

*The Normidian
Magazine
Season 2011/2012*



**THE
REFEREES'
ASSOCIATION**



December 2011

COUNCIL 2011 - 2012

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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 at Holtwhites Sports and Social Club, Kirkland Drive, Enfield, Middlesex at 7.45 pm on Thursday the 15th of December 2011 when the Society will hold its annual Christmas Party. – All welcome.

EDITORIAL

It being the last magazine of the year perhaps I can crave indulgence in this editorial to express some random thoughts on various refereeing point.

Firstly before they are brought into play universally, I pose the question as to whether the extra officials in European competitions add anything positive to the game especially with the advent of goal-line technology being tested this season and possibly being introduced into the Premiership next term. Too often it seems to me that they usurp the authority of the referee who has seen a penalty incident which he has refused only to have to change his mind and award it. In a recent game the television showed the referee refuse a handball appeal when a player jumped on the turn and the ball hit his arm without him seeing it to know much about it. Within about 5 seconds the referee had to reverse his decision and award a penalty because of another's decision. Spurs benefitted almost identically last season. It is not as if they can see clearly all that much along the goal-line on the other side to which they stand. Recently the extra official failed to spot that Arteta had placed the ball beyond the corner arc and not touching it and when his corner resulted in a goal for Van Persie it should accordingly have been disallowed. Dealing with corners the loss of a goal by Wigan to a "flag kick" was particularly unfortunate for the Referee in question who did not see the Blackburn player fail to touch the ball leading to a trick by them which resulted in a goal that should also have been disallowed. Whether the practise which Manchester United also used a couple of seasons back should be outlawed is a matter for discussion which i would like to see aired especially in this magazine.

Turning now to another practise which should definitely be outlawed is that which led to an argument in Stoke City's recent game against QPR. Stokes's players perpetually get their ball boys to hand a towel to their thrower(s) and the time taken for the player(s) to wipe the ball takes so long that one wonders why this is not penalised as delaying the restart of play or unsporting behaviour. Perhaps if one referee was to show a yellow card this practise would stop.

Finally I revert to the throw-in. Recently I watched a game where players who were hoping to become professionals took throws that were about 80% foul throws-. Foot on pitch; ball in front of head, wrong place; predominantly one handed. Isn't it about time that the coaches started teaching this simple re-start from an early age?

Ken Goldman

Editor

LAST MONTH'S GUEST SPEAKER

Society Chairman, Tom White, welcomed our guest speaker Tim Lawrence to North Middlesex. Married, with two grown up children, Tim, lives in Sussex and began refereeing in 1972 gaining Level 4 status in 1982 then Level 3 in 1989 for ten seasons. He is currently the Surrey CFA Referee Development Officer, a post he has held since 2008, and a Level 4 Tutor. Tim is also a Licensed Instructor and delivers BTTEC Module 40 - Officiating in Sport - to Premier League Clubs. He is an Assessor and Assessor Trainer at Supply League Level, a Mentor and Mentor Trainer and a Referee Coach and Trainer amongst other posts in the game. As a Referee Tim officiated on a number of high profile games and has acted as 4th Official on the Premier League. Having previously spent 20 years on the technical side of live stage shows, Tim's hobbies now include: City breaks abroad, National Trust, Gardening, Cinema and Theatre.

Tim began by asking everyone to consider what we should be looking at when recognising challenges, how we could more fully differentiate between challenges and what we should be looking at as Referees. We were asked to form groups, each group being given a component of a challenge to consider, together with a question to assist our discussion.

Recognising Challenges

- 1) **Speed of the players:** What is it about the speed of the player which creates a danger?
- 2) **Intention of the players:** Removed from law, but how can you tell a player's intention and is it important to understand this aspect of play?
- 3) **Body Language of the player:** What are the clues you can gain from understanding the body language of the players?
- 4) **Angle of the Challenge:** What are the problems that can be caused by differing angles of a challenge?
- 5) **Opportunity to play the ball:** What does this question mean and how do you recognise it appropriately?
- 6) **Atmosphere of the game:** What does this question mean and how do you react?

After considering the tasks, each group in turn shared its conclusions with other colleagues and questions and comments were enthusiastically debated. Video clips were used to illustrate many aspects previously discussed and generate further debate.

Tim concluded his presentation by thanking North Middlesex and everyone present for their contribution to an enjoyable evening.

Finally, Bob Martin gave a warm vote of thanks to Tim for an entertaining and thought-provoking evening. The meeting responded with a warm round of applause for our special guest.

OBSERVER ASKS REPORT OR NOT TO REPORT?

Having sent off a player, after the game, the offending team asked the referee if he was going to send in the report. 'Of course, there's no point in cautioning or dismissing players otherwise' was the reply.

Really, there should be no question of whether reports go in or not. The problem is that it is well known that not all referees fulfil their obligations, thereby putting extra pressure on the rest. Is it because they felt the caution or dismissal was punishment enough? Or is it because the paperwork is too much trouble?

A work colleague recently related a story about a game in which he played. There were about seven players cautioned. After the game, the referee went into the changing rooms and said not to worry, as he wouldn't be making reports!

This suited one of the teams as they were concerned about their disciplinary record and that they may be banished from the league. However, there may be other clubs with similar levels of misconduct but because certain referees have done their job properly, it never comes to light. If reports are sent in, some clubs appear to have much greater disciplinary problems than anybody else. So by not reporting offenders referees are not just letting themselves down, but also their colleagues and the other teams in the league. After all, late season suspensions in vital games can cost vital points, especially if those who should be suspended aren't because they're never reported and those 'unlucky' enough to have proper referees have to suffer.

So please, be fair to yourself, your colleagues and all the other clubs.

DON'T SHIRK YOUR RESPONSIBILITY!

SEND IN ALL YOUR CAUTIONS AND DISMISSAL REPORTS!

Editor's Note – Observer wrote this piece before the new Disciplinary Code [briefly referred to in the last edition of the magazine] came into force this season. So with almost no appeals to take place, for those worried about such things, there is now no reason not to send in dismissal reports. Misconduct reports are of course a separate issue in relation to appeals. The forms for cautions introduced a couple of seasons back have themselves meant an increase in the number of cautions reports submitted.

The Adventures of Willy 'The Whistler' Woodwork

Part 12 –The best position

Match: Cockfosters Casuals –v- Reds Rovers
Venue: Hackney Marsh – Pitch 165
League: Division Three – Sunday Park League (North)

Many years ago those wonderful Instructors who trained me to become a referee installed in me that 'You have to be in the best position to give the right decision'. Obviously fitness plays a great part in this process but you can be running all over the pitch for ninety minutes but that does not mean you are in the best position to have the best view to observe what is going on.

I was also told to 'Give and go'. This simply means to award your decision and then move the next position which means where the ball is most likely to go to next! Two simple tips which if applied to your game can only enhance your overall performance.

But as you know with the match in question not everything always goes to plan. Casuals had previously been awarded a corner which resulted in the Casuals player shooting wide of the goal and I awarded a goal kick. I watched the goal keeper place the ball and turned to run to the half way line. Unfortunately for me the goal keeper took the goal kick quicker than I had anticipated and the next thing I knew the ball hit the back of my head and the impact made me fall to the ground. The ball then rolled out of the penalty and was intercepted by the Casuals forward. A number of Rovers players namely the defenders turned their attentions to assist me rather than make an attempt to play the ball. One of them even picked up my whistle and blew it. This was ignored by the Rovers players who proceeded to kick the ball into the goal.

With assistance I stood up. I was fine and had no after effects. The Rovers club linesman then informed me that Rovers had just scored. Rovers were insistent that the goal was perfectly good whilst Casuals were insistent they stopped playing to help me and that one of their players even blew my whistle so everyone knew that play had stopped. Decisions, decisions and I had to think quickly.

Firstly I knew that there was nothing wrong with the goal kick. Yes, the ball did hit me in the penalty area but the law clearly states that the referee is part of the field of play so it did not matter if the ball struck me or not. Secondly the ball left the penalty area and went to a Rovers player who went on to score a perfectly good goal. The player who blew my whistle was only trying to help but I did not tell him to do so nor did I ask for the Casuals players to stop playing. I decided the only decent thing to do was not to award the goal. Rovers had committed no offences but in the spirit of the game and for their sporting behaviour I decided to restart with a drop ball just outside the penalty area. I have no doubt that you would have done exactly the same as me.

When I awarded a corner to Rovers I asked the players to move back the full ten yards. They insisted they had retreated the full distance. Rather than threaten the players with a caution I walked over to the corner flag post. I then counted as I paced each step out loud, 'one two three' and continued 'nine, ten, eleven'.

"Eleven!" they shouted in unison. "Yes, eleven" I told them. "It's no wonder we are miles away from the ball" they replied. I smiled and explained why. Opponents must be ten yards from the ball starting from the edge of the corner arc. From the corner flag post to the edge of the corner arc is another one yard radius which added to the ten yards is eleven. So opposing players need to be a distance from the corner flag post of eleven yards! How well I knew the law. Did you know that as well?

It is interesting to note that in this country the measurements are in metric. If that is the case why do referees still tell players to retreat ten yards? Have you ever seen a referee pace out 9.15 metres!?
No!

The next incident was a most curious one. Rovers scored a goal. Well actually they didn't score a goal because I disallowed it for off side. Meanwhile the Rovers players were so delighted with the goal against their arch enemies and closest rivals they did not hear my blasts of the whistle. The goal scorer run around leaping and jumping for joy. He then decided to remove his shirt and wave it above his head. Why do players do this? It is something I really cannot understand. Anyhow despite removing his shirt he had another one, exactly the same underneath. After explaining that I had disallowed the goal which the players accepted, I asked for the players name and produced a yellow card. The player queried my decision claiming that due to the cold weather he was wearing two shirts so to remove one of the shirts to reveal another could not possibly be an offence. But knowing the laws as I do I informed the player he had removed the shirt from over his head and it and it was irrelevant that he was wearing the same underneath.

He replied with the familiar "But Ref this is not the Premier league, surely you don't have to caution me?" I answered "Are you asking me not to apply all the laws today. Which ones should I not use?" Of course he knew I was right even though he didn't actually say anything as he walked away from me. It was my duty to apply the laws in a firm but fair manner and that is exactly what I do for every match.

I still regularly read the laws of the game as all referees should. You only have to read my articles each month (as I am sure you all do!) to see what can happen to any one of us at our next match. That is why it is imperative to regularly refer to the laws so they can be applied correctly as I always do.

Keep on reading those laws,

Regards,



Willy Woodwork

Willy 'The Whistler' Woodwork

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

LAWRIE SANCHEZ Former Northern Ireland Manager and manager of Wycombe Wanderers, Fulham and now Barnet explains the difference between managing at the two levels.

(This is part 1 and part 2 is in the January edition)

Q. So what are the differences between managing at club level and international level?

A. Basically there are only a few such differences, You are managing whatever team it is and you have problems with the team set-up and problems with the opposition set-up and it is just the environment in which you do it and the way you cope with these aspects which are probably the biggest things because the rest of the job is exactly the same. You are dealing with at lower levels people who think they are stars certainly in their own minds and at the higher levels with people who are stars. Nonetheless you have the same things going on at both ends of the spectrum with players who are hard-working and others that need to be geed up a bit. It is very similar and I see myself doing nothing different to what I did at International level as I did to be fair when I managed Fulham

Q. However it is said that the international manager does not have the day to day working with players that a club manager has. Is that so?

A. I agree that he does not but he also does not have to deal with the daily problems that are thrown up by 20 young men in both their football and private lives. The only time a manager of an international side need deal with those things is for some 10 days at a time and then he does not see those players again for another 2 months, which is nice in one respect and frustrating in another, because you just get things going and then you have to break off and break up. That perhaps is one of the big differences between managing at the two levels. It also does mean that you have a reduced time in setting up the team the way you want it to play. This at international level may take you a year to perfect, which is what I found because you only play about 10 games in that period; whereas a league club manager would do this in say 6 weeks or so in his pre-season work. However the actual day to day training and working at what you are trying to achieve is exactly the same.

Q. What do you say to the suggestion that the manager of a league side can only play a system with the players he has whereas an international manager can devise a system and pick the players to fit it?

A. In general I would agree with that theory but with Northern Ireland the possibility of doing that was not very great. Indeed the squad and the team to a certain extent virtually picked itself because you could not really leave out the Premier League players and so with their selection fixed we then selected the rest. We created a team formation and then we tried to fit the players into that or else to get them on-side to do what we wanted to do., To be honest one or two actually did not want to play that way it and to be fair they never played and were the ones to opt out and as a result were not involved in the great nights that we had. At club level you can change your system more often, in that this week you might set up one way and the next week you may go away think about it and then set up slightly differently. You have more options to change than you do at international level because there you do not have enough games to be changing every game. You therefore tend to say 'this is how we are going to play' and then fit everyone and everything into it. At Northern Ireland I made that clear to the players by saying "we have come together and whatever you do at your clubs is fine but this is what we do here and this is the way we play". We then laid down the system which proved to be very successful.

Q. Bearing all that in mind have you worked out a system you would like to play at league level?

A. You know in your mind the perfect system you would like to play but at the lower levels of the league you have to be more adaptable than you do on the international stage. In the league you have games every seven days to change things around if you have to and sometimes you even play two games a week where you can make such changes if you feel the need for them.

50 Years of History – Charles Lifford

In 1999, a book relating to the 50 years History of the North Middlesex Referees 'Society was published. Whether you purchased a copy is neither here nor there, what is important, and it should be to you, is that I have been keeping the History up to date, 62 years, in total .What have you sent me since that date? Have you had a County Cup Appointment? Does the Society know? Have you done a local Cup Final during this period, about which you can send me details? Have you had a photograph taken whilst refereeing, or been part of a group photo of referees that may be of interest to anyone in the Society? A full record has been kept of the 50 years up to 1999. If you don't do your bit –and it only needs to be a little bit – the History will not be maintained. Please send me as much or as little as possible.

The Council and officers would like to take this chance to wish all members and readers a Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

Book Reviews

Here are some ideas for Christmas presents or just for reading.

Arsenal –The Making Of A Modern Superclub by Alex Fynn & Kevin Whitcher published by Vision Sports Publishing (VSP) @ £8.99. This is an updated version of a previously very successful book first published in 2008, which has been revised and expanded to take in five new chapters and which definitely becomes both mandatory and revered reading for all Arsenal supporters. However it is more than that because anyone with the slightest interest in the history and financing of the game will see this book as a microcosm of the workings of how the game is played off the pitch at top clubs these days. For 'Gooners' there is the added advantage of obtaining an intimate knowledge and background of the behind the scene operations at the Club, that over 95% of such fans during that period, will never have known or contemplated and will now be fascinated to read. As the French inflection of the title suggests much of it is woven around the Club's current manager but there is still plenty about his predecessors and all the star names are there as well as boardroom politics and machinations. Well written and very informatively documented there is no doubt that if Arsenal were once referred to as boring, boring, this book is quite definitely the opposite of that. In paperback there are 300 pages with some fine colour photos but disappointingly and frustratingly no Index.

There's A Golden Sky by Ian Ridley published by The Bloomsbury Press @ £18.99. This is a book which looks at the soul of English football over two decades, by a writer of long pedigree and who has actually had experience in the game as twice Chairman of Weymouth, who themselves receive a nostalgic mention in the text. The volume charts a 20 year period during which the Premier league has reigned supreme whilst others in the game have struggled. How newspapers have printed football stories which have moved from the back pages to headlines on the front; and of massive sums of money spawned by television revenues which have been paid to players particularly foreign ones who now outnumber the indigenous ones in the Premiership. There are chapters on clubs like Portsmouth, Luton, Wimbledon and Aldershot who have had their problems and at the other end of the spectrum are Arsenal, Manchester United and Chelsea who have had their successes. Not surprisingly knowing the author's propensity there are many references to non-league football including the travails of Barnet all of which in any event have long deserved a mention. Not so nostalgic are the stories surrounding the misadventures of players drug taking or drinking and gambling to excess but the various managers highlighted who have given interviews to the author are extremely insightful in their viewpoints. Another informative chapter is the one on Sky television which of course has revolutionised all sorts of aspects particularly when the game is played and how it is covered. For anyone who has ever performed in football on Hackney Marshes the chapter entitled "Marsh Fever" will be something in which to revel, save for those unsavoury incidents of thuggery which are recounted. An honourable mention also goes to Dario Gradi and Crewe Alexandra and all this and more are written into an adult football work which should improve any shelf of football books. A hardback edition of 264 pages with Index and several colour photos.



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I am pleased to inform the Society that on Thursday 24th November the A.F.A. County Council meeting presented me with the 30 year long service award for services to A.F. A. clubs and players. I did in fact start as a London F.A. referee in 1976, however, A.F.A.became my parent County in the 1980's. They had previously awarded me the 15 year service award, but clearly this latest award is the big one. Of course Middlesex C.F.A. (to whom I am still affiliated) awarded me their long service award in the year 2000 for 24 years service. It is a great honour that they have recognized this period of time. I don't suffer fools lightly and my continuing service to both counties tells me that they both have something special about them and a lovely spirit for the game. It doesn't appear that the A.F.A is pensioning me off yet either! They have already sent me a senior cup tie to referee this season (Albanian and Wood Green Old Boys in round 2.). In round 3 I have an assistant referee appointment to look forward to in December. Clearly, once you get past fifty years of age there is some prejudice against older referees, but those clubs you can shake the dust (or normally mud] from your feet and move on. Those critics, who watch on the sidelines on occasions, are welcome to join me in one of the long distance runs I do through Barnet and District Athletic club. However, nearly all my games I thoroughly enjoy and the memories of nice and wise people met, too good to forget.

Yours in Sport
David Williams
(Member)



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North Middlesex Referees Society - One Hundred Club Membership

Below are the results of the November draw which was made at the recent Society meeting. There are 49 shares subscribed for the current season, meaning a normal monthly payout of £34.30. Cheques for winners are enclosed with this month's magazine; if you receive your magazine by e-mail, your cheques will be posted to you.



November

1st 44 Arthur Stewart £19.60 2nd 45 Alex Bedwell £9.60 3rd 33 Matthew Webster £4.90

We are still looking for new members for the 100 Club for the season, so, if you would like to join for Season 2011/2012, please complete the form below and forward to Gary Cobden, Honorary Treasurer.

NORTH MIDDLESEX REFEREES SOCIETY 100 CLUB

I wish to purchase.....share(s) in the NMRS 100 Club at £1.00 per share per month.

Please find enclosed my cheque/postal order for £...00 to cover the subscription for 9 months.

Renewal information will be included with next seasons Membership Form

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Gary Cobden
Honorary Treasurer



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The December Society Meeting will be an informal social get together, and the Society will be providing a few nibbles on the evening. It would be appreciated if you could let Secretary Robin Jagot know if you will be attending so that we can arrange catering accordingly. Contact details for Robin are on the inside of the cover.



The Vennearce Report

The extract from the Vennearce Report this month covers 'Splinter Associations'. For those of you who were not around at the time this report was written (April 1968), it was written by two former Life Vice Presidents of the Society, Arthur Pearce and Owen Venning, and called for a radical restructuring of The Referees' Association. Owen Venning went on to become the first full-time secretary of the Referees Association.

In the December 1913 – yes, 1913 – edition of "The Football Referee" one valid reason why every referee should join what was then called the "Referees Union" was the following:-

"Because it is very desirable that there should be ONE BODY to which all referees show allegiance. A Referee's position in the game is one of great importance and this being so, it is only LOGICAL that they should be organised in their OWN INTERESTS."

In recent months, it has been patently obvious that when the outside authoritative organisations look for a lead on the refereeing aspect of the game it is the Association of Football League Referees and Linesmen, not the Referees Association, to which they turn, particularly when it is on matters concerning the professional sphere.

The fact that the Referees Association has stood back and allowed a splinter organisation of this nature to become the authoritative voice of referees is probably because members of the latter are actively engaged and therefore looked upon as being much more conversant with modern problems – including television – where the image of the game generally is presented to the public and the attitude and performance of players and referee alike accepted, however

mistakenly, as the example which other less notable players and referees should follow. This probably is why outside organisations side-track the Referees' Association when seeking guidance or authoritative statements on refereeing and its problems.

The referee on the Football League undoubtedly faces problems peculiar to that sphere, but even so, these could be dealt with by our Association were it as fully equipped as it ought to be to deal with ALL problems – whether on Football League grounds; on the local park; and whether in Cornwall, Durham or intermediate points wherever football is played.

Consider in addition the money which, instead of being funnelled into one 'kitty' and effectively employed for the benefit of all, is diverted to these splinter organisations.

In recent months "A Conference with a difference" was organised by the Association of Football League Referees and Linesmen and many of the eminent leaders of the administrative side of the game attended and took a leading part in the discussion of problems affecting the professional game. Now that it is an accepted fact that, directly or indirectly, all referees are geared to Football League requirements through the media of the Contributory and Feeder scheme, useful and informative Conferences of this nature ought not to be restricted to those in the illustrious position of being on the Football League, but should be available to all interested enough to attend.

Included in a reconstructed Referees Association, a Committee could be formed to deal with any and every problem arising from professional football. This would end the present ludicrous position whereby, owing to the President's term of office in the A.S.F.L.R. & L., being restricted to one year, any good work done by an individual; any advanced or worthwhile idea he may propound, easily can be lost for all time, there being no guarantee that his successor may be similarly progressive and imaginative or have equal opportunity for giving time to anything but the minimal Presidential duties.



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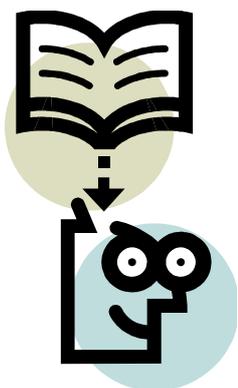
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Are once again pleased to support North Middlesex Referees Society in Season 2011/2012





The **North Middlesex Referees Society Quiz Nite** is back.

Get your thinking caps on again, as its time for the 2012 Quiz – which this year will take place on Friday 30 March 2012 at Old Owens Association, Coopers Lane, Northaw, Potters Bar, Hertfordshire, EN6 4NE.

Tickets cost £10 each inclusive of a hot buffet

Teams to consist of no more than 8 players. If you would like to attend, whether you have a team, or will be attending on your own, please let Robin Jagot (Secretary) or Gary Cobden (Treasurer) know.



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Do you shop on-line??

At our e-shop www.spendandraise.com/nmrs you will find the vast majority of your favourite retailers. By shopping on line with these companies you will be directed to their normal website. At the same time, you may also be saving money, and in addition, you will also be helping the Society raise funds – at no extra cost to yourself - as we will receive a small commission on all sales which are routed via our e-shop.

A small selection of the available retailers are shown, left, but many more are available, including Airport Parking; BHS; BT; F1 Autocentres; JD Sports; JJB Sports; London Zoo; PC World; Ryman; WH Smith; and Wickes.

Take a look at the site – there is a link on our home page – www.northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk - to see just how many retailers there are.



We have a new Advertiser this month; Brunswick Garage. Our thanks go to member

Andy Savva for his support.



Christmas Message from the President

In this, my first season as your President, we have had three excellent meetings so far, including a truly exceptional evening at the beginning of October when we were superbly entertained by former FIFA Referee, Steve Bennett – those that did not attend missed an evening where Steve kept us entertained and discussing video clips for nearly two hours. And then, at the end of October, we had the Presentation Dinner at which six of our members, including myself, were honoured for services to refereeing and football. My thanks go to Robin Jagot for ensuring the evening went off without a hitch.

I would like to wish all members and their families a Happy Christmas, and a Prosperous New Year. It is at this time of year as well that, whilst the majority of us are celebrating, we should remember those of our colleagues; friends; and families who have lost loved ones, and this year we especially remember the family of our Vice Chairman Vince Yeudall, who passed away so suddenly at the beginning of the season.



Injured Referee leads to call-off

"The Carlsberg South West Peninsula League wishes to apologise to all spectators that attended Poltair this afternoon," were the closing remarks from league secretary Philip Hiscox after issuing a statement on the abandonment of St Austell's home game against Liskeard Athletic. Liskeard had taken a second-minute lead courtesy of Ryan Richards' ten-yard drive, with St Austell levelling on 37 minutes through Will Tinsley. However, Redruth referee Martin Ault suffered a recurrence of a hamstring injury during the first half of the game, and made the decision during the break that he was unable to continue. Instead of allowing the senior assistant to take the whistle and a level-six official from Somerset, who was watching the match as part of his holiday, to run the line, he wrongly decided to give Liskeard manager Darren Edwards the option not to play – which he promptly took.

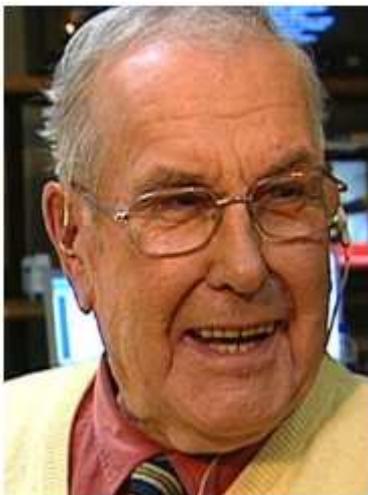
Hiscox could not hide his annoyance at the situation when he revealed: "The result does not stand and the match will be rescheduled." Hiscox also issued a statement on behalf of the league which read: "The circumstances of the matter have been investigated and I have this evening spoken to both club secretaries and the match referee. The match-day referee was unable to continue, due to injury, and it was agreed that the senior assistant referee would replace him. The matter then became confused with the choice of a linesman to replace the assistant referee. St Austell nominated a person and the referee, wrongly under rules but in good faith, offered Liskeard the option of accepting this replacement or not. Liskeard, believing it was their right to refuse, did so. The host club did not contact me at the critical time and as such the matter could not be resolved whilst all were still in attendance at the ground. In summary, it could be suggested that all three parties did not fully follow the relevant rules and appropriate guidance will be issued."

The moral of this story - Make sure you always carry a copy of the competition rules with you to all games.

(This is Cornwall – 14 November 2011)



Saturday Tea-Times will never be the same again!!!



The voice of BBC television's Saturday tea-time football results has hung up his microphone for the final time. After a career spanning more than six decades, Tim Gudgin retired a week before his 82nd birthday. Gudgin, who lives in Hampshire, cites age, the commute to BBC Sport's new home in Salford and an upcoming family wedding in Australia for his decision.

Famed for rising and falling intonation on big scores, he got to say "Airdrie 11 Gala Fairydean 0" on his last show. That was one of a series of bizarre scorelines which marked Gudgin's final appearance, in which viewers got a rare look at the face behind the voice. They included a 7-2 away victory for Shrewsbury against Northampton in England's League Two and a 7-3 away win for Cliftonville at Ballymena in Northern Ireland's Carling Premiership.

Gudgin may have admitted to having trouble pronouncing Hamilton Academical in the early days, but his trademark tones bought him his first house mortgage-free and helped singing legend Bing Crosby back a 10/1 winner.

"It seems to have flown by, 60 years it's been terrific," said Gudgin, who now lives in Emsworth, Hampshire after his final broadcast. "It is a triple reason why I am going, age, distance - I am down on the south coast and the BBC team is going to be up in Salford - and my granddaughter's wedding in Australia which I have to be there for."

He started his broadcasting his career while carrying out National Service in Germany in 1949 at the age of 20. "I always wanted to get into radio but my careers master at school said 'not a hope Gudgin, not a hope, you will need a first class honours degree from Oxford or Cambridge

and you won't get it.'" But he managed to beat off 200 people to land one of four news reading jobs in Hamburg after his service ended, before returning home and taking a job with the BBC with stints at Radio 2 and Radio 4. In 1976 he joined Grandstand where he read out the racing and rugby results until 1995 when he became only the second person, following Len Martin's death, to read out the football results. This came despite his own admission that his knowledge of the game is limited and that he supports the team closest to his current home, which over the years has meant teams as diverse as Crystal Palace, Liverpool, Plymouth and Portsmouth.

During his time on the BBC's flagship sports programme he also met a number of famous faces, including crooner Crosby. "He was with us on the programme and Len Martin noticed there was a horse running called Uncle Bing. We told Bing about this and being a very keen man on betting and horses he said 'oh yes put something on for me, let's have £20 on each way' and it went and won at 10/1."

Gudgin also admires modern day stars, including the "charming" Gary Lineker. And the feeling is mutual, according to the Match of the Day presenter who said: "Saturday afternoons will never be the same again."

The veteran broadcaster now intends to spend more time with his family, including six children and seven grandchildren. But he has not ruled out returning to do the odd commercial voiceover once in a while - something he was not allowed to do while at the BBC. "I used to do them... when I went freelance from Radio 2. I did an in-vision commercial for Square Deals Surf [washing powder] which bought me the first house I ever had without a mortgage, so that was well worth it."

He is to be replaced from next week by Mike West, who has presented sports bulletins on BBC Radio Lancashire.

(www.bbc.co.uk – 18 November 2011)



Dear All, Board, ABS's, CRA's and Life Members



ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESIGNATION OF RA CHAIRMAN ALAN POULAIN

It is with regret that I have to inform you that Alan Poulain has decided, for personal reasons and in an effort to change his lifestyle, to stand down as Chairman and as a member of the Board of the RA. This was effective from the Board Meeting which took place on Sunday 20th November.

In his open letter to the Board, Alan writes "To say that I have enjoyed my time on the Board would be an understatement. I have been very lucky to have worked with many good people and met many more."

On behalf of The President, Board and all members I would like to thank Alan for his massive contribution to the Association during a period of significant development which has provided increasing benefits to us all.

The Board have agreed that I will take on the role of Acting Chairman until the AGM on 13th July 2012, following which the Board will conduct its annual election of Officers in accordance with Association rules.

Yours sincerely

Colin Harris

Colin Harris

23.11.11

NORTH MIDDLESEX REFEREES SOCIETY

Minutes of the Society Meeting held on 17th November 2012 at Holtwhites Sports Centre Enfield

Apologies: Ken Goldman and Kevin Nottage.

Chairman's Report: The Chairman welcomed Gary Crane from the AFA and our Guest Speaker Tim Lawrence.

Secretary's Report: The Secretary reported that the recent Presentation Dinner at Old Owens Sports Centre had turned out to be a very successful evening with eighty-four guests attending. The President Gary requested that a vote of thanks to the Secretary be recorded in the minutes for the planning and organization that the Secretary had contributed to the event. This was endorsed by the members present. An email message had been received from one of our members concerning the RA Accounts when being presented at the RA Conference AGM in July this year with certain questions being raised on the Accounts Statement by those in attendance. Having been in attendance for the meeting the RA Chairman did prevent any answers being given by the Board on certain issues in the RA accounts. As this was a very sensitive issue I have forward the contents of the message to our County RA Delegate Gordon Kirby to deal with.

The RA membership figure at October/2011 stood at 9710 while at the same time last year it was 9760.

Treasurer's Report: Membership stood at 85 full members and 7 associates. The Treasurer did inform members that he had supplied articles for the local press in the Enfield, Potters Bar, Welwyn and Hatfield areas. Other areas covered were in Thanet, Kent and also the national paper The Sun.

Any Other Officer's Report: None

Any Other Business: The next Society meeting will be on the 15th December 2011, which will be a social evening.

Chairman.....

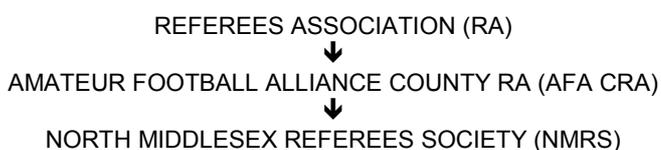
INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR SOCIETY

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 £5.00.

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.

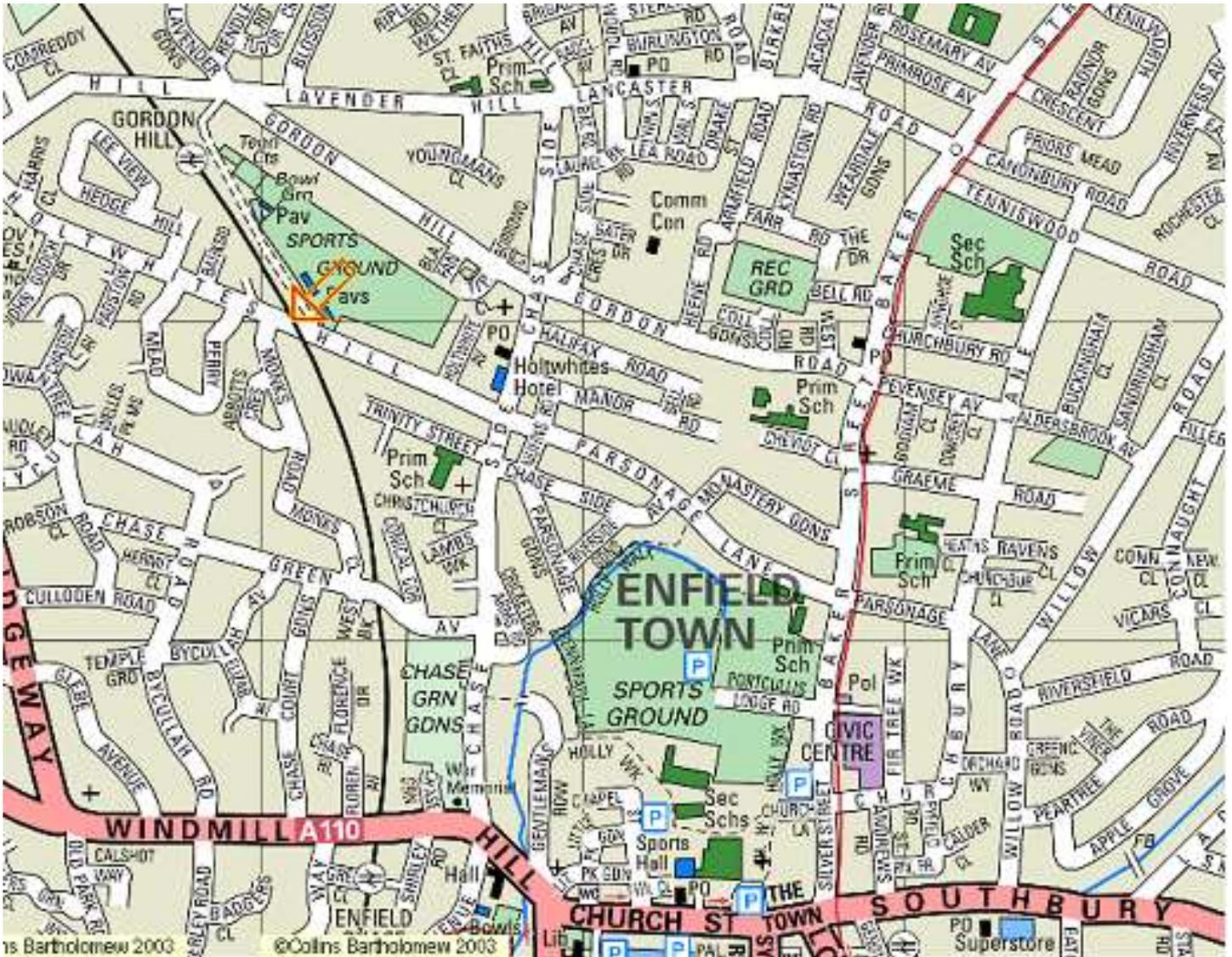
AFA	Amateur Football Alliance
AFA CRA	Amateur Football Alliance County Referees Association
CFA	County Football Association
CRA	County Referees Association
LFA	London Football Association
MCFA	Middlesex County Football Association
R.A.	Referees Association
RA-FA	Referees Association/Football Association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

Updated July 2011

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Are held on the third Thursday monthly (except October – first Thursday) commencing at 7:30 pm, at Holtwhites Sports and Social Club, Kirkland Drive, Holtwhites Hill, Enfield, Middlesex, EN2 0RN
Telephone: 020 8363 4449

Dates for Season 2011/2012:- September 15; October 6 (first Thursday); November 17; December 15 2011; and January 19; February 16; March 15; April 19; May 17 2012



The venue is passed by Bus Route W9 and Bus Route 191 stops just a short distance away - direct from Enfield Town, and Enfield Chase; and Gordon Hill Rail Stations are only a short distance away. For fuller directions and how to get to the venue, see our website. See also www.tfl.gov.uk; www.nationalexpresseastanglia.com; and www.firstcapitalconnect.co.uk. 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