

*The Normidian
Magazine
Season 2011/2012*



THE
REFEREES'
ASSOCIATION



February 2012

COUNCIL 2011 - 2012

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

The next Meeting of the North Middlesex Referees' Society will take place at Holtwhites Sports and Social Club, Kirkland Drive, Enfield, Middlesex at 7.45 pm on Thursday the 16th February 2012 when the guest speaker will be – Marvin Thompson who is the only Level 2 Referee in Middlesex.

EDITORIAL

The biggest talking point in professional football and so in all football as the subject percolates down is the front sliding tackle. The position has been highlighted several times since Vincent Kompany was dismissed with a sweeping tackle playing for Manchester City and which to the great consternation of all in the professional world, the dismissal was upheld. Since that time and there have been several high profile incidents shown on television, one being a tackle by Liverpool's Johnson who received only a yellow card, there has been a toning down of the dismissals for the particular offence, if not in the vehemence of the tackling. Most of these tackles of course have to be judged on their merits but the tackle itself inevitably means that the studs will be showing which in itself is highly dangerous to opponents. Added to that is the recklessness and lack of control in the majority of them. As someone who has attempted to lead a one- man crusade against this tackle I would not be too stressed to see a number of players wrongly dismissed for sliding into opponents front on if it would eradicate this tackle once and for all. If it could be banned altogether then so much the better. After all in years past players were taught to tackle standing up and the block tackle was the norm. Indeed defenders were urged by coaches not to "go to ground" except as the last resort. Now often it is the tackle of first resort and often there is an element of jumping in either with one foot or both. I would like to remind all reader of the article in our October edition by John Cartwright entitled "Tackling – a lost art".

Also the "box" has thrown up and highlighted further unhappy practices which have gone unpunished either because there is no sanction or because no-one is prepared to extend the laws. I write of players and managers advising referees by their mimicking that the official should brandish a red or yellow card. Again it is vital something is done about this, Perhaps the PGMOL should instruct referees to produce the yellow card to the players who come up to them and ask for an opponent to be cautioned in this way. Surely it is only a mild extension of unsporting behaviour. Further if a Manager or coach sets a bad example by doing it (and Mr Mancini please stop) they should be sent to the stands for attempting to influence the officials and causing possible crowd disturbances. A Manager who repeats the offence should then be banned for one game from sitting on the bench or as more often happens these days standing in the technical area.

I mentioned last time the new practise of placing the ball outside the arc when a corner is to be taken on the far side of the pitch away from the officials. This problem is getting worse and even Ray Wilkins in a televised game questioned why Buzaky of QPR actually took a corner off the pitch itself. If players continue at top level to cheat in this way surely it must cause a rethink as to the positioning of referees at corners on the far side. Some years ago the players could not get away with it because often the referee stood further to the left and not as presently directed

One more gripe and this time hopefully one where it may be of use and perhaps cause a little change in the relevant Law. Again it was a QPR match and the culprit was Joey Barton of Twitter fame. He was dismissed for head butting which both he and his manager strongly denied. However although there are grounds for dismissal for striking or attempting to strike an opponent there is no ground of "threatening an opponent" I am suggesting therefore that it should be added to the list of dismissals in the form of "threatens an opponent by word or gesture" since there might otherwise be a defence to acting in an aggressive manner which usually suffices for a caution.

I rarely borrow from other magazines but Graham Poll's article on the sin-bin is close to my heart and he makes the points I have been trying to get over on this subject for years.

To end on a more humorous note I saw that Brentford FC have been naming a goal sponsor every time one of their players hits the back of the net. In the match against Wycombe Wanderers the poor PA announcer had to mention the name of a local Italian restaurant. This leads one to consider other such adverts. You could have a shop being announced as a corner shop every time there was flag kick. Or a goal conceded could be sponsored by an undertaker and the list could go on and on. Also it is being suggested that referees at the top level are reluctant to play sufficient added time at the end of the match where one team is leading by a large score. This proposition was promulgated in the Times edition of the 30th of January this year with several statistics thrown in to suggest that "referees are shortening matches to spare the blushes of the losers". And you thought it was only me who griped in print.

Finally we should all like to wish one of our oldest serving members Bob Martin, a speedy recovery out of hospital, where he has had to return after a knee operation.

Ken Goldman

Editor

LAST MONTH'S SPEAKER

Our guest last month was Steve Stewart who spoke on the subject of "Character Matters in the Game" in a most lively and humorous manner, whilst being hardly still all evening as he perambulated amongst a satisfyingly large by present standards audience. Indeed those that did not attend lost out on a most enjoyable evening. As with most speakers these days it was a case of audience participation and of course our Society is not short of an opinion or three, so everything went well in that regard.

One of the main questions posed was whether Society impacts on the way character is formed this included the effect of and on the community itself and the impact of the media. For a referee he felt that there were certain decisions that had to be made about the quandaries of "Technical knowledge versus Skills and character" and "Good being the enemy of great". There were several more of these homilies which underscored the evening questioning our thoughts and actions when on the field officiating.

There were a list of 48 attributes to consider on the sheet of paper that he handed round and we were asked to consider which we would put in the order of personal choice and belief. Some of these were discussed before we were ushered to the back of the room where some 20 sheets were spread out by the speaker before the meeting began. We were all given a set of stickers to affix to the sheets containing our own preferences for the attributes we felt should be the watchwords of our own Society since Steve said each Society would have different views and choices. Well versed in this practise as he had done it before with several Societies he raised the sheets one by one. Those with the lesser numbers were discarded until there were 10 sheets left. Discussion then ensued as to the order of importance of these characteristics which we as a Society felt we could maintain as our own. Not everyone of course agreed with the order of preference but in a true democratic way the majority ruled. These were the attributes despite some overlapping in the agreed order –

Commitment; impartiality; respect; courage; responsibility; honesty; pride; mental toughness; integrity and finally humour.

To end his presentation Steve quoted Jim Tressell the Ohio State American Football Coach, who gave an address to his players just prior to their Rose Bowl final in 2003, and inspiring speech that helped his team to win. It was so relevant that some 70% of it was transferred into the mouth of Al Pacino in the film "Any Given Sunday".

A true football man Steve had come down from Liverpool to speak to us.

The Vote of Thanks was given by past President Terry Wilson.

PREVENTIVE REFEREEING-BY OBSERVER

We all approach our games in different ways. It would surely be a boring 'old world' if everybody were the same.

After seventeen years of dealing with the public as part of my job, mostly unfortunately in 'conflict situations', I will impart a few ideas which I try to put into practice in my refereeing, and which I find work for me.

Some of you will, I am sure, disagree in part, or completely, with my views. It is a sad but undisputed fact, however, that people leave our chosen sport and pastime by the attitude of a few players and officials.

Optimistically, I believe that the majority of 'amateur' players take the field for enjoyment, not to look for trouble. I endeavour to seek out potential 'flashpoints', and to actually be physically present when situations flare up.

By quickly moving in and giving suitable advice, the 'peace' can be kept, and I find you are thanked for it. If an action or incident in itself warrants a caution, then this must be issued.

This 'preventive refereeing' does obviously call for a level of fitness, and the purists will say that it does pull you away from your diagonal. Which is most important? I like to think I can just about manage both. Allowing for the fact that you are fit, even so, you can not always be at the 'scene' in time.

In a recent game, a long through ball left two players jostling. I arrived quickly, but not quickly enough to prevent twenty-two players wading in for a 'free-for-all'.

"Why are you standing back and waiting for it to finish", came the cry from the touchline. There is a time when you must stand back and collect your evidence. Had I gone in, I would possibly have been jostled myself; however, after a few minutes, there were handshakes amongst the sendings off, and luckily, no injuries.

There are regrettably, as in all walks of life, the incorrigible villains, who seem to be in the sport purely for the aggravation they can cause. Usually easily identified, there can be no compromise if your 'preventative refereeing' fails, and the option is the early bath.

With regard to dissent by word or action, the simple answer is I will not tolerate it. Both captains are left in no doubt at the start that whilst I will accept a bit of 'rabbit', once this is directed at me in a manner which I find unpleasant, questioning my authority or downright insulting, then a caution or a sending off will ensue.

In conclusion, I feel that it certainly is an art to be able to relate to and communicate with players. This art can surely be acquired with teaching and experience. I believe there is a case for initial and ongoing training for referees in the handling of players and conflict situations, as important as knowing by heart all the Laws of the Game.

Another thought. The referee is inevitably the first at the scene at an injury. It is his decision as to whether the injury warrants attention. Are we qualified to make this decision? How many times have local referees come across a 'sponge man' who hasn't got a clue? Luckily, I have been given basic First Aid training. Should this training be given to referees?

I hope this article has provoked a reaction. Personally, I am happy having done a game that has flowed well, has been enjoyed, and I have not been noticed?
After all, who comes to watch the referee!

@@

OUR OLD FRIEND MAXIE LEA ASKS - “CAN YOU BEAT THIS”

We have all been in football over many years and in over 60 years I’ve seen plenty; but can you beat these two?

In an under18 game years ago a defender hoofs the ball up field and my team shout hold it, so the team mate picks the ball up and we give away a penalty. Nonetheless we forgave him and he later became a professional boxer and a good one two.

Now in a game in the first week back after this last Christmas both teams were in a huddle and the referee blew his whistle to call the captains. Out of one of the huddles a person fully clothed attends the toss up and walks off. I have a chat as you would expect me to have and the enquiry shows that he is that team’s captain but is not playing because he is injured.

This leads me to ask the following questions-

- (1) Is he allowed to do that?
- (2) If the referee wishes to speak to the Captain who does he approach as the apparent Captain is not on the field of play?
- (3)

I can assure you that both incidents happened even though I found it hard to believe them.

Editor’s Note. Recently I called the Captains over for the spin up and was confronted by one of the substitutes, who I know captains that side. As this is a Masters’ League with on/off substitutes and I adopt the International procedure of spinning the coin myself I allowed this to take place, but it is certainly a “match incident” worth discussing at our monthly meeting.

The Adventures of Willy 'The Whistler' Woodwork

Part 15 – Same incident - different decisions

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

The match has just reached the hour mark and I was feeling good by how I had handled the match so far and I was now ready for the final third of the match which is normally when the tempo of the game can escalate, particularly when a match is finally balanced as was the case for my match today.

The Reds Rovers forward tripped the Cockfosters Casuals defender as he left his penalty area and I duly awarded a direct free kick in favour of Casuals. The Casuals defender placed the ball where the incident occurred and decided to play the ball back to his goal keeper who had a very powerful kick. As the ball approached the goal keeper he went to kick it but he missed the ball completely and the ball continued until it went into the goal. This at first slightly confused me but I knew I had the following options available to me, namely –

- a) I could award a goal*
- b) Award a corner kick*
- c) Award a goal kick*
- d) Allow Casuals to retake the free kick*
- e) Ask the referee on the adjacent pitch what I should do and finally.....*
- f) Always a good one.....a drop ball!*

'Goal' the Rovers players shouted and this put me immediately under pressure to make an immediate decision and I instinctively pointed to the centre spot. This then led me to immediately being surrounded by several Casuals players. "How can you award the goal" the Casuals players asked but I explained the kick was direct and had the same occurred in the other goal no one would have queried my decision. Of course that made perfect sense because a direct free kick is exactly what it says, meaning if the ball is kicked directly into the goal it is therefore a goal! Nothing confusing about that I thought. Those few words of wisdom made perfect sense and no one was able to find a reason to prove my decision wrong. There were naturally no more comments and we duly restarted the game.

Again I noticed the assessor making notes. On reflection he had spent a lot of time scribbling in his little notebook so I can only guess they were complimentary comments about my performance today. I eagerly awaited to read his report which would be sent to me later in the week.

Less than thirty seconds later I correctly awarded an indirect free kick in favour of Rovers just outside the Rovers penalty area. They say 'lightning doesn't strike twice' but it was a case of 'déjà vu' as the Rovers defender kicked the ball towards his own goal. The Rovers goal keeper was caught in total surprise of this and was looking the other way as the ball went passed him and into his goal. This time the Casuals players shouted 'Goal' and before any decision could be given I was immediately surrounded by players from both sides. I did my best to move away and distance myself from the players but to no avail. Ignoring my requests I had to caution one player from each side and only then with the threat of more cautions was I then able to finally award my decision.

This was the same scenario as just before but the difference this time was that the free kick was indirect and to state the obvious a goal cannot be scored direct from an indirect free kick. Despite being told that I was being 'inconsistent' I explained this to the teams and they eventually

accepted my decision and we restarted with a corner kick. Once again my decision confused players and a further caution later we were able to continue with the corner kick. I knew again that I was correct in law and in my mind I felt that was being confirmed as I watched the assessor scribbling yet again even more notes in his note book. At this rate he'll be running out of pages soon!

The following minute amazingly saw even further identical incidents occurring. On awarding Rovers a direct free kick a Casuals defender standing on his goal line prevents the ball from entering the goal by punching the ball over the cross bar. Needless to say I awarded a penalty and sent off the Casuals defender for deliberate hand ball. There were no arguments and everyone accepted my decision. Why would they not accept my decision as I was the referee and was one hundred per cent correct!

Unfortunately my next decision was strongly contested. The play went to the other half of the pitch and the Rovers No 3 attempted an over head kick. He did not make contact with the opponent but his boot went very close to the opponents' head so I gave an indirect free kick as I felt the defender had played in a dangerous manner. Unbelievably yet again it was a case of 'déjà vu' when the ball was prevented from entering the goal when the Rovers No 3 (him again!) decided to punch the ball over the cross bar.

No arguments when I awarded the penalty but much dissent when the player was shown a yellow card and not a red one. You can imagine the comments that were said. I was accused of favouritism and being inconsistent along with the usual of "You don't know what you're doing". That comment of course resulted with a yellow card. I attempted to explain the yellow card was for deliberate hand ball but in this case was not for denying an obvious goal scoring opportunity because the free kick was indirect and the goal would not have been allowed if the ball went straight into the goal. Again those words of wisdom from me finally made sense to the players and the penalty was duly taken and then saved by the goal keeper.

The message for this month would be to ensure you know the laws of the game well and that they are correctly applied. Giving a decision is one part but ensure you know the correct restart of play.

See you all soon,

Regards



Willy 'The Whistler' Woodwork

Willy Woodwork

EVERY LITTLE HELPS

By Mick Osborn

Some years ago a referee threw himself on the mercies of the Inland Revenue and admitted that he had never declared his income from his chosen hobby on the grounds that it was not much and that after paying his expenses he probably made a loss anyway. The friendly, charming young lady who listened to his confessions..... Now I know that this is beginning to sound like a fairy story, but I am assured that it is true. The friendly, charming young lady who listened to his confessions, said, in a nutshell, that he should declare his income and expenses and, - here's the amazing bit, - if he made a loss over the year it would be offset against his tax from his regular day job. The referee went home and did as he was told and, lo, it was true. It meant keeping a record of receipts and expenditures, including match fees, mileage (amount allowed by the Government was more than that reimbursed by the competition,) costs of attending meetings, disciplinary hearings, County registration fees, Referee society subscriptions, etc.,) and, of course, filling in a Self Employed tax form every year, but to his surprise the charming young lady was right.

Wading through the newspapers the other day, my eyes alighted on a small headline above a column on a financial page. "I got £172 tax back on uniforms" it said. The article started, "If you wear a uniform to work – whether a simple polo shirt with a logo or full attire for nurses and policemen – you could reclaim tax worth hundreds of pounds for this year and back-date it up to six years. He admitted to being swamped by readers' success stories.

To claim, it said, you must be required to wear the uniform while working and be expected to clean, repair or replace it yourself. Well, that sounds like the requirements of the majority of referees, don't you think? Boots, socks, shorts, shirts.... The standard allowance for uniform maintenance is £60.00 (for 2011/12), so basic rate taxpayers would be able to claim back £12.00, which is 20 per cent, and higher rate payers £24.00. The £60 is a flat rate, so you don't need to report the actual amount spent. And what about the accoutrements such as a stop watch, match record pads red/yellow/blue cards (and any other colour FIFA might decide on)?

The article ended with this advice: To reclaim, send a letter to your tax office. If you don't know the address, use HM Revenue & Customs, Pay As You Earn, PO Box 1970, Liverpool, L75 1WX. Write "Repayment Claim" on the envelope and detail your situation. More information is at <http://222.hmrc.gov.uk/incometax/relief-tools.htm>

Of course, I would think that, as a referee, you will probably be classed as Self Employed and the department dealing with PAYE unable to help. But you could go to your local tax office where hopefully you could meet a charming, young lady, keep more of your money – and live happy ever after.

I must admit to feeling guilty about telling you this when the country is in such a poor financial position but I'm sure that you will examine your conscience before making any claim. Please note I am financially ignorant and cannot be held responsible for the result of any action you may take based on any information provided herein.

Underneath the above article was another similar sized headline – "Reclaim £100s of lost Tesco points," but I've come to the end of my allotted space.....

MOTIVATION-BY OBSERVER

What has motivation to do with refereeing?

Motivation is the main difference between a good game, an average game, or indeed the worst game an official might have in a season.

It is the driving force behind every match.

That little bit extra that the referee puts into a Cup Final or the game on the local park when he believes there is an assessor watching.

Motivation is that additional effort and determination that should be put into every game.

One way of showing that motivation is important to a match is to indicate the times when there is distinct lack of it.

How many times have you heard the following comments at various times when in the company of refereeing colleagues?

"I had a good game last week, but I am only running the line, this Saturday."

"My cup tie has been postponed, and I've got this junior match instead, and I was really looking forward to the other match."

Do not these examples explain the point?

No doubt there are many other such phrases, which could be included.

To my mind, every game should be treated the same, whether one is refereeing or running the line. All must be equally important.

To the lads playing in the lower divisions of any league, their matches on a Saturday afternoon or Sunday morning are more important than those in the Football League.

They should therefore be treated as important by the referee. The fact that a better class of football is being played on an adjoining pitch should not be allowed to interfere with the referee in his own game. An official should treat every match as the most important in his career - as though it was his World Cup Final. If such thoughts put that extra zip into his performance then he is advised to use it each weekend.

The individual means of motivation is a personal thing, but I believe it falls into one or more of these categories:

- a) Love of the game.
- b) Personal satisfaction
- c) Advancement with the game
- d) Confidence.
- e) Pride in being as perfect as one can be.

The knowledge that one knows the Laws of the Game and is able to put them into practice gives the confidence to motivate a referee through a game.

The Referees' Association provides great help in stimulating interest amongst members, and to my mind every referee should join as a first stage in motivating himself for every weekend with the whistle.

A referee must be fair to all teams, no matter what the standard of football, giving his best whatever the circumstances.

He should always motivate himself which will inevitably lead to greater things.

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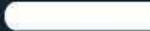
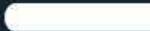


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North Middlesex Referees Society - One Hundred Club Membership

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



January

1st 20 Tom White £19.60 2nd 3 George Basten £9.80 3rd 5 Cos Fernandes £4.90

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

NORTH MIDDLESEX REFEREES SOCIETY 100 CLUB

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

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Gary Cobden
Honorary Treasurer



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The Vennearce Report

The Vennearce Report was written (April 1968) by two former Life Vice Presidents of the Society, Arthur Pearce and Owen Venning, and called for a radical restructuring of The Referees' Association. Owen Venning went on to become the first full-time secretary of the Referees Association. This months extract relates to the 'National Publication – The Football Referee'.

Criticism of this publication is not a personal criticism of its Editor, but of general R.A. policy in failing to exploit the medium to the best advantage.

On financial information put before Conference in recent years, the publication runs at a loss of £200 per season - £40 per issue – excluding losses sustained by Societies invariably being left with unsold copies on their hands.

An analysis of recent issues reveals considerable space taken in reporting presentation of meritorious Service and other Awards. Though not for one moment unappreciative of the individual work done and still being done by our “elder brethren” many would prefer to read about members still actively refereeing rather than those virtually “out to grass” – however worthily the latter may have served or are continuing to server our Association.

Talk to the average member and it becomes evident that he has little or no knowledge of R.A. Council workings or decisions and it is left to local magazines – often criticised for publishing information gleaned through the “grapevine” rather than officially – to try and educate members into believing in the R.A. and to inform them what, if anything, is being done for the membership.

The publication needs a much more commercial outlook – rather on the lines of “The Football League Review”; be of a size easy to fold and fit into the pocket; find a wider range of contributors; publish photographs where appropriately of interest; cover Council activities and decisions; and spotlight local Societies and/or celebrities, thereby creating a possible spur to greater interest.

The financial side must be soundly and commercially based; subscriptions to the R.A. increased to ensure every affiliated member receives a copy or, alternatively, the selling price based more realistically to cost of production. It should be a matter for concern that the number of copies sold in ratio to membership is as low as 1 in 50. Obviously there is need for reconsideration of the whole format and policy in respect of this publication.

Finally – and we are aware this is under consideration – the Conference issue is supplied only to a few yet it is one which every member should receive so that from the Annual Reports of Officers, they may learn what has happened to their money. Annual Reports of many organisations have to be purchased and there seems to be no logical reason why Conference issue should not be the “sixth of a series” and charged for at normal rates.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Do you or your Partner like cooking? Do you or your Partner have a favourite recipe? If so, then here is the chance to help the Society benefit to the tune of £25.00.

Denise has been asked, by a national cookery magazine, through Facebook, if she can get together about 8 referees/wives/partners of referees to submit one of their favourite recipes along with a photo of the dish and a photo of themselves. For every recipe used in the article the society will receive £25.00 - all that is needed is for the details to be sent to Denise via me at treasurer@northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk.

If anyone wants any further details or is a member of any other society who might like to take this on, Denise can forward you the details of the e-mail she received.

Gary Cobden
President and Treasurer



International Football Association Board (IFAB) Annual General Meeting

The 126th Annual General Meeting of the IFAB will take place on Saturday 3 March. The Agenda includes eight proposals and amendments to the Laws of the Game.

Law 1 – The Field of Play, Commercial Advertising.

Present text:- Commercial advertising shall be at least 1m (1yd) from the boundary lines of the field of play.

Proposed Text:- Advertising on the ground shall be at least 1m (1 yd) from the boundary lines of the field of play. Upright advertising shall be at least 1m (1yd) from the touch lines of the field of play. Upright advertising shall be at least the same distance from the goal line as the depth of the goal net and at least 1m (1yd) either side of the goal. All upright advertising within 5 metres of the boundary lines must be parallel to them.

Notes on the Laws of the Game – Modifications.

Present text:- Further modifications are only allowed with the consent of the International Football Association Board

Proposed Text:- In addition to the above modifications, subject to the agreement of the member association concerned and provided the principles of these laws are maintained, the laws regarding substitutions may be modified in their application for matches for amateur players in any age group provided that:

- i) such matches are solely for amateurs
 - ii) such matches are not part of the most senior domestic competition of a member association
- Further modifications are only allowed with the consent of the International Football Association Board

Law 3 – The Numbers of Players.

Present text:-

Proposed Text:-

If a named substitute enters the field of play instead of a named player at the start of the match and the referee is not informed of this change:

- the referee allows the named substitute to continue the match
- no disciplinary sanction is taken against the named substitute
- the number of permitted substitutes allowed by the offending team is not reduced
- the referee reports the incident to the appropriate authorities.

Law 3 – The Numbers of Players - Number of substitutions.

Present text:- Official Competitions

Up to a maximum of three substitutes may be used in any match played in an official competition organised under the auspices of FIFA, the confederations or the member associations.

Proposed Text:- Official Competitions

Up to a maximum of three substitutes may be used in any match played in an official competition organised under the auspices of FIFA, the confederations or the member associations. An additional fourth substitution may be used during extra time.

Law 4 – The Players' Equipment.

Present text:-

Proposed Text:- stockings - if tape or similar material is applied externally it must be the same colour as that part of the stocking it is applied to.

Law 8 – The Start and Restart of Play.

Present text:- Infringements and sanctions

The ball is dropped again:

...

Proposed Text:- Infringements and sanctions

The ball is dropped again:

...

If the ball enters the goal:

- if a dropped ball is kicked directly into the opponents' goal, a goal kick is awarded
- if a dropped ball is kicked directly into the teams' own goal, a corner kick is awarded to the opposing team

Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct.

Present text:- Disciplinary sanctions

There are circumstances when a caution for unsporting behaviour is required when a player deliberately handles the ball, e.g. when a player:

- deliberately and blatantly handles the ball to prevent an opponent gaining possession

Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct - Sending-off Offences.

Present text:-

A player, substitute or substituted player is sent off if he commits any of the following seven offences:

- (...)
- denying the opposing team a goal or a goal-scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball (this does not apply to a goalkeeper within his own penalty area).
- denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards the player's goal by an offence punishable by a free kick or a penalty kick.
- (...)

Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct - Cautions for unsporting behaviour (Subject to approval of above).

Present text:-

There are different circumstances when a player must be cautioned for unsporting behaviour, e.g. if a player:

- Commits in a reckless manner one of the seven offences that incur a direct free kick
- Commits a foul for the tactical purpose of interfering with or breaking up a promising attack
- (...)

Proposed Text:- Disciplinary sanctions

There are circumstances when a caution for unsporting behaviour is required when a player deliberately handles the ball, e.g. when a player:

- deliberately handles the ball to prevent an opponent gaining possession

Proposed Text:-

A player, substitute or substituted player is sent off if he commits any of the following seven offences:

- (...)
- denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards the player's goal by an offence punishable by a free kick outside the penalty area.
- denying the opposing team a goal or a goal-scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball (this does not apply to a goalkeeper within his own penalty area).
- denying an opponent an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by holding or an offence committed from behind inside his own penalty area when he has no opportunity to play the ball.
- (...)

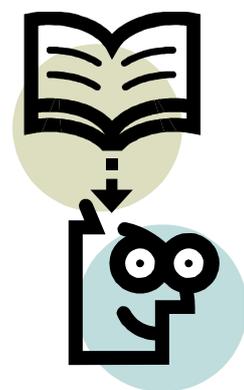
Proposed Text:-

There are different circumstances when a player must be cautioned for unsporting behaviour, e.g. if a player:

- Commits in a reckless manner one of the seven offences that incur a direct free kick
- Commits a foul for the tactical purpose of interfering with or breaking up a promising attack
- Denies an opponent an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by a holding or an offence committed inside his own penalty area when he has the opportunity to play the ball.
- (...)

Full details of the Agenda and Reasons relating to the above proposals can be found at:-

http://www.fifa.com/mm/document/affederation/ifab/01/57/76/27/6152ifabagenda_final3_withoutcrops.pdf



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

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

Tickets cost £10 each inclusive of a hot buffet

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



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



Council Members – A Reminder

You are reminded that a meeting will be held immediately before the February Society Meeting commencing at 7:15pm.

This will be to discuss Membership Fees for season 2012/2013.



SUCCESSOR TO ARTHUR SMITH (RA General Secretary)

To: All ABS & CRA Secretaries, Life Members

Dear Colleagues

1 February 2012

I am writing further to my letter dated 16 December regarding the recruitment of a successor to Arthur Smith.

A number of enquiries have been received as to whether the Board would be prepared to appoint on a part-time basis. Whilst this was not the original intention, it has now been decided to consider any applications submitted on that basis.

In order not to disadvantage anyone who may now be interested in the position, the deadline for applications has been extended to Friday 2 March. I shall therefore be grateful if you will make your members aware of this. An announcement to this effect will be included in the February issue of the RA News Digest and placed on the RA Web Site.

Anyone interested in the position should send their CV with a covering letter, marked "Private and Confidential" to: N. Genner, The RA Board Treasurer, 130 Lea Vale Road, Norton, Stourbridge DY8 2AU or email genner@totalise.co.uk. Further details of the position can also be found on the RA Web Site www.footballreferee.org or obtained from Mr. Genner.

Yours Sincerely
Colin Harris
Acting Chairman



INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR SOCIETY

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

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

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

The National Structure for the Society is:



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

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

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

What are the Benefits of RA Membership?

Insurance - The major benefit is the Personal Accident Insurance Policy. For a small amount, the insurance policy covers you whilst actually refereeing; travelling to and from a match; attending meetings (including travelling to and from home); attending organised training; and loss or theft of kit whilst at a match. Full details are available to members on request, as it is now no longer a requirement that each member who has paid the insurance premium is supplied with a copy of the terms of insurance. A range of increased benefits are also available - for an additional premium - and members should contact the insurers direct if they wish to take up these benefits. Additionally, active referees who are over the age of 75 can now be covered by the Insurance subject to an additional premium being paid. Physiotherapy insurance is now also available for a premium of £5.00.

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

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

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

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

Note

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

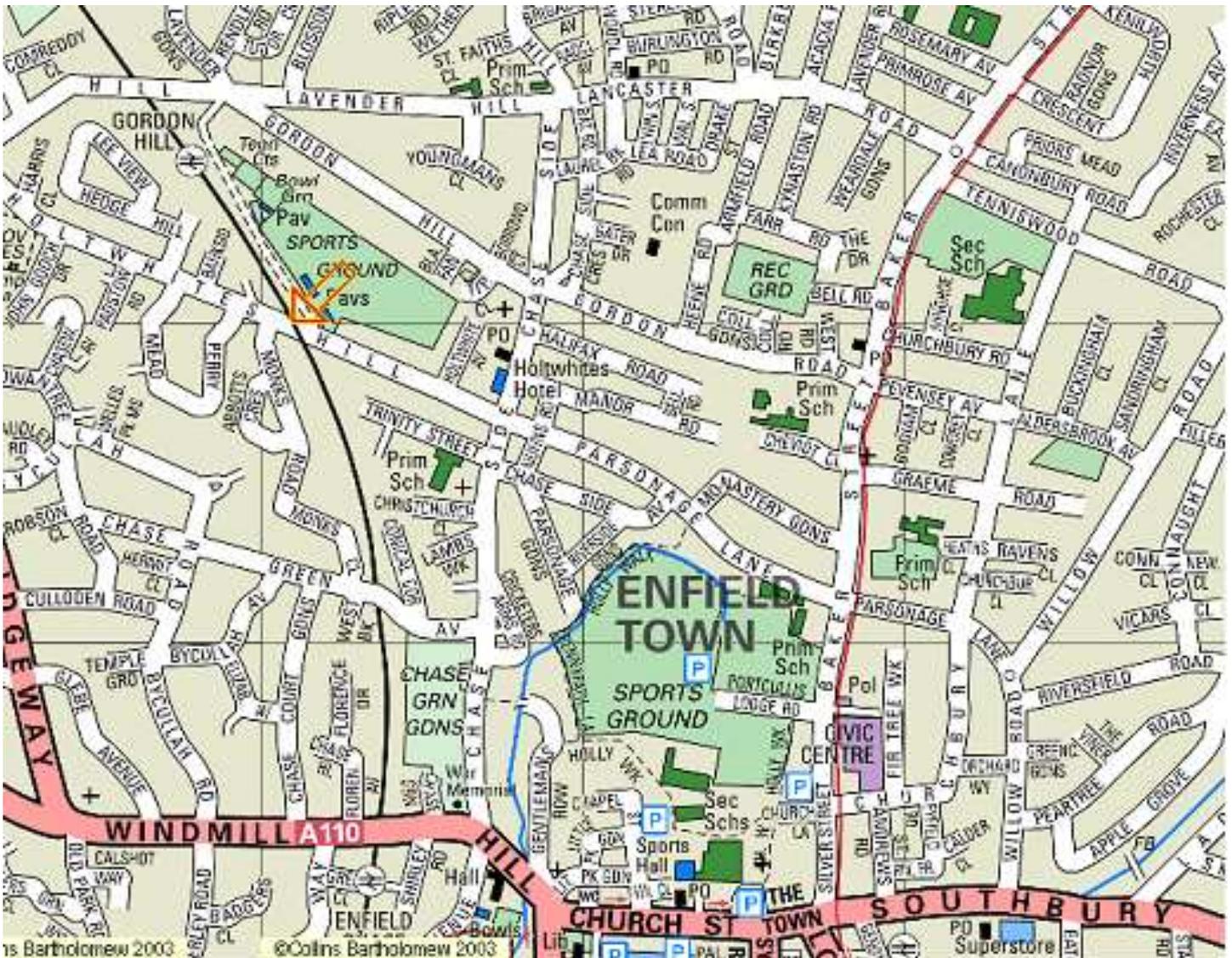
AFA	Amateur Football Alliance
AFA CRA	Amateur Football Alliance County Referees Association
CFA	County Football Association
CRA	County Referees Association
LFA	London Football Association
MCFA	Middlesex County Football Association
R.A.	Referees Association
RA-FA	Referees Association/Football Association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

Updated July 2011

MONTHLY MEETINGS

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

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



The venue is passed by Bus Route W9 and Bus Route 191 stops just a short distance away - direct from Enfield Town, and Enfield Chase; and Gordon Hill Rail Stations are only a short distance away. For fuller directions and how to get to the venue, see our website. See also www.tfl.gov.uk; www.nationalexpresseastanglia.com; and www.firstcapitalconnect.co.uk. If anybody has difficulty reaching the venue, and would like assistance, please contact one of the Society Officers – whose details are on the inside front cover.

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

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

PERMISSION IS GIVEN TO REPRODUCE MATERIAL WITH A SUITABLE ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

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