

*The Normidian  
Magazine  
Season 2016/17*



THE  
**REFEREES'  
ASSOCIATION**



*December 2016*

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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 at our Holtwhites address, on the third Thursday of January 2017 (see below)

### Editorial

As there will be no Christmas meeting, our Social again not being proceeded with we will reconvene in January with a speaker to be notified in our January edition of the magazine.

Some things remain the same because they were not changed in the revamp of the Laws recently which I will come to shortly. But first one referee is attempting to lead the way on all the things that have been changed and he is Mike Dean. Recently in a match between West Ham and Spurs he awarded 2 penalties, one from a drag at a corner and sent a player off. Is he now becoming Mike Dean the mean machine?

One of the most infuriating things not being picked up is the foul throw. On numerous occasions and in all sorts of levels the player taking the throw lifts his back foot which is neither picked up by the Assistant Referee where normally the instructions are to "take the feet" or the Referee, most of whom do not penalise either, the throw which does not start from behind the head. Added to that is my big complaint that the throws are not taken from anywhere near the right place and you have a complete mess with regard to this restart.

I am also amazed that players at all levels seem unable to comprehend that the ball must leave the penalty area when a free kick rather than a goal-kick is taken from inside that "box". So often explanations have to be given that one is left with the age old question, how can you play a game when you don't know its rules (Laws)?

One thing that has always puzzled me is why can a goalkeeper bounce the ball and it not be treated as playing the ball twice in his/her hands i.e. touching the ball after releasing it and before it is touched by another player. The answer although simple is that the Law provides for it, in that the goalkeeper is deemed in control of the ball when he/she is bouncing it on the ground. But that seems like a conjurer's trick and in event helps the keeper to use up time and we all know that virtually no referee blows up for the keeper holding for more than 6 seconds, especially in professional football. That would be a breach of "managing the game" an expression so beloved of many in the higher echelons of the senior game.

In one of the Flagging Up reports in the magazine recently I made reference to the Belgian Scientists' report which suggested that elite football referees predict where a foul will happen but less experienced ones are more easily distracted and focus less on contact zones. It has also been deemed to be down to simple experience so that the senior Refs can anticipate and direct their attention to where they expect something to happen. Some have also suggested that mistakes come from poor visual perception where something can be seen but not comprehended. This is a fascinating subject which I hope to be able to report more on in the next edition of the magazine, where I hope that members will make an appropriate resolution to tender some copy for this journal.

In the meantime there is Christmas to look forward to and as this is the last magazine of the year the Council would like to wish all members and readers a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Ken Goldman  
Editor

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**Flagging up**

A nightmare that most assistant referees fear is the player or players warming up on the far side of the field not wearing any distinctive colours from that of their team-mates and thereafter worrying about giving a mistaken offside. Well similar problems can happen to players since Peterboro’s Michael Bostwick’s accurate pass to what he thought was a team-mate on the flank turned out to be one of the security guards who wear the same colour as the players. If that’s the case I fear for the assistant referees when they appear at that ground.

.....

Port Vale midfielder Anthony Grant has been handed an additional 5 game ban and fined £2000 in regard to his recent dismissal against Fleetwood. After receiving his second yellow card dismissal in the 89<sup>th</sup> minute he went back onto the pitch after the game to remonstrate with Referee John Brooks. After serving a one game suspension for the 2 cautions he was then hit with the further 5 games ban for Misconduct following his unseemly behaviour.

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Two referees and an assistant referee have been suspended for 3 months by the Confederation of African football after poor performances in 2018 World Cup Qualifiers in this November.

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Howard Webb is among the candidates for the position of Video Assistant Referee with the Professional Referees Organisation (PRO). Whilst there is a certain amount of gearing up in regard to the possibility of the introduction of the VAR, a decision will not be made as to their actual introduction until 2018 or even as late as 2019 whilst the trials in regard thereto are still being carried out.

*Willie the Whistler - The Tale of the  
Christmas presents*

*I would like to tell you a story  
Which you may find hard to believe  
About a referee called Willie  
Who buys his presents on Christmas Eve*

*Excitement and anticipation  
As always on Christmas Eve  
Goblins, elves and reindeers  
For those of us who believe*

*The children write letters to Santa  
For the gifts their parents will buy  
But all Willie wanted for Christmas.....  
A cup of tea and a hot mince pie*

*Now when it comes to Christmas presents  
Willie didn't have a clue  
He always tried his best  
But simply did not know what to do*

*Now Willie's gift for his wife this year  
He knew he really had to try  
Last year was a disaster  
And Willie made her cry*

*He thought that he was clever  
Buying sexy knickers and a bra  
But as his wife undid the wrapping  
He knew he'd gone too far*

*He thought she would be happy  
With the lace and frilly surprise  
She said 'I'll never wear it  
A horrid colour and the wrong size'*

*'Your presents they get worse  
They certainly don't get better  
You once brought me a knife  
To open up my letters'*

*One year you brought a bonsai tree  
And that was a disaster  
I cut the tree then my hand  
And then I needed a plaster'*

*'The jewellery box that you now use for all your tools  
And the chunky knitting needles that I'll never use  
As for the pink wellington boots that were two sizes too small  
You really don't give much thought to presents for me at all'*

*'What about the year you said that I was not too slim  
So you brought me a membership to exercise at the gym  
Why you said those words to me no one ever knows  
The gym it worked a treat  
And you had to buy me all new clothes'*

*'Do you think that you are clever  
And that I will not be fooled  
Did you really think for Christmas  
I want a toaster or an ironing board?  
For years I have pretended but now I must admit  
I'll never use the banana holder or the jam making kit'*

*'You don't know my favourite colour  
You've no idea of my dress size  
If only you would talk to me  
And then I could advise'*

*'Do you know my favourite nail varnish?  
Or the size I take for my shoes  
If only you would talk to me  
And give me the chance to choose'*

*'In future give me gift vouchers  
That will be perfect, that will do  
I don't want to appear ungrateful  
Because you know that I love you'*

*Willie said 'I'm sorry but I would like to say  
In future all the presents I will buy in May  
But what the Spurs season ticket  
What a present I must say  
I should have had in August  
But you waited 'till Christmas Day!*

*Willie . . . enjoy your festivities and see you all soon.*

# Structural Working Group

In line with members' wishes in respect of Motion 6 at the 2016 AGM, a group representing a cross section of the RA membership has held their first meeting. Let us just recap what Motion 6 says:

That this Annual General Meeting recognises the ever-changing landscape of referee management with the Football Association and agrees to set up a Working Party to investigate and produce a report, by 31 October 2016, with recommendations to be put to the Annual General Meeting 2017 on the best future structure of the RA to prevent its demise.

*Reason: The Association has not responded well to the loss of its control of New Referee Courses, the employment of County-based Referee Development Officers, or the recent changes to the Basic Referees Course (and Mini Soccer Course). This inability to respond has resulted in the loss of 12,000 members in the past 15 years. At this level of loss of membership, the viability of the Association is in question. The FA has changed substantially over this period of time and, whilst referees at level 4 and above receive considerable support and CPD training, no such training is offered to referees from levels 5 to 8. This is an area that the Association could benefit from with a view to providing CPD training for grass roots (parks level) referees, thereby aiming to increase membership and thus save the Association from demise through the continual loss of membership.*

Over the coming weeks the team will be assessing from within our organisation, but also seeking outside views from our stakeholders. The RA is seeing encouraging signs of change and growth, and the Board is sure that the Structural Working Group will produce some progressive ideas.

**The above has been taken from The RA Newsletter on a subject which we have discussed on numerous times at our monthly Meetings.**

This Society has for a long time bemoaned the loss of the right to run its own courses which it did so successfully in the past and although the above extract does not in itself say that that right has caused the demise of several Referees' Societies there can be no doubt that it has.

The first big Society to go was LONSAR once the biggest in the Country which has amalgamated with the AFA and there have been several in Middlesex and elsewhere in the Greater London corridor as well of course up and down the country.

Therefore any initiative that can be given or produced by the RA or for that matter anyone else in the Referee world would be of the greatest help and indeed significance. Anyone who speaks with or to referees about their Societies bemoan the fact that most of the membership is in their senior years and that youngsters of both sexes are not turning up to meetings or not even joining Societies as our Secretary Robin Jagot outlined in last month's magazine.

From our Society's point of view it is essential that members do try to turn up to monthly Meetings which is not only good for the speaker but also encourages speakers to come to the Society. Likewise contributions to the Magazine help to keep that organ of the Society going and to ensure that it will continue, whereas many other Societies do not even have a Newsletter any more.

## Last Month's Guest Speaker

We were very pleased to welcome Keith Hillier or as he is better known in this magazine as Willy the Whistler Woodwork to address us on a subject of his choice. That was just as well as he decided to change what he had originally intended to portray and instead talked without the necessity of electronic implements or machines of any sort, about what here follows.

We had an unusual set-up with the audience ranged in a horseshoe shape rather than seated behind one another in the usual fashion. Whether this was intended for the original talk or the one that did take place was never quite made clear, but it certainly worked on the night and may be something worth considering for the future.

Keith opened his talk with an explanation of how the idea for the "Willy" articles came about and what they were intended to try to achieve. These he said had been culled from his own experiences, in match incidents and generally from all different places including simple inspiration. He then used a similar format to the articles which he said had also helped him in thinking of new ideas by offering questions and teasers to the floor. This had the effect of opening things up for answers, suggestions and comments which also gave an opportunity for members to join in with their own experiences. It was as if the Society had had its chance to have its own "You are the Ref". When this had run its course Keith then presented a poem he had written which finished with a great punch line concerning a Spurs season ticket given as a late Christmas present reproduced in this edition of the magazine.

Next Keith related his own historical journey as a young referee to his current status as a still active referee but also a mentor and offered to help any of the members, especially the younger ones should they desire it.

Finally our speaker took us through some history of the beautiful game by indicating that there were references in two plays by William Shakespeare about the football and how it had been banned frequently as it had even caused death quite apart from serious injuries. Two members of the audience read out the quotations to the ironic cat-calls from the audience especially as one of the plays was *The Comedy of Errors*.

This latter aspect only served to enhance the ribald tone of the evening which was full of cheer and good humour and fully and well received by the members present.

As Keith said at the end that he had not used his other talk he signified he would be happy to come back another time and render that. The offer was immediately accepted by all who had attended.

The Vote of thanks was given by your Editor.

## **The 100 Club Winners**

The recent winners have been:-

OCTOBER- No 11 Percy Brown-£15; No29 Tony Ward-£7.50.

NOVEMBER- No 19-Peter Allen -£15; No3- John Metselaar-£7.50

DECEMBER- No 13 Richard Martin-£15; No24 Terry Hayne-£7.50.

## **Late Flag**

Last time we brought news of an 80 year old footballer refusing to hang up his boots and now it is another octogenarian this time a referee who has decided to call time on his career. Ernie McGarvey from Broadstairs in Kent aged 81 says that after 64 years as an official having completed over 3000 games he is putting his whistle in his pocket for good. But like most of us he commented “It’s been my life. It is an enormous wrench to give it up”.

.....

Douglas Ross a leading Scottish Conservative MSP is in hot water for being an Assistant Referee in a Champions League match in Portugal between Sporting Lisbon .v. Real Madrid rather than attend a Parliamentary Justice committee meeting in the Scottish Parliament. Calls have been made for him to stand down from his front bench role as the party’s Justice Spokesman. [Query whether he is in line to get his just deserts]

.....

Referees in the top Divisions were due to be wearing rainbow laces in support of the Rainbow Laces Campaign in the last weekend of November. The campaign is to raise awareness in football of the issues faced by LGBT players and fans.

.....

Premier League Referee Andre Mariner has helped Bournemouth’s 2<sup>nd</sup> year apprentices to complete their Laws of the Game course. Those youngsters were able to referee small-sided games under his supervision before taking their exam where they all passed.

.....

Howard Webb made the extraordinary revelation on a BT Sport programme recently that a couple of players on a suspension had asked him to caution them around Christmas time so that they could be off over the Christmas period. Watch out for a review of Howard’s book “The Man in the Middle” in the next edition of our magazine.

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## NORTH MIDDLESEX REFEREES SOCIETY

**Minutes of the Society meeting held on Thursday November 17<sup>th</sup> 2016 at HWSC Enfield**

**Apologies:** Lockie Bramzell, John Metselaar and Roger Fox

**Chairman's Welcome:** Our Chairman welcomed members and our Guest Speaker Keith Hillier.

**Minutes of the last Society meeting** held on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2016 at HWSC, Enfield.

**Matters Arising:** None

**Secretary's Report:** The secretary started on a very sad note of the passing of two of our staunchest supporters of the Society Kevin Nottage who sadly lost his battle with Cancer in July and recently Life Vice President George Basten who passed away peacefully in September. The funerals were well supported by members and friends of the Society.

A slight decline in membership which stands at 45 members compared with 54 members last year. No news of great importance from the R.A. but interesting to note that they now realise the national membership figures are suddenly in decline with the loss of 12,000 members since 2004. They have also informed local Societies that David Elleray has decided to step down as President of the RA, who was elected to the Office in 2004 when the decision was taken to join forces with the FA which one has to ask was this really a wise move?

The good news is that the Society accounts are very healthy and that the Society 100 Club has seen an increase in shareholders. Please be aware that there will be no Society meeting in December and we return to the next scheduled meeting on January 19<sup>th</sup> 2017 with Daniel Lauszkien Middlesex Referees/Discipline Officer as our Guest Speaker. Finally I have been in touch with the PGMOL Office and it is hoped that we can arrange for one of their panel referees to attend the Society either in March or April/2017 Society meeting. It could be likely that we may have to change the normal schedule date to accommodate our Guest for the evening. We will keep you posted

**Editor's Report:**

Thanked those members who had sent in articles and that members continue to keep doing so.

**Gears Supplies officer's:** None

**Any Other Business:** None

**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:**

REFEREES ASSOCIATION (RA)



AMATEUR FOOTBALL ALLIANCE COUNTY RA (AFA CRA)



NORTH MIDDLESEX REFEREES SOCIETY (NMRS)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Note

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

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

**Reviewed September 2015**

## MONTHLY MEETINGS

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

Dates for Season 2016/2017:- September 22; October 20; November 17.2016; and January 19; February 16; March 16; April 20 2017; May - Tba



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

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

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

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

PERMISSION IS GIVEN TO REPRODUCE MATERIAL WITH A SUITABLE ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

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