

*The Normidian  
Magazine  
Season 2013/2014*



THE  
**REFEREES'  
ASSOCIATION**



*February 2014*

## COUNCIL 2013 - 2014

### **PRESIDENT**

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

### **CHAIRMAN**

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

### **VICE-CHAIRMAN**

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

### **SECRETARY**

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

### **TREASURER**

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

**SOCIAL SECRETARY** Position Vacant

### **MAGAZINE EDITOR**

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

### **GEAR SUPPLIES**

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

### **COUNTY RA DELEGATE**

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

**TRAINING DELEGATE** Position Vacant

### **COUNCIL MEMBERS**

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

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

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

### **MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS:**

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

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

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

Jim Taylor 020 8560 8262

### **VICE PRESIDENT**

Stan Rosenthal

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George Basten Peter Dace Ken Goldman Tony Ward  
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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 Society will take place on Thursday the 21st of February 2014 at 7.45 pm. at Holtwhites Sports and Social Club, Kirkland Drive, Enfield, Middlesex when the speaker will be Ray Herb Middlesex County FA Development Manager.**

### **EDITORIAL**

There has been little opportunity until now to deal with the unsavoury topic of Managers at the highest level of the game criticising referees almost to the extent of asking them to be banished from refereeing their games. The most curious of these incidents came in a Southampton home match where after the game Adam Lallana reported referee Mark Clattenberg to his club for saying something to him that he thought a referee had no right to say. Instead of telling the player to forget it the "Saints" hierarchy were prepared to take it further. If the matter is not referred to the FA presumably they cannot intervene but it would have been nice for a spokesperson to informally state that referees put up with enough back-chat from players and provided that referees do not indulge in swearing or breaching any of the Acts of Parliament protecting various sections of the community he or she should be entitled to respond in an appropriate way which keeps their control of an individual or a game. In the end their complaint was rejected by the Football League but it reminds one of the old proverb that says *2 parents can look after 10 children but 10 children cannot look after 2 parents*; in the same way it appears that amazingly players can say almost anything to referees with impunity but a referee is not allowed to say anything to a player. These verbal attacks on referees seem therefore to be increasing and so whilst Southampton did originally not want Mark Clattenberg back, Manchester United did not want Howard Webb to officiate at any more of their games this season. When Sir Alex Ferguson was there such comments might have seemed commonplace and he received many an FA fine for them it was hoped after he retired so would the denigrations. But new United Manager David Moyes after one of his matches stated that his team were "playing referees as well as the opposition and that we are now beginning to laugh at them" for which he was duly sanctioned. As was Liverpool manager Brendan Rogers, for his post match comment that "Hopefully we won't have a Greater Manchester referee with Liverpool/Manchester games in the future". If Clubs from the top to the bottom, including at grass roots, can pick and choose their own referees all belief in impartiality will go and at least in England the belief has always been that if a referee makes a mistake it is an honest one free of bias or favouritism. The one main problem comes at grass roots level where sometimes the Referee Secretary sends the same official (usually through lack of numbers) to referee the same team twice in succession.

Ken Goldman

Editor

**NORTH MIDDLESEX REFEREES SOCIETY**

*ARE HOLDING A*

**\*\*\* QUIZ NIGHT \*\*\***

*ON FRIDAY MARCH 28th STARTS 7.45PM*

*AT OLD OWENS SPORTS CLUB*

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**ALL WELCOME**

*Please let me know your food requirements by Wednesday 26th March latest or if any special food arrangement is required- Thank You!*

# **GETTING A REPUTATION BY OBSERVER**

How does a Referee establish a reputation, both in the long and short term, that reflects all that he would wish if he could write his own reference?

Long term in the sense, that when his name is mentioned by players and officials, his capabilities are spoken of with respect and understanding.

Short term in the context of the actual game which he is refereeing in which one controversial incident seems to follow another and all in all the pressures on him are rather heavy, to say the least.

There is no easy answer, but it is a question, which you should all be aware of in your refereeing experience and one to which you may never find the true answer at all. Reputations within the context of one match are easily attached to us. This usually has little true justification, because club officials and players view the performances from a very narrow position.

How easy it is to be strong and courageous when awarding a penalty to the visiting team in the last minute from which they score the winning goal. One small problem - the home team viewpoint is totally opposite, you were incompetent and that you were conned because the forward took a dive. One game, one decision, but two diametrically opposite opinions, concerning the referee's performance in the same game.

Do we react?  
How do we react?  
Should we react?

Should we ignore it all and look forward to our next game?  
The matter should be given more than just a little thought, not too much but enough to ask yourself one straight question: "Was my decision given honestly, firmly and without fear?" If, as it should be, the answer is YES, then you have gone a long way towards establishing a long term reputation that has been mentioned above.

You see, football is a very emotional game and in the heat of the moment, when we have made controversial decisions, albeit honest ones, you are bound to please and displease in one and the same action. This must not worry you and you must accept it. Generally, initial anger of an aggrieved side will fade. It may not fade completely, but sufficiently for the long term view to be expressed that "We didn't agree with him last time he was here, but at least he was always fair, firm, fearless and consistent, and you can't really ask for more than that."

THAT'S HOW LONG TERM REPUTATIONS ARE BUILT.

## Retention and Attendance: - An Issue Affecting All Local Societies-

By Martin De La Fuente

Our society is suffering the malaise affecting almost all local societies. Membership and attendances are dwindling. I am associated with two different societies and I see attendance being a problem that both are trying to address.

The simple answer lies with young or newly qualified referees (NQR's). We need to attend the training schools, invite the NQR's to society meetings with a strong incentive. Once we have them at their first meeting, we need to make sure we provide sufficient interest to get them to return. ***We will not get a second chance to make a first impression.*** The best way to achieve this might be as follows:

1. We should identify the NQR's that are likely to be active and target them to attend their first society meeting.
2. Absolutely minimise RA business and officers reports. The time spent is tedious, boring, political, uninteresting and a completely foreign language to a NQR. At the very least this should be put to the second half.
3. We need to ignore national or county FA business unless it is essential, relevant and important.
4. We need our chairman to absolutely cut down any rambling from people who have irrelevant verbal diarrhoea. These people who insist on hogging the floor cause untold damage to our chances of retention.
5. We must provide more interesting content. With due respect to everyone, no NQT is interested in what happened 5 or 10 years ago. Equally, they are not interested in the ramblings of non-active referees unless it is relevant to today's game as an assessor, a mentor or an FA official. Also, NQR's are not interested in the way some old codger used to referee. What they want is advice and interest in the modern game.
6. We have always chosen to ignore match incidents from the top flight. This is fundamentally wrong. NQR's can learn a lot from discussion on contentious decisions at any level. Not every decision involves technology. For example, very few in-play red card offences involve technology or the use of assistants. Often the top-flight referee has to make a judgement on his own.
7. Better content is vital. Reviewing match incidents from various matches is far more entertaining than listening to someone ranting on about what we should or shouldn't do. With the growth of *YouTube* and other sites we have access to many lower league and non-league matches which provide a whole new world of content.
8. Our own match incidents should also be recent and relevant. We should invite people to talk about their experience of their last game (e.g. I recently had a Spartan game with 4 cautions and a manager sent to the stand).
9. Our NQR's need help and guidance on how to stay on top of their game and steer clear of trouble.



*The Adventures of Willy 'Red card' Woodwork*  
*The Whistling Referee*

*Part 28 –Yellow is the colour*

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

*If during the course of as a match and the referee has produced the yellow card on ten occasions.... yes ten cautions, does that mean the referee has lost control of the players or does it mean the referee is just having a poor match. In this match alone, if you had been counting the red and yellow cards that I have produced to date then we are certainly in double figures by now but was I having a bad match.....absolutely not! I was just applying the law and doing the job any good referee should be doing. I was still in control and would like to share with you the last few minutes when all I seemed to be doing was showing yellow cards but being totally in control of matters on the field of play.*

*In these very busy five minutes the first caution was when the defending players failed to retreat the full ten yards. My first two requests were ignored as was my third request. I had already paced the ten yards yet the players were still insisting that I was wrong. Players always think that their six yards is the referee's ten yards. As I was standing behind their 'wall' I took my note book out and made a note of their shirt numbers. I then walked in front of the 'wall' and told the first player that he was being cautioned for failing to retreat the ten yards and asked for his name. Meanwhile the other three players quickly walked away hoping they would not be cautioned. But of course I already had their shirt numbers so I had no problem locating them on the pitch as they attempted to try and hide behind their team mates. I looked around and checked that I had the correct shirt number and duly cautioned them. Was I being harsh?.....no, I was being correct in law.*

*On awarding the next free kick the players knew only too well they had to be the full ten yards. One player then decided to tie his boot laces. I asked him to move away twice and both times he told me he was 'just doing his laces'. The yellow card re-emerged and I told the player he was delaying the restart. He insisted he was cautioned for tying his laces but despite my explanation he did not want to hear what I had to say. Like most players they know the laws far better than the referees.....really, I think not.*

*I noticed one of the Rovers players waving to gain my attention. At the next stoppage in play I went over to him. 'Sorry about that ref, with the weather changing I just changed my boots so can I come back on now?' I thanked him for informing me that he wanted my permission to re-enter the field of play but told him he was being cautioned as he did not have my permission to leave the field of play in the first instance. He asked what*

*difference it made but if every player did the same how would I know how many players were actually on the pitch at any one time. Another yellow, another correct decision.*

*The Casuals goal keeper placed the ball on the ground ready for the goal kick. He then proceeded to drag his right boot over the line in the middle of the goal area. I immediately gave three blasts on my whistle and ran from my position on the half way line over to the goal keeper. As I approached him I could clearly see the mark that he had made and I asked what was he doing. He explained the mark helps him judge the angle when the opposing players enter the penalty area. He added he does the same every week as do most goal keepers even those at the top level. I explained it was deemed unsporting behaviour to make unauthorised marks on the field of play and that he would be cautioned. To be fair I have witnessed top goal keepers doing the same normally before the match and I have never seen the players cautioned but again I was right as stated in the law. You would have done the same.....surely?*

*Play continued until the ball went out and I awarded a throw in. Reds Rovers asked for a substitution and I immediately ran over to make sure the substitute entered at the half way line. I asked the substitute his name which I checked in my note book and then checked his boots and also had a look for any jewellery. I told the player not to enter until the player being substituted has left the field of play. I took my next position and the 'substitute' picked the ball up with his hands and preceded the take the throw on. I immediately blew my whistle. I heard the call 'That was a perfectly good throw ref. There was nothing wrong with that'. I explained there was nothing wrong with the throw but the substitution procedure is only complete after the player has entered the field of play. In this instance the player had not actually entered the field of play so the substitution procedure is not complete.*

*'Are you having a laugh ref?' I explained that I was not and yes, you guessed it, another yellow card this time for dissent but yet again I was just applying the law correctly. The fact is if the player had actually stood on the pitch and then gone off again to take the throw there would have been no problem. I can hear your mind ticking over and you are thinking I would not have stopped play for that but I bet you didn't even know about the substitute having to enter the pitch first.....did you?*

*Get reading those laws of the game again, it's a fascinating read.*

Regards

*Willy Woodwork*

*Willy 'The Whistler' Woodwork*

*P.S Would you have cautioned all the four players who failed to retreat the full ten yards?*

*Can you caution a player for tying his laces which prevented the free kick from being taken?  
Is it right to caution a player for re-entering the pitch who asks for your permission?*

*Can a goalie make a little mark on the edge of his goal area?*

*Finally would you stop play if the sub took the throw on without entering the field of play first?*

*What do you think.....was Willy Woodwork right each occasion?*

## **Stan Lover- an Appreciation by Peter Allen**

He was undoubtedly a philosopher a man of substance, vision and ideas. To him all life was a mystery, something to be studied in depth but also to be enjoyed. A deep thinker and analyst, his radical views about refereeing earned him much acclaim.

Not everyone initially agreed with him, considering his ideas to be too extreme. Over the course of time, however, much of what he proposed about the training and development of referees, fitness training, communication and a modern style of uniform is now accepted as standard.

Stan was born on 18th December 1925 in a nursing home at Blackheath, London.

His father came from Yorkshire, his mother from Stoke on Trent. Together with three sisters and four brothers they lived, during the depression years of the 1930's, in a basement flat at Kidbrooke Park Road, Blackheath and like most families at that time, life was very hard.

During his youth he was a good footballer, playing for Woolwich Polytechnic and also as a junior for Charlton Athletic. Unfortunately his playing career ended in 1946 when he contracted Tuberculosis which confined him to a sanatorium for many months.

His first job, after leaving school, was a shoe salesman. Further studies enabled him to qualify as a Chartered Engineer and Marketing Consultant. He eventually became Managing Director of John Ewart and Paterson Simons Group before joining a conglomerate, the Dowty Meco Group. Much of his working life was spent in the Far East and Africa.

I first really got to know Stan when he became Chairman of Lonsar, circa 1970, and I was Secretary and then Magazine Editor. It was necessary to work closely together and we became firm friends. We met regularly at the RAC Club in Pall Mall to play squash, snooker and chess. He was a formidable opponent.

As a young man, Stan was shy and somewhat a loner. Life's experience changed that and I found him to be gentle, quiet, tolerant, understanding and forgiving.

Football was the principal interest for Stan on journeys to more than 30 countries on behalf of FIFA. He was their official instructor and lecturer for international referee courses. He was also a consultant to UEFA concerning the training and development of referees.

Among his other interests, apart from writing and publishing 20 books about football laws, fair play and match control, were sailing and golf, being extremely talented at both.

He was also a gifted artist and sculptor.

When I think back over the years gone by, I realise how fortunate I have been to have had the opportunity of sharing in the life of this fine and honourable man.

His funeral took place in Paris, on December 16th 2013, where he lived for the last 40 years of his life. I was privileged to give the eulogy.

Stan Lover was married twice, first to Jessie who died in 2008 and then to Gilberte with whom he lived in Paris and survives him, together with his two sons Andrew and Peter and a grandson, Alexander, from his first marriage.

## Last Month's Speaker

Our "Guest" for our January meeting was our very one and only Vice President Stan Rosenthal who for many years helped me out for well over 10 years at the Society Training Centre along with examinations and Inservice Training programs at MCFA. Stan is still very much involved with the development of referees and has been involved with the appointments of officials on the AFC competition which is the largest grass-roots league in Europe. Stan was very much still in the festive spirit as he kindly bought along to the Society 10 Xmas Crackers which ensured each member present would receive at least one. Inside each cracker was a message of good will on International FA Board amendments and possible changes to the Laws of the Game. This evening a special NMRS Board was set up of the 9 members present. For your information the International FA Board consists of The FA, Scottish FA, Welsh FA, Irish FA plus FIFA 8 votes, 1 each, plus 4 FIFA votes who meet annually. Tonight it was to be the turn of the NMRS Board to propose, change or reject any such changes. Listed below are the Law changes and the decisions taken from each message retrieved from Stan's Crackers. A most entertaining evening, which was enjoyed by all. The vote of thanks was given by our Chairman Tom.

**1) Drinks Stoppage:** In all matches, if in the opinion of the Referee, there is extreme (hot) weather, he may sanction a suspension of the game once in each half for a drinks break not exceeding 5 minutes. The actual period of suspension is at the direction of the Referee.

**Decision of the NMRS Board: Approve – For 9 – Against - 0**

**2) Holding:** A player who deliberately holds an opponent or pulls the shirt of an opponent must be sanctioned for unsporting behavior.

**Decision of the NMRS Board: No Change – Not Approved:** present Law covers

**3) Observing 9.15m at a free-kick:** At the taking of a free-kick the Referee may mark a line 9.15m from the ball with an approved spray.

**Decision of the NMRS Board: Not approved –rejected by the Board unanimously**

**4) Offside:** \*A player may be judged to be in an offside position if he is: Nearer the opponent's goal line than the second last opponent and the ball

\* Less than 18yards from his opponents goal line.

**Decision of the NMRS Board: Not approved – rejected by the Board unanimously.**

**5) Caution:** If a player, substitute or substituted player commits any of the offences in Law 12 which would result in a caution the Referee shall:

\* Take the players name and show the yellow card - \* Send the offending player from the field of play to a designated neutral area for 10 minutes actual playing time - \*The player may return to the field of play on expiration of this period at a signal from the Referee.

\* The suspended player may not be substituted during this period - \* The minimum number of players shall be reduced by any player(s) suspended from the match.

**Decision of the NMRS Board:** To be only introduced at Senior Level of Football Competitions – Not at Junior/Youth levels of Football.

**6) Penalties:** At the taking of a penalty all players with the exception of the receiving goalkeeper and the kicker shall be in the centre circle. The only exception is the inactive goalkeeper who shall be within his own penalty area.

**Decision of the NMRS Board:** rejected by the Board unanimously.



**NORTH MIDDLESEX REFEREES SOCIETY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 15<sup>TH</sup> 2014**

**AT 24, TIVERTON ROAD, POTTERS BAR HERTS**

**Apologies: James Morris**

**Minutes of the last Council Meeting held on April 17<sup>th</sup> 2013:** Signed as a true record.

**Matters Arising:** None.

**Secretary's Report: a) Guest Speakers** – Secretary informed the meeting that responsibility for obtaining guest speakers will in the future be open to Council members to play their part and not left solely to the Secretary . It was also mentioned that while we have had a high number of quality speakers attending, the support given by members in attending has been at it lowest number ever during this season. This is embarrassing when guest speakers have given up their time which has for some of them meant travelling long distances. A decision was made to limit the number of guest speakers to the months of September, November, January, and March and also deal only with Official Society business. The months of October, December, February and April will be “Open Forums” for the members which will involve participation by all members on any subject of Refereeing including Match – Incidents.

It was decided that a New Lap-top will be purchased and supplied for the Society with immediate affect up to the sum of £400. Treasurer will provide a suitable 500Gb H.D./4Gb Ram facilities/model.

Council was reminded that at the May2013 AGM a decision was agreed that a second Auditor be appointed. Treasurer stated this was not necessary as one is only required, and felt it would cause delay in the process of providing the annual accounts. It was pointed out that it is only over the last two years that the accounts have been checked by one auditor. Previous years the Society's policy was for two auditors and that any decision made at an AGM is binding.

Secretary informed Society that Mr. Terry Hawkins who resides in Cheshunt, Herts, who like our Treasurer formally worked for a National bank, would be happy to fulfil the task for the Society.

The Society meeting planned on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April has been changed to 24<sup>th</sup> April due to Easter/Good Friday bank Holiday falling on the 18<sup>th</sup> April. The decision was taken to have practical training sessions outside on the playing fields of Holtwhites Sports Centre. Phil Sharp will be leading the training with lining techniques and other subjects will be Positioning and Confrontation. We will need to have a prompt 7.00pm start as the light starts to fade at round 8.10pm. Should Phil require assistance we would bring in two FA Licensed Instructors Stan Rosenthal and Keith Hillier to cover the other subjects on positioning and confrontation.

**Treasurer's Report:** Membership stood at 71 with 10 Associate Members. The treasurer then gave us a review on the questionnaires that had been sent out to all members and so far had received 38 replies. Feed-back had supplied some interesting requests and a full report will appear in the Society Magazine by the end of the season.

**Editor's Report:** Editor was happy to inform us that at the moment we are able to publish 8 or 12 pages consistently. We have however only 3 regular features along with the Society minutes. They are from Keith with Willy article and Observer which Charles submits and Gary. It would be nice to have some more contributors, including Council member to submit articles also. We were able to get magazines out for December and January despite the limited time with the closing dates. Particular thanks to Gareth at County H.Q. should be noted and recorded in the minutes.

**Other Officers' Reports:** None

**Any Other Business:** Martin de la Fuente raised the issue of retention and raised some very interesting points on what can be done to attract the N.Q.Rs. A report on this issue will appear in the February/March magazine. The Quiz Evening on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March 7.45pm at Old Owens Sports Club will be published in the next magazine and tickets will be £10 including the buffet meal.

There being no other business the meeting concluded at 9.30pm with thanks to the Secretary and his dear lady for hosting the meeting..

The next Council meeting will be on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2014 at the Chairman's home. Details of which will be sent to Council members in the near future.

**Chairman .....**

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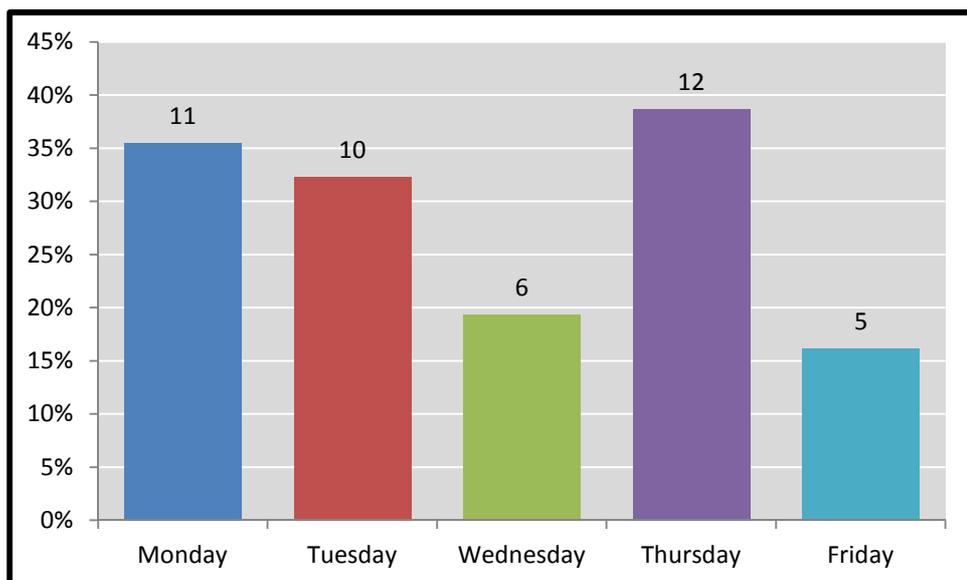


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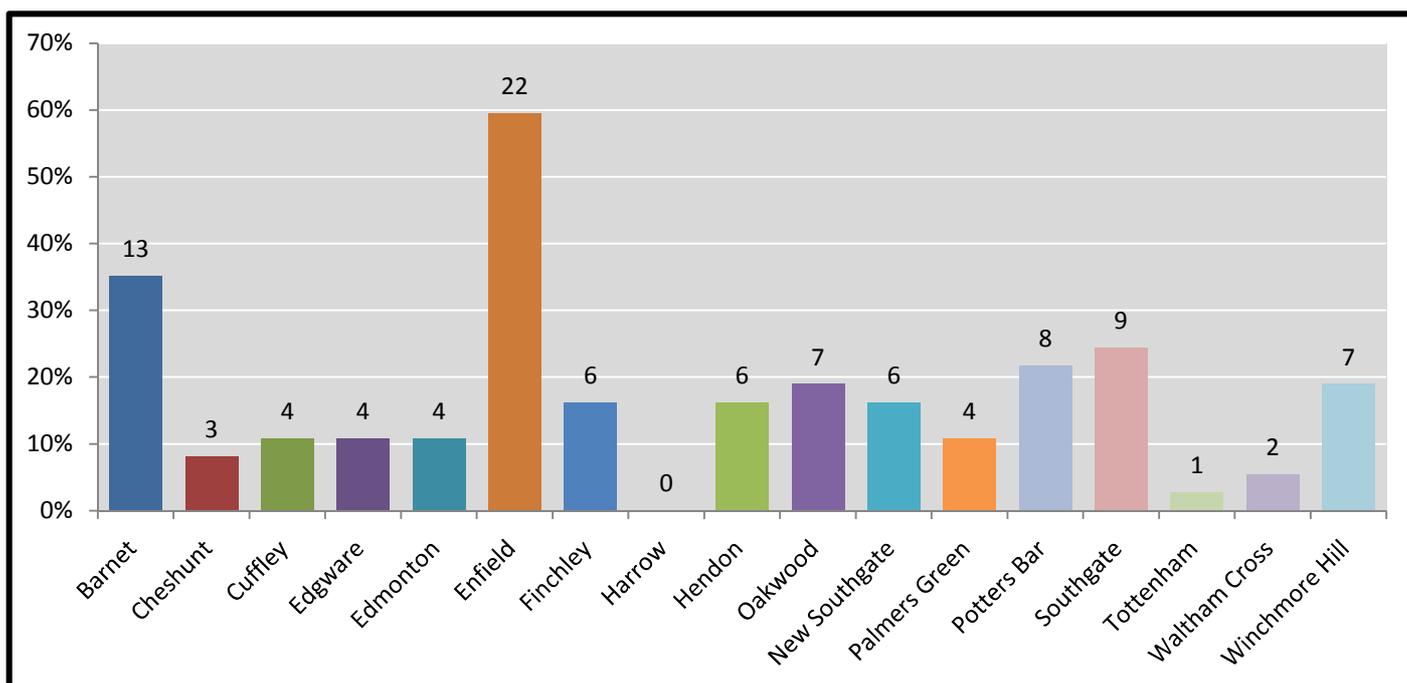
## Membership Survey – Preliminary Results

As you should all be aware, we have been running an on-line Survey to seek your views on what we are doing and what we need to do more of - or better. So far there have been 39 respondents to the survey; however the survey – which can be found at - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/FSD9WGP> - is still open for further responses. The responses to some of the questions are highlighted below – note some of the questions allow multiple responses.



The first question on the Survey related to the preferred meeting night – the question was:- The Society currently meets on a Thursday night; however attendances are poor. What night would make it easier for you to attend Society meetings? Thirty-one people responded with a total of 44 answers. Thursday still remains the most popular day, just ahead of Monday and Tuesday.

We then asked:- Bearing in mind the area covered by the Society membership, which area would suit you best for meetings? Thirty-seven people answered this question, but by far the most popular area for our meetings was Enfield.



One respondent remarked of any venue that ‘It would be helpful if it was near an underground station as well since the current venue is almost impossible to get to by public transport unless you live in the area. It surely currently puts off the younger members many of whom do not have their own transport or cannot borrow their parent’s car.’ We would reply to this comment that the current venue is actually on a bus route direct from Enfield Town, which in itself is well served from the surrounding areas. In addition there are two rail stations within a relatively short walking distance.

The next question then asked how people got to the meetings, and 35 people responded. The vast majority use their own transport to attend meetings, and a few people take the bus. One person gets a lift, and four walk.

The next two questions related to respondents age and time involved in the refereeing fraternity. Both questions had 37 respondents. Most members who responded are in the thirty to sixty-four age group. There were three each in the under 18 and 18 to 29 age groups and four aged over 65. There were seven respondents who have been involved for between one to five and six to ten years; nine involved for between eleven to twenty and more than thirty years; two for less than a year; and three for between twenty-one and thirty years.

We then asked:- If you are a young or new referee, what help or guidance do you need that you did not receive by default when you started refereeing, and what can we do to help you in your refereeing career? There were strong messages relating to mentoring and assessing resulting from the answers to this question. This will now be addressed by the Society.

Arising out of discussions held at the December social event we included the following question:- If we were to hold a practical 'training session' on the pitch in April, what would you like us to include to help you? There were three predominate streams coming from the responses to this question:- lining; positioning; and confrontation. With this in mind, we have moved the date of the April Society Meeting which was originally scheduled for Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April. The meeting has now been moved back a week to Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> April and will be an open-air session held at Holtwhites SSC. To make the most of the available light, the meeting will commence much earlier than usual - at 7pm. We should have light until around 8:30pm so do not worry if you cannot make it for 7pm as the sessions will be rotated during the evening. Further details relating to the meeting will follow in due course.

We are still hoping for more responses at the link above, so please let us have your views if you have not already participated in the survey which takes only a few minutes to complete. Any significant updates to the initial results shown above will be reported in a later edition of The Normidian.



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**North Middlesex Referees Society**

**for Season 2013/2014**

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

Draws for both December 2013 and January 2014 were made at the January meeting. The results are shown below, and cheques will be with winners shortly.

#### December

33	Tony Ward	£14.80
25	Robin Jagot	£7.40
34	Tony Ward	£3.70

#### January

26	James Morris	£14.80
9	Stan Szplit	£7.40
34	Tony Ward	£3.70



## **999?**

Following Manchester United's defeat on penalties in the Capital One Cup semi-final, Greater Manchester Police received a call from a rather intoxicated United supporter and subsequently issued the following press release:-

Last night, at approximately 22.30pm a man from the Crumpsall area of North Manchester rang 999 in a drunken state demanding to speak to Sir Alex Ferguson about last night's result.

Obviously, it can be a sad and depressing moment when you're football team loses a game, however can we all please remember that 999 is to be used for emergencies only. For any other police related enquiries that are not an emergency, you can ring 101.

If you would like to speak to Sir Alex about recent football results we here at GMP Manchester North can only suggest you try ringing Manchester United FC directly as you will probably (not definitely) have a much better chance of getting through to him there rather than ringing the police.



## **Euro 2016**

So, we now know that England are among the seeded teams at the Euro 2016 qualifiers. And the hosts, France, will be playing in the qualifiers despite having qualified of right. The rule change from UEFA sees France become the first host nation to take part in a Euro qualification phase. Their addition to the group-stage draw will create nine pools of six teams at the draw on 23 February, yet the games will be "centralised friendlies" with no points awarded. UEFA's new rule is outlined in Euro 2016 regulation article 21.02, which reads: "The teams drawn into the group of five teams will have France added to their group for the purpose of playing". Keeping on the Euro 2016 front, Gibraltar are also playing in the Euro 2016 qualifiers. So as not to exacerbate any political tensions with Spain, UEFA have ruled that they should not be pitted together in the same qualifying group. One wonders that – in the event that Spain should meet Gibraltar in the Final – although extremely unlikely – and Gibraltar were to win, would the border between the two countries be closed for good?

The same goes for bitter rivals Azerbaijan and Armenia, who have been at loggerheads since fighting a territorial conflict as the Soviet Union crumbled two decades ago.

However, Russia and Georgia, who went to war in 2008 have told UEFA that they would be "very happy" to be pitted against each other in a qualifying group.

As part of the qualifying campaign, UEFA will adopt the new 'Week of Football' concept. This will see a fresh new approach to international football starting with the EURO 2016 qualifiers and continuing with subsequent European Qualifiers, whereby matches will be played over six days – from Thursday to Tuesday. On double-header match weeks, teams will play on Thursday and Sunday; Friday and Monday; or Saturday and Tuesday. For the EURO 2012 qualifiers, only 26 out of 245 were played on Saturdays and Sundays; for EURO 2016 this will rise considerably to a minimum of 33% of matches played over weekends. And weekend matches will have staggered kick-offs at either 17:00 or 19:45. In the interest of fairness, countries will play a similar amount of games on each day of the 'Week of Football'; and in the interests of fans, the matches of top teams will be spread over the Week of Football so supporters can watch – for example – Italy on Thursday; Germany on Friday; and Spain on Saturday.



## **Brazil 2014**

At the time of writing, the second phase of ticket sales for the Brazil World Cup still has a week to run, and there have been almost 3 million requests with around 700,000 of those coming from outside Brazil. At the close of the application period, there will then be an electronic random selection draw. Applicants were able to apply for 62 of the 64 matches (the opening match and the final are excluded from the draw).



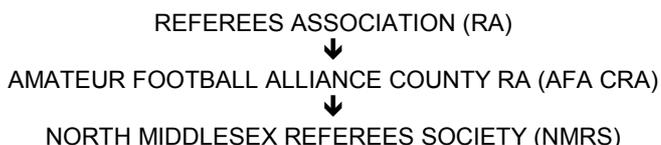
## INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR SOCIETY

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Note**

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

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

**Updated July 2013**

## MONTHLY MEETINGS

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

Dates for Season 2013/2014:- September 19; October 17; November 21; December 13 2013 (second Friday); and January 16; February 20; March 20; April 24 (fourth Thursday); May 15 2014



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

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

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