

September 2008

The next Meeting of the North Middlesex Referees ' Society will be held at Holtwhites Sports and Social Club, Kirkland Drive, Enfield at 7.30 pm on Thursday the 16th of October 2008 when the guest speaker will be our own Phil Sharp who in addition to his Assistant Referee duties is now the Referee Development Officer for Herts County.

EDITORIAL

Hopefully this month's magazine will contain a lot more reading material than the last one which I apologised for at the last monthly meeting heavily depleted by the absence of attendees at the Spurs match taking place at the same time. This coming month we have Phil Sharp who started his career off with us so let's have a big attendance.

I feel that the Respect Campaign is of such great importance that in each of the next few editions I am including items from the official FA Web-site on vital matters and hopefully this will prove not only of interest but will encourage people to write in about their experiences of how it is affecting them if at all. Thanks to the FA for reproduction rights. It would be very helpful if people could write in and give their experiences of whether the campaign is working and any examples of success or failure. One practical matter I have come across is that if the Captain as the only one "officially" able to speak to the referee is either substituted or dismissed it is vital it is made known to the referee who now captains that side.

I propose to revert to type quite literally in one sense by using my Editorial to put some points across relating to topical matters and add my two penny-worth on changes I feel might help the game. Can we start with a reminder to those in the professional game that do not appreciate that we still have a Law which demands that a player is sent off for Serious Foul Play as well as one for stopping an obvious goal scoring opportunity. The case of John Terry's dismissal against Manchester City is a prime example and should have meant a suspension. In this regard I believe that there should only be a one match compulsory ban as required by FIFA but that a disciplinary panel should be able to award up to another 5 match ban. That way John Terry could perhaps have got a two match suspension but Newcastle's Danny Guthrie who broke the leg of Hull's Craig Fagan with a wild tackle to say the least could have received 6 matches on the sidelines if that was felt appropriate. Following on from that perhaps FIFA will one day listen to the viewpoint that a disciplinary committee can alter, depending on the seriousness or otherwise, a caution to a dismissal and vice versa. After all as it says in Gilbert and Sullivan's the Mikado the aim should be "to make the punishment fit the crime"

Finally I had hoped to be able to detail something about offsides in this edition but unfortunately the sparse number at the last monthly meeting precluded us having either a discussion on it or a showing on an official DVD on the subject. I hope to review the DVD for the next edition of the magazine.

Ken Goldman

From the President

It was a privilege to be elected your new President at the AGM in May; thank you. I hope everyone has had an enjoyable and restful summer and are now looking forward to a busy new season. Our senior colleagues will have been training hard and are undoubtedly well and truly involved in early matches. But what about us at the grass roots? Did we train diligently before the start of the season? I was recently asked what I did to keep fit; followed by, "Oh I forgot, you referee". The old adage sprang to my mind, "You should keep fit to play sport – not the other way round".

Apparently 40,000 people responded to a recent survey saying that better facilities and pitches were needed, but "number one by a mile" was the issue of respect for referees. The importance of 'pushy parents' being put in their place also featured strongly. From the responses, the FA went forward with a pilot scheme for ten weeks that involved many referees, players, and coaches working to towards a solution.

Most people I have spoken to believe strongly that the process should have started at the top rather than the other way round. However, as the majority of people play football at grass roots level, will this area be affected most? Full-page adverts in the national press have declared, 'No respect, no referee, no game' and 'one match in 3 is played without a referee because of abuse from players'. I still find the statistic that some 7,000 referees are lost to the game each year staggering.

The Premier League has launched their own initiative in London, Blackburn and Sunderland declaring 'Get on with the game, get on with each other'. A 'Get On With The Game' flag will lead out the teams at every Premier League game. In a bid to reduce flashpoints TV monitors have been removed from the technical areas to prevent managers taking a look at replays and appealing to the fourth official. Other changes being introduced include more participation by team captains who will be present when team sheets are exchanged before matches to provide 'an opportunity to develop the relationship between referee and captain'. Also, former referees like Dermot Gallagher and Paul Durkin will be used on TV to clarify disputed decisions.

Earlier this year, I was in Rio de Janeiro playing ping-pong. Together with a number of colleagues I took the opportunity to see Fluminense play Sao Paulo at the famous Maracana stadium in front of 70,000 seating spectators. The football played was typically Brazilian – all flair and good technique – Fluminense won an exciting match that had the crowd alight. Interestingly, the average age of the crowd seemed to be much younger than we are used to at home. Despite this, their behaviour was exemplary. Also, there were no programmes – almost as though everyone knew all the players and substitutes so why did we want a programme? So, no souvenir – pity!

When I asked how the players reached such high standards of technical excellence, I was told with a grin, "On the beach". Having seen whole families playing by the sea for hours on end the reply didn't surprise me.

The Beijing Olympics has dominated our screens – what a feast for sport enthusiasts. I hope you all watched the Chinese play table tennis! We have a saying, "If you want to play an easy game, play football". Ouch, sorry!

Terry Wilson



Welcome to Respect

Respect is The FA's programme of activities to combat unacceptable behaviour in our game at every level - on the pitch and from the sidelines.

This was the No.1 priority emerging from the biggest opinion survey to date of grassroots football in England. It was carried out in late 2007 and directly informed The FA's National Game Strategy, published in March 2008.

We hope that Respect will ensure a safe, positive environment for everyone to enjoy football. From the start it will have an impact on the following areas:

Referee recruitment and retention: By tackling abuse towards match officials, we hope to reduce the stream of referees understandably leaving the game.

Participation within youth football: Abuse and pressure from the sidelines needs to stop if we are to ensure young children enjoy, stay and progress in the game.

Coaching and player development: An encouraging and player-centred approach is vital if we are to improve coaching standards - particularly for the key 5-11 age-group. It's simple: better coaches produce better players.

Safeguarding children: Everyone in football has a duty of care towards children - ensuring they are able to play football in a safe, enjoyable environment free of abuse, bullying and discrimination.

Improving behaviour is a whole-game issue and the 2008-09 season will see the Respect programme introduced at professional and grassroots levels.

To do this, The FA is actively working with the following organisations:

- The Premier League
- The Football League
- The Professional Footballers' Association (PFA)
- The League Managers' Association (LMA)
- Professional Game Match Officials (PGMO)
- All County FAs

And we're inviting all regional and local adult and youth leagues to play their part in our Respect programme. [Click here if you would like to sign-up.](#)

Minister for Sport Gerry Sutcliffe has lent his support to the Respect programme, saying: "Football is the most high profile sport in the world and with the new season about to start, the game is back in the spotlight. Footballers today are not just sportsmen, they are role models for young people around the world. Passion is at the heart of the game, but being passionate doesn't mean disrespecting people. It's absolutely crucial that players, coaches, officials and spectators sign up to Respect. We need to see a commitment to change at all levels of the sport, and I'm grateful to the FA for leading the way."

Respect



The success of Respect hinges on clubs and leagues taking disciplinary action where required

Sanctions - guidance 2008-09

So, what if Respect is not followed? The Football Association Rules and Regulations clearly outline the powers to take action where there is a prima facie case of misconduct.

But even before it reaches this level, action may be taken early in the process by Clubs and Leagues, dependent on the severity of the breach. The regulations outline who has what responsibilities clearly in order to prevent cases of double jeopardy (i.e. a participant being dealt with twice for one offence)

If the breach is considered by The Football Association (The FA) or County Football Association (CFA) to be one of "misconduct", the regulations give power for action to be taken by either The Football Association or parent County Football Association only. Such issues would cover all on-field misconduct (eg. violent conduct, abuse behaviour towards the match officials by players) or off-field offences by Clubs, their officers or spectators (eg. Crowd abuse, inappropriate comments about match officials in the media). Such sanctions could result in a fine, individual or club suspensions or other sanctions considered appropriate by the commission hearing the case.

Where a breach is at a level where it is contrary to the rules of a competition or League but not considered to be misconduct by The FA or CFA action may be taken by the relevant competition providing such breach occurred whilst participating in that competition, (e.g. failure to fulfil a fixture, playing ineligible players, failure to confirm appointments to match officials) Such sanctions may also include fines, reduction of points or ultimately expulsion from the competition or excluded from a competition by Members at an AGM/EGM.

It is vital that the football family works in partnership to ensure the integrity of Respect is maintained. Such an important project starts with the Club who also has a vital part to play. Clubs also have the ability to ensure their Club members adhere to the codes of conduct within the Club. For those in breach, the Club may also take appropriate action which may include omission from the team in respect to players, request for non-attendance at matches or again removal from the club membership in sever cases.

If any organisation is in doubt as to their powers to apply sanctions in individual cases then it would always be best practice to seek appropriate advice from their parent County Football Association.

IT'S YOUR GAME

Our very good friend and Referee colleague Mick Dennis wrote a stirring piece in the 6th August 2008 edition of the Daily Express relating to the above subject and these are some of the things he said there-

“The Premier League, the Football League, the Managers’ Association and the PFA together with Referees’ representatives joined the FA in talks during the summer. With unprecedented unison they backed the Respect campaign. A raft of new procedures was announced for professional matches with a related set of measures to be introduced into the lower reaches of football’s pyramid. A corrosive climate of criticism of referees from parks to the Premier League has infected every football internet message board, terrace and stand and every pub discussion. It has been caused by the facet of football which makes it the most popular sport on the planet- the passion it generates. We are all in favour of respecting referees – until one of them gives a decision against our team. Until we can respect referees even when they give a decision with which we disagree and hurts our team we cannot demand others show respect. What is really needed is a new attitude. But that is not up to the FA. That is up to you. You decide what sort of game you want football to be.”

[With thanks to Express Newspapers]

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Here are some further dates for your diaries.

The November Meeting of the Society will be a joint Meeting with the AFA Society at our own home venue, when we will welcome The RAE Chairman Alan Poulain. December’s Meeting will be our usual Christmas fare of a social gathering and our January speaker will be an old friend John Cartwright former England Youth Team Manager and Technical Director of the former FA National. School at Lilleshall and one time first team Coach to the Arsenal. He has written an important book which we will review nearer the time of the Meeting.

It is to be sincerely hoped that members will this season support the Society by attending these meetings in greater numbers than in the past few seasons. There is nothing more embarrassing for the Society and the Speaker to find only a handful of attendees. Please therefore support your Society at these Meetings.

Youth Games

Some years ago whilst I was still a member of North Middlesex Society, I wrote something for the Normidian in which I applauded Middlesex FA for giving equal status to County Youth appointments as they do to Adult County Cups. I was berated for this view by the unidentified & highly self opinionated "Observer" who expressed the view that I didn't know what I was talking about and that due to the poor standard of Football in most youth games meant that they did not warrant them having an appointed referee. I did not rise to the bait then and nor am I doing so now, but I feel that a recent observation of my own is worth pointing out.

Today, Sunday 7th September I was at Enfield playing fields watching my son play in a Mercury Waltham Sunday League game and on the surrounding pitches there were 6 youth games being played only one of which had a qualified Referee.

Whilst as far as I can see there were no problems in any of these games I felt that it was a sad reflection of the poor attitude of many local referees who think that such games are beneath them.

We are all aware of the national decline in adult 11-a-side football and I believe that this is partly due to the decline in standards in local youth football which in turn is partly due to the lack of officials at that level. When my son stopped playing Youth Football at the age of 15, it was mainly due to the indiscipline in many of the games as more often than not there was no referee and although my son has started playing again in the last year, he has not played at all in the intervening period and he is an exception to the rule in that not many players return to the game after that much time out of it.

Whilst I can fully understand peoples reasons for not wanting to referee youth games every week, I feel that we should all put something back in to the very bottom end of the game as it is where most, if not all of us cut our teeth so to speak and I still think that Middlesex's stance is still to be applauded and that other Counties should follow suit.

We all like the higher profile games that we are appointed to from time to time and to see our names in the "plum appointments" published in our Society magazines, but this does not mean that we should see *any* appointment as beneath us as I can think of few referees who would turn down a County Youth Cup Final appointment.

I personally referee around eight youth games a season, that's one a month and I am happy to do so, and I believe that we should all be prepared to do a few youth games and if we get a County Youth appointment, rather than cook up 1001 reasons to turn it down, we should accept it with the same sense of honour that we would accept any County appointment.

Len Wilcock

Putting a Cap on it.

In a match in the recent Emirates Cup Tournament at the Emirates Stadium an Assistant Referee allowed what was clearly shown to be an offside goal to stand and then shortly after put one of his hands up to his face to cover his eyes to shield them from a strong sun. A remark was made by one of the television commentators about this which led me to think of why it is that Assistant Referees are not kitted out with caps, especially as some of them are extremely stylish these days. After all how many of us as Referees when we have been lucky enough to have Assistants have decided which diagonal to run depending on the position of the sun, so that it will not shine in our eyes, thereby leaving one Assistant or both if they swap round at halftime, with the same problem that we have sought to overcome for ourselves.

If we go back to the earliest days of the game when it was played in the public schools and universities, it is almost certain that the officials wore the caps in the colours of their schools etc. At some point when professionalism came in it also became a “man’s game” and such cissy stuff as cap wearing literally went out of fashion. However if we now have luminous flags with message buttons; two-way radios and all sorts of coloured kit for “linos” perhaps we should rethink allowing them to protect their eyes from the sun so that they can at least look into the pitch and not be blinded by a powerful sun-beam.

There would also be another benefit in professional football in that a cap would conveniently allow the current microphones used for inter-official communications to be worn around the brim thus obviating the necessity to tape them to the side of the face, which looks both cumbersome and untidy.

. In other sports such as cricket and tennis there does not seem any reason why the umpires or line judges are precluded from wearing them; so are we prepared to risk getting things wrong for the sake of some feeling that it would look funny or be out of order to wear them, or are we in the end going to chose what one might describe as “sartorial capitulation”?

KG.

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

60th Anniversary Society Celebration Dinner, January 20th 1949 – January 20th 2009

The Society will be holding a celebration Dinner on **Friday 23rd January 2009** at the Old Owen Association Sports Club, Coopers Lane Potters Bar Hertfordshire.

Guests will be expected to arrive at 7.00pm, as Dinner will be served at 7.30pm. The price for a ticket as been set at £15 for each person. A Three Course Meal will be served and Wine has been included also for the guests. Any guest who wishes to have a vegetarian meal please advise the Secretary as this can be arranged.

Our honoured guests for the evening will be Derek Mennell, President of Middlesex County F.A. Colin Downey, President of Hounslow RA, David Miles, Secretary Arsenal F.C. and Bart Otoole of the Amateur Football Alliance.

Tickets will be available at the October Society Meeting from the Secretary, and I would request that they are purchased on the evening please. The maximum number of guests will be limited to **80** and I would advise members who wish to attend to order your tickets early to avoid disappointment.

It will be done on a first come first served basis. The number of tickets already allocated is fast approaching the 50% mark. We are hoping to see some of our former colleagues at the event and to ensure that the evening will go smoothly Peter Dace, will be our Toast Master once again.

Robin, Secretary

Middlesex County FA County Cup Appointments Season 2008/2009

MCFA Senior Challenge Cup Round 1

Enfield Town F.C. First v Wingate & Finchley F.C. First S. Reuter Asst Referee

MCFA Senior Challenge Cup Round 2

Hendon F.C. First v Bedfont Green F.C. First M. Mackey Jnr Referee

MCFA Intermediate Cup Round 1

Indian Gymkhana (Saturday) F.C. First v Stedfast United F.C. First J. Noblemunn Referee

MCFA Sunday Intermediate Cup Round 1

St Marys (Edmonton) F.C. First v Tyson Lee F.C. First M. Mackey Snr Referee
Northmet (Riverside) F.C. First v Premier Sports F.C. First P. Fuller Referee

MCFA Sunday Junior Cup Round 1

Highway United F.C. First v Ruislip Rovers F.C. First B. Kyriacou Referee

MCFA Youth Under 15 Cup Round 1

Omonia Youth F.C. U15b v Headstone Manor Youth F.C. U15b N. Nicolaou Referee
Trent Park Youth F.C. U15 v Kodak Youth F.C. U15 J. Noblemunn Referee

MCFA Youth Under 14 Cup Round 1

Whetstone Wand'rs Yth F.C. U14a v Princes Park Yth F.C. U14b M. Creek Referee

MCFA Youth Under 13 Cup Round 1

Whetstone Wand'rs Yth F.C. U13b v Panathinaikos Yth F.C. U13a B. Berndes Referee

MCFA Youth Under 12 Cup Round 1

Enfield Rangers F.C. U12c v Mill Hill Rangers F.C. U12 S. Rosenthal Referee

MCFA Youth Under 11 Cup Round 1

Enfield Rangers F.C. U11a v Broadwater United Youth F.C. U11 S. Rosenthal Referee

These Appointments are correct as at 17 September 2008



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Sports Goods Suppliers of 94, Turners Hill, Cheshunt
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North Middlesex Referees Society

for Season 2008/2009

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Society Gear Supplies

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North Middlesex Referees Society - 100 Club Season 2008/2009

The updated membership numbers for this season are shown below.

1. Gary Cobden	15. Tom White	29. Cos Fernandes
2. Gary Cobden	16. Tom White	30. John Metselaar
3. Steve Wildgoose	17. Peter Peters	31. Arthur Stewart
4. Steve Wildgoose	18. Peter Peters	32. Arthur Stewart
5. Roger Fox	19. Phil Bowman	33. Arthur Stewart
6. Max Lea	20. Gordon Marshall	34. Tony Ward
7. Kevin Wavell	21. Nick Ilott	35. Tony Ward
8. Charles Lifford	22. Malcolm Sonenfeld	36. Stan Szplit
9. Mike Sibley	23. Terry Hayne	37. Stan Szplit
10. Mike Sibley	24. Terry Hayne	38. Stan Szplit
11. Bob Martin	25. Peter Allen	39. Robin Jagot
12. Stan Rosenthal	26. Peter Allen	40. Robin Jagot
13. David Chapman	27. Peter Allen	41. Robin Jagot
14. David Chapman	28. Peter Allen	

The draws for September and October will take place at the October society meeting. The results of the concluding draws for season 2007/2008 – May to August – are shown below. Cheques for the winners are enclosed with this months magazine; they will be sent separately if you receive your magazine by e-mail.

May

First	31	Ashley Rogers	£15.20
Second	22	Tom White	£7.60
Third	11	Charles Lifford	£3.80

June

First	21	Tom White	£15.20
Second	26	Stan Szplit	£7.60
Third	35	Robin Jagot	£3.80

July

First	4	Mike Sibley	£15.20
Second	19	Arthur Stewart	£7.60
Third	13	Adam Yuchatel	£3.80

August

First	33	Peter Peters	£20.90
Second	15	Bob Martin	£11.40
Third	12	Vince Yeudall	£5.70

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..... Signature.....

Society Use - Numbers Allocated.....

Gary Cobden
Honorary Treasurer



Membership Fees for Season 2008/2009 are now due!



If you have still not paid your Membership Fee for the current season, this is your final reminder, as your fees became due on 1 April. Where the Society has an e-mail address on file, you should have received a final Membership Form by this method; please contact me if you have not, and would still like to rejoin. For everybody else, a final Membership Form is included with this issue of the Normidian. If you have paid recently, your Membership Card and souvenir RA Medallion are included with this edition of the Normidian. If you receive your magazine by e-mail these will have been forwarded to you under separate cover. Editorial and printing deadlines may well have prevented

inclusion of a small number of Cards and Medallions, and they will be sent next month. If you have not paid, the deadline for the reduced NMRS Membership Fee passed on 31 July, and the society fee is now £12.00. The Referees Association subscription is £15.00. I must remind you that if you do not renew your membership by 31 October 2008, your membership will be deemed to have lapsed. Additionally, you will not be entitled to receive further editions of the Normidian.

Membership Fees payable are as follows:-

- **Full Members - £27.00.** This includes your Referees Association of England fee of £15.00 including the Insurance Premium of £4.00. If you are over 75, you are not automatically covered by the Insurance Premium, and your fee payable will be reduced by £4.00. However, should you wish to purchase insurance cover, this can be arranged for a fee of £8.00 making a total amount payable of £31.00.
- **Associate Members - £12.00.** You must pay your Referees Association of England fee through another Society, and this should be shown on your Membership Form.
- **Junior Members - £15.50.** Members under 18 years of age at 1 April 2008, including your Referees Association of England fee of £9.50.

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.

It would be appreciated if you could you all check your details shown on the Form, and amend any information that is shown incorrectly. Please also specifically check e-mail addresses shown 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 are not currently registered with a County FA, please indicate on your form as Not Registered. Please also indicate where requested whether you are an Assessor; Examiner; Instructor; or Mentor.

As mentioned above, this season, in addition to your Membership Card, you will receive a commemorative medallion from the Referees Association. This is to celebrate the centenary of the Referees Association.

Gary Cobden
Honorary Treasurer





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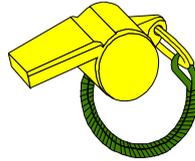
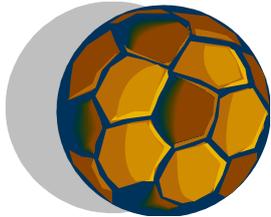
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Are again pleased to continue their support of North Middlesex Referees Society in Season 2008/2009



Members E-Mail Addresses

We have a good proportion of Members who now received their monthly magazine by e-mail. In addition to this, there are many members who have e-mail addresses, but have not elected to receive their magazine in this way. The printing cost of the magazine is one of the Society's major overheads, and, it would be great if we could reduce this further.

If you still receive your magazine by post, and would be happy to receive future editions by e-mail, please let me know. You can let me know either by telephone on 01992 469153; by e-mail to treasurer@northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk; or by snail mail (post) to me at 2 Chapel End, Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire, EN11 8DN.

With thanks in anticipation.

Gary Cobden
Honorary Treasurer



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, including those shown below. Some suppliers offer a discount; others offer a benefit to the Society. Why not take a look, and replace your usual internet shopping shortcuts with a link to www.buy.at/nmrs and help us at the same time as you shop at no additional cost to yourself.



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 website – www.northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk

If you have any ideas or suggestions for additional material to include on the website, or ways we could improve our website, or are able to offer some time each month to help update the site, please get in touch with me on 01992 469153, or e-mail treasurer@northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk.

Gary Cobden
Honorary Treasurer



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT HOLTWHITES ON
THURSDAY THE 8th OF SEPTEMBER 2008.**

Chairman's Report- Just a reminder to everyone about the 60th Anniversary Dinner.

Secretary and Treasurer were absent – so no reports.

Magazine Editor – Ken Goldman apologised for the small edition but due to taking over after so many years and the lack of articles over the close season.

Training Secretary – Stan Rosenthal indicated that he had completed a course for 14 year-olds at Enfield Rangers Football Club. There were 10 candidates who worked well over 2 weekends and who took both written and practical tests and all passed.

Gear Supplies – Percy Brown indicated he was ordering some items but otherwise had a full compliment of gear available.

Guest Speaker.-- There was no guest speaker but Stan Rosenthal had been prepared with a DVD to deal with the current offside law. However due to lack of numbers he went through the few Law changes for this season. The most important change and one that all referees should note is in Law 12 where there has been a change in that it is an offence to tackle an opponent. This clarifies what we should all have known which is that when you tackle you tackle the ball and not an opponent. Also the Laws booklet is named as a FIFA booklet and not as previously. An interesting discussion ensued on that and other matters arising. Although there was no vote of thanks the Society is indebted to Stan for leading the discussion and avoiding the abandoning of the Meeting.