

*The Normidian
Magazine
Season 2013/2014*



THE
**REFEREES'
ASSOCIATION**



April 2014

COUNCIL 2013 - 2014

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Visit the North Middlesex website at:- www.northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk

THE NORMIDIAN is the Official Publication of North Middlesex referees Society, and is published nine times during the football season, between September and May.

The next Meeting of the Society will take place on Thursday the 24th of April 2014 at 6.45 pm for a 7.00pm start, at Holtwhites Sports and Social Club, Kirkland Drive, Enfield, Middlesex when the Society is pleased to announce a training night in conjunction with Middlesex County FA and the Amateur Football Alliance Promotion and Development Group .The main topic will be lining led by Phil Sharp who lined on every conceivable major Cup Final assisted by Stan Rosenthal and Keith Hiller. With 2 other topics to be covered please arrive early.

EDITORIAL

It is essential for all referees although particularly so at grass roots to be consistent not only in their match itself but also from week to week. It is therefore important to avoid double standards that could come back to haunt one. There have recently been a couple of decisions which show the importance of this principle. The first occurred in a recent Arsenal match when a penalty was awarded and was required to be retaken for encroachment. Amazingly so it would seem since despite it happening g week after week that is ignored by referees. In addition a player was cautioned for it which is no longer mandatory and happens even less than a retake for encroachment. The following week the same referee awarded 3 penalty kicks to Liverpool all of which suffered encroachment but none of which were penalised by a retake or a caution. Also recently a Chelsea player was sent off for a second cautionable offence for pushing an opponent even though the referee concerned must not have cautioned for the same offence on numerous occasions. I may be doing both referees an injustice because I have not read any official reports or assessments but it seems to me there was clear inconsistency in these decisions. Of course it happens to most referees that they are inconsistent from match to match and at grass roots it does not bring such a glare of publicity but even at that level players and club officials seem to have long memories as many a park referee can testify to.

Likewise problems have occurred in deciding whether to dismiss, especially a goalkeeper, for denying an obvious goal scoring opportunity (Dogso) whether it be trips, slides, hands or the keeper sliding out and either missing the ball or getting something on it. In our February meeting Ray Herb drew special attention to the principles laid down in the Laws of the Game publication and queried whether referees asked themselves the question "if there had been no challenge and the player was heading towards goal would the attacker have had a Dogso". It is a simple but very effective decision to make which can be absorbed into reaction time for referees. Also beware that handling the ball by a defender in the penalty area is only a sending off offence if it is another case of a Dogso.

The next edition of this magazine is the last of the current season so if you have plum appointments or want to air a view on anything I or any other contributor has written please get on your computer and submit it to me by the end of April.

Ken Goldman
Editor

Last Month's Speaker

Unfortunately the guest speaker for March was unable to attend but in stepped our revered Secretary Robin Jagot who conjured up a really interesting evening on the role of the Assessor. He was very specific that it was important to be careful whether one was going to be constructive or destructive and that the latter was not really helpful. He maintained that it was necessary to bring out all the positives in a referee's performance and to make notes from which to give the referee advice, rather than when introducing oneself to then give a full debrief. It was however alright to clarify a specific incident to see how the referee saw it. It was also helpful to send in the report not later than 72 hours after the game.

The audience then split into groups and Robin produced a Referee Assessment and Development form which we all had to complete. When that was concluded everyone's decisions were recited and marks awarded to the referee in the accepted assessment of the County were compared to the group marks. There were some discrepancies but not too wide of the official markings.

An educative and enjoyable evening was covered by Terry Wilson in his vote of thanks.

News from the World Cup 2014.

Goal-line technology will feature for the first time in the World Cup Finals when it will be in action in this year's Finals in Brazil. The system to be used is the GoalControl one that uses 14 high speed cameras around the pitch with 7 concentrating on each goalmouth. The ball which is named Brazuca by Adidas is followed in 3D and the signal as to whether the ball has crossed the goal-line for a goal will be signalled to the officials on their special watch within 1 second.

Also 17 Referees and 31 Assistant Referees from Asia, Oceania and Europe met between the 24th and 28th of March this year in Zurich Switzerland for a seminar in preparation for "Brazil 14". They underwent medical physical, psychological and technical checks to gauge their preparation and suitability with plenty more checks to follow in due course-. More news to follow next time.

PETER DACE ASKS "IS IT VANITY OR STUPIDITY TO BUY NEW KIT FOR MY 73RD BIRTHDAY?"

My conscience tells me I have not written an article for The Normidian in some time but I hear you say, "why not leave it a little (or better still a lot) longer"? So as I begin I really have no idea where these wanderings might finish – or even start, but I have recently been reflecting on birthdays and how often I might have Refereed on my actual birthday (22nd February).

Readers of my articles going back to 1972, when I first joined the North Middlesex Referees Society, might recall I am a great keeper of statistics on the little I have achieved in a refereeing career still going after 42 seasons and some 3,200 games. So I thought the first thing I needed to know was how often have I had birthday games, but then I realised this might be quite a lot over such a long period so I have concentrated on just the twenty-first century. And I discover I had birthday games in 2004, 2006, 2009, and 2014 – my 63rd, 65th, 68th and 73rd birthdays.

I have details and scores of all my games faithfully recorded in diaries and I hoped there might be a memorable fact or feature to record. But my hopes have been largely dashed and despite my Family looking to do something memorable on my big day I have always taken the view that to be healthy and capable of refereeing a game, however humble, was a present in itself.

Apart from being a statistician on my own games I am also unofficial archivist for the Society and which means I am the proud possessor, in my attic, of Normidians' going back to the 1950's. So in the Normidian of April 2006 I discover an article I penned entitled 'when I'm 64.....or 65 to be precise'. It recalls for me, a memorable night at Bishops Stortford Football Club when I ran the line in a Capital League game on my actual 65th birthday. Despite requests from my Family to celebrate in a traditional way I opted for my trump card and elected to have a game instead. The day was bitterly cold and every time my phone rang I thought this might be bad news about a frozen pitch but on the night, and despite temperatures hovering either side of freezing, the pitch was nothing less than perfect. Wasn't I lucky, and so my refereeing curriculum vitae will list amongst major appointments (there have been very few) a game on my 65th birthday.

The article finished with the line – 'for a report on my 70th birthday game please see the Normidian of February 2011'. In the event, my birthday in 2011 fell during half-term week and my Wife insisted on a break in North Wales (Portmerion). With some regret my first game as a seventy year old was held back until 27th February at Spurs training ground and a 70th birthday article was not written.

So my ramblings have nearly covered a page and I finally reflect on the vanity or perhaps stupidity of choosing a birthday gift for my 73rd birthday – a new Referees kit, yes the full works of shirt, shorts and socks. How much usage said new kit will get only time will tell but to date it has covered four games and I must confess to having bought the new Nike grey shirt. Yes I know we should wear black but at my level who knows and especially, who cares. On its first outing I remember telling my Wife that by wearing grey I would never have to change due to a colour clash with the players but would you believe within a few minutes of kick off players were saying 'have you got another colour Ref as you look so similar to the other team'. Amazing and so black returned for one last game.

I see my 75th birthday (well you have to be positive) occurs on a Monday so little chance of a game that night but who knows and if it happens you can be sure of another article in the March 2016 Normidian. We shall see!

The Adventures of Willy 'Red card' Woodwork *The Whistling Referee*

Part 31 – The Poet Laureate

Match: Cockfosters Casuals –v- Reds Rovers
League: Division Three – Sunday Park League (North)

There is a well known expression of 'more haste less speed' and that gives a perfect description of the incident that happened next.

I had awarded a penalty to Casuals and for once there were no arguments. It was a careless challenge which resulted in the opponent falling to the ground. It was not an obvious goal scoring opportunity so there would be no red card being produced. The challenge was careless so there was no need for a yellow card but I did I have a quiet word with the offending player. The offending player concerned literally held his hands up and took the blame for conceding the penalty and even helped the opponent that had been fouled back on to his feet. In fact this had to be one of the friendliest penalties that I had ever witnessed.

There is another well known expression namely 'the quiet before the storm'. So far it had been very 'quiet' but the 'storm' was not very far behind! The Casuals captain decided to take the penalty. He placed the ball on the penalty mark and waited for my signal. The goal keeper was on his goal line between the goal posts and facing the penalty taker. I told the players not to encroach into the penalty area. I was satisfied that I had covered everything that was required. The ball was stationary, the kicker had been identified, the goal keeper was ready and the other players were all outside of the penalty area and behind the ball. All was perfect as how it should be as required by law. I then took up my position. Of course this is not easy for a referee when they are by themselves and have to watch the players, the penalty taker and the goal keeper all at the same time.

I blew my whistle and the penalty taker run forward and kicked the ball. It went along the ground. The goal keeper guessed the correct way and dived to his right and managed to get a hand to the ball. What a great save and I immediately blew my whistle and shouted 'Goal kick'. My words seemed to go unheard as Casuals were convinced that they had scored and were celebrating a successful penalty. The Rovers goal keeper instantly responded by placing the ball in the goal area and quickly proceeded in taking the goal kick. Some of the Casuals players were now aware of what was happening and immediately gathered around me. I blew my whistle and play stopped. The Casuals players insisted that I walk over to the goal and see that a perfectly good goal had been scored as the ball did in fact go over the goal line, enter the net and went through a hole in the net by the goal post.

Being a fair man and wanting to give the right decision I inspected the net and goal and saw that the ball must have gone through the hole in the net and that I should have in fact awarded the goal!

This of course placed me in an awkward predicament and made me think of the next famous expression 'here lieth the problem.'

Yes, I had blown my whistle too quickly and awarded a goal kick. The goal keeper had done nothing wrong by taking the kick quickly. My problem is that I could not award a goal as play had already restarted. I explained my decision but it was not a popular decision. I had made my decision based on what I thought I had observed and I again knew that I had applied the laws correctly. In hind sight my decision was the wrong decision but with play already having restarted there was no way a goal could now be awarded. (Thus yet another expression but oh so apt 'Patience is a virtue'.) I duly restarted with an indirect free kick to Casuals as my decision had gone against them. I felt this was the fairest way of restarting.

- Was our Referee correct?
- Should the penalty kick be retaken?
- Can a goal be awarded even if play has restarted?
- Was the indirect free kick to Casuals the correct restart?
- Restart with a drop ball? Surely the fairest decision.
- My favourite choice.....ask the referee on the next pitch for help
- What should have been the restart if the indirect free kick was incorrect?

As an experienced match official I knew I was correct and two cautions for dissent later we finally continued on with the game.

Some players may feel that I am 'as mad as a hatter' but on this occasion 'all is well that ends well'. In other words the players would hopefully forget all about this incident and start complaining about the next one which was sure to occur in the next thirty seconds.

Remember that all referees do make mistakes but they are honest mistakes and if this is my only mistake of this match then I will be more than pleased with my performance.

Keep reading for the next incident to follow very shortly.....

Willy Woodwork

Willy 'Red card' Woodwork.....the whistling referee.

Firstly can I say a hello to all my friends at NMRS- Writes- **ADRIAN BLAND**.

I hung up my whistle about 10 years ago but have always tried to keep abreast of the various law changes or interpretations that are issued each year. However, there appears to be one change that I have totally missed – the invisible line that runs touch line to touchline 20 yards from goal which signals the area the referee must not enter. There is an exception to this rule; the referee may enter the penalty area to supervise the taking of a penalty.

I have an excellent seat at the Mecca of football, also known as Loftus Road, and check that allows me to check that no referee strays into this area and additionally the excellent Sky and BT coverage and endless replays show us where the referee is positioning himself for set pieces.

Now I come to my real point, why do we have so much holding, pushing and general rowdiness at every set piece and why does it go unpunished. I think the answer is simple, the referee and / or assistants are not in a good position to see the offences or act as a deterrent to stop this foul play.

Why do referees at ceremonial free kicks stand behind the kicker? All they can see is offences by the wall. Easy, get the wall back 10 yards and run into a “proper” position monitoring the wall does not move forward. Then the only offence the wall can commit is handball and you will have an assistant at the halfway line that can help you.

In my day (oh how I hate that phrase) we were encouraged to run right down to the touchline and to take up varied positions at corners. I remember that I was even advised to move my position at a corner just as it was taken so that players did not become use to my position and infringe on my blind side.

Linesman, they were called that in my day, were given instructions before the game and they often had a great deal of flexibility to suit the game situation. Often it was standard to stand behind the kicker but go round 10 yards (no metres in my day) on the goal line for far side corners. Some referees even asked us to position ourselves dependent upon “what was going on”.

One referee even asked me to come in all the way to the 6 yard line and then proudly shouted to the players “look where the lino is lads, he’s watching you”. This was brilliant and had the desired effect. For those of you panicking that I might not be in position to give an offside from this position the referees pre-match instructions covered that should he move me “out of position” he would cover offside until I regained position.

I’m certain I will be told that the modern game is so fast that entering this “forbidden” space might cause the referee to be caught behind play. However, referees are much fitter now and quite often a team will defend with 9 or 10 men and so often a quick break is quickly broken down. Additionally the assistant referees are now much more active and so they can be much more pro-active for quick breaks along with the fourth official.

It seems to me the authorities are burying their heads in sand on the mass disorder that occurs at set pieces, which quite frankly is becoming a farce, and my suggested positioning might be a quick way of bringing some order.

I think my last article in the Normidian was some 12 years ago and if permitted I would like to give you, in the future, my thoughts on 4th Official baiting, minimal contact penalties, diving and where has the bringing the game into disrepute charge disappeared to?

Greetings to all and hopefully "an outsider" writing an article might encourage one or two of the members to submit an article to Ken, which I will look forward to reading in the Normidian in the near future.

XX

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of North Middlesex Referees Society will be held on Thursday, 22nd May 2014 commencing at 7.30 pm at Holtwhites Sports and Social Club, Kirkland Drive, off Holtwhites Hill, Enfield, Middlesex, EN2 0RU.

Provisional Agenda (a full Agenda will be published in the May Normidian)

1. Apologies for absence.
2. To CONFIRM the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in May 2013.
3. To CONSIDER any matters arising therefrom.
4. To RECEIVE a report from the Secretary.
5. To RECEIVE a report from the Treasurer together with the audited accounts.
6. To RECEIVE a report from the Honorary Auditors.
7. To RECEIVE any reports from the Council and Officers.
8. To CONSIDER any change to the Society Rules.
9. To ELECT Officers and Council for the ensuing year.
10. To ELECT Honorary Auditors.
11. To CONSIDER the following motion –

That this Annual General Meeting places on record its thanks to the Officers and Council for their work during the past year, and express appreciation of the conduct of the affairs of the Society.

12. Any Other Business

Any person wishing to stand as an Officer for Season 2014/2015 must be duly Proposed and Seconded – and assented by the nominee - in accordance with Society Rule 9c. Any proposals for changes to Society Rules must be duly Proposed and Seconded in accordance with Society Rule 9d.

Proposals for Officers must be received by the Secretary not less than 21 days before the Annual General Meeting - i.e. not later than 21st April 2014

Proposals for Changes to Rules must be received by the Secretary not less than 28 days before the Annual General Meeting - i.e. not later than 25th April 2014.

Robin Jagot

Honorary Secretary

24 Tiverton Road, Potters Bar, Herts, EN6 5HY

NORTH MIDDLESEX REFEREES SOCIETY

Minutes of the Society Meeting held on Thursday 20th March 2014 at Holtwhites Sports Centre#

Apologies: Tom White, and our Guest Speaker Ray Olivier

Chairman's Welcome: The Chairman welcomed members and informed them that our Guest Speaker Ray Olivier had to withdraw at late notice and will now visit the Society later in the year at our October meeting. The Chairman welcomed new members Jess Catchpole and Adam Clarke to their first meeting and our President Gary Cobden presented them with a Society whistle.

As no official Society business took place at the last meeting there were no Society minutes to sign.

Secretary's Report: The Society's Quiz evening takes place on the 28th March at Old Owens and if any members still wish to attend, tickets are still available. The Society Council meeting will take place on Wednesday 23rd April, 2014 7.45pm at the Chairman's Enfield abode

We are looking for new members to join us on the Council Committee and if interested please contact the Secretary. The Society meeting for April is on Thursday 24th April, one week after Easter and will be an In-service Training evening covering Lining, and Dealing with Confrontation Issues. It is hoped weather permitting that both subjects will be held outside. The Sessions will start promptly at 7.00pm. We will all meet back in the Club House once the sessions have concluded for feedback on the sessions that took place. For young referees and those referees who have not yet had lining experience, with Cup Final appointments coming up this is an opportunity not to be missed.

The Society AGM will be held on Thursday May 22nd 2014 which is the 4th Thursday not our usual 3rd of the month. WE must have at least 10 members present to ensure we can proceed. WE will hold a fun quiz after including a special prize for the winner.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer informed those members that if they have any expenses to claim then please let me know as our financial year ends on the 31st March 2014.

Editor's Report: The Editor stated that he would like more support for the magazine and not solely rely on our usual contributors. Magazine distribution with the help of our printers Middlesex County FA has gone extremely well this season.

Any Other Officer's Report: None

Any Other Business: None

As our Guest Speaker could not make the meeting our Secretary stepped in, as with most County FA's now in the process of dealing with the Promotion of Referees, Robin felt it would be worth - while to cover the Role of the County FA Assessor.

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North Middlesex Referees Society - One Hundred Club - Season 2013/2014

Results of the February 2014 draw are shown below; cheques will be with winners shortly.

February

19	Peter Allen	£14.80	26	James Morris	£7.40	30	Peter Jago	£3.70
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Membership Fees for Season 2014/2015 are now due!

A reminder that your membership subscription for Season 2014/2015 became due on 1 April 2014. For those of you who have already paid; thanks. If you have still to pay, a further membership form will have been sent to you if you receive your magazine by e-mail, or be included with this edition if you receive your magazine by post. Subscriptions for both the Society and Referees Association have been maintained at the same level as last season.

Membership Fees payable are as follows:-

- **Full Members**

- **£27.00 if your magazine is received by e-mail and £29.50 if your magazine is received by post.**

This includes your Referees Association fee of £16.00 which includes the Personal Accident 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 this insurance cover, it can be arranged on request. Please contact me for a proposal form which you will need to complete and return to me.

- **Associate Members**

- **£11.00 if your magazine is received by e-mail and £13.50 if your magazine is received by post.**

You must pay your Referees Association fee through another Society, and this should be shown on your Membership Form. Alternatively, you may join as an Associate Member if you have other interest in football work – please indicate as such on your Membership Form.

- **Junior Members**

- **£15.50 if your magazine is received by e-mail and £18.00 if your magazine is received by post.**

For Members under 18 years of age at 1 April, including your Referees Association fee of £10.00.

For those of you who receive your magazine by post, please note that we have only been able to maintain your subscription premium at £2.50 due to the fact that we purchased a significant number of stamps before the last significant price increase a couple of years ago, and still have enough stamps remaining. However, it is considerably likely that this will increase in 2015/2016 so, if you have an e-mail address, it would benefit all if we could send your magazine this way.

Individual fees payable are shown on your personalised Membership Form. You are reminded that you will not be covered by the Referees Association Insurance after 31 May 2014 unless your fees have been paid to the Society by that date. Please complete and return your Membership Form as soon as possible. You need to bear this in mind if you will be refereeing late season or early pre-season games.

Some members have previously opted to take advantage of the Referees Association Physiotherapy Insurance. The fee for this has now increased to either £25 or £35 based on the level of cover required. If you require more information about this cover, please let me know, and I will forward the relevant information.

You can also take this opportunity to join or re-join the Society One Hundred Club – just complete the appropriate part of the membership Form, and include the additional remittance with your membership fee.

It would be appreciated if you could also check your details shown on the Form, and amend any information that is shown incorrectly. Additionally, please check that the NPD Number (Registration Number) where 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.

You may wonder what benefits you get from your membership of North Middlesex. Outlined below are some of the visible – and invisible – benefits of membership:-

Available Benefits from the Society and Referees Association other than Society Meetings.

- The Normidian – full of articles, news and information on refereeing and other topical matters.
- Mentoring of new referees.
- Access to the NMRS and/or Referees Association Benevolent Funds if you fall on hard times.
- RA and other kit supplies available at meetings and to order.
- Society Website - also packed with up-to-date information on the Society.
- Monthly 100 club draw; Christmas social; and other social events.
- RA Conference – free attendance for members.
- Eve of the Final Rally tickets.
- RA Website.
- Representation on the MCFA Council; the MCFA Referees' Committee.
- Representation to the RA through the AFA Referees' Association.
- Advice, support and representation if assaulted, charged or suspended.
- RA Personal Accident Insurance when officiating or attending refereeing business.
- RA-FA Incentive Scheme with the potential to earn free kit.
- RA Full Accident Management Service.
- RA Legal Helpline.
- RA Legal Advice.
- RA Conveyancing Benefits.
- RA Relationship Benefits.
- RA Will and Estate Planning Benefits.
- RA Representation on the FA Council.
- RA Representation on the FA Referees' Committee.
- RA representation to the FA Refereeing Department.
- RA Service awards.

For more details on any of the available benefits, please contact any member of the Society Council.

Gary Cobden
Honorary Treasurer



Referees and Players Must Communicate

I have recently had a spell as captain at Wycombe and the extra interaction with the referees got me thinking about the player-referee relationship. I have always found it easier to understand what I perceive to be a poor decision from a referee if he is willing to talk about and explain his decision. The respect needs to go both ways, and when it does I find the working relationship is always better.

The referees I have found harder to work with are the ones who aren't willing to engage with players and put the shutters up. I know everyone will have their own style and they are concentrating on doing their job, but we are all there to co-operate as fully and as professionally as possible. Referees are there to do an honest job. Like players, they don't make mistakes on purpose. The exchanging of team sheets an hour before kick-off in the referee's room is a good way for captains and managers to meet the officials, and they can introduce themselves and point out what they expect of the players.

There will always be players who seek to gain an unfair advantage by diving or with other gamesmanship. But what I have seen is that the short-term gain is often far outweighed by the long-term loss. A player can quickly gain a reputation and not get many subsequent decisions in their favour. I have heard from a referee before when appealing for a free-kick or penalty: "No Matt, you know what he's like, always looking for free-kicks."

Professional football is a pressurised environment and I'm sure I have got on a referee's nerves from time to time, getting my point of view across or not agreeing with a decision they have made. The best comeback I have had from a ref is when we weren't given a penalty one day and, as I was running back asking why it wasn't given, the ref said: "Come on Matt, don't make me book you. I read your column and I really enjoy it." The perfect way to defuse the situation.

The recent example of fair play by Aaron Hunt of Werder Bremen, who told the referee he dived for a penalty to get the decision reversed, is obviously very rare. The fact that they were 2-0 ahead at the time may have helped him in his decision, but this kind of behaviour will enhance his and football's reputation.

The conduct of footballers gets compared to rugby players a lot. The system they have in rugby where the captain gets called over and decisions are explained without argument is obviously an example that football needs to follow.

However, I would say that in football a lot of the interaction between player and referee happens when the ball is in play, so there isn't always time to stop and explain everything. During my 10 years of playing League football, the standard of refereeing has definitely improved. So too has the respect from players towards referees. There is still room for improvement and it is essential that we strive for improvement. Without referees there is no football.

Matt Bloomfield Wycombe Wanderers midfielder

Courtesy www.bbc.co.uk - 26 March 2014



Reminder – The Eve-of-Final Rally takes place on Friday 16 May 2014 at One Great George Street, London. SW1P 3AA. The guest this years is Graeme Le Saux. Tickets are now available from RA Head Office priced at £12.00 (adults) and £6.00 (under 18's) by telephone on 02476 420360.



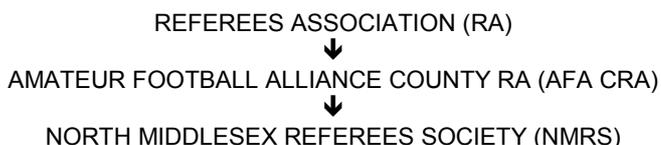
INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR SOCIETY

The Referees' Association (RA) is the national body for Referees. The RA is independent of, but works closely with, County Football Associations to ensure that matters affecting referees are discussed and resolved. These include law changes, current interpretation, assaults and other problems affecting referees nationally.

North Middlesex Referees Society (NMRS) Is one of some 350 local Referees' societies that are spread all over the country; some are referred to as Societies, others as Branches, Associations, or Clubs. They often work closely with local leagues to aid recruitment, and to ensure that any parochial problems are resolved to the satisfaction of all parties. NMRS meets on a monthly basis throughout the season; Guest Speakers are invited; training sessions are held; social events arranged; and local problems - including Match Incidents - are discussed.

So what is the link between the Society and the National Body? All Societies must be a member of a County Referees Association (CRA). North Middlesex, together with the AFA and London Society of Association Referees, form a County Referees Association known as the Amateur Football Alliance County Referees Association (AFA CRA). This Association operates with Officers and a delegate from each Society who, like the Officers and Committee of this Society, are elected annually in a democratic manner. The AFA CRA send a delegate to the locally held annual RA Liaison meeting which reports back to The RA Board, who meet at least four times a year. All delegates and officers of the AFA CRA Committee are elected annually in a democratic manner.

The National Structure for the Society is:



As a full member of NMRS you are a member of the RA.

The Objects of The Referees Association are clearly defined in their rules, and include:

- provide insurance, and financial support for members
- improve the status and reputation of referees.
- protect members from injustice or unfair treatment.
- promote, educate, train and develop referees in general.
- promote the best interests of the game of Association Football.
- provide guidance and support for members of local Societies.

What are the Benefits of RA Membership?

Insurance - The major benefit is the Personal Accident Insurance Policy. For a small amount, the insurance policy covers you whilst actually refereeing; travelling to and from a match; attending meetings (including travelling to and from home); attending organised training; and loss or theft of kit whilst at a match. Full details are available to members on request, as it is now no longer a requirement that each member who has paid the insurance premium is supplied with a copy of the terms of insurance. A range of increased benefits are also available - for an additional premium - and members should contact the insurers direct if they wish to take up these benefits. Additionally, active referees who are over the age of 75 can now be covered by the Insurance subject to an additional premium being paid. Physiotherapy insurance is now also available for a premium of either £25.00 or £35.00 dependent on the level of cover required.

Supplies - A full range of equipment is available from The RA - and often at a lower cost than if you bought it from a local sports shop. By purchasing equipment in bulk, the RA is able to pass the cost savings on to its members. Publications by top names are also available, along with "The Referees' Association Manual of Guidance" which gives advice to the referee on such varied subjects as diet, law queries, training, pre-match preparation, match control and lots more. "The Assessors Challenge" is another book that forms essential reading for every referee and assessor. It deals with every aspect and quality required for promotion. All items are available from the Society's Supplies Officer - although kit may need to be ordered. The Society's Supplies Officer is also able to supply you with kit and other refereeing items from a range of suppliers to make your purchasing requirements easy.

Refereeing is a joint publication of the Football Association and the Referees Association. It is mailed direct to all registered referees by the Football Association. The magazine includes features and updates from the Football Association and items of RA-FA and RA news.

Benevolent Fund - It is hoped that you never have to apply for assistance from the Fund but, sadly, some of our members do fall on hard times through sickness and other reasons. The NMRS Fund is available to all NMRS members, and the RA Fund is also available to full members.

Why do I receive two different Membership Forms each year? You will receive Membership Renewal Forms from both NMRS and the CFA with which you are registered, although not necessarily at the same time. The CFA form will also show the 'three lions' badge of the FA, as the FA now has overall responsibility for the registration of all referees, although you will still be parented by a local CFA. When you successfully completed your six matches, following your completion of the Referees Examination, you were automatically registered with a CFA appropriate to the area in which you live, and this is most likely to have been either Middlesex; London; Hertfordshire; Essex; or the AFA. During your training, you will have been invited to take up Trainee Membership of NMRS. If you want to continue with your refereeing, then registration with a CFA is a compulsory requirement. However, the CFA's and RA-FA are unable to offer you the benefits available locally through NMRS. Whilst your membership of NMRS is entirely voluntary, it is strongly recommended as you will be able to participate in regular meetings held throughout the season - on local territory with the opportunity to discuss relevant local matters; meet and hear Guest Speakers; and receive regular training updates, along with the other benefits outlined above.

Note

Abbreviations that are commonly used in magazine articles or in reports at meetings.

AFA	Amateur Football Alliance
AFA CRA	Amateur Football Alliance County Referees Association
CFA	County Football Association
CRA	County Referees Association
LFA	London Football Association
MCFA	Middlesex County Football Association
R.A.	Referees Association
RA-FA	Referees Association/Football Association partnership for co-operation between the RA and FA.

Updated July 2013

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Are held on the third Thursday monthly (except December – second Friday; and April – fourth Thursday) commencing at 7:45 pm, at Holtwhites Sports and Social Club, Kirkland Drive, Holtwhites Hill, Enfield, Middlesex, EN2 0RN Telephone: 020 8363 4449

Dates for Season 2013/2014:- September 19; October 17; November 21; December 13 2013 (second Friday); and January 16; February 20; March 20; April 24 (fourth Thursday); May 22 (fourth Thursday) 2014



The venue is passed by Bus Route W9 and Bus Route 191 stops just a five minute walk away - direct from Enfield Town. The Rail Stations of Enfield Town; Enfield Chase; and Gordon Hill are also only a short distance away. For full directions and how to get to the venue, please see our website. See also www.tfl.gov.uk for bus information; www.greateranglia.co.uk and www.firstcapitalconnect.co.uk for rail information.

If anybody has difficulty reaching the venue, and would like assistance, please contact one of the Society Officers – whose details are on the inside front cover.

OPINIONS EXPRESSED IN THE NORMIDIAN EDITORIALY, OR BY CONTRIBUTORS, DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT THE VIEWS OF THE NORTH MIDDLESEX REFEREES SOCIETY.

ARTICLES SUBMITTED FOR INCLUSION IN THE MAGAZINE MAY BE AMENDED BY THE EDITOR IN ACCORDANCE WITH EDITORIAL POLICY.

PERMISSION IS GIVEN TO REPRODUCE MATERIAL WITH A SUITABLE ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

THE SOCIETY WAS FORMED AT THE CROWN PUBLIC HOUSE, SOUTHGATE, LONDON, N14 ON 20th JANUARY 1949