

# *The Normidian Magazine*



**THE  
REFEREES'  
ASSOCIATION**



*April 2017*

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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 20th of April 2017 at 7-45pm at the Holtwhites Sports & Social Club, Kirkland Drive, Enfield Middlesex when the Guest Speaker will be Mike Heavey Middlesex County Board Member and Chairman of the Football Committee talking on Development and Promotion.

### EDITORIAL

The extraordinary behaviour by the Officials in Arsenal's heavy defeat 5-1 by Bayern Munich at the Emirates Stadium in the Champions league knockout group recently needs careful consideration. The first question to be asked is "was there a mistake in deciding there was a serious foul when Arsenal's Koscielny made minimal contact with Bayern's Lewandowski who then threw himself to the ground?" Secondly "was Koscielny making an attempt to get the ball and impeding the progress of his opponent or was he making a hopeless attempt to get it and taking out his opponent?" Thus in either circumstance even if the position was not clear the referee was entitled to award a penalty. Therefore question three is "was it an obvious goalscoring opportunity prevented and what was the punishment necessary within the new requirements? In order for it to be a DOGSO and now to be a dismissal the rules are- that the player is to be cautioned UNLESS the offence is holding, pulling or pushing; or there is no attempt to play the ball or no possibility for [the defender] to play the ball. The circumstances to be considered are-(a) distance between the offence and the goal (b) general direction of play (c) likelihood of keeping or gaining control of the ball (d) location and number of defenders.

The next most important question is "whether a referee having cautioned a player and shown him a yellow card can change its colour to a red card dismissal?" Now whilst a referee can change his decision before a team has restarted play "can he change his mind about a punishment when he has blatantly made his opinion clear about the punishment?" All this gives rise to further questions such as in the matter of a DOGSO is it the referee's opinion as to whether it was or not and if he has made the decision can a Fifth Official rather than an Assistant Referee advise him especially after the yellow card has been produced?" Certainly a referee is entitled to take advice from a colleague BEFORE he has decided and signalled his decision on the punishment but how on earth can he change his decision on the punishment when he has already signalled what he has already decided.

Finally in regard to the above points we all know the advice to colleagues who are on the lines "be an Assistant and not an Insistent" when helping the referee, but have we now reached the stage when Fifth Officials have equal or greater power than the other match officials?

These Fifth Officials were only brought in because the then UEFA President refused to sanction goal-line technology and they basically only remain in the two European competitions because some poorer teams therein cannot afford such technology. So surely we are entitled to see some full explanation from the authorities on such an important

decision so that we all may know what was right and what was wrong. Just for the record the new position on "Other Match Officials" is that they may indicate (a) when the whole ball crosses the goal-line including when a goal is scored (b) which team is entitled to a corner or goal kick (c) whether at penalty kicks the goalkeeper moves off the goal line before the ball is kicked and if the ball crosses the line. They must inform the referee if it is a goal using their radio systems in the case of uncertainty and point with left arm to the centre circle.

As can be seen there is nothing which says they have power to advise the referee to upgrade a caution already given to a dismissal and FIFA themselves say there is no power to change a recorded caution to a dismissal. Thus for the referee on the night even his indecision was not final.

It just makes you wonder what will happen when VAR already in use in selected matches takes over, but that's just another question.

It is interesting to note that our friends across the water are perhaps giving more thought to penalising poor behaviour and irritating aspects of the game than we seem to be doing here. Our own Peter Walton who left these shores for the USA where he is now the Professional Referees Organisation General manager in the MLS says that this season they have been cracking down on all acts of visual dissent. They will no longer accept players and coaches who react to their decisions with calls and with arms thrown in the air or by racing after officials to berate them. They are also taking appropriate action against players who delay restarts by standing over the ball and especially just kicking the ball away short distances. Finally they are looking more closely into Persistent Infringement to be more cognisant of small petty fouls that do not give rise to a caution in isolation but break up the rhythm of play and upset opponents. Also of course they are way ahead with their preparations for the odious VAR with again one of our own Howard Webb becoming their chief man on that in the MLS.

The next edition of the magazine will be the last of the season and I am therefore anxious to pack in to it as much as is achievable, so as usual could members and readers please send in their contributions to me as quickly as possible.

Ken Goldman

Editor

## **An evening with Mike Jones – Premier League Referee – Report by Peter Dace**

Tony Ward acted as evening host for Mike Jones, entertaining him to dinner before introduction at our March 17<sup>th</sup> meeting, before the largest attendance for some long time, and in the attractive large room at Holtwhites Centre. We learned that Mike is the longest serving National List Referee, since 1997, and a Select Group Referee on the Premier League since 2008. Since 'taking up the whistle' in 1983 Mike has covered some 2,000 games including 1,200 games in Professional Leagues, and 50 trips abroad representing The Football Association. Many 'plum' appointments include the FA Trophy Final at Wembley; League two play-off Final; and fourth official appointments in both the Community Shield and the 2012 FA Cup Final. His theme for the evening was 'MY view of Life' i.e. a personal view NOT the PGMOL view and in particular he discussed Careless, Reckless, and Excessive force, supported by a power point presentation and interaction with the audience. His hope was for everyone to leave having picked up one new piece of information. The conclusion to the foregoing

Careless challenges – a direct free kick

Reckless challenges – a direct free kick and a yellow card

Excessive force or endanger a players safety – a direct free kick and a red card.

In a wide-ranging question and answer session we also learned

He is a Chester City supporter

He has only sent off two Premier League players

Known for giving more free-kicks, but less yellow cards than other Premier League Referees

He manages the 'tempo' of the game

Consistency must be judged over 90 minutes of each game

Treat players with humility, do NOT belittle them

During a ten week injury absence in 2002 he realised how much he missed Refereeing but says he will only continue as long as he is enjoying his role.

He was very honest about the 'beach ball' incident during a game between Sunderland and Liverpool in 2009 when he allowed a Sunderland goal despite the match ball touching the Beach ball, sometimes referred to as a balloon, thrown onto the pitch by a spectator. None of the four Officials, nor the Match Delegate, had been aware of the incident but following which his home was besieged by the Press, one of only three occasions on which he attracted serious Press attention. Mike said Media coverage does not follow good decisions only those involving some controversy. We were amazed to learn that soon after Thos Cook offered him the opportunity to appear in their advert wearing his Referee kit and holding a beach ball. Needless to say, he declined.

Such is Mike's professionalism that he closely follows SCOUT7 software, available on subscription, which analyses every Premier League player, detailing their tackling etc etc. He takes the view that every Club will be analysing his style as a Referee and as such it is important he can anticipate everything likely to come his way on the pitch including facts

such as ManU commit more free kicks in their opponents last third of the pitch thereby stopping attacks against them at an early stage.

In his vote of thanks Peter Dace passed the sincere thanks of the audience to Mike for his dedication to Refereeing, for wanting to engage with and educate his colleagues, and noted that on Monday he had been fourth official acting as intermediary between highly charged Managers in the Chelsea v Manchester United FA Cup quarter-final; Tuesday he refereed a game in Chester; with us on Thursday evening; followed by another fourth official appointment in Sunderland on Saturday. Peter added it was clear Mike was working on a higher plain with his obvious professionalism and exploring previously uncharted territory to keep ahead of changing patterns in the modern game.



**Robin Jago our Secretary writes regarding the above**

The number of members and friends who joined us on the evening was 35 and can I take this opportunity to thank those individuals that supported the Raffle where £110.00 was raised and went towards the total costs for the event. All in all it was a most enjoyable evening and good to see some dear old friends turn up.

I have sent a message to the PMGOL office to convey our Society thanks and that we have agreed to arrange for PMGOL Match Official to be invited to visit our Society next season between March/May 2018.

**Flagging Up**

The Society was offered by Middlesex County FA 2 tickets for the recent England International against Slovenia at Wembley. The lucky recipients were George Dobbie and Ken Goldman.

Another story of indiscipline occurred in a recent Bundesliga match when after Borussia Dortmund's Pierre- Emerick Aubameyang scored following a free kick in their 1-0 win at Bayer Leverkusen the hosts coach Roger Schmidt insisted that the kick had been taken from the wrong place. The Referee Felix Zwayer having told the Leverkusen captain to tell Schmidt to leave the dug-out on seeing him refuse to leave by staying where he was, angrily took the teams off. After ten minutes the game was resumed but this time with Schmidt securely in the home dressing room.

UEFA is now investing in a far reaching education programme and is providing major courses including in- An Executive Master European Sports Governance; the like for International Players; A certificate in Football Management; A Law programme; A Women in Football Leadership programme and A Research Grant programme.

**The Adventures of Willy ‘Red card’ Woodwork**  
**The Whistling Referee**

**Part 55 - All systems ‘Go’**

Match: Parkside Thistle v F.C. Dog & Duck  
League: Division Three – Sunday Park League (North)  
Venue: Hackney Marshes – Home of the ‘Thistle’  
Colours: Thistle in all green and Dog & Duck in blue and white stripes

*All good referees need to arrive early at the venue so they can prepare in good time in a relaxed manner. For local park football I would suggest arriving one hour before kick-off. (At this level the players seem to arrive about ten minutes prior to the kick off)*

*There is so much for the referee to do -*

- Find the teams and introduce yourself
- Inspect the pitch
- Change into your kit
- Have match balls been made available for inspection
- Have team sheets been given to you if applicable

*The referee needs to be proactive to ensure everything has been checked and is ready for the kick off as stipulated. Being an experienced and a good referee I made sure that all the checks were carried out with the exception of one which was the pitch inspection. The reason for this is simple as any referee will tell you that has officiated at Hackney Marshes because there are over one hundred pitches all situated side by side. You can look all around and the marshes just seem to go on forever. It can be a good ten to fifteen minute walk if your pitch is on the far side so in this instance the pitch inspection is always just prior to the kick off. It is obviously impractical to walk to the pitch then go back to the changing rooms and back to the pitch again.*

*I went to find the changing room for the home team. As I walked along the corridor I recognised one of the players. ‘Not you again’ he ranted. ‘You red carded me a few weeks ago and this is my first game back since my three match suspension. I have to tell you I think you are a complete and utter \*\*\*\*\*.’ I told the player not to speak to me in that tone. I told him ‘That match is over so let’s focus on today’s match.’ The player decided to swear at me again and I had no other choice to inform him that he would be taking no part in today’s match as I am red carding him again. The manager said the referee has no jurisdiction prior to the match kick and that I was wrong in law to tell the player that he could play but I know all the laws and I was confident that I was correct.*

- Can a player be shown a red card before the match in the changing room?

*I did consult with another referee who naturally agreed with me. I told the manager that he could still start with eleven players but could only have two*

*substitutes as opposed to three. He had no other option other than to accept my decision.*

- If a player in the starting line-up is shown a red card before the match is Willie correct to tell the manager that they have one substitute less?

*With the incident now all settled it was time to find the pitch. The manager gave me the directions and said 'See you out there' as he ran off. His directions were to turn right out of the changing rooms and carry on walking past nine pitches. Then turn left and keep walking for four pitches, then turn right and our pitch is the third on the left. With the sat-nav being in the car I thought how difficult could it be to find the pitch? As I left the changing rooms I turned right as instructed.*

*Then I heard a voice say 'Hi Ref, how are you?' I turned around, it was a fellow referee. There is always a great comradery between fellow match officials and we started chatting about our forthcoming matches.*

*Unfortunately this had a detrimental effect on my counting the pitches and I basically lost count. I looked around and remembered it was the third pitch on the left and this was confirmed when I saw a team wearing an all green kit. 'Great' I thought to myself, this is obviously Parkside Thistle. I checked the pitch and all was fine. The markings were good and the goals were secure with the nets all okay. The boot and jewellery check was carried out and I was delighted there was no white tape wrapped around the blue socks. I whistled for the two captains to come to the centre and we flipped the coin. Both teams were ready to play so I looked around to check both teams had eleven on the pitch. I blew my whistle and the game began.*

*The next ten minutes all went exceedingly well. Both teams were accepting my decisions.....what a good ref I must be. Out of the corner of my eye I noticed a number of players trying to get my attention. They were all dressed in the all green kit so I assumed that Parkside Thistle wanted to make a substitution. Oh how wrong could I have been!*

*When the ball next went out of play for a throw on I went over to the 'substitutes' on the touch line. 'Hi Ref, we wondered where you had got to. We're playing on the pitch over there. You do know that this is not your game'. I was flabbergasted but more embarrassed. I don't know why but I answered 'Yes, of course I know. I'm just helping these two teams out.' I made my apologies to the two teams and quickly went over to the right teams on the right pitch. I then had to go through all the pre match procedures again.*

*We all make mistakes but this one was one story that I did not intend sharing with any other referees.....ever!*

*What was your most embarrassing referee moment.....I would love to know.*

*See you all next time!*

*Willy Woodwork*

*Willy 'Red Card' Woodwork.....the whistling referee*

## **RA Report & Vital Aspects**

The analysis of the RA report on Society County membership makes both interesting and depressing reading.

The percentage losses total 470 members with the highest loss in Huntington -88% but Manchester lost 72 and Gloucestershire 34.

The AFA & Lonsar have 140 members and lost 9%; London now down to 3 Societies lost 9% and Middlesex again down but to 4 Societies lost 3%.

The sad tale is a continuing one as is often discussed at the Annual Meeting of The RA. It would appear that with the FA taking over far more of the administration and other aspects that Societies no longer function in the same way with the result that membership falls in general and those willing to rejoin the RA in particular. At the end of our magazine the benefits of joining the RA are set out and they are well worth considering.

It will soon be time for information to be circulated concerning the Eve of the Final Rally which in itself was always the highpoint of the season for referees and the society members. Many of the older generation will remember that it took place because of numbers at such venues as the Royal Albert Hall and Alexandra Palace but those days have long since gone.

Unfortunately as membership of Referees' Societies has dwindled the number of meetings have followed suit and that has led either to amalgamations or worse still the demise of Society after Society.

Our own Society will be having one of if not the most important AGM's in its history this May as to what to do about speakers and minimal attendance and whether to continue with monthly or bi-monthly meetings or some other arrangement. Not since the decision to quit Middlesex and join with the AFA have we been faced with such important decisions. It is vital therefore for members to attend in the most numbers possible in order for the relevant decisions to be made.

Discussion has taken place at meetings and in this magazine for the reasons for the fall out and no apology is made for repeating them. These include our no longer being able to recruit through taking the courses to qualify referees; guest speakers no longer willing to give of their time; younger members not being interested in attending meetings even though now tailored to reduce the amount of time taken on administrative matters; people not willing to take up Society posts so there is seldom any competition for places on Council or nominations there for; too many other commitments or interest in other sports; and numerous games on television; dissatisfaction with the venue or the meeting night and unfortunately the list goes on.

However although all of this is depressing as usual there is a wish to overcome the problems and as usual with goodwill and some bright ideas we could still find a solution. So let's at least all try.

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### **Late Flag**

The 100 Club winners for March were No 27 – Peter Peters- £15 and No 23 Noga Meyer £7.

### **The FA Referee Tutor Training Course**

22<sup>nd</sup> March 2017

Dear Referee,

The FA and Hertfordshire FA specifically are looking to train and develop new referee tutors to oversee the running and training of new referees on FA regulated courses.

If you are interested in this role please complete the enclosed questionnaire and return it to Phil Sharp RDO at [phil.sharp@hertfordshirefa.com](mailto:phil.sharp@hertfordshirefa.com) **by 10.00am on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017.**

All applications will be responded to but only successful applications will then be sent further details

Apart from completing the enclosed questionnaire all potential candidates **MUST** be able to commit to the following requirements:

1. The course is aimed at people who will, primarily be delivering FA Referees Courses.
2. Successful applicants must be able to attend an FA weekend course between **19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> May inclusive** at Warwick University. It will **start at midday** on the Friday and **conclude at 4.30pm** on the Sunday. All participants must be there for the duration.
3. Participants will be required to take part in some physical activity on this weekend course.
4. There are a limited number of places available.
5. Successful applicants will also need to have adequately demonstrated, via the Application Form, their suitability to potentially become an FA licensed tutor
6. Please be aware of the licensing requirements before applying i.e. he/she will need to:
  - a) possess valid safeguarding certificate
  - b) emergency aid certificates
  - c) possess a valid DBS (FA CRC)check
7. Once accepted onto the course, the successful candidates will have to deliver a minimum of 5 sessions over a 12 month period (for clarity, one session = either one full day of the FA Referees Course or one in-service training event)

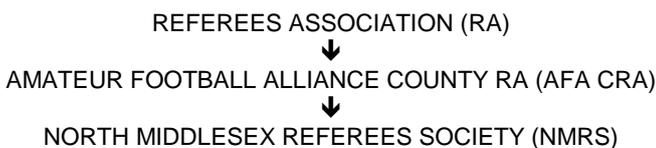
## INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR SOCIETY

**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 2016/2017:- September 22; October 20; November 17.2016; and January 19; February 16; March 16; April 20 2017; 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.*

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