

*The Normidian
Magazine
Season 2015/2016*



**THE
REFEREES'
ASSOCIATION**



December 2015

COUNCIL 2015 - 2016

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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.

For this month there is no Meeting but details of the January Meeting will be in the next edition of the Magazine,

EDITORIAL

This being the last Magazine of 2015 it is the time to look both back and of course if possible forward. Whilst not an annus horribilis for refereeing, it has still been hard going at times. I wrote in last month's magazine about outbursts by Managers against referees with the verbal attacks in pro football both continuing and possible increasing. There have been a number of high profile Referees' Societies locking their metaphorical doors and the Referees' Association membership dropping like ice melting through global warming. However we must all be vigilant to keep our North Middlesex Society going and I was delighted with the response with contributions I have received for last month's magazine and to enable me to get out both a December and a January edition.

Therefore in this Editorial I will be dealing with a couple of what I feel are unusual points. The first of these was something overheard in a grass roots game. The Referee awarded an indirect free kick for the goalkeeper well exceeding his 6 seconds, only for a defending player to complain that "I thought that rule did not exist anymore". To a certain extent he was right since virtually no-one takes any notice of this offence. Then glory of glories in a Europa Cup match between Liverpool and Bordeaux the referee penalised the Liverpool goalkeeper for holding the ball for about 20 seconds. Whilst not all of these punishments lead to a goal in this case the visitors achieved that result. Also overheard when an Assistant Referee was receiving instructions he asked "Is it allowable for the goalkeeper to be a pace in front of the line at a penalty? He was given short shrift by the other Assistant before the Referee could reply. However that is not the first time that has been suggested. For my own part I have a question about goalkeepers, It is why do the majority of Referees signal or shout to the keepers before the kick off to see they are ready when each of them is the furthest from the middle and will not be called upon unless as a rarity the attackers fire a shot straight from the kick off.

Finally in regard to the new interpretation of the Offside Law it is apparently expected only to apply at senior level with guidance to neutral Assistants although not at grass roots levels. But why? Is it not the Law the same there and are not the principles likewise the same? Can anyone explain this please?

There is little more to say here than that our Council wish all members and readers a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Ken Goldman

Editor

THE LONDON FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION has sent out this warning which should be helpful to all Counties and Associations. It is repeated here with thanks to the LFA.

Dear Referee

This is a general email to all referees that use Social Media, this is NOT aimed at anyone in particular and you do not need to reply to this email. With the recent events in France I have noticed a large increase on comments being made about the French incident and my advice to you all is.....

Be sensible on social media

Social networking websites, such as Facebook, Twitter and YouTube are now part of everyday life for millions of people.

They are used and enjoyed by people from all walks of life and it is an individual's right to use these sites as they wish, within the bounds of legal acceptability.

For you as referees, however, there are reasonable expectations associated with your position and standing within the game as match officials.

Unfortunately The Football Association regularly has to take disciplinary action against referees from all levels of the game due to inappropriate use of these tools to criticise, insult and even abuse other referees, clubs, managers, players, assessors and County FA officials, this also includes comments made about things that happen outside of football in the news.

It is important to understand that any comments or views posted on social network sites are effectively being made public and are no different from these comments being published in a newspaper or reported on television or radio.

If you enter potentially sensitive or critical comments on any social networking site, e-mail or twitter about colleagues, clubs, or players, or any other topic do you know where they will end up?

Nearly every time The FA has had to contact a referee about comments put on social networking sites the answer comes back: "it was only a chat among friends and it wasn't meant to become public".

The reality is that there will always be someone prepared to forward critical comments to the football authorities either to cause the maximum embarrassment to the author of the comments or out of a genuine feeling that what has been written is unacceptable or inappropriate.

As a match official at any level of the game, you have a responsibility to conduct yourself in a professional manner, on and off the field of play. Inappropriate use of any of these sites or e-mails may leave you open to criticism, comment, ridicule, or even a disciplinary charge, even if the matter is of a personal nature.

Be sensible on social media. So please think carefully before posting on any social networking site. The Football Association would not wish you to jeopardise your position as a match official by inappropriate or ill-founded use of such sites.

REMEMBER

Be sensible on social media

TEN QUICK QUESTIONS.

The 1st in a series featuring the leading members of the NMRS. The first, being our current President BOB MARTIN.

- (1). Did You Play? – Yes for many years.
- (2) To what standard? - Basically level 7 in the amateur leagues.
- (3) What age did you give up? –I was 45 when I stopped playing.
- (4) When did you qualify as a Referee? – I qualified in 1987.
- (5) Do you remember your first game? Yes I certainly do. It was at Enfield Playing fields It was Tottenham Tigers v. Southgate Olympic Youth and I am delighted to say that there were no problems, but my second one did have.
- (6) Approximately how many games have you officiated? At a guess it's something like getting on for 4000.
- (7) Are you still an active official? No unfortunately not, because of various injuries.
- (8) What administrative positions have you held? – I am currently the President of NMRS and previously was Secretary of one club for some time and another for about a season.
- (9) How long have you been a member of the NMRS? – It is now roughly 28 years.
- (10) Are there any Law Changes you would like to see happen? – Realistically I am happy with the Laws as they currently stand but I believe they have been tampered with too much over the recent years.

Early Fag

Carlisle co-owner Steven Pattison was drafted in as Assistant Referee for the Club's FA Youth Cup game against Doncaster Rovers and if that was not controversial enough he was involved in United's 1-0 win. As a qualified Referee he was asked to fill in when the match Referee Rebecca Welch went off injured but had the mortification of raising his flag as a late Rovers' effort had to be ruled out for offside. Doncaster's Academy Twitter page read "A few questions will be asked about that disallowed goal". Query was it sensible for Mr Pattison to take the flag unless there really was no-one else to do it. Some couple of years ago former Premier league Referee Steve Bennett whilst assessing the match Referee took over as 4th Official in a League game at Barnet also raising some eyebrows.

Adventures of Willy 'Red card' Woodwork
The Whistling Referee

Willie's Christmas Adventure

Willie woke up early for his match on Christmas Day
He was more than happy as it was double pay
His wife was in the kitchen in her hand a carving knife
But there was a little secret he hadn't told his wife

He should have told her weeks ago and to his wife's dismay
He tried to tell her gently about his match on Christmas Day
She said 'The family are coming and there's so much to do
I am telling you now I want you home at two'

He kissed his wife on the cheek as it was time to go
He walked to local park and all he saw was snow
But luckily for Willie the match did start on time
Everyone seemed happy and that was really fine

Reds Rovers versus Blues United what a match to referee
It may be a local park but to Willie.... Wembley
The players from Reds Rovers all wearing Santa hats
Willie told them nicely 'You know you can't do that'

In the very first minute and Willie showed a yellow card
A player threw a snow ball but he didn't throw it hard
Willie said 'I'm sorry but I must apply the law'
The player smiled at Willie and said 'You're such a bore'

'This is your final warning or the next card will be red'
The player replied to Willie 'I should have stayed in bed'
Willie took up his position for the indirect free kick
He stood just by the ball in case they kicked it quick

The Rovers player kicked the ball with almighty force
He was naturally convinced that he would score of course
The ball flew through the air and gathered with much pace
No one saw it coming as it smashed in Willie's face

**Motionless, unconscious our ref he did not move
Some players showed concern and hoped he would improve
Then suddenly a movement and Willie blinked his eyes
He looked at all around him and what a nice surprise**

**Willie was in a stadium and the loud speaker blared out loud
'Welcome and season's greetings to everyone in the crowd'
The stadium erupted as the teams appeared
'North Pole Wanderers versus Queens Park Reindeers'**

**'Please give a special welcome to our referee
Many years' experience as you are about to see
Who today will not receive his usual match fee
Instead he will be given a wonderful Christmas tree'**

**Half the crowd in red and the other half in white
It had to be said what a glorious sight
Reindeers, fairies, goblins and elves
Everyone singing and all in good health**

**Now Santa was playing at centre half
His shirt was too tight which caused a laugh
He took a shot at goal which I know it may sound silly
But once again the ball hit our referee Willie**

**Now Willie's wife was so relieved when the ambulance appeared
She just stood staring at the driver with his big white beard
The driver was friendly and so full of banter
When Willie saw his face he knew that he was Santa**

**The driver told Willie's wife of his accident
He explained that he was okay and that it wasn't meant
She grabbed Willie's hand and said 'This you have to see
Someone's planted in our garden a giant Christmas tree'**

**Now there must be a thousand reasons
For you to say this story is not true
But when you go to your next match
This could all happen to you**

*Enjoy your festivities
Willie*

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100 Club Draw

The November draw took place at the Society's Council Meeting and the numbers were drawn by Peter Dace resulting in wins for numbers(9) Robin Jagot & Jessica and (6) Tom White. [Don't forget you have to be in it to win it.]

RA MEMBERSHIP

Middlesex

Harrow 67: South Middx 23: West Middx 8 =98

AFA 88: Lonsar 40 =128

London

Fulham 12: Knights 15: South of the Thames 11 =38

This obviously shows the numbers supporting the RA have continued to fall and the number of Societies in our immediate area having likewise followed the trend to cease their meetings.

Remember

to raise this **Christmas**

Collect FREE donations for **North Middlesex Referees Society** when you shop online this Christmas!



We need you to...



1. Join

Head to [easyfundraising](https://easyfundraising.org.uk), search for us to start raising.



2. Shop

There are nearly 3,000 retailers on board, so pick the one you want and start shopping.



3. Raise

After you've made your purchase, the retailer will make a donation to us at no extra cost whatsoever!

Join, shop and raise here:
easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/nms















Flagging Up

Did you hear the one about a referee in a senior game being locked in the dressing room? The President of Trabzonspor was so angry after a penalty kick was not awarded against opponents Gaziantepspor leading to the match being drawn that he took that drastic step. Also drastic were the punishments against him being a 280 days ban and a £34250 fine.

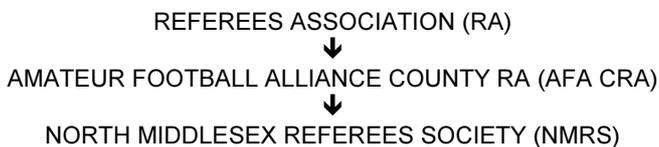
INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR SOCIETY

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

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

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

The National Structure for the Society is:



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

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

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

What are the Benefits of RA Membership?

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

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

Refereeing is a joint publication of the Football Association and the Referees Association. The publication is available on-line at the-ra.org/refmagazine.php. The magazine includes features and updates from the Football Association and items of RA-FA and RA news.

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

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

Note

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

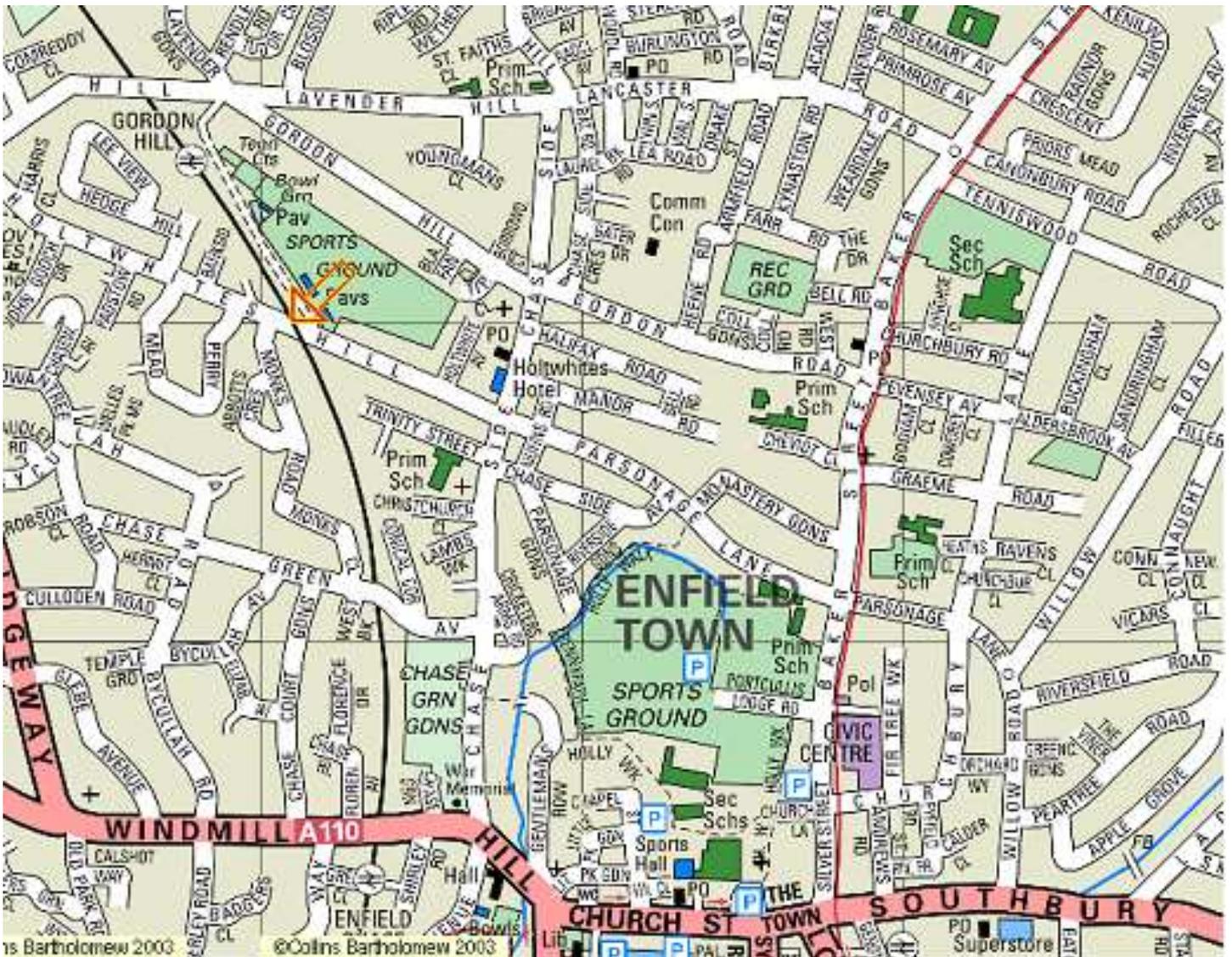
AFA	Amateur Football Alliance
AFA CRA	Amateur Football Alliance County Referees Association
CFA	County Football Association
CRA	County Referees Association
LFA	London Football Association
MCFA	Middlesex County Football Association
R.A.	Referees Association
RA-FA	Referees Association/Football Association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

Reviewed September 2015

MONTHLY MEETINGS

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

Dates for Season 2015/2016:- September 17; October 15; November 19; and January 21; February 18; March 17; April 21 2015; May - tba



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

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

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

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

PERMISSION IS GIVEN TO REPRODUCE MATERIAL WITH A SUITABLE ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

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