

*The Normidian
Magazine
Season 2014/2015*

*Happy
Christmas*



THE
REFEREES'
ASSOCIATION



December 2014

COUNCIL 2014 - 2015

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

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

Unfortunately owing to the lack of interest shown in having our usual Christmas refreshments and quiz night the December meeting always used for those purposes is cancelled. The next Meeting of the Society will be at our Holtwhite's venue on the 15th of January 2015.

EDITORIAL

I know that I have mentioned problems and penalty taking before but this time it is not about the goalkeepers but about encroachment which seems both a mass and a mess. Thus one of the Laws, albeit legislated for, football in general finds almost impossible to police and therefore enforce, relates to encroachment at the taking of a penalty. Whilst it is annoying to see goalkeepers advancing off their line at a "spot-kick" it becomes farcical when a mass of players from both sides run into the penalty area before the ball is kicked and nothing is done about it whether or not a goal is scored or missed. Despite one interesting exception to this complaint coming last season when Premier League referee Mark Clattenberg made Arsenal's Arteta retake his kick after he had netted and players from both sides had committed an encroachment, nonetheless the next week he awarded 3 penalties to Liverpool in the one match and despite again encroachment by the players perversely he did not award any retakes whatsoever.

It is not as if the problem has never been addressed, but before recalling what changes have been attempted to resolve the issue perhaps a short recap on the Law might be worthwhile. The penalty kick is Law 14 and in the section marked "infringement for encroachment" It gives 6 possibilities for 3 types of encroachment. If the attacking team score and an attacker encroaches the kick is retaken but if it is missed the referee will award an indirect free kick. If a defending player encroaches and a goal is scored it stands but if it is missed the kick is retaken. Finally if there is encroachment by **both** teams then whether a goal is scored or missed the kick is retaken.

So where should the difficulty come and what several attempts have been made to overcome the problem? Well some years back the positioning of referees was optional, some standing on the goal-line when the then named Linesman took encroachment on the 18 yard line to stop offenders, whilst at other times he stood on the goal line with the referee opposite the penalty spot. Now since keepers are allowed to move along their line the assistant referee is mandated to stand on the goal-line at the junction with the penalty area. At one time also anyone encroaching would have to be cautioned but this has of course now gone which provokes me to repeat a suggestion made by me in the past, that whilst a penalty remains a punishment we should actually forget the farce of encroachment and move the penalty spot forward two yards to a ten yard (9.15m) mark as with other free kick dimensions and allow all the players to advance on the blowing of the referee's whistle. Stops the encroachment and reduces the chances of keepers moving before the kick to save the ball. Simple and sorted!

A Merry Christmas and a Happy and healthy New Year, from the Council to all members.

Ken Goldman

Editor

A festive message from Willy 'Red card' Woodwork

The only reason that football is played during the winter was to originally avoid any 'clash' with cricket.

It would be so much better if our football season began say for example from March to September. How wonderful the local park pitches would be. No matches being called off because of waterlogged or frozen pitches..... if only!

But the reality is that we do play through the winter and we arrive at the local park to discover that the temperature outside is actually warmer than in the changing rooms where the heating has not worked since 1952! How we love those cold showers.

So it is that time again, just sit back in a comfortable chair and relax and enjoy my festive contribution which has the wonderful title this year of.....

'Know the laws, apply the laws, here comes.....Santa Claus!

*Willie Whistler was a referee of thirty years or more
Know the laws, apply the laws, our Willie knew the score
Every week on the local park he worked so very hard
If a player whispered one wrong word our Willie showed a card*

*Everyone knew Willie, they had for many years
Think of all the red cards shown and players brought to tears
Our ref was firm and some might say too hard
And that earned our ref the nickname of Willie 'the red card'*

*One day Willie went to caution and asked the players name
He looked upon the team sheet to check it was the same
The player answered Mickey Mouse then changed to Donald Duck
Willie showed a red card and the player was out of luck*

*The home team in a festive mood all wearing a Father Christmas hat
But our referee told them all 'Sorry but you can't do that'
All went well in the match and at half time a nice surprise
Rather than an orange the home team offered a nice mince pie*

*The second half about to start and I tell you it's no lie
The players they just stood there eating those mince pies
Under what section of the misconduct report Willie really did not know
The pies were oh so tasty but he knew they had to go*

*For his age he was very fit and worked out in the gym
When compared to all his friends our ref was very slim
One hundred metres in ten seconds that was his best by far
But that was when he was driving and sitting in his car*

*Willie 'Red card' Woodwork often lived up to his name
Rarely ending with twenty two players that really was a shame
To be a ref is to make decisions to be decisive and never hide
Whether you award a throw in, a corner or offside*

*In winter Willie came prepared with woolly hat, gloves and scarf
You should have seen the players, you would have seen them laugh
Many players liked him whilst others disliked his power
But if you messed with Willie it would be an early shower*

*Willies' wife for weeks on end told him to buy a Christmas tree
'Don't worry I'll buy one on Christmas Eve just leave it up to me'
She said if you forget you'll not be sleeping in my bed
After the game Willie forgot and slept in the garden shed!*

I take great pleasure in writing about my match incidents through the year and I hope my article gives you enjoyment and makes you reflect on your recent matches and incidents. Remember to 'know the law and apply the law'. Always make sure that you are in the best position to give the right decision. Here we are and to think my first article was four years ago and I am still writing about all my incidents from one match namely Cockfosters Casuals versus Reds Rovers in the Sunday Park League (North) Division Three.

I take this opportunity to wish you all the best over the festivities and enjoy those mince pies.

Have a whistling good time.

Willy Woodwork

Willy 'Red card' Woodwork

Personal point of view by Ken Goldman.

Following our last monthly meeting (details elsewhere in the magazine) and sitting watching the short video presentation on the conduct of the Referee and his two Assistants in the dressing room I reflected on my own concepts of officiating both responsibilities. So as Christmas and the New Year are traditionally the times when people in general tend to consider the past present and future of the way they act and make resolutions for that future I thought I would join in as Referees should be no different. Therefore I decided to question what I aim at when going out to officiate especially having regard to what the good book (The Loaf) says about the duties attributable to Referees.

Firstly the one thing I want from a game is for the players to enjoy themselves. Those of us who played for a long time will both signify and testify that however much one enjoys officiating there is nothing like playing. It is just so sad that too many players especially at grass roots levels and/or on the parks don't understand that feeling and would prefer to turn it into something violent a la Rollerball. That brings me nicely to the second point which is to ensure the safety of the players principally from each other but also from team-mates the state of the pitch and other outside influences of which there may be many. Finally my aim is to be an arbitrator between the teams and where necessary or appropriate to enforce the Laws of the Game against the perpetrators of anything the Law calls foul play or unsporting behaviour. In regard to arbitration I have long held the view particularly when refereeing alone that I will make mistakes but principally on such things as throw-ins; corners or goal-kicks especially where a ball travelling fast gets a last minute deflection or the ball bounces off one of two players in a tackle on the far side of the pitch where one may be unsighted. If this happens and I have been unable to detect from body language which way it should be decided and both sides agree that a mistake has been made by me and they are polite about it I have always felt that it is proper and appropriate to accept the will of the players and to change the decision. However of course that never applies in the case of a decision made on a breach of the Laws of the Game unless there is an independent qualified Assistant Referee running the line who may have a better view of the incident as is prepared to provide his viewpoint to you. [Again some of the aspects raised in that video.]

Finally as to my own resolution, even at my mature yet tender age it is to keep learning from others and from my own mistakes.

Every Referee will have his/her own views both on what I have express here and their own interpretation of what he or she considers paramount in their own officiating. It would be nice as I often write as Editor if other people were to write in to share their views with this magazine.

North Middlesex Referees Society - One Hundred Club - Season 2014/2015

The draw for November was made recently, and the results are shown below. For those who receive their magazines by post, cheques are enclosed; for those who receive their magazines by e-mail your cheques will be sent by post.

November Winners

13 James Morris £12.80 3 Peter Omondi £6.40 12 John Metselaar £3.20

If you have already rejoined the Society or would like to join the 100 Club for Season 2014/2015, please complete and forward the form below. If you have not yet renewed your membership, and would like to join the 100 Club, you can do so by indicating on your membership form.

NORTH MIDDLESEX REFEREES SOCIETY 100 CLUB

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

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

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

Society Use - Numbers Allocated.....

Gary Cobden
Honorary Treasurer



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Thanks in anticipation of your support in helping us raise much needed funds.



WHEN THE BALL IS OUT OF PLAY BY OBSERVER

If you take a stopwatch along with you next time you watch a game and stop it every time the ball goes 'dead', you will probably find that something in excess of twenty minutes elapses when there is nothing doing in the way of actual play.

As a referee on the field, you could easily be lulled into a false sense of security by drawing the conclusion that you could take a breather during this quarter or so of the game. A very false sense of security!

Is it not true to say that many of those off the ball, behind-the-referee's-back incidents, take place when the ball is actually dead? Those few seconds that it takes for the goalkeeper to retrieve and position the ball for his goal kick may well be selected by the defender as the best time to intimidate his opponent with a few well-chosen words. Or it could be that while everyone is taking up his position for the corner-kick (referee and linesmen included) the centre forward and the centre half are exchanging a few crafty nudges and pushes.

Quite clearly, it is when the ball is not actually in play that the wise referee will continue to be 'all eyes and ears' in his attempts to detect the potentially explosive moments in the game, for it is often the unsavoury side of modern football that finds its birth in moments like these. Before he realises it, the carefree referee might have a fight on his hands.

A timely, quiet comment about what he has heard or seen might be just enough for the referee to keep control of the situation, and he can be reasonably sure that no matter how unnoticed by the spectators his firm but friendly words might have been, enough of the players will have noticed his efficiency.

Too many referees are lax in their work while the ball is out of play. How often do you see a referee awaiting a goal kick actually have a glance at what is happening on the field of play? Too rarely, I would suggest. Very likely you will see the referee in the local league award a goal-kick, turn and run back toward the centre of the field ready for the kick, without ever being aware of what the players are doing.

The golden rule of refereeing must surely be to keep an eye on the centre of activity while the ball is in play, and to use those moments when the ball is dead to check all around him that everyone is behaving himself. This includes keeping an eye on the last two or three players involved in the activity immediately prior to the ball going out of play. The referee can help himself a great deal in this respect if he perfects the skill of running backwards when taking up his next position should the situation demand it. Most referees can run backwards, but many seldom actually do so.

When operating without assistant referees (Club or Neutral), the referee must undertake all those tasks that he would normally delegate to his neutral colleagues with the flag. All too frequently do you see the ball go out of play and be retrieved many yards way down the touchline? In such cases the throw-in will be made from a position that is more

advantageous to the thrower, and there are two basic reasons for this. One is the natural tendency for players to 'get away with what they can', while the other is because the referee lets them do so.

It could be that the thrower is allowed this unfair advantage because the referee relaxed his concentration at the moment the ball went out of play, perhaps in the belief that nothing will go wrong for him at this stage. He looked away too soon and therefore did not actually know the correct place for the throw-in to be taken.

Wise referees, when working alone, frequently position themselves exactly opposite the position for the throw. If this is not convenient, however, there is still often a simple and unflamboyant way for the referee to indicate the correct place to the thrower who has just retrieved the ball. The referee positions himself in such a way that he creates a straight line involving three important points, himself, the correct position for the throw-in and the thrower approaching the line. A little practice on this and the skill can soon be perfected so that you will then have a moment or two spare for that vital glance around the field to see who is trying to take advantage of the dead-ball situation, for it is odds-on that somebody will be doing so if he thinks the referee isn't looking.

There are several other things for the referee to look for while the ball is dead, so he should develop the art of 'making a few moments time for himself'.

Think about the following and try to make sure that you have time to look and listen for them from time to time during your next game, whether it is in a stadium or on the local park pitch

When the play is temporarily stopped:

- a) Is the goalkeeper at the far end of the field quite safe from spectator interference?
- b) Are those men on the trainer's bench behaving, as they should be?

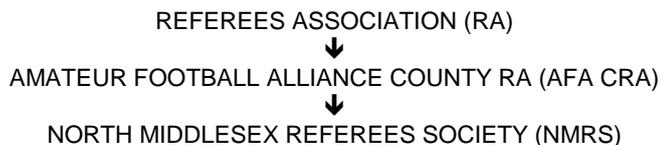
INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR SOCIETY

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.

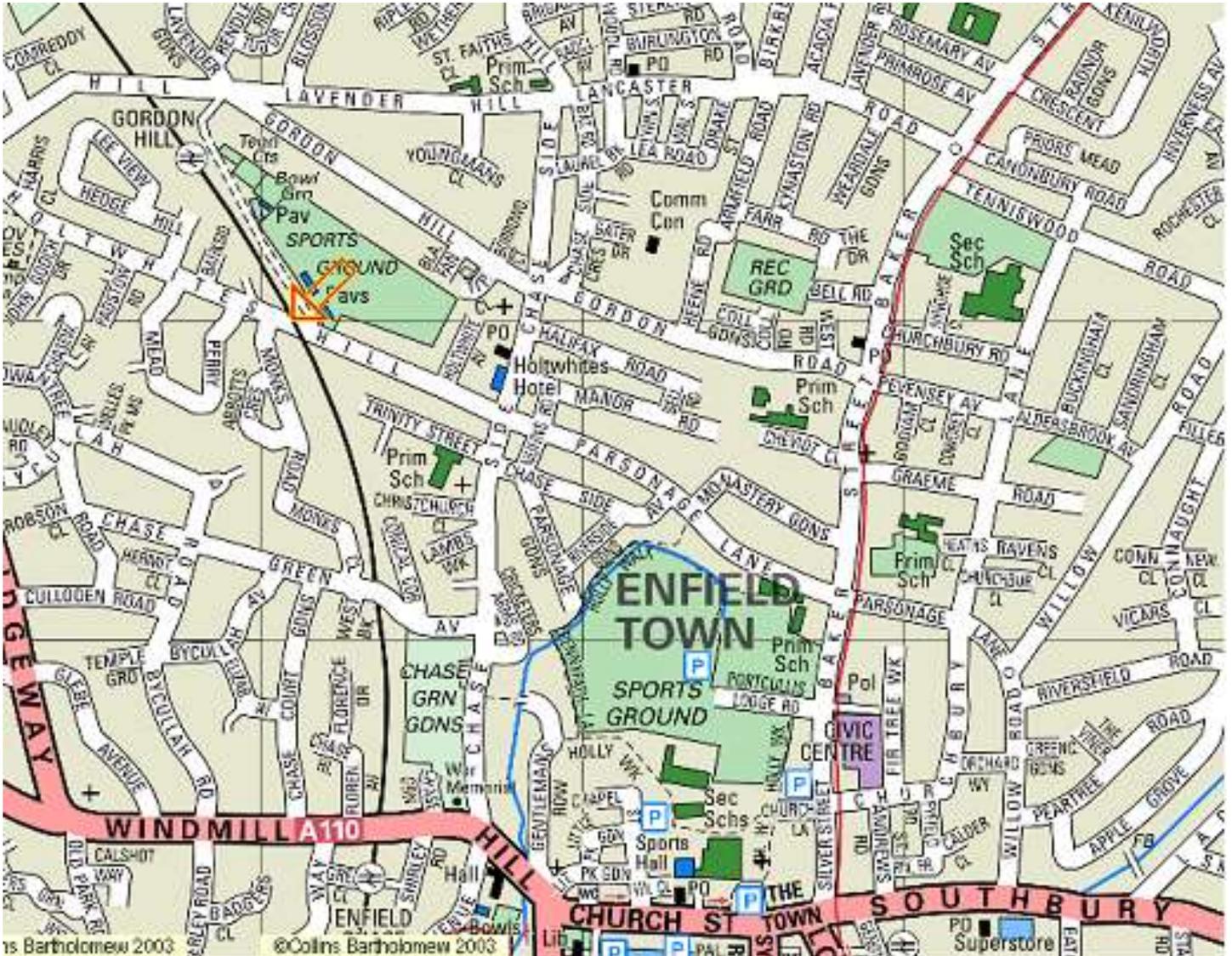
AFA	Amateur Football Alliance
AFA CRA	Amateur Football Alliance County Referees Association
CFA	County Football Association
CRA	County Referees Association
LFA	London Football Association
MCFA	Middlesex County Football Association
R.A.	Referees Association
RA-FA	Referees Association/Football Association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

Reviewed July 2014

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 2014/2015:- September 18; October 16; November 20; December 11 2014 (second Thursday); and January 15; February 19; March 19; April 16; May 21 2015



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

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

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

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

PERMISSION IS GIVEN TO REPRODUCE MATERIAL WITH A SUITABLE ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

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