

*The Normidian  
Magazine  
Season 2013/2014*

*Merry  
Christmas*



*December 2013*

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### **PRESIDENT**

Gary Cobden 2, Chapel End, Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire, EN11 8DN 01992 469153  
E-Mail - [president@northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk](mailto:president@northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk)

### **CHAIRMAN**

Tom White 82, Graeme Road, Enfield, Middlesex, EN1 3UT 020 8366 4703  
E-Mail - [chairman@northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk](mailto:chairman@northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk)

### **VICE-CHAIRMAN**

Ken Goldman 17, Green Walk, Hendon, London, NW4 2AL 020 8203 1376  
E-Mail - [vicechair@northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk](mailto:vicechair@northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk)

### **SECRETARY**

Robin Jagot 24, Tiverton Road, Potters Bar, Hertfordshire, EN6 5HY 01707 651461  
E-Mail - [secretary@northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk](mailto:secretary@northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk)

### **TREASURER**

Gary Cobden 2, Chapel End, Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire, EN11 8DN 01992 469153  
E-Mail - [treasurer@northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk)

**SOCIAL SECRETARY** Position Vacant

### **MAGAZINE EDITOR**

Ken Goldman 17, Green Walk, Hendon, London, NW4 2AL 020 8203 1376  
E-Mail – [magazine@northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk](mailto:magazine@northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk)

### **GEAR SUPPLIES**

Percy Brown 9, Clappers Lane, Station Road, Watton-at-Stone, Herts., SG14 3QA 01920 830274  
E-Mail - [supplies@northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk](mailto:supplies@northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk)

### **COUNTY RA DELEGATE**

Tom White 82, Graeme Road, Enfield, Middlesex, EN1 3UT 020 8366 4703  
E-Mail - [cra@northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk](mailto:cra@northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk)

**TRAINING DELEGATE** Position Vacant

### **COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Martin De La Fuente 7, De Soissons Close, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire, AL8 6YX. 01707 321502  
E-Mail - [councilone@northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk](mailto:councilone@northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk)

Terry Wilson 25, Brookside Crescent, Cuffley, Hertfordshire, EN6 4QW 01707 889585  
E-Mail - [counciltwo@northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk](mailto:counciltwo@northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk)

James Morris 87, Hadrians Rise, Enfield, Middlesex, EN1 1DF 07886 939707  
E-Mail - [councilthree@northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk](mailto:councilthree@northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk)

### **MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS:**

Please send to Ken Goldman – by e-mail if possible.

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS:** Please notify Gary Cobden

### **HONORARY AUDITOR 2013-2014**

Jim Taylor 020 8560 8262

### **VICE PRESIDENT**

Stan Rosenthal

### **LIFE VICE PRESIDENTS**

George Basten Peter Dace Ken Goldman Tony Ward  
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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 Society will take place on FRIDAY the 13th of December 2013 at 7.45 pm. at Holtwhites Sports and Social Club, Kirkland Drive, Enfield, Middlesex when the evening will be given over to our annual Christmas Party. So come all ye unfaithful who do not necessarily attend the monthly meetings and join with some friends old and new.**

## **EDITORIAL**

As many people know I am a great fan of Mike Riley but I feel that he was quite wrong to offer an apology which was capable of being made public to West Bromwich Albion for their being awarded what has been held to be an incorrect penalty in favour of Chelsea in their recent match. One of the reasons I express this view being that he did not give such an apology so far as is publically known to Cardiff City when Anthony Taylor made an horrendous error on the Laws, with Chelsea again benefiting. In the West Brom case the cause of the penalty could have been any one of the player going down by accident, bouncing off an opponent or the worst case scenario conning the referee. Whatever the situation actually was, the referee was guilty of no more than a mistaken impression that it was a foul. The repercussions are enormous since every week there can be high profile mistakes, especially relating to fouls where players get sent off or penalties or offsides being incorrectly given or not given. Already several managers have either complained they should get an apology or have made snide remarks about expecting not to receive one.

It is all too easy as we know in fast paced games and even slow ones on park pitches for a player to pretend to be fouled to gain a penalty when it is not one and indeed the caution for this type of unsporting behaviour was introduced a few seasons back to try to curb this. However it is going at some future time for disciplinary panels to retrospectively look at "diving" or feigning injury incidents and punish the culprits accordingly. It is more prevalent now than ever although it is not novel. In the 1970's there were a couple of Manchester City players who developed an intriguing technique of wrapping a back leg around their front one and tripping themselves up to obtain penalties, so as indicated it is not new and not all currently down to a particular gentleman at Liverpool FC. However the offence is becoming ever more widespread but still difficult to spot (no pun intended).

Reverting to decisions being honestly made, who is in the better position to make those decisions on the field, the referee and his assistants or the manager of the complaining team? The West Brom manager has been calling for video reviews of the type of incident of which he complains and has even been supported by one outstanding football journalist who ought to know better and both feel that the goal line technology which has only just been introduced after many years of fighting for it should be extended to more incidents but then as I have indicated before, we will get



## *A festive message from Willy 'The Whistler' Woodwork*

The festive season is with us again and how we love having our matches called off week after week after week. Even if the match is being played do we really enjoy running around a local park in shorts in sub minus zero freezing conditions. We love it when it is so cold we cannot feel our feet or hands. Oh the joy to be a referee.

So here is my festive contribution to you all in verse and I hope you enjoy it.....

### *'Thoughts of a Sunday morning referee'*

*The secret for any good ref  
Is relax and take a big breathe  
Make sure that you always prepare  
Know the laws and always be fair*

*Leave early and always take care  
Make sure that you have the right fare  
If you arrive at the venue late  
You'll only end up in a state*

*Be early relax and then sit  
Then slowly you take out your kit  
Inspect the pitch and look at the goals  
And check the nets for holes*

*The teams no doubt arrive late  
And they are the ones in a state  
They know if they don't start on time  
It will cost them a ten pound fine*

*You know it all makes sense  
To know what's a penal offence  
To spit to kick or strike  
The importance to get it right*

*The ten penals, you must know them all  
A push or attempt for a fall  
If they miss an attempt has been made  
And the red card it must be displayed*

*Even though we have our own style  
Apply all the laws with a smile  
To each our own tolerance level  
Players ignore it at their peril*

*Bad language do not tolerate  
Ignore and it will escalate  
For the problem to go away  
A red card means they can no longer play*

*'Talk to me don't shout' I say  
Don't let players have their own way  
Stay calm, speak clear and be heard  
Don't let players have the last word*

*Blow the whistle and sound it loud  
To be heard by the players and the crowd  
Signals to be clear and precise  
Clean boots that always look nice*

*For any decision don't guess  
If you're wrong it will be a mess  
If a player gives a strange look  
I'd put his name in the book*

*Whether in jest or is meant  
Do not tolerate dissent  
Whether by voice or a sign  
Trust me, dissent is not fine*

*Some will say what's the fuss  
When players complain about us  
Imagine if it was the other way  
You can guess what the press would say*

*When players are rude or crude  
It puts me in a bad mood  
So here is a little advice  
It's not very hard to be nice*

**I hope that you have enjoyed my festive contribution and that my monthly article enlightens you. Maybe one day you will be one of my assistants on the Sunday Park League (North). That would be something for you to look forward to!**

**I take this opportunity to wish you all a merry x-mas and happy new year.**

**Have a good one!**

***Willy Woodwork***

***Willy 'The Whistler' Woodwork***

## **SELF-ASSESSMENT- BY OBSERVER.**

A Referee should be his own biggest critic and, after each match, should analyse his own performance and, where he feels it necessary, should strive to erase any faults and aim for a competent performance in his next game.

The "Self-Check List for Referees" is supplied by The County Football Association and should be referred to after every match for Self-Assessment.

### **Did I Enforce the Laws?**

More to the point, as referee, do I know the Laws? A quick flip through the LOAF at the beginning of the season is not really enough for a referee to be satisfied with his knowledge of the Laws of the Game.

It is important that a referee, at any level, has a thorough knowledge of the Laws, and the way in which they should be interpreted, and is confident and quick thinking enough to apply them correctly.

Equally as important is for the referee to be aware of the rules of the competition in which the game is being played. For this, a copy of the League Handbook is a vital part of the referee's equipment and should be referred to if in doubt before the game.

Don't be left in the embarrassing position after ninety minutes play in a drawn Cup-Tie of not knowing whether there is extra-time, a replay, penalties, or whatever to determine the winners. Make sure that YOU as referee know the position and inform the two Captains before the game so that there is no argument should such a result occur.

With so many different competitions always check the rules of the competition. Some allow the score to stand if a game has to be abandoned (not for misconduct) and a certain length of time has been played. Others place the onus on the referee to ensure that the home club provides two match balls, a first aid kit and so on.

Again, don't go making yourself unpopular by insisting that no first aid kit, no game. If you've got the bare essentials of two teams, a set of goalposts, a ball, corner flags and reasonable pitch markings, get on with the game and report any discrepancies afterwards. As a referee, try to learn the difference between the "Laws of the Game" and "Rules of Competition", particularly where they might seem to overlap. This may be slightly confusing for the referee in his first couple of years with the whistle.



# North Middlesex Referees Society

**Minutes of the Society Meeting held on November 21<sup>st</sup> 2013 at Holtwhites Sports Centre**

**Apologies:** Percy Brown, Lockie Bramzell, Tony Ward, Roger Fox

**Chairman's Welcome:** The Chairman had been held up at an earlier function and would be arriving at a later time in the evening. Our Vice Chairman Ken Goldman took over and welcomed our Guest Speaker Keith Hill.

**Minutes of the last Society Meeting:** held on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October at Holtwhites Sports Centre were signed as a true record.

**Matters Arising:** It was pointed out that our guest speaker is a current Football League Referee and not former. This was noted.

**Secretary's Report:** Secretary reminded members that the next Society meeting is on **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December 7.45pm**. With our usual festive arrangements.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer reported that the full membership stood at 71 and associate membership at 10.

**Editor's Report:** Please keep sending your articles and any Plum or County Cup appointments you may have received.

**Any Other Officer's Report:** None

**Any Other Business:** The starting time of the meeting was raised as unfortunately due to a slightly later start, the meeting started at 8.05pm. It was pointed out that the Society Magazine on its back cover stated a start time of 7.30pm which was incorrect and should have read 7.45pm for an intended 8.00pm start.

**Chairman:**

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

The November draw for the 100 Club were made at the recent meeting. Winning numbers are shown below. Two additional numbers have been subscribed by Paul McCormick (36 and 37) and these were included in the November draw.

<b>First</b>			<b>Second</b>			<b>Third</b>		
25	Robin Jagot	£14.80	28	John Metselaar	£7.40	33	Tony Ward	£3.70

Cheques for the winners are either included with this magazine, or will have been sent to you by post if you receive your magazine by e-mail.

If you have already rejoined the Society and would like to join – or rejoin - the 100 Club for Season 2013/2014, please complete and forward the form below.

### **NORTH MIDDLESEX REFEREES SOCIETY 100 CLUB**

I wish to purchase.....share(s) in the NMRS 100 Club at £9.00 per share per season.

Please find enclosed my cheque/postal order for £...00 to cover the subscription for the remaining 10 months.

Name..... Signature.....

Society Use - Numbers Allocated.....

**Gary Cobden**  
Honorary Treasurer



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

Get your thinking caps on again, as its time to register for the 2014 Quiz – which will take place on Friday 28 March 2013 at Old Owens Association, Coopers Lane, Northaw, Potters Bar, Hertfordshire, EN6 4NE, commencing at 7:45pm.

Tickets cost £10 each inclusive of a hot buffet

Teams should 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. Contact information can be found on the inside front cover.



### **Presidents Message**

In this, my final season as your President (it has literally flown by), it is time for my final Christmas Message. It is at this time of year when we all get together as families and 'have a bit of a do'. So, from my family to yours, may you all have a happy and prosperous time and I hope you all get everything you wish for during the festivities. However, whilst the majority of us are celebrating, we should remember those of our colleagues; friends; and families who have lost loved ones.

Now on to more serious things. As a Society, we currently have 81 members – plus many trainees. We are lucky if we have 20 members turn up to a monthly meeting, and it is always the same old (not by age) faces who attend. If we are to continue as an effective organisation we need to know what you want from the Society, and what we, as your Council, need to be doing to get more of you to attend. And, on that vein, we really do need more new blood coming through to the Council – it does not require a massive time commitment from you as we only have a couple of meetings a year. On Council at the moment, we currently have two members undertaking two jobs each, and have two positions vacant, so we really do need more help organising the successful running of the Society. If you feel you have the spare time and would like to get involved, please give me a call.

With very best wishes for the festive period.

Gary Cobden  
**President**



### **Players don't always have to leave the pitch after injury treatment**

An unusual incident happened at the Reading v Queens Park Rangers match at the Madejski Stadium recently which bemused many spectators. A free kick was awarded to Reading outside the QPR penalty area but one of their players had gone down with an injury. After speaking to the injured player, the referee called on the club physio. Unusually QPR send on two physios when a player is injured, whereas most clubs will only use one, unless the injury turns out to be more serious when they may call for back up. This is not to say that QPR are incorrect in their action, for the guidelines to referees in the Laws of the Game say that 'after questioning the injured player, the referee may authorise one or at most two doctors to enter the field of play to assess the injury and arrange the player's safe and swift removal from the field of play'. For doctors read physios. The Law says that players must not be treated on the field of play but as we all know this is totally ignored. Instead, after the player has been treated he is made to leave the field of play and wait for a signal from the referee that he may return, which the referee can't do until the game has restarted.

However, the unusual thing that happened with QPR is that after the two physios came on, another of their players fell to the ground and lay on his back calling for treatment. The physios then split, with one attending the original injured player and the other the new 'patient'. When this second player had received treatment, the referee told him to leave the field of play but he refused to go to, bringing on many cries of derision from the Reading spectators. So, was he trying to evoke the change to the law that was made in 2010.

The Law has always allowed the goalkeeper to be treated on the field of play and there is no question of him having to leave after the treatment has been given. Imagine what a farce it would be if he did. One of the outfield players would have to take over as goalkeeper until the game stopped again, as you can only change goalkeepers at a stoppage in play, and then there would be another delay whilst he changed back. The Law also said that if a goalkeeper collided with another player and they were both injured they could both be treated without leaving the field of play. Presumably this was to recognise that it would be unfair if one could stay and the other couldn't.

In 2010 the Scottish FA put a proposal to the International FA Board that if two players of the same side were injured at the same time it would be unfair to leave that side with such a numerical disadvantage. The Law was then changed to add that if players from the same side have collided and required immediate treatment they too could stay on the pitch. Back to the QPR incident - had that player remembered this change in the Law and though they hadn't collided, reckoned that if there were two of them injured neither of them would have to leave the pitch before the free kick? Or was it simply that he thought while the physio was there he might as well get him to relieve his cramp and therefore he didn't rank as being injured. We shall never know but it does show how convoluted this distorted law on injuries has become for the referee and everyone else.



## **World Cup 2014 – Tickets**

(from [www.fifa.com](http://www.fifa.com))

A total of 889,305 tickets were allocated to people from 188 countries during the random selection draw for the first phase of ticket sales for the 2014 World Cup. Of these, 71.5% of tickets were sold to Brazilian residents, while 28.5% went to fans from other countries. For this first sales window, a total of 6.2 million tickets had been requested with 70.86% coming from Brazil, with the remaining 29.14% coming from the rest of the world. Requests came from 203 different countries, while tickets for the opening match in Sao Paulo (726,067 requests), for the Brazilian team's matches and for the final (751,165) in the Maracanã stadium on 13 July 2014 were most in demand.

Outside the host country Brazil (625,276 tickets), the highest number of tickets drawn was for residents of the United States (66,646), followed by England (22,257), Germany (18,019), Australia (15,401), Canada (13,507), France (11,628), Colombia (11,326), Switzerland (8,082), Japan (5,021) and Argentina (4,493). The most popular venue-specific series ticket packages were for Rio de Janeiro (94,500), Brasilia (48,540) and São Paulo (46,916).

A further sales window will include about 228,959 tickets - available on a first-come first-served basis, and it is expected that the tickets will be sold very quickly. No further tickets will be available in this sales window for the opening match in São Paulo, the final in Maracanã, Brazil's group-stage matches and the round of 16 in Belo Horizonte as well as the two semi-final matches in Belo Horizonte and São Paulo, which were the most highly oversubscribed games.

Further tickets for all 64 matches will be made available after the Final Draw when the second sales phase will kick off on 8 December 2013, once the final match schedule for the group stage matches is known.



## **Vanishing Spray Experiments**

(from [www.fifa.com](http://www.fifa.com))

After a successful trial during the FIFA U-20 World Cup in Turkey in July 2013 and very good overall feedback from the participating referees in the FIFA U-17 World Cup United Arab Emirates 2013, FIFA has decided to use the vanishing spray during the FIFA Club World Cup in Morocco in December 2013.

The use of the vanishing spray, was approved by all IFAB members during the Board's 126th Meeting in Great Britain on March 3rd 2012. The IFAB decided that any confederation, member association or league could use this in the future if they wished. The spray is an innovative tool created to help modern refereeing by giving the match official the opportunity to mark the line where the defending team is to set up its defensive wall before a free kick is taken. Referees pace the regulatory 9.15 metres between the ball and the nearest defender and then spray a white line on the pitch to mark the correct position of the wall. The line then disappears from the pitch within a minute.

For FIFA Head of Refereeing Massimo Busacca the vanishing spray is an important tool for the referees. The feedback that he received from his match officials was largely positive, as Busacca explained. "A large majority of the officials considered the spray as a useful and helpful tool," he said. "The spray has a clear preventive effect. The distance was always respected, so no yellow cards for not respecting the distance had to be given throughout the two tournaments played so far. After the Club World Cup in Morocco further evaluations will be made. We will review the results and discuss if the spray will be used also in future FIFA competitions."



The graphic features the Easyfundraising logo at the top. Below it is a large red tag with the text "GIVE SOMETHING FOR NOTHING" in white. The background is decorated with various Christmas icons like trees, gifts, and snowflakes. At the bottom, a red banner contains the following text:

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survey or opt to receive e-mail alerts, we will receive a small donation.

Thank you in anticipation of your support. Remember, for very little effort, we receive a donation.



As you know, the December Society Meeting will be an informal social get together with no guest speaker – but there maybe a quiz - 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.



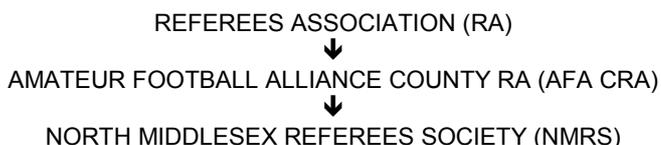
## INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR SOCIETY

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

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

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

**The National Structure for the Society is:**



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

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

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

**What are the Benefits of RA Membership?**

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

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

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

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

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

**Note**

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

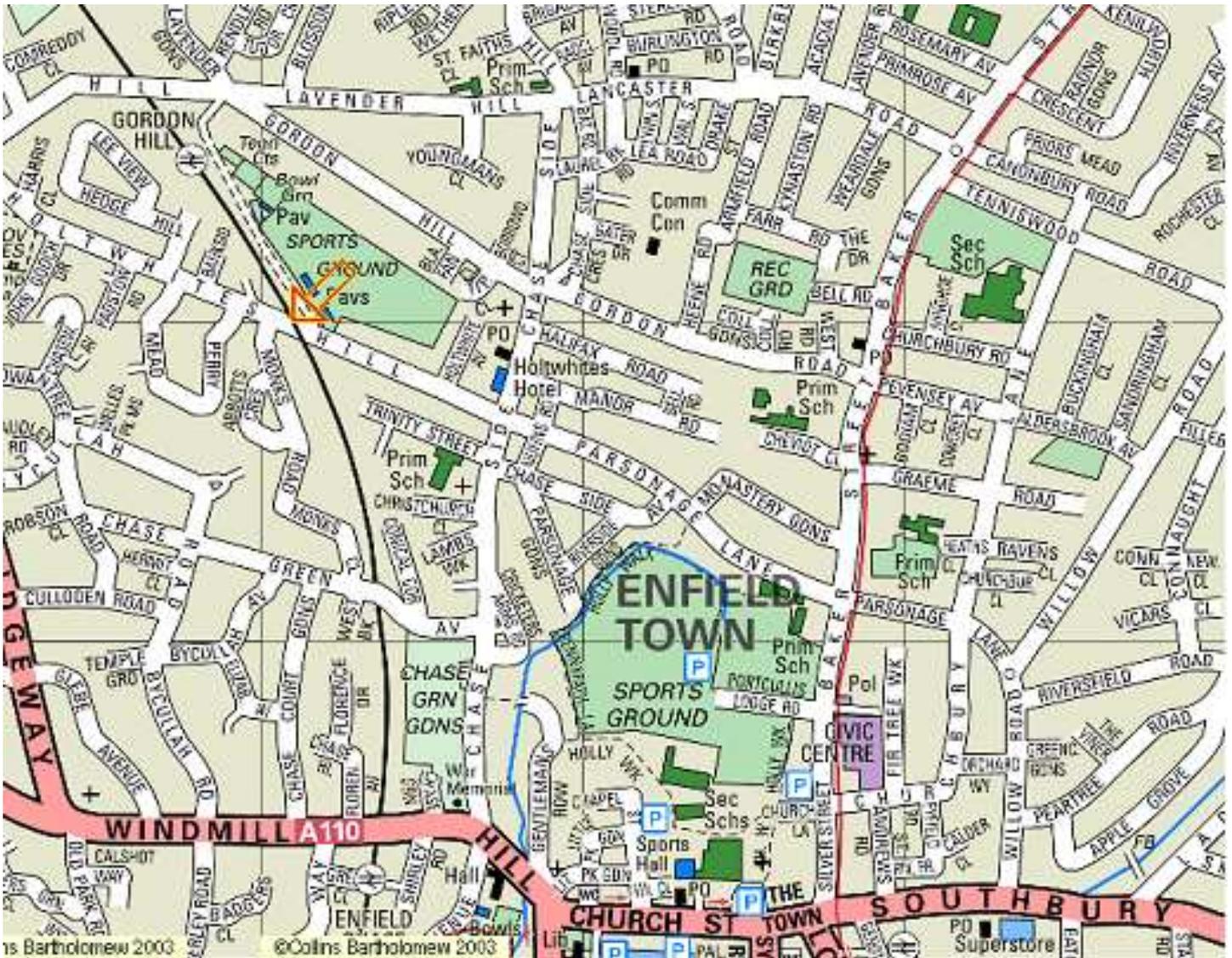
AFA	Amateur Football Alliance
AFA CRA	Amateur Football Alliance County Referees Association
CFA	County Football Association
CRA	County Referees Association
LFA	London Football Association
MCFA	Middlesex County Football Association
R.A.	Referees Association
RA-FA	Referees Association/Football Association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

**Updated July 2013**

## MONTHLY MEETINGS

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

Dates for Season 2013/2014:- September 19; October 17; November 21; December 13 2013 (second Friday);  
and January 16; February 20; March 20; April 17; May 15 2014



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

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

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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