Harrow Referees' Society

75 YEARS 75 YEARS

1935-2010

Harrow Referees' Society 75th Anniversary Dinner

The Harrow Hotel
12-22 Pinner Road
Harrow | Middlesex | HA1 4HZ

Thursday 14 October 2010

7.30 pm

Commemorative Programme

Welcome

HARROW REFEREES' SOCIETY

Ladies, gentlemen, honoured guests: permit me, as president, to extend the warmest of Harrow welcomes on this auspicious occasion, our 75th birthday.

I am delighted to welcome our guest speakers, Stuart Pearce and Phil Sharp, and to thank them for joining us tonight. I am also pleased to welcome Peter Clayton, chief executive of Middlesex County FA, Arthur Smith, general secretary of the Referees' Association, and his wife Joan, and David and Debbie Kempton.

It was 75 years ago this month that a group of like-minded gentlemen gathered in a Rayners Lane basement to form the Harrow and District Society of Association Football Referees. Later in this commemorative programme you can read much more about our proud history, its ups and downs, and some of the characters who helped shape the way we are today.

On an occasion such as this it is natural to reflect on the past, to celebrate what went before and remember those no longer with us. It is, however, equally as important to consider where we are now and how well we are set for the future. Today, in common with associations from all walks of life, one of our greatest challenges is our ability to recruit and retain. In that respect, although not complacent, we are proving remarkably resilient. Whilst membership might no longer rest at the heady levels of the mid-1990s, once again last season we topped the 100 mark, a figure to which many referees' societies can only aspire. We are also financially secure, which is especially important in this economic climate.

Such a result is achieved by a considerable investment of time, energy and not a little creativity behind the scenes by our committee members. I am glad to have the occasion to acknowledge this publicly and to thank them.

So what of the future? Well, the new season's committee is the youngest I have known, a potentially potent mix of youth and experience which bodes well for the future. I am confident the legacy of the founding fathers is in safe hands and that Harrow Referees' Society will remain in the most robust health as we head towards our next landmark, our centenary in 2035!

Have a splendid evening.

Graeme Thorley
President

Guest Speaker

Stuart Pearce

The word 'legend' is bandied around too readily these days, but with regard to Stuart Pearce, it suits perfectly. After an esteemed playing career, he has taken up management and is currently in charge of the England U-21 team.

Stuart started his playing career very close to home, signing for Wealdstone in 1978. He also qualified as a referee and became a member of Harrow Society for one season in 1980/81 along with his brother Ray.

After five years with the 'Stones', and becoming one of the hottest prospects in the non-league game, he was signed by then top-flight Coventry. Here he caught the eye of Nottingham Forest manager Brian Clough who signed him two years later. He soon became a first team regular and captained the side for many seasons, winning the League Cup twice and the Full Members Cup, the tournament played in the years English clubs were banned from Europe.

After 12 years at Forest, including a brief spell as player-manager, he left to join Newcastle United, gaining another FA Cup runners-up medal, having won his first at Forest. In his final years as a player, he spent time at West Ham and Manchester City, helping the latter win promotion to the Premier League.

He played well in the 1990 World Cup, helping England reach the semi-final. However, he missed a penalty in the shoot-out and we all know how that turned out! He laid his demons to rest at Euro 96, scoring in two penalty shoot-outs and was instrumental in England's run to the semi-final, a feat not matched by any subsequent England team. His strong and determined style of play throughout his career gained him the nickname 'Psycho' amongst both Forest and England fans.

His first managerial job after his playing career ended was at Manchester City; his very successful first season saw City narrowly miss out on a spot in the UEFA Cup. He spent two more years at the club and near the end of his final season, was appointed the England U-21 manager. At the end of that season, he parted company with City but stayed on in his role with the National Team.

In 1999, Stuart became a member of the Order of the British Empire in recognition of his sporting talents and his work for charity.

Andrew Hickman

Photo: Rankopedia.com

Guest Speaker

Phil Sharp

From local parks to the World Cup arena of Yokohama in 2002, Phil is undoubtedly England's most highly respected assistant referee.

He began his career almost 30 years ago as part of his Duke of Edinburgh's Award, where 'he needed something to serve the community'. He could never have dreamed this move would see him travel the world and be a part of the professional game at the top of English football and beyond.

Phil served on numerous local leagues during his ascent through the ranks of refereeing, including the Barnet Sunday Football League and the Hertfordshire Senior County League. In 1997 he was promoted to the FIFA list as an assistant referee from where his career reached new heights as he travelled around Europe and the world, fulfilling an increasingly impressive roll-call of UEFA and FIFA appointments.

In 1999 Phil was appointed to the final of English football's biggest competition, the FA Cup. The match was between Manchester United and Newcastle, where United won and Phil completed another milestone in his career.

Three years later, in 2002, Phil travelled to Japan for the World Cup as part of an English refereeing trio that would see him be a part of the final (Brazil v Germany) with, some would say, the world's best referee, Pierluigi Collina. Yokohama was the stage and his performance displayed to the world why he is not just respected by referees in England, but worldwide!

Until a few years ago Phil was still an active referee at Contributory League level, but became a specialist assistant referee, hanging up his whistle to hold the flag and do what he does best! During his refereeing days, Phil even had the occasional assistance of a Harrow society member, an honour (for him of course) that must be right up there with the World Cup et al.

Phil is not one to affect airs and graces, keeping his feet very much on the ground. He travels widely to societies across the country where his contributions are informative, entertaining and much appreciated. I am sure the same will be the case this evening when we celebrate 75 years of serving Harrow referees.

Benjamin Furneaux

Photo: TheFA.com

What Does Harrow Society Mean to Me?

A REFEREES' society only thrives for 75 years by meeting the needs of its members and retaining their support. Below four current members, with widely different experience, give us their own personal insight into what this society means to them.

Robert Taylor...

I qualified as a level 7 referee in November 2009. Prior to that I had played local football and had done some coaching.

Having seen an advert for referees I followed this up and really enjoyed the course. I was very fortunate to be mentored by David Roberts and still remember the help he gave me at my first appointment. David recommended me to the Harrow Society and I am really glad he did.

> *I disagree with members who don't attend meetings any more saying they are boring and repetitive. I find there is always something new to learn.*
>
> *Roy Webber*

I have attended every Society meeting since I qualified and really enjoy the discussions and banter. Talking to more experienced referees is very helpful and I am grateful for the knowledge and experience they willingly pass on. Attending the AGM and listening to and talking to Kevin Friend was a real experience.

I am so pleased to be a member of the society and very grateful for the help and support I receive.

Roy Webber...

When I was asked to write an article about our society and what it means to me the first thing I thought of was all the good friends I have made at Harrow Society. You know there is always someone there who will help you with any refereeing problems.

I have always enjoyed our guest speakers and the training sessions we have from time to time.

Over the last few years we have had more social events and the trip to Windsor Races is a must for me.

I disagree with members who don't attend meetings any more saying they are boring and repetitive. I find there is always something new to learn.

The management committee work hard on our behalf and I feel we should support them by attending our monthly meetings.

Rafah Hanna...

The Oxford English Dictionary defines 'society' as "a collection of relationships between individuals, of distinctive cultural properties and varying in complexity and scope".

Harrow Referees' Society's strengths are its members, the way they learn from one comment, yet teach in another breath. Those who manage HRS are people I regard as the foundation on which my refereeing enjoyment is built, and an invaluable knowledge resource.

HRS has given me the opportunity of being involved in the game I love, learning to grapple with instant decision making which could decide whether the day would end happily (or not) for the players.

Where else would a boy from the desert be able to learn directly from Premiership referees, and, most importantly, make friends with people who I regard as almost like family?!

Bottom line: HRS = knowledge; friendship; support = a unity of love for football.

Thank you HRS, very, very much.

Andy Smith...

I came to refereeing later in life through my youngest son.

Following a 'small-sided' referee training session, organised by the club and run by MCFA's Andy Taylor, I was introduced to the more formal side of football, and this is where I got my first 'taste' of the Law.

My first contact with Harrow Referees' Society was through Dave Roberts, who was very welcoming, which was fortunate, as entering Broadfields for the first time is rather daunting if you don't know anyone! Thanks Dave.

Having been a member for a couple of seasons now, on reflection I have found the society extremely supportive, informative, and entertaining. With evenings ranging from spur-of-the-moment football law quizzes, organised workshops and not forgetting the monthly website quiz and prize draw to note just a few.

Where else would a boy from the desert be able to learn directly from Premiership referees, and, most importantly, make friends with people who I regard as almost like family?!

Rafah Hanna

On a personal level, I have found the opportunity to talk to other referees really helpful in my quest to be become a better referee, but above all I have enjoyed the evenings when top level referees come down and provide a great insight into the game and themselves, and then manage a bizarre closing question from the floor!

Harrow Referees' Society

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MENU

Chilled fan of melon with orange slices
on a raspberry coulis

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Roast leg of lamb flavoured with rosemary

Seasonal vegetables and potatoes

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Warm apple pie with vanilla cream
or
Strawberry gateau

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Tea or freshly filtered coffee
with after-dinner mints

A vegetarian option is available where previously requested
(Menu items may contain nuts or nut oils)
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PROGRAMME

Toast to Harrow Referees' Society
David Kostis
Chairman, Harrow Referees' Society

Phil Sharp
Premier League
and former FIFA Assistant Referee

Stuart Pearce
England U21 Manager

Mike Cassidy
Deceptive Comedian

Close
Graeme Thorley
President, Harrow Referees' Society

Harrow Referees' Society - A Brief History

THIS HISTORY draws heavily on four articles penned by former member Geoff Donald, as published in *The Harrow Referee* between December 1996 and October 1997.

In The Beginning

Seventy-five years ago, on 9 October 1935 the Harrow & District Society of Association Football Referees held their inaugural meeting. Ernie Trafford took the chair and went on to serve the society as long-standing chairman and later as president until ill health forced his retirement in 1957. The rather splendidly-named L F Cadwallader, was the society's first secretary, combining the role with that of treasurer.

This inaugural meeting was held at 443 Alexandra Avenue, Rayners Lane, attracting an attendance of 37 referees.

Chris Forsdike

The Baptist Free Church in Imperial Drive was the venue of the first general meeting, on 20 November. The first set of rules was approved and a full committee elected, including the first president, G W Pitts. Mr C L Forsdike, who became another key figure in the society's development, was appointed to the committee as auditor. This was but a stepping stone to his appointment just a year later as secretary, a post he held for twenty years. Decades later Chris donated a sum of money to establish an award in his name which is now presented annually to the society's Young Referee of the Year.

Moving On

The committee meeting of 6 December 1935 was held at the Mission Hall, West Street, Harrow on the Hill. Present were Messrs Trafford, Herbert, Cadwallader, Butterworth, Lacey, Price, Short and Watts. For future meetings the committee had booked the club room of Wealdstone FC for a fee of 7/6d (37½p) which it was felt could just be afforded by our limited membership.

Some 29 members attended the general meeting in Lower Mead on 11 December, agreeing to fix the venue as a permanent HQ providing 'the meetings did not grow too large for the accommodation available'.

Despite that resolution we have had many, many homes over the decades and even by season 1937-8 we had a new HQ, at The Royal Oak

pub adjacent to what is now the St George's Centre.

An Unusual Guest Speaker

The first social function - a whist drive - was held on 24 March 1936 in the Embassy café, North Harrow, above what was then a cinema, later a bowling alley and now an incongruous development of flats.

Our July 1937 meeting had an unusual guest speaker, a very aggrieved player who was brought along at the request of the society member who had cautioned him and with whom he had had a serious altercation just a few weeks before. It seems the debate was thrashed out for all to hear. How about that for an original idea?

World War II

The outbreak of war led to conscription for 16-40 years olds. The meeting on 13 September 1939 resolved to carry the society on but that seemingly proved impossible.

The next entry in the minute book was not until 27 July 1945 when an informal meeting of past members was held where it was resolved to reform the society.

The first formal meeting took place on 21 September with the prime purpose of electing officers. By this stage the Reverend G H Woolley had become president.

The Rev G H Woolley

Geoffrey Woolley served in both world wars, being the first Territorial Army officer to win a VC which he did at Ypres in 1915. He was later awarded the Military Cross and an OBE. Prior to WWII he was chaplain at Harrow School but was commissioned in 1940. He was vicar of St Mary's from 1944-1952.

Post-war Challenges

The post-war period presented many problems for the game, not least of which was the availability of playing fields. Many of the former pitches were turned over to allotments, air raid shelters or became barrage balloon sites. Northwick Park became cornfields. It was some time before they were fit to be played on again.

It was also very hard to obtain the necessary kit and equipment as you needed 'purchasing certificates'. Several county associations existed as issuing agents for the Board of Trade, to supply the certificates. The solution rested almost entirely with club members who pooled spare clothing coupons. The Football Association also helped. It had a special allocation of coupons to give to clubs needing a few to make up the required number.

Even the *Football Referee* magazine was reduced to just a four-page broadsheet owing to newsprint restrictions.

Harrow Society continued to develop, growing its membership and bank balance. In 1947 the committee seemed very happy to be able to report a credit balance of £4 7s 2d which was minuted as a 'healthy state of affairs'!

The Harrow Referee is Born

In 1948 the first edition of the *Harrow Referee* appeared. And it arrived with a bang. Under the editorship of Mr Sloley it contained something highly critical of County executive officers. The minutes show a fair old rumpus over what was written. Complaints poured in from the aggrieved parties, much to the embarrassment of the rest of the Harrow officers. Eventually matters were smoothed over with no little effort.

The committee agreed that, to avoid a recurrence, all future copy should be submitted to the president and secretary for approval. Mr Sloley promptly resigned as editor but remained as press secretary.

Ernie Trafford & Tom Burrell

In 1948 Ernie Trafford became the first member of a Middlesex RA to receive the RA Long & Meritorious Service Award; and he barely mentioned it in his minutes.

The 1950s saw Tom Burrell take over as chairman. He was an extraordinary chap: not only was he a Football League referee but also a cricket umpire who had officiated at Lords and other county grounds. As if that was not enough he was also a highly respected professional boxing referee and an international table tennis umpire!

We had by this time moved back to Wealdstone FC and then to Churchill Hall (for the first time).

The *Harrow Referee* of September 1952 passed on its best wishes to a list of new members, which included one Mr E H Gale, another character who stamped his personality indelibly on the society.

We're Twenty-one

We celebrated our 21st birthday in May 1957 with a dinner and dance at the Rest Hotel in Kenton, ticket price 17/6d (87.5p). The annual membership fee was 10 shillings (50p). This was the same year Chris Forsdike stood down as secretary with the following tribute to *"Our hard working honorary secretary, Mr C L Forsdike, who is resigning after serving the society faithfully and well for those twenty-one years. Being the secretary of a society such as ours is an arduous task calling for hard work, diplomacy and tact, a full knowledge of the refereeing world and the game. The job takes up a lot of spare time. Mr Forsdike has certainly lived up to the motto 'Service before self'"*. He was replaced by Ted Gale.

Chris Forsdike (glasses) received his RA Long & Meritorious Service award in 1957. Pictured with Tom Burrell (left) and Ted Gale (right)

Into the Swinging 60s

During the late 50s and early 60s the society played several football matches on senior amateur grounds against other societies as well as against the Showbiz XI who, with Tommy Steele and Sean Connery were very good indeed.

with the incumbent, Tom Burrell, becoming president.

If at First You Don't Succeed

Over the years Gordon has been instrumental in bringing many top quality guest speakers to Harrow. It has not always been a smooth

The 21st Anniversary Dinner at the Rest Hotel in 1957. Dress was 'informal'.

Sadly, in 1958, we lost founder member Ernie Trafford who had done so much to develop the society and to promote its interests and those of refereeing in general.

The Swinging 60s saw us move from Kenton to return for a long spell to The Case is Altered in Wealdstone before moving to Vale Farm in, Sudbury.

In 1966 Ted Gale moved from his role as secretary to become vice-chairman. He was replaced by a young Gordon Isaacs. The following year Ted took over as chairman

process though: in 1968 Kenneth Wolstenholme responded to an invitation by informing Gordon that the only way he would come to speak to us would be for a professional fee!

Gordon did not allow this setback to put him off as Harrow saw a succession of high profile speakers through the 70s and 80s including World Cup winner George Cohen, Barry Davies, managers Graham Taylor and David Pleat, FA chief executive Ted Croker and, in 1971 alone former sports minister Denis Howell and Sir Stanley Rous.

Some New Faces

Our meeting venue chopped and changed from Earlsmead to Lower Mead, Tithe Farm Social Club, The Travellers' Rest and other places.

Peter Clayton, current MCFA chief executive , graced our membership book from 1969 to 1984, even taking over editorship of *The Harrow Referee* for two seasons. Cyril Harrison, who much later became mayor of Harrow, took on the role of treasurer in 1969 and then took over as auditor in 1972, a role he continued in for 32 years. And a promising referee by the name of D R Elleray started his long membership in 1982.

Ted Gale

That was the same year Ted Gale passed away. Since 1956 he had held the offices of assistant secretary, secretary, vice-chairman, chairman, magazine editor, MRA delegate and, lastly, president. But he was also well known around the country: the loud cry of "Gale...Harrow" was the only-too-well-known opening to many an RA Conference speech and was usually a prelude to forceful comments made with conviction.

'Gentleman' George Ruffell took over from Ted as president, a post he held for ten years.

Golden Anniversary

Our 50th birthday celebration was held at the Travellers' Rest, just as the 21st had been, although the price had risen to £9.50 a ticket for which Gordon Isaacs had secured...a meal, speakers and entertainment. Plus ça change.

In December 1987 Gordon was presented with the RA's Long & Meritorious Service Award prior to which the then-president, George Ruffell, produced a short biography where he wrote: *"I can say without any shadow of doubt that I do not know of anyone who over the last twenty or more years has shown greater dedication to the interests of referees at large but in particular of course to his beloved Harrow Society".*

The 1990s and Beyond

The end of the 80s saw a short period of uncertainty owing to problems filling the positions of secretary and treasurer but in 1990 David Kostis and Graeme Thorley were recruited and filled those two posts, respectively, for the next decade and a half.

In 1992 Tony Basham became the first recipient of the Chris Forsdike Young Referees of the Year award. He now lives in Denmark where he has continued to referee.

It might be a new decade but we continued our nomadic existence through the 90s and noughties with stints at, among other places, the Wealdstone Labour Club, Riley's Snooker Club (also in Wealdstone), Churchill Hall (again) and most recently at Broadfields.

Communicating to Members

The *Harrow Referee* celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1998 and our first web site appeared in 2000, instigated by far-sighted editor Roger Kelly and designed by Stuart Aitken Now in its third design, this has replaced the magazine, the last edition of which appeared in May 2006.

From l to r Tom Burrell (president), Sir Stanley Rous, Ted Gale (chairman) and Gordon Isaacs (secretary) at the Rayners Lane Hotel in February 1971 where Sir Stanley spoke to a packed house

In that same year Derek Carter, who had assiduously minuted society meetings since 1977, stood down. A year later Brian Wheatley did likewise, having served on the committee for twenty years, much of this as one of our MRA delegates.

Gordon & Fred: RAE Awards

In 2005 Gordon Isaacs was awarded life membership of the Referees' Association of England, only the third Middlesex recipient ever.

And in 2007 Fred Kempton was delighted to receive his RAE Long & Meritorious Service Award. This was presented by RAE board member Bart O'Toole at a society meeting as Fred was by then too ill to attend to Conference.

Sadly Fred passed away in 2008, two years after his close friend and colleague Keith Sloggett with whom he had established a training double act which continued for the best part of two decades.

And in Conclusion...

Geoff Donald concluded his series of articles with the following: "Today we may not care to give any thought for those gentlemen who, in 1935, sat down in Rayners Lane, each one appending their signature with the anachronistic preface "Mr" and deciding on that far-off day to form a refereeing society. But really, aren't you glad they did?"

Indeed I rather think we are.

HARROW REFEREES' SOCIETY HONOURS BOARD

Founded 9 October 1935

PRESIDENT	CHAIRMAN
1935-1940 G W Pitts	1935-1949 E Trafford
1945-1952 G H Woolley VC	1949-1953 H A Beard
1952-1957 E Trafford	1953-1967 T C Burrell
1957-1967 H A Beard	1967-1976 E H Gale
1967-1972 T C Burrell	1976-1988 G A Isaacs
1972-1980 R Hall	1988-1996 P A Stevens
1980-1982 E H Gale	1996-2002 D J Douglas
1982-1992 G H Ruffell	2002-2006 F D B Kempton
1992-2006 G A Isaacs	2006- D Kostis
2006- G Thorley	

SECRETARY	TREASURER
1935-1936 L F Cadwallader	1935-1939 L F Cadwallader
1936-1957 C L Forsdike*	1939-1940 A S Harris
1957-1966 E H Gale	1946-1952 J Joyce
1966-1976 G A Isaacs	1952-1962 C A Fairman
1976-1979 T Lattimore	1962-1966 A Pickard
1979-1986 C L Stupack	1966-1969 T A Schofield
1986-1989 S Barnett	1969-1972 C B Harrison
1989-1990 Vacant	1972-1977 R D John
1990-2006 D Kostis	1977-1978 P Clare
2006- D J Roberts	1978-1985 P J Cowing
	1985-1987 P A Stevens
	1987-1989 D A Norman
	1989-1990 P A Stevens
	1990-2005 G Thorley
* Held post of Secretary/Treasurer 1945/6 pending anticipated return of A S Harris	2005-2010 C Smallwood
	2010- M Sadhu

Harrow & District Society of Association Football Referees was founded 9th October 1935. The name officially changed to Harrow Referees' Society in December 2009.

There was no society business conducted between 11 October 1939 and 27 July 1945