

*The Normidian  
Magazine  
Season 2015/16*



**THE  
REFEREES'  
ASSOCIATION**



*February 2016*

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

**The next Meeting of the North Middlesex Referees' Society will take place on Thursday the 18<sup>th</sup> February 2016 at 7-45pm at the Holtwhites Sports & Social Club, Kirkland Drive, Enfield Middlesex when we will open the meeting to a discussion and Robin Jagot will bring his projector.**

### Editorial

Following on from my Editorial in last month's magazine details have now emerged with a topical event being a motion picture coming out entitled "Concussion". Thus the new FA's Guidelines on concussion have been published which obviously in the first instance are extremely important for referees. Whilst in essence most of what is entailed does not affect referees as such but it is stated that they are in the forefront of suspecting that someone may have received a blow to the head and may be suffering from concussion. As well know referees must stop the game in the event of a head injury and call on the physio presuming there is one available and then do their best to ensure that the concussed player is removed from the field of play in a safe manner. The Guidelines then have some excellent guidance to referees to comply with their obligations and suggest signs to determine if a player is concussed. Further if questioning an injured player what they may be told by a concussed player and what questions might be asked of he or she and the incorrect answering to those questions which might then indicate concussion.

Therefore any one of the following clues which are held to be vital can indicate concussion:-

- (1) Dazed blank or vacant look (2) lying motionless on the ground or slow to get up (3) balance problems/falling over/poor co-ordination (4) loss of consciousness (5) confused or not aware of play going on or other events (6) seizure (7) clutching of head.
- (2) Thus if a player tells you he has one or more of the following symptoms it may suggest concussion – headaches/dizziness/confusion/visual problems/nausea or vomiting/unusual fatigue/drowsiness or unusual difficulty in concentration/pressure in the head and sensitivity to light or noise.

In addition there are further grounds for suspicion if a player fails to answer the following questions either correctly or coherently –

- (1) Where are we now and especially what venue are we at (2) What team did you play for in your last match//where were you on this day last week (3) which half is it now/what time of the day do you think it is approximately (4) did your team win its last game (5) who scored last in this game/how did you get here today.

It is hoped by reproducing these Guidelines that it will give a better insight into this much troubling problems. If I can throw in another couple that were told me by physios they are- ask the player to count backwards from ten to nought and if you are aware of a player and he behaves in entirely the opposite way to his normal way of playing that is also a signal. This problem of concussion is now being taken very seriously and a Dr Turner of the Turner Foundation is interviewing players many of them retired from all sections to see whether concussion can ultimately lead to senile dementia. I have been personally told by two specialists that they would ban heading of the ball because they believe that heading a hard ball creates a mini concussion. Only time will tell of course, when these studies are completed.

It is very unusual to indulge on points related to Law 4 the Players' Equipment. However the subject came up in an unusual way when a group of Ladies got together and formed a team and

wanted to create a league which they called The Lingerie League in which they played with cropped tops and hot pants. The FA refused them to play at St Georges Park after booking a game and many people said their dress was totally in appropriate and was setting Women's' football back years. However no-one mentioned Law 4 which says that players must play in a "jersey or shirt with sleeves; shorts although Muslim women have been allowed to wear long robes and the hijab by FIFA and stockings" by which are normally meant socks and not the ones held up by suspenders that some of the women in the League played with and in. It seems that if these ladies wish to change the Law (and don't forget past President Blatter remarkably said they should wear tight shorts) then they will have to apply to FIFA for their own dispensation to wear erotic kit. What the hell- it made an interesting 10 minute feature on television and got Law 4 a much needed reference.

Ken Goldman

Editor

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Bob Martin President NMRS writes

May I take this opportunity to thank Chris Proud for his memorable account of his journey through his Refereeing life, and what an amusing, exciting, adventurous account it was.

Before a bumper audience Chris fondly recounted many situations that he had encountered with everyone enthralled and laughing, it was a true raconteur's speech and everyone thoroughly enjoyed a great evening, I'm sure I speak for all present and on behalf of NMRS thanks Chris.

**Last Month's Speaker.**

It was good to welcome back an old friend and leading member Chris Proud whose proposed appearance brought out a large crowd admittedly most of them as old or older than Chris amongst his contemporaries. We had Dave Ackerman a previous Chairman & President give the introduction to a man who needed no introduction to his especial audience. Then Chris stood up to say that and with his usual humour, he was going to speak about what he liked in other speakers when they concentrated on themselves, so he was going to do the same and we were going to get his football life-story. Thus from his first game to his last main one we got the insight into a proud man in both senses of the words including the good, the bad and the ugly. He brought out many smiles when his flow was interrupted on a few occasions by creating a new catchphrase "I'll tell you about that in a minute". It was typical of Chris that he ended with his theme for refereeing which was that he always enjoyed refereeing and tried to do it with a sense of humour in order to make the players enjoy it as well. He felt that perhaps the modern day referee at the top level did not always subscribe to that philosophy. The evening was so good that people stood around long after the talk was ended and photographs of the happy throng were taken

The vote of thanks was given by your Editor

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**JEFF TILL** writes-

At the last meeting I told people I was running the London marathon in April for the Charity British Lung Foundation and have committed to raising £2000.

I selected this charity because my sister-in-law Ann, died of Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer (aged 52) having never smoked in her life, following her diagnosis we realised as a family how underfunded lung cancer is, despite it being the biggest killing cancer in Britain the prognosis had been left pretty much unchanged for at least the last four decades, in short nothing seems to be moving forward for the treatment and prognosis of lung cancer.

It is known as the 'Cinderella' cancer/charity and not without good reason. The campaigns for lung cancer are too obviously linked to the causative factor of smoking. There is a general underlying and unspoken opinion that it is regrettably somehow self-inflicted and therefore less worthy of support because it could be eradicated overnight if only people stopped smoking. If only life was ever that simple. Research tells us that of the approximately 44,000 lung cancer patients diagnosed a year at least 10%-15% have never smoked. Yes there is a large proportion of sufferers that have smoked and research does tell us this undoubtedly increases your risk, but why is this cancer so 'blacklisted' for its causative factors by research funding. When all cancers have causative factors! The reality is that if you have a pair of lungs you can get lung cancer, "your mother or Father, your sister or brother your son or daughter, your wife or husband"

You can go to the Jeffrey Just giving page <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/JeffreyTill> or come long to a meeting and give it to him directly.

**Group Photo of North Middlesex Old Boys at the last meeting featuring Chris Proud (another will appear in the next edition of the Normidian). [Photo - by Peter Dace]**



### **A Treasurer elect?**

We have as Society, been very fortunate in having Gary Cobden as our Treasurer for many years. However at the last AGM Gary wanted to step down but as there were no takers for the post of Treasurer he agreed to carry on for one more season. Despite all attempts to persuade him to carry on further he feels justifiably unable to do so. We have therefore asked him to list the skills necessary for the post and these are listed below.

With regards to the roles of a Treasurer:

- Must have some banking/accountancy knowledge
- Must be able to do double-entry book-keeping
- Must be IT literate in order to operate the computer accountancy program
- Must know how to account for prepayments/accrual/debtors/creditors/stock
- Knowledge of Nominal Accounts
- Good record keeper
- Be able to reconcile bank statements to bank nominal ledger
- Be able to verify/calculate Cost of Sales
- Be able to verify/calculate profits or losses

There is also some generic information of Treasurer roles to be found on the web. –

Think that's it

Gary

If anyone is interested in applying for the office of our Treasurer could they please contact the Secretary.

## **Adrian Bland suggests-**

Firstly, I would like to say how much I enjoyed the society meeting last week. It has been a long time since I attended a meeting and it was very good to meet old friends and enjoy banter which has not changed in the 12 years or so since I last attended.

### **Is Football just a waste of time?**

I struggle with the current rule makers, The International Committee (IC) who, I believe, meets once a year to discuss the laws of football and then as far as I am concerned go and hibernate for a year and not watch a single game of football to see how their decisions have affected the game.

They have made some mad decisions, without thinking outside the box on how coaches will circumnavigate the laws to their own advantage. I call it cheating, others maybe more polite!

When the game is stopped the flow of the game is interrupted and that benefits the team that are winning. The referee adding on time does not compensate for this break-up of the game but luckily the laws of the game are very rich under law 12 which includes delaying the start of play.

But why do referees largely choose to ignore this law?

What on earth did the I.C. think would happen if a goal kick can be taken from either side of the goal area? Just maybe a team that is winning will take the kick from the furthest point from where the ball is retrieved? Okay the referee can't stop this from happening but they can issue a caution for "delaying the restart of play" – Has anyone seen this happen when the goalkeeper ambles to position the ball? This law needs to be amended to stop this time wasting practice.

Has anyone noticed that players (or more probably coaches) have wised up to getting a caution from kicking the ball away? So what do they do now? To delay the free-kick they flick the ball away so that it takes some retrieving or pick the ball up and argue with the player they have just fouled / a team mate / the referee or someone else. It is specifically stated in the laws "excessively delaying the taking of a throw-in or free kick" should result in a caution – How many players have you seen cautioned for this offence?

I thought the "shaving foam" line at free kicks was a great idea, however, bad policing has meant that the game now comes to a complete standstill. On awarding a free kick at least one player will immediately stand a yard from where the free kick is due to be taken. The referee only moves him back after he has measured the 10 yards and painted his magic line. This means that there is no chance of a quick free kick.

Incidentally I did see a very good bit of refereeing at Loftus Road last weekend where the referee on awarding a free kick immediately marked where the ball was to be placed and then quickly moved the 10 yards and marked a small dash. The late great Ken Aston always said be the first brick in the wall to get the wall back 10 yards quickly. Unfortunately this good refereeing was not followed through and the players were allowed to retreat the 10 yards in their own time. In rugby if a player does not immediately retreat 10 yards a penalty is awarded – the players do not hang about to be told to retreat!

Please can someone tell me where the "rule" comes from that a referee allows 30 seconds for each substitution? It's not mentioned in the laws or the decisions; the only place I found it was that someone from the PGMO made a statement about how long to add on for substitutions– Are the PGMO intrusted with making the laws of the game?

From the football I see I would guess this 30 seconds is the yardstick used in calculating "injury time". Again at Loftus Road we saw the two extremes of a substitution; A player had gone off injured and was deemed not fit to continue so at the next stoppage in the game the sub was waved on; total time of substitution was a couple of seconds. We then had a substitution from the team that was winning. The number board went up and amazingly the right back found himself on the left wing, furthest from the dugout and was totally surprised to be substituted. As he took the slowest walk from the pitch he waved to his team's fans, waved to each of the other 3 stands, shook hands with his goalkeeper and centre forward, rolled his socks down, shook the referees hand and then continued his amble off the pitch. The substitution took a week.

The answer is simple the referee stops his watch for as long as the substitution takes bearing in mind the law states "delaying leaving the field of play when being substituted" is a cautionable offence.

I have always agreed that a goal is a special thing (especially the endangered species of a QPR goal!) and can put up with the silly dance routine, badge kissing of a player who will be off next week to a rival club etc. But why do we have to put up with the one player who always ambles back to his own half when players from both sides have been ready to kick off for quite some time. Cards come out for taking a shirt off and celebrating with the crowd, why not caution the offence of excessively delaying the restart of play.

Also, on goals we now regularly see the unsightly scramble as a defender and attacker try to fight for the ball to get it back to the centre spot as quickly / slowly as possible. Again the laws are quite clear "provoking a confrontation by deliberately touching the ball after the referee has stopped play" is a cautionable offence. Simple only the team conceding the goal can take the kick off and so the scoring team should leave the ball alone. The referee, if necessary, cautions players from either side who delay the restart of play.

Finally (almost) my absolute bugbear is the treatment of players on (or off the pitch). The committee who thought up this one must have had a long day and passed this change to the law without consideration so they could get down to the pub! The law states that "a player is not allowed to receive treatment on the field of play". Now let's forget about serious injuries because obviously they are completely different. In practice what happens is that the referee calls on the "physio" who then gives the player 100% of the treatment he needs on the pitch and then the player walks slowly off the pitch to miraculously recover and return to the action 1 second after the game is restarted by the referee.

Firstly did the rules committee not have the foresight to think what about if a player is fouled and needs treatment, why should the team that has been sinned against be disadvantaged and down to 10 players?

The laws state that play should only be stopped when a "player is seriously injured". Now I know referees are not doctors and should urge on the cautious side, but I am seeing more and more games being stopped by referees for obviously minor injuries. It is not great when the referee stops play with you in possession near the opponent's goal and the resulting uncontested drop ball results in your goalkeeper taking a goal kick!

Please return to the old law where the referee decides how much treatment the player can have on the pitch and when he should go off to complete his treatment.

There used to be an FA charge of bringing the game into disrepute for serious offences that took place on the pitch which the officials have not seen. I think the harshest penalties should apply to any player that is shown to feign injury anytime on the pitch. This goes beyond the current rule which only results in a ban if a players cheating gets another sent off. Charge the player that rolls around trying to claim a foul and when it is not given gets up and immediately jumps up and re-joins the game at 100 miles per hour. Charge the player who causes the game to be stopped and then does not even require treatment.

Unfortunately the officiating has become so lax, obviously ordered from above, that drastic measures need to be taken to “regain the game”. A couple of weeks of yellow / red cards will sort this out! In previous years the FA ordered referees to crack down on certain offences. I would like the FA to get the referees to referee to the laws of the game.

Very finally, if you are still reading this article, I have already awarded the worst piece of refereeing this season to the referee that eventually cautioned a goalkeeper for time wasting 2 minutes into 3 minutes of added time; he then decided to run 40 yards to lecture the keeper and waste even more time!

Other laws that seem to be ignored – you might want to discuss at a future meeting?

What does a player have to do to get cautioned for dissent these days?

How often do you see a throw in reversed for being taken from the wrong place?

Throw-ins have become “particularly” dodgy this season with the ball not complying with the law “delivers the ball from behind and over his head”.

What ever happened to the FA’s Respect campaign?

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## **Whistling Up**

A female footballer in Spain Elena Pavel has said that a referee tried to ask her out during a game but has refused to file a formal complaint because it would be her word against his. The Romanian was playing in the match between Sporting Huelava .v. Santa Teresa in the First Division.

Augsburg Keeper Marwin Hitz has apologised for deliberately scuffing up the penalty spot causing Cologne’s Anthony Modest to slip over as he took the spot kick sending the ball over the bar. It proved crucial as Augsburg won 1-0. The keeper admitted afterwards that it wasn’t the fairest thing to do and promised not to do it again.

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

## **Part 46 – The two card trick**

**Match:** Cockfosters Casuals –v- Reds Rovers  
**League:** Division Three – Sunday Park League (North)  
**Refs kit:** Clean kit with shiny boots

*It was one of those incidents that to be honest even baffled me.....I had already cautioned the Cockfosters Casuals number ten for simulation about five minutes ago when he again fell to the ground holding his knee. I was situated about fifteen yards from the incident and in my opinion I did not think any contact had been made. Based on the fact I had already cautioned the player I knew this was another cautionable offence and this being the player's second card would mean I would also be producing a red card as well.*

*I informed the player as to why he was being cautioned and duly produced the yellow and then red cards. The player pleaded his innocence and insisted contact had been made and it was the opponent who should in fact be cautioned. A number of Casuals players surrounded me and all claiming that I had made an error as their player definitely did not show simulation by diving and that he fell to the ground as he was fouled. The Casuals captain insisted that I look at the number tens knee. And there it was.....I could clearly see the stud marks on his leg and it did not look very nice!*

*This got me thinking.....*

- Play had not restarted so could I award a direct free kick the other way?
- Could I withdraw the yellow and red card?
- Could I now caution the defender?
- We could just restart but how?

*I decided that once cards have been issued that they cannot be withdrawn. This would also show all the players that I had made a mistake. When the report was sent to the county football association I would include a covering letter to explain the circumstances and I am sure no further disciplinary action would be taken against the player concerned.*

*The player was not happy with my decision but did leave the field of play.*

*Play continued for the next few minutes and I was hoping that this incident would be the last one before the match ended. This article has continued for over five years.....how many more incidents can a referee have in one match!*

*Well it was no surprise when the next incident occurred. Casuals attacked the Rovers goal and the Casuals player took a shot. It was no where near the goal and I awarded a goal kick to the Rovers. I intended to be positioned in the proximity of the half way line to ensure that I had a good view of any holding or pushing. The goal keeper placed the ball and I began*

*sprinting towards the half way area. I was hoping the goalie might wait for a few seconds for me to be in position but he decided to take the kick straight away.*

*If it was any other referee the ball would be kicked high in the sky and land near the half way line as it had done for the entire match so far. But no, not this time as the ball hit my back of my shoulder, went up in the air, leaving the goal area and falling at the feet of the Casuals player who kicked the ball straight into the goal. After being congratulated by his team mates he said 'Well done Ref, that was a great assist'. That comment caused me further embarrassment. No offence had been committed and I knew I had to award the goal.*

*The Rovers players felt I had allowed the goal to stand for sending off the Casuals player in error. I explained one incident had nothing to do with the other and added that the referee 'was a goal post' meaning play just continues if the ball hits the goal post, corner flag post or the referee. One of the Rovers players said 'That's what you are Ref, a post!' I had never been called a 'post' before and even though I felt his comment was worthy of a caution for dissent I choose to ignore the comment.*

- Has a player ever called you a 'post' before?
- Would you have cautioned the player?
- Is it right to conveniently 'not hear' a player's comments?

*Next time I'll tell the goalie to wait until I reach the half way line before they take the goal kick.*

*What will happen next time.....read on!*

*See you all soon*

*Regards,*

*Willy Woodwork*

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

## **IN THE BEGINNING.....**

***The following are general tips and advice to assist newly qualified referees for their first few matches.***

***We start by the preparation that is required for the beginning of the week prior to your week-end match.***

### **Availability**

Ensure that you keep a record i.e. a diary of all the dates that you have given to the league that you are refereeing on. We all know in advance if we are going on holiday or have work, university or school exams or any other commitments. The same for birthdays, parties, weddings, anniversaries and so on. The Referees Secretary of your local league will attempt to plan ahead maybe for the forthcoming month and appoint you on matches. Trust me, they have a thankless task and the last thing they want is a referee 'crying off' a match because they have just remembered they have made plans to be somewhere else. Often not helped if you only realise on the Thursday night before the Sunday that you are going to a party and the date was not closed. Obviously a new referee should not expect this in their first season but it is important to make a good impression with the Referees Secretaries.

### **Closed Dates**

Inform the leagues if you are not available for any dates as soon as possible. Good administration with hopefully good performances can in time put you in contention for the plum appointments towards the end of the season. The officials for the title deciders and cup semi-finals and of course finals are the appointments that all match officials strive for. In time if you work hard the cup finals will come your way.

Likewise it is also imperative that the relevant county Football Association are also informed of closed dates. Throughout the season cup competitions are played and if you have made yourself available there is a good possibility that you could be appointed to a county cup tie. These matches are good experience for you as teams from many local leagues compete against one another and like all cup matches this will produce teams of different standards. The teams would not have played each other before and this will also mean new teams for you. Again it does you no favours if you inform county late that you have a prior appointment and have to withdraw from the fixture.

It is important to note that 'closed dates' are identical for your leagues and the county. You cannot tell your league you are available and tell county that you are not available. It is possible you have a league match but if you are also appointed to a county cup tie then the county tie must take preference. You cannot decide which one to choose. This generally happens at the start of the season for the early rounds of the cups.

The ultimate appointment is a county cup final. Good administration with good performances consistently throughout the seasons can eventually make you one of the candidates for selection.

### **Handbook**

Many leagues have their own web sites but in addition your local league will send you a hand book which will give you the details of all the teams in the league plus where they play, club colours and contact details. Competition rules normally ask the home team to contact you by for example the Tuesday prior to your week end match. They should inform you of the venue and how to find it plus the time of kick-off. The hand book gives you the opportunity to plan ahead in advance for your journey and check that both teams do not play in the same colour kit.

Enquire if the match is a league or cup fixture and make sure you check the rules for extra time and penalty shoot-outs. How many substitutes can be used? What is the match fee? How long do I wait if one of the teams have not turned up at the ground? The hand book from the league should give you all the answers to your questions.

## **The Journey**

Don't wait until the day to plan your journey. Find out exactly where the venue is and what buses, trains or underground are closest to the venue. Check if there are any underground lines suspended on the match day. Is engineering work planned that day? If you are driving are there any road works planned? It is always useful to have an A-Z of London with you regardless of your method of transport. Don't always trust the sat-nav.

Make sure you know exactly where you are going and also plan an alternative route just in case. Is there enough petrol in the car, do you have the correct fare? One of the best examples of planning ahead is the day of the London Marathon when many roads are closed and bus routes are diverted.

## **The kit**

Pack your bag mid-week for the week end fixture. Yes, mid-week! That may sound ridiculous but to wait until the morning of the match to find the socks have not been washed from last week and the boots are still muddy.....not a good idea. Carry five or six pencils with you, spare whistles and spare boot laces. Nothing worse in the changing room prior to the match and the boot lace snaps as they are being tied in your hand. An additional whistle in case the referee on the next pitch has the same tone as yours. At the start and end of the season also have trainers with you as the surface may be hard with very little 'give'. Check the red and yellow cards are packed along with your note book. The weather is always unpredictable so it is useful to have the option of a long and short sleeved shirt. This is not essential in your early days. Ensure your boots and kit are pristine.

You only get one chance at a first impression and this will assist.

## **History**

Always useful to know the history of the teams. How are they doing in the league? Is the match a top of the table clash or two teams at the bottom fighting relegation? Have they played each other during the season?

**Arrival** Give yourself enough time to allow for any possible delays to your journey. Better to arrive an hour early than be late. If you are very early always good to read the hand book or even better to read the laws of the game which you should always have in your kit bag.

Please note these are only suggestions but better to **BE PREPARED and PLAN AHEAD.**

Enjoy your next match!

*Keith Hiller*

**FA Licensed Level Two Tutor**

[Any Comments – Please send to the Editor]



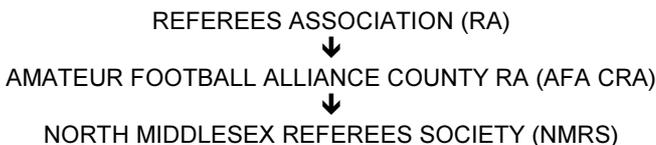
## INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR SOCIETY

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Note**

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

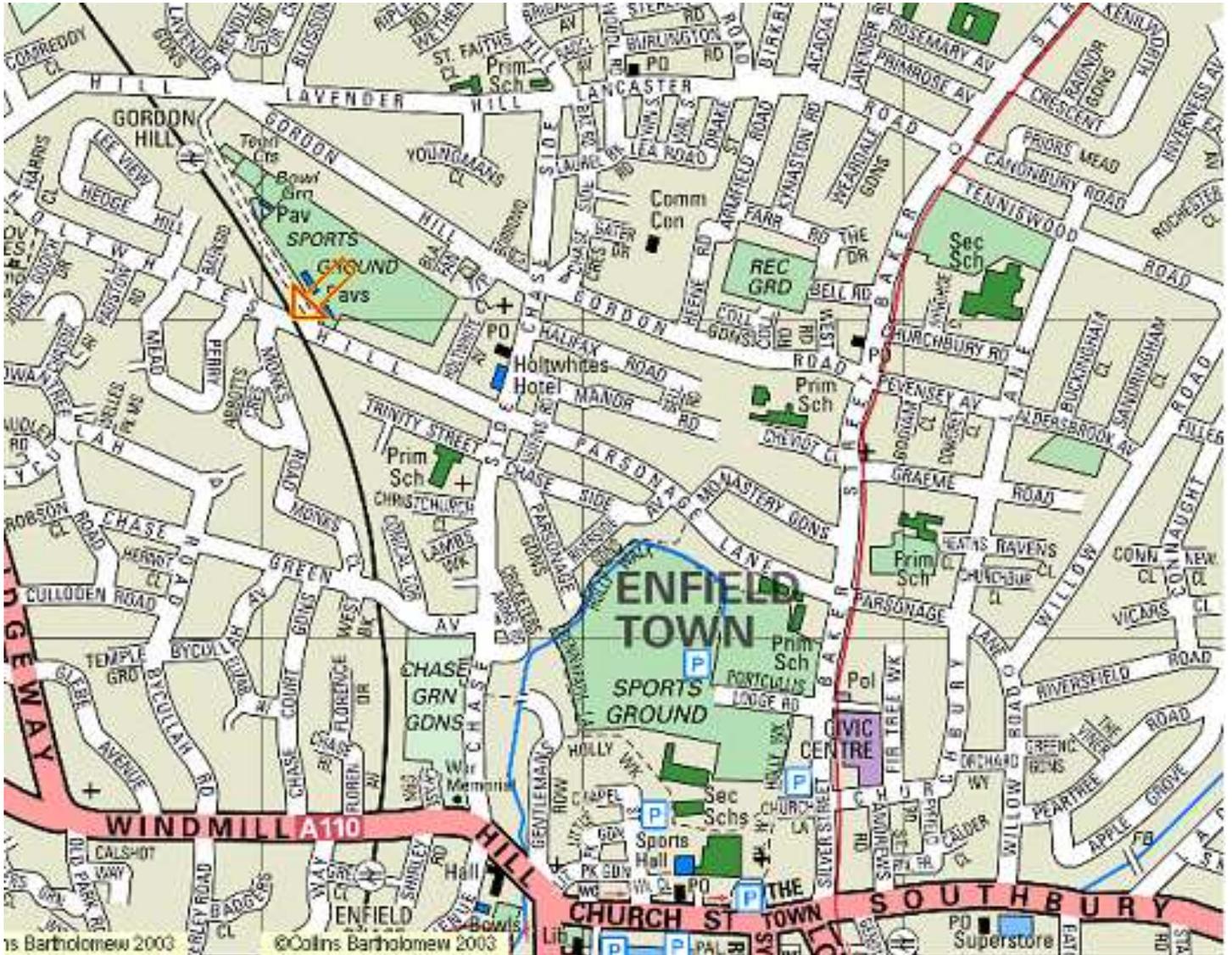
AFA	Amateur Football Alliance
AFA CRA	Amateur Football Alliance County Referees Association
CFA	County Football Association
CRA	County Referees Association
LFA	London Football Association
MCFA	Middlesex County Football Association
R.A.	Referees Association
RA-FA	Referees Association/Football Association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

**Reviewed September 2015**

## MONTHLY MEETINGS

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

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



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

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

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

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

PERMISSION IS GIVEN TO REPRODUCE MATERIAL WITH A SUITABLE ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

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