

*The Normidian  
Magazine  
Season 2014/2015*



THE  
**REFEREES'**  
ASSOCIATION



*February 2015*

## COUNCIL 2014 - 2015

### PRESIDENT

Bob Martin 155 Worlds End Lane, Winchmore Hill, London N21 1PJ 020 8360 7257  
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

Martin De La Fuente 7 Seasons Close, Welwyn Garden City Herts AL8 6YX 01707 321502  
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

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

Daniel Lauszkin 26, Hornbeam Rise, Poplar Grove, Friern Barnet, London, N11 3PB 020 3565 9772  
E-Mail - [councilthree@northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk](mailto:councilthree@northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk)

Position Vacant

### MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS:

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

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

### HONORARY AUDITOR 2014-2015

Jim Taylor Terry Hawkins (please contact via the Secretary)

### VICE PRESIDENT

Stan Rosenthal

### LIFE VICE PRESIDENTS

George Basten Peter Dace Ken Goldman Tony Ward  
Terry Hayne Brian Langstone Robin Jagot

Visit the North Middlesex website at:- [www.northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk](http://www.northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk)

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

**The next Meeting of the Society will take place on Thursday the 19th of February 2015 at 7.45 pm. at Holtwhites Sports and Social Club, Kirkland Drive, Enfield, Middlesex when the speaker will be Paul Field a Board Member and Treasurer to the Referees association**

### EDITORIAL

After the radio and newspaper criticisms of other referees by Mark Halsey and Graham Poll we now have the former PGMOL head of refereeing Keith Hackett stating that he considers the standard of officiating in the Premier League has become so bad that “the current crop of officials are the worst we have ever seen” and he wants five of the referees to be removed and that his successor Mike Riley should resign. The PGMOL has hit back saying standards have improved since Riley replaced Hackett 5 years ago and have thrown out statistics which they say prove it. They claim that 98 per cent of penalty area decisions were correct plus improvements in accuracy on major decisions up from 94.1 per cent to 95 per cent and offsides from 92 to 99 per cent during Riley’s time in office. One wonders if this is the same Keith Hackett who was criticised for contacting a Manager or Managers to apologise for errors committed by his referees whilst in office. However this is another spat we could all do without.

As can therefore be seen from the above there are some destructive forces at work that should not be happening. Are these the fault of how referees are trained these days and the advice proffered of such things as where to stand or where to position oneself. Many of us of old fogeys cannot understand why (1) the “Wide diagonal” or almost “double Z system” has been abandoned in favour of running almost a straight line between penalty area and penalty area (2) why referees at the top level have to stand level with the kicker at free kicks or level with the defensive wall and (3) why referees do not any longer get right into the penalty area at corners and sort out the mayhem there.

Are we concentrating less on game management than a tidy appearance and meticulous hand signals? At a recent referees meeting that I attended I was called a “Dinosaur” because when asked how to give a directional signal for a corner or a free kick I pointed to the appropriate area with a finger but did not do so with a closed hand sideways on. It was stated that this kind of thing would get a referee marked down for promotion even though his control was good. Surprisingly no-one criticised the guy who failed to give the proper signal for “advantage” saying as long as you approximate and shout advantage that should be good enough. Do we have a situation where those in charge of referee development cannot “bottle” man-management and managing the game and are cloning referees and assistant referees by making them all alike, in what they do and how they do it with regard to minor matters rather than the fundamentals needed to be in charge of officiating? Obviously looking smart and signalling properly is excellent in that it breeds both self-confidence and that in turn gives the teams and their management confidence in the man/woman officiating but that is no substitute for game management and not enforcing the Laws where appropriate. We had a great session on that latter aspect at our own last

monthly meeting presented by Stan Rosenthal so please have a look at the short report of that meeting that follows in the magazine.

Ken Goldman

Editor

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**Last Month's Meeting**

This was led by our own Vice President Stan Rosenthal on the Laws of the Game.

Initially the meeting started off with a discussion concerning the practical based learning course and the potential new changes concerning it.

We then moved on to the meaty part of the evening which Stan entitled words to the effect of whether there were Laws which were not being enforced and as a result should they be dispensed with.

He then showed film clips to explain and promote this concept and then opened each one up for discussion. It showed both the interest and the variations in thought that these clips provoked because the discussion on one of them lasted 20 minutes in itself. This was the contentious aspect of penalty kicks, so there were the twin aspects of the goalkeeper moving before the striker kicked the ball and encroachment. The views as to retakes were different and strongly argued as we went round the room and particularly interesting when one of the clips showed the Referee awarding two retakes in succession. There seemed to be few attending that would have been prepared to do that especially as it was the Assistant Referee who drew his attention to the goalkeeper's movement on each occasion. Also on the agenda was mass confrontations and there was one particularly nasty incident there, while the thorny problem of offsides also came literally into the picture. Another discussion ensued as to taking offsides from Club Linesmen as distinct from qualified Assistants. Stan indicated he was coming round to the view that he would want his Club Linesmen to be situated taking their own forwards rather than their defenders. Some of us felt that the opposite was best in that it is better to have a dodgy offside than a dodgy goal.

Quite frankly these discussion could have gone on for another couple of hours so much interest was there in the topics and as he had not finished all the clips Stan has promised to come back and show some more at another meeting. The Chairman gave the vote of thanks.

**Stan also mentioned a website entitled "Save Our Grass Roots Football" a worthy cause where we can sign a petition to help all those in parks football and grass roots.**

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

## *Part 37 – The yellow card sending off*

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

*When a player is sent off during a match the referee duly proceeds to administer through the sending off procedure and the player leaves the field of play and normally sits with the other substitutes on the bench. Funny how we still refer to the 'subs bench' as nowadays the bench are comfortable armchairs some of which are heated....really heated! (It is interesting to note that Arsenal only provide this for the home side and not the away team!). Other times we see the players storming off the pitch for an early shower and at least they always have hot water.*

*So what do us 'Sunday morning football referees' do? We go through the motions for a sending off.....we isolate the player and make sure we are still facing the field of play. We calmly inform the player the offence that they have just committed and request the player's name. A red card is duly produced in a non-confrontational way meaning one does not stick the card in the players face and hopefully the player will leave the field of play. Of course we also need to ensure the player puts on a track suit top to cover their shirt and most important keeps quiet and behaves.*

*I certainly know the process on how to caution or send off a player as I am sure the readers of this wonderful column know from this one match alone the number of red and yellow cards that I have produced. (How many have I sent off for this match because off the top of my head I have lost count! But if the law is applied correctly then I am correct in my actions).*

*The manager for the Casuals had continually disapproved of my decisions during the match and his comments were getting louder and louder and certainly more frequent. I had already spoken to him about accepting my decisions and not be so loud with his comments. He had not sworn at me and his comments were neither insulting, abusive or offensive but there were loud and becoming more frequent.*

*At the next break in play I again had a quiet word with him but within thirty seconds he again showed dissent. I knew I had to take the appropriate action.*

*As all referees should know a yellow or red card cannot be shown to one of the team officials but they are told that they will be reported to the relevant FA County. I requested the manager stand away from the touch line and refrain from making any further comments.*

*Two minutes later Casuals asked to make a substitution and to my amazement it was the manager who I had just asked to stand back from the touch line. Here he was waiting to enter the field as a named substitute.*

*The Reds Rovers captain approached me and asked for a quiet word 'Ref did you not just sent their manager off? He was constantly arguing with your decisions and you told him to leave what would have been the technical area. Was that not the equivalent of a red card?' A fair comment and that made me think. I did not actually produce a red card or in fact a yellow card. The manager showed dissent to me and had he been a player on the pitch I would have produced a yellow card for dissent. As far as I was concerned the manager or should I say player /manager was to be reported for dissent, that is a yellow card offence and he can play. I then informed the player/manager he was already on one caution and another yellow card offence would result in a sending off.*

*He nodded to accept my comments but questioned if a card is not shown does the yellow card not count. In a one word answer I said 'No'.*

*The very first touch from the newly arrived substitute and he kicked the ball as hard as he could against the opponent who was running in to make a challenge for the ball. The opponent just seemed to collapse on the floor when the full force hit him in the face.*

*This caused an instant reaction as the Rovers players run to me to demand this player who had only been on the field of play for a mere two minutes to be sent off.*

*Unfortunately other Rovers run over to the offending Casuals player to tell him what they thought of his actions. I knew I had to react and restore calm very quickly before things escalated.*

*A few loud blasts of my whistle and I managed to isolate the player who had kicked the ball against the opponent.*

*My initial reaction was to produce a straight red card but then I thought for what? Then I thought it had to be a yellow card but again I thought for what offence?*

*The offending player asked what he had done wrong. I told him he had kicked the ball at an opponent. He replied 'Yes, I did kick the ball and I kicked the ball at him on purpose but what law has been infringed'? That was a great answer or should I say question but either way I could not think of any offence that this player had actually committed. A player is permitted to kick the ball. There is no law that states the ball cannot be kicked against an opponent. Had there been a challenge either reckless or excessive force then the appropriate action would have been taken, but simply to kick the ball even with excessive force is not actually an offence.*

*I did take the opportunity to speak to the player and asked him to calm down and also reminded him he was already on one yellow card.*

*This then left me to deal with the restart which I deemed to be a drop ball. This was not popular with the Rovers players but with no offence being committed I knew I was correct in law and this was confirmed, I thought, with the assessor by the corner flag also making a few notes.*

*See you all soon,*

*Willy Woodwork*

*Willy 'Red card' Woodwork.....the whistling referee.*

*Well, was our referee correct?*

- a) Should the player /manager be made to stand away from the touch line after a caution?
- b) Should the player/manager have been showed a red or yellow card?
- c) Should the player/manager have been allowed to play?

*With regard to the second incident.....*

- a) Can a player kick the ball on purpose against an opponent?
- b) Should the referee have shown a yellow or red card to the player?
- c) Was a drop ball the correct restart?

*Remember this could happen to you next week!*

## News from the Football Association

# Football is for everyone. No exceptions.

Anything which stops people participating and enjoying the national game of football has to be tackled and eradicated. That is the commitment of The FA, as football's governing body in this country. A key part of our role on behalf of the game is to lead positive change.

One of the areas to be constantly fought is discrimination in whatever form against any group of people or section of our multi-faceted society. Much work has been done in the area of anti-racism, attitudes have been changed and it is now accepted that any form of racism is simply wrong. More than that, it is illegal.

Now, The FA wants to focus its attention on the issue of homophobia and transphobia in football. The game we all love is for everyone – and that includes Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay and Trans people (LGB&T).

That is why we are putting our full support behind the 'Football v Homophobia' campaign - <http://www.footballvhomophobia.com/>.

With the expertise of the Football v Homophobia team, this tool kit has been compiled because we want to bring the debate to the fore and, just like the anti-racism campaigns, ensure everyone understands homophobia and transphobia in football is unacceptable.

And, once more, illegal.

Read more at <http://www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/equality/football-v-Homophobia #EQVILPMVO1So3TA0.99>

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### **Important Reminder**

That under FA Regulations referees are only allowed to wear Black Shirts, Black Shorts, and Black Socks (with white trim)

Any referee who is seen wearing different Coloured shirts will be reported to their Referee's Committee where they have the power to bring sanctions against anyone who is reported to them.

If you have any question about the colour of shirts please see the FA web site [www.thefa.com](http://www.thefa.com) and under FA Regulations Referee Shirts, all your questions will be answered.

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## North Middlesex Referees Society for Season 2014/2015

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### Report on Referees Association County RA Meeting – 11 January 2015

A total of 55 delegates representing 31 County RAs attended this year's CRA Meeting held in the impressive new surroundings of the De Vere Village Urban Resort on the outskirts of Solihull.

As well as many old friends, there were 8 delegates under the age of 25 (with an average age of 20) but it would have been nice to see a much greater number of these younger referees from those CRAs present.

The Meeting began with Paul Field (RA Treasurer) giving a focussed recap of what had happened in 2014, and then outlining plans for 2015. The last section before lunch covered the major topic of "Value for Money?" - i.e. what benefits RA members receive for their annual subscription of £12.00.

Of particular importance was the planned roll-out in the near future of the new 3-year Development Strategy Plan. Details were still being finalised ahead of Board approval being agreed at the end of January 2015, after which full details would be circulated to everyone.

One suggestion was the introduction of a Young Person's Reference Scheme, whereby a Certificate would be awarded to certify that a young referee had taken on an Officer position at their LRA and had successfully completed a set period (say 12 months) in that role. Such a document could be added to that referee's CV and presented to potential employers at a time when there are big problems in youngsters finding jobs to start them on their career ladder.

Head Office costs had fallen from 51% of membership income in 2010 to just 11% currently, with a further reduction to just 6% envisaged by 2016. In the same period, spending on "adding value" (e.g. investment in support and training materials, plus the RA-FA Youth Council and its activities) had risen from 10% to 23%, with a further increase to 33% planned by next year.

The sale of the old Head Office at Unit 12 had put the RA in a very sound financial position. The aim was to maintain the robustness of that position in the long-term by ensuring best use of those funds in the overriding interests of all our members.

The afternoon session kicked off with a vibrant and upbeat interactive presentation by Tom Bowkett and Ollie Williams from the RA-FA Youth Council, before Paul Field gave an insight into the main theme of the day, namely "CHANGING the PERCEPTION", which aimed to show that the RA really could offer "Something for Everyone".

The day was completed by a lengthy "Have Your Say" session where all delegates could ask whatever questions they wanted on any RA-related topic, and various RA Board members gave what were hopefully satisfactory answers. By the end, the delegates in the room confirmed that there were no outstanding queries that they had been unable to raise on the day!

Topics covered included:

- whether the RA should purchase another office or lease premises instead;
- suitability of our current new Headquarters for RA use and purposes;
- how the funds from the recent sale of Unit 12 should best be used and/or invested;
- optimum level of coverage at RA Head Office (currently around 20 hours per week);
- ways in which the RA can become more relevant to referee development;
- additional benefits for younger referees (e.g. the proposed Reference Scheme);
- the possibility of an RA Development Fund to go alongside the RA Benevolent Fund;
- marketing materials that could be provided by the NRA to LRAs and CRAs;
- possibly moving the AGM from its traditional Friday afternoon slot to Sunday morning;
- the need for more frequent communications from HO (little and often);
- avoiding County FA events clashing with LRA or CRA evenings;
- the various ways in which members can obtain kit from Sporting Touch;
- best practice on those sad occasions when a LRA decides to disband;
- LRAs spending money on revival attempts rather than making donations;
- vote-of-thanks to Ian Davies for his invaluable work before his Board retirement;
- Board nominations need to encompass a wider range of experience and expertise;
- we need to get younger members on to the RA Board to more reflect our current membership;
- how to revive interest in the RA National Quiz, plus possible changes to the Final;
- the make-up of the RA-FA Youth Council and how it operates;
- the need for younger members to get involved at all levels: LRA / CRA / NRA;
- LRAs should carefully review the venue/content/timings/style for Branch Meetings;
- examples were given of LRAs who had been very successful in boosting membership;
- all LRAs and CRAs must conform to the Rules of the National body;
- the role of CRAs and their working relationships with their CFAs;
- overall approval by attending delegates of the lunch provision and arrangements.

No decisions were made about these matters on the day, but all the feedback received will help the Board to best formulate future RA policies. Any actual developments going forward will be communicated in a timely manner to all members. Watch this space!

Feedback since has been very positive indeed, with many delegates appreciating the more focussed "tell it like it is" style that was adopted on the day. Some harsh realities were conveyed and more than a few home truths were expressed! The RA still has some way to go in respect of turning things round, but this latest CRA Meeting seems by general consent to have been a very good start.

Please note - the slides from all of the presentations made during the day are available from Gary Cobden, Society Treasurer.



## **NMRS 100 Club**

Apologies for there being no draw results this month; the outstanding draw results will be published in next month's Normidian.



## **A reminder of the benefits from Referees Association Membership**

Entrance to the National Conference Day Event	Cost to non-members £25.00
RA-FA Events	
Exclusive membership of RA-FA Points Scheme	Maximum value £75.00
Refereeing Kit and Equipment at discounted prices	
Mentoring	
Development	
Newsletter	
Total Support Package	
Motor Legal Cover*	value circa £30.00
Comprehensive Insurance*	benefits £200.00 per week
Loss of Referee's Equipment & Personal Effects*	benefits up to £200.00



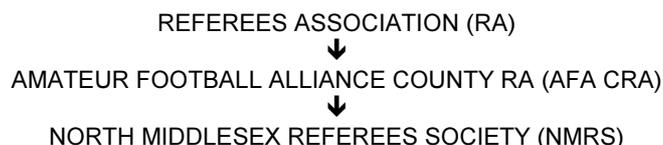
## INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR SOCIETY

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Note**

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

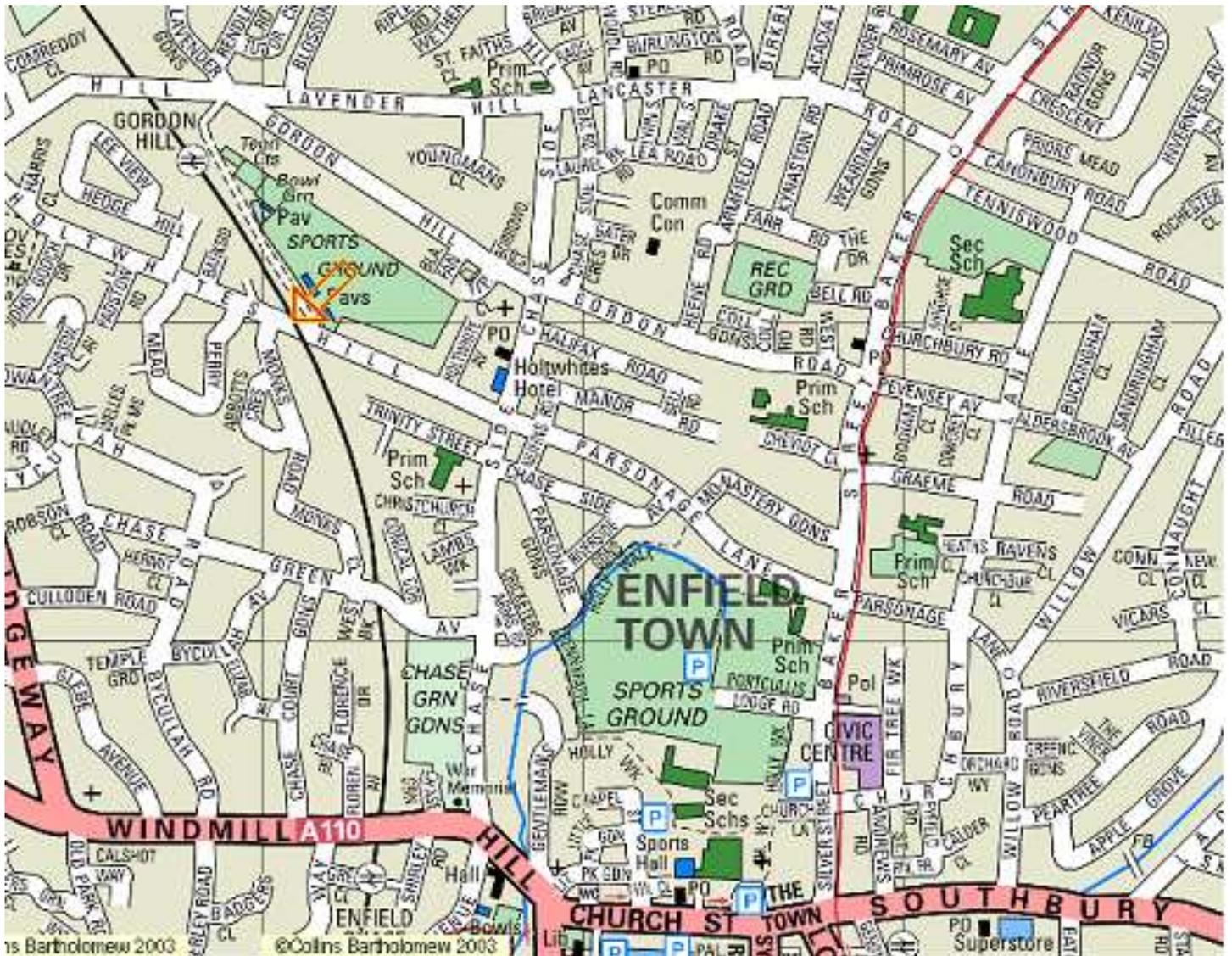
AFA	Amateur Football Alliance
AFA CRA	Amateur Football Alliance County Referees Association
CFA	County Football Association
CRA	County Referees Association
LFA	London Football Association
MCFA	Middlesex County Football Association
R.A.	Referees Association
RA-FA	Referees Association/Football Association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

**Reviewed July 2014**

## MONTHLY MEETINGS

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

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



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