 020 8515 6903 Referee Development Officer. Finally a message from the Football Association on **Goal Post Safety**, which will be published in the October Magazine.

Treasurer's Report: In the Treasurer's absence the Secretary informed the meeting that the membership stood at:- Full Members – 137 Associate Members - 3 .

Any Other Officer's Report: None

Any Other Business: A discussion took place on the new cover of the Society Magazine and one member felt that it would have been more truly representative of the Society if the Match Officials had all been members of our Society. This was supported by other members present. A question was put forward to suggest if we could possibly change the picture on the monthly publication of the magazine. The general view and mood of the members present was one of mixed feelings. The Chairman informed the meeting that it would be placed on the agenda for discussion at the next Council meeting in October.

The Editor advised the meeting that George Basten was in good health and that he has received from George a tribute message on the late Frank McNeil, former Life Vice President who passed away in the summer. This will be printed in the next Society magazine. Peter Dace, LVP informed members of the roll Frank played within the Society and was for eight years the Society Social Secretary when the Annual Dinner/Dances were a complete sell out.

The Secretary informed members present that the next Society Meeting will be a social event after the formal business is quickly dealt with. We shall celebrate the occasion of Brian Langstone's 50 year FA Award with the presentation being carried out by Peter Clayton, Chief Executive, Middlesex County FA and also the County's Football Association Representative. We would hope that as many members old and new and not forgetting our Life Vice Presidents to place this date in their diary. It will be held on Thursday 18th October 2007 at 7.45pm at the Holtwhites Sports Centre, Enfield.

A break was taken, and Stan Rosenthal on behalf of the Training Team gave us a breakdown on the new Law Amendments for 2007/2008. This was followed by some interesting match incidents which created some excellent discussion points and lengthy Debate. It was decided as time was marching on to show some FA DVD clips on certain challenges with the opportunity for those present to decide what action if any would the Referee take. There would be no slow motion actions of the clips and one had to make an instant decision.

The meeting closed at 10.00pm and the Chairman thanked Stan Rosenthal and Roger Fox for their contribution to an enjoyable evening.

Chairman -