

*The Normidian  
Magazine  
Season 2015/16*



**THE  
REFEREES'  
ASSOCIATION**



*April 2016*

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Visit the North Middlesex website at:- [www.northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk](http://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 North Middlesex Referees' Society will take place on **Thursday the 28<sup>th</sup> April 2016** at 7-45pm at the Holtwhites Sports & Social Club, Kirkland Drive, Enfield Middlesex when the speaker will be Tony Ward who was a Premier and Football League Referee and is one of our own distinguished members. **Please note this is a change of date from the original date.**

### EDITORIAL

Something surely will have to be done about handball and preferably soon.

So many games shown on television have the so-called pundits screaming for free kicks and penalties in the same way as the players. What should have been a simple Law i.e. intentional/deliberate or accidental has been dressed up in all sorts of gaudy ideas none of which appear either in the LOAF or in the Advice section. In the old shorthand (nop pun intended) test it was a case of either hand to ball (offence) or ball to hand (no offence). There can of course be the subtle cheating by leaving the hand/arm out for the ball to hit but surely this is something that can be overcome by the knowledge and experience of referees. At present every time the ball touches the hand/arm of an opponent whether it be in professional football or on the parks a huge shout goes up for handball even if the player concerned has (a) his back to the play when it hits him (b) he goes to ground and the ball rolls against him (c) where the ball rears up from the pitch or his body or (d) where it is hit against him from point blank range.

Perhaps therefore a few more specific words could be imported into the Law itself or into the guidelines to supplement what is already there so that the idea which I jokingly put forward some couple of years back that all handballs should be penalised is not adopted. I write this because one of the pundits on Match of the Day actually suggested it as a serious proposition. This is a subject that I have referred to in the past and one which will be constantly revisited until a solution is found.

This is the last but one magazine of the season so if anyone wants to submit anything for the May edition could they please let me have the same as soon as possible.

Ken Goldman  
Editor

### Flagging Up

#### 100 Club Winners.

March- No 13 Richard Martin-£14.40. & No 16 Cos Fernandez- £7.20.

April- No 22 Steve Wildgoose -£14.40 & No 20 Peter Allen-£7.20.

Joan and George Basten celebrated 60 years of marriage on the 24<sup>th</sup> of March last and the Society has sent their congratulations to them on the couple's Diamond Wedding with a bouquet of flowers. Great to hear the news and as Peter Dace reports pleased that George has just returned from hospital having had his second hip operation and is making good progress.

Ron Mc Cahill having retired from Accountancy is now retiring early from refereeing at age 69 having completed 5346 games over a period of 53 years. He sent of some 40 players in his career including Pele in the 1970's. Peter Dace has ruefully mentioned that his 3300 plus games is put in the shade by Ron's record although Peter apparently was kind enough to send off Andy Gray and Peter like a few more of North Middx Ref's are or will be several years older than Ron when they retire.

One of the assistants in the Spurs.v. Manchester United Premier League game at White Hart Lane recently, became a viral video star because of his somewhat unusual pre-match routine in the tunnel minutes before the kick-off.

Mention of Spurs above, there was a strange story that emanated from the Club's YouTube channel. Taking a lie detector test Dele Alli said his favourite defender was Kyle Walker. However he literally received a shock from the machine when it detected that he was not telling the truth.

A game of walking football for the over-50's ran into trouble when it was abandoned after a crunching tackle led top a brawl on the pitch. A player was head-butted amid pushing and shoving as Canterbury played Herne Bay in Kent. The match was eventually restarted after an hour with Herne Bay winning 3-2.

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

## Part 47 – The muddy goal keeper

Match: Cockfosters Casuals –v- Reds Rovers  
League: Division Three – Sunday Park League (North)  
Venue: Pitch 165 – The one with the stream by the side

Over the years I have refereed matches when there have been no off sides in the ninety minutes and I can remember a few matches when there were no corner kicks but no matter how good the referee is or how well behaved the players are I have as yet never refereed a match when there have been no fouls. If only!

What is odd is that Law 12 in the 'Laws of the game' which is 'Fouls and Misconduct' clearly states that a direct free kick is awarded when one of the opposing team commits a 'tackle' on an opponent. So should the ref award a direct free kick each time a tackle is committed? Fortunately *No!* This is because each time a 'tackle' is committed the referee has a choice of four options, namely.....one of the following -

- ✓ *Careless*
- ✓ *Reckless*
- ✓ *Excessive force or*
- ✓ *A good, fair challenge*

Naturally each time during this match I have blown my whistle for either a tackle which I have deemed to be either careless, reckless or excessive force it goes without saying the player who committed the challenge, the tackle, the foul always claims '*But I won the ball Ref*' and at best they then claim the tackle was only '*careless*'.

Players have no idea the difference between careless, reckless and excessive force. This is why the 'stepped approach' is important to remember and put into practise.....

- ✓ *Careless tackle is perhaps a 'quiet' word*
- ✓ *Reckless tackle is a yellow card*
- ✓ *Excessive force can only be a red card*

If you have any doubt then come along to my next match and watch me in action.

My next decision was an interesting one as the Rovers forward run into the Casuals penalty area. The forward made a wild kick at the ball and as he did so a giant chunk of mud flew from the ground into the goal keeper's face.

The ball entered the goal but the goal keeper claimed he was temporarily unable to see and felt the forward had purposely kicked the mud into his face.

This was not an easy decision to make but there was no way that I could prove the forward had kicked the mud on purpose and I explained to the Casuals players that surely the forward would want to score a goal rather than render their goalie incapacitated. I duly awarded the goal.....

- *Would you have done the same and awarded the goal?*

As the players began walking back to the centre circle the Casuals captain approached me again. I told him that I had made my decision and would not be changing my mind. He explained he wanted to ask why the goal scorer was not wearing shin pads as the laws stipulate and on that basis I should disallow the goal. Well, I thought, that was an interesting dilemma. I went over to the goal scorer and the Casuals captain was correct. During my pre match inspection I must have missed this player and only now did this come to my attention. There is enough for a referee to observe during a match than to also focus on every player's shin pads. But I realised that this was my fault but I decided to allow the goal to stand. I also told the player to leave the field of play and put some shin pads on immediately.

The Casuals asked why I did not caution the offending player and I admitted it was my error for not checking properly pre match.

- *Would you have cautioned the player for not wearing shin pads?*

For your next match remember to use the 'stepped approach' and please remember pre match to check all the players are wearing shin pads!

*'Till I blow my whistle next',*

*Willy Woodwork*

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

## Referee Mental Fitness Evaluation

This test is to ascertain your mental state now. If you get one right you are doing ok, if you get none right you better go for counselling. (*I'll meet you there.*)

There are 4 test questions. **Scroll to the end.** Don't miss one.

### Giraffe Test

1. How do you put a giraffe into a refrigerator? Stop and think about it and decide on your answer before you [look down](#)

**The correct answer:** Open the refrigerator, put in the giraffe, and close the door. This question tests whether you tend to do simple things in an overly complicated way.

### Elephant Test

2. How do you put an elephant into a refrigerator?

Did you say, Open the refrigerator, put in the elephant, and close the refrigerator? **Wrong Answer.**

**Correct Answer:** Open the refrigerator, take out the giraffe, put in the elephant and close the door. This tests your ability to think through the repercussions of your previous actions.

### The Lion King

3. The Lion King is hosting an Animal Conference. All the animals attend... except one. Which animal does not attend.

**Correct Answer:** The Elephant. The elephant is in the refrigerator. You just put him in there. This tests your memory.

Okay, even if you did not answer the first three questions correctly, you still have one more chance to show your true abilities.

### Crocodile Test

4. There is a river you must cross but it is used by crocodiles, and you do not have a boat. How do you manage it?

**Correct Answer:** You jump into the river and swim across. Haven't you been lis-ten-ing? All the crocodiles are attending the Animal Conference.

This tests whether you learn quickly from your mistakes.

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### Late Flag.

The Captain of Israeli club Maccabi Ahi Nazareth Amjad Sliman was forced to come to the aid of a couple of stretcher-bearers who dropped his team-mate on the pitch. The player Maomen Saleh seemed too heavy for the medical assistants who were embarrassed when Sliman casually scooped up the injured player in his arms and carried him off.

.....

The coach of Mexican side Cuz Azul Tomas Boy has called for guidelines on goal celebrations after he was dismissed during his side's 3-3 draw with their rivals America. Boy was shown a red card after he began exuberantly dancing up and down the touchline after his side's late equaliser. Afterwards Boy stated "that there ought to be some sort of directive listing permitted celebrations".

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[Editor's note- Please send you plum appointments in to either the Secretary Robin Jagot or to myself.]

**NORTH MIDDLESEX REFEREES SOCIETY**

*ARE HOLDING A*

**\*\*\* QUIZ NIGHT \*\*\***

**ON FRIDAY - May 6<sup>th</sup> Starts 7.45pm**

**AT OLD OWENS SPORTS CLUB**

**Max - Table of 8 persons**

**Includes Hot Buffet- Scampi/Chips or Chilli/Rice**

**\*\*\* Price - £10 per head \*\*\***

**CONTACT ROBIN 01707 651461or (m) 07791 746 036  
ALL WELCOME**

**Please let me know your food requirements by Wednesday 4thMay latest or  
if any special food arrangement is required- Thank You!**

**\*\*\*Please note that once you have decided your choice of menu it can not be  
changed on the evening of the Quiz Nite\*\*\***

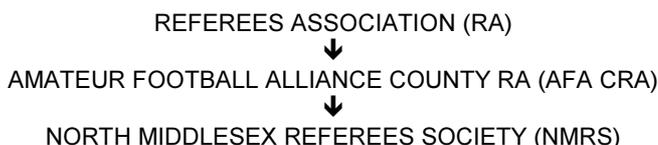
## INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR SOCIETY

**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.

**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. The publication is available on-line at [the-ra.org/refmagazine.php](http://the-ra.org/refmagazine.php). 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.

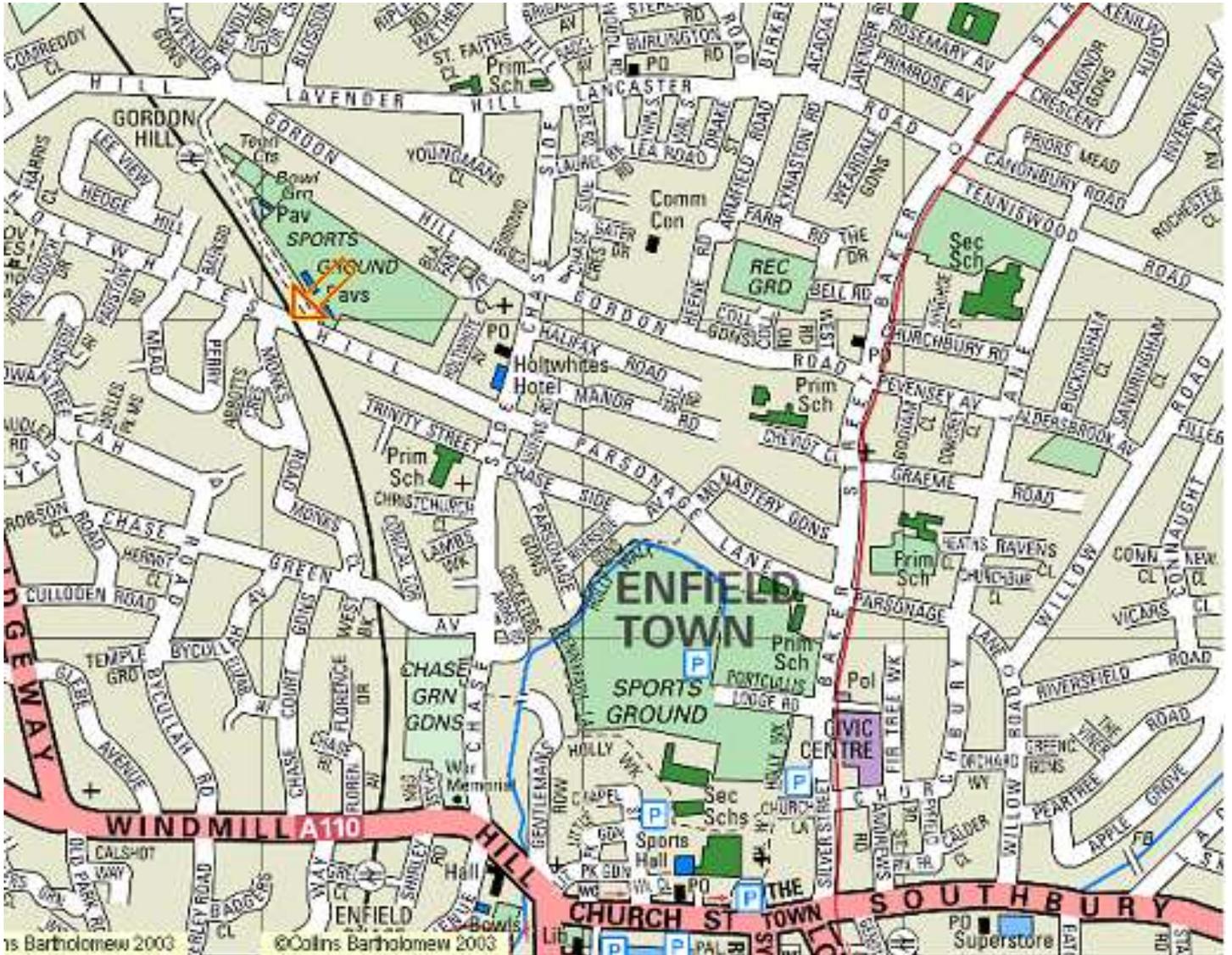
AFA	Amateur Football Alliance
AFA CRA	Amateur Football Alliance County Referees Association
CFA	County Football Association
CRA	County Referees Association
LFA	London Football Association
MCFA	Middlesex County Football Association
R.A.	Referees Association
RA-FA	Referees Association/Football Association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

**Reviewed September 2015**

## MONTHLY MEETINGS

Are held on the third Thursday monthly (except December – second Friday) 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 2015/2016:- September 17; October 15; November 19; and January 21; February 18; March 17; April 21 2015; May - tba



*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](http://www.tfl.gov.uk) for bus information; [tfl.gov.uk/modes/london-overground](http://tfl.gov.uk/modes/london-overground) for rail information to Enfield Town and [www.thameslinkrailway.com](http://www.thameslinkrailway.com) for rail information to Enfield Chase and Gordon Hill.*

*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.*

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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