

*The Normidian
Magazine
Season 2016/17*



**THE
REFEREES'
ASSOCIATION**



February 2017

COUNCIL 2016 - 2017

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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 16th of February 2017 at 7-45pm at the Holtwhites Sports & Social Club, Kirkland Drive, Enfield Middlesex when the speaker will be OUR OWN Council Member Daniel Lauszkín who will deal with disciplinary matters.

EDITORIAL

No-one could say nor indeed does say, that lining is easy but the standard in professional football here especially this season has left a lot to be desired. Television is not a fair arbiter of whether an Assistant has made an error nor does an ex-referee giving his verdict after three observations help the cause but it is clear there have been several high profile mistakes made. Whether it be a basic lack of fitness which hopefully is unlikely because of the continuous testing or more likely the fact that in most cases the Assistant Referees are considerably older than the players they are so often chasing and just can't keep up. There may of course be entirely different reasons and therefore it's difficult to clarify them. Often the speed of play makes it hard to watch the touchlines for ball in and out of play for throw-ins and at the same time be level for the offsides, not counting the need to run with or often behind a younger sprinting attacker.

Phil Sharp certainly to date the most successful Assistant Referee of all time [please also see Phil's very helpful and useful treatise on pitch inspections later in this magazine] developed his own effective sideways running action which was more than useful to him and frequently to others but this appears now to be set out as an official stance. Whilst that is as imperative for a Referee as it is for a player to be sideways on, when it comes to an Assistant it will often mean losing at least a second (and therefore a yard) on the inevitable turn, which may be a root cause of some of the problems.

The troubles which I have outlined above if not resolved can only lead to more calls for video refereeing which personally as I have frequently remarked will spoil the game at professional level and make things even harder on grass roots and parks pitches.

Unfortunately our last monthly meeting had to be cancelled and of course the Christmas get together regrettably looks a thing of the past so this coming meeting is the first for a couple of months; therefore the Council would like a good turnout for our speaker since as the Spurs fans chant "he is one of our own".

As there is little time between this meeting and the next would anyone contemplating sending in a contribution please do so as soon as possible.

Ken Goldman

Editor

The Adventures of Willy ‘Red card’ Woodwork
The Whistling Referee

Part 52 – In the post

Match: Cockfosters Casuals –v- Reds Rovers
League: Division Three – Sunday Park League (North)
Venue: Local park.....they all look the same!
Corner flag post: Is it compulsory to have a flag on the corner post?

The Rovers player kicked the ball towards the opponents’ goal and the Casuals goal keeper produced a wonderful one handed save to prevent the ball entering the goal. I immediately pointed to the corner flag post and shouted ‘*Corner*’.

I always feel communication from the referee to the players is important. In this instance if they did not see my arm signal then they would have heard my decision. By using two forms of communication, in this case one visually and one verbally this only enforces my decision. For once everyone accepted my decision and even the observer who was watching me did not make any notes in his note book. I wondered if he had any pages left as he had written so much. It is good to realise that the assessor or should I say observer as they are now called, is writing good and positive comments about my performance and not just development points.

I took up my starting position on the edge of the penalty area and was nicely placed near the centre of the penalty arc. This would enable me to adjust my position as the ball was kicked as I could then move forward, backward, left or right accordingly.

I then noticed several of the Casuals players were not the required distance from the corner flag post. In a loud but polite manner I requested the players to retreat another three steps from the ball. This was to no avail as the players concerned totally ignored me. This really came as no surprise to me at all despite the fact I had produced a fair number of cards so far. I walked towards the offending players and repeated my request. This time they listened and moved back three steps.....pigeon steps. In fact by comparison a pigeon would have had a longer stride than these players! I was not happy with their actions and wanted the game to continue as quickly as possible. I walked over to the touch line by the corner flag post and took eleven steps towards the penalty area. At last this produced a verbal reaction. ‘*But Ref, that was ELEVEN steps not ten*’. I explained it was eleven as the players must be ten yards from the corner quadrant. The first step was from the touch line to the edge of the quadrant and then the other ten. I suppose I did have a smirk on my face as this had confused and puzzled the players. With the players now retreating the correct distance the corner kick could now be taken.

One minute later I awarded a throw on to Reds Rovers just on the edge of the Casuals penalty area. Number four went to take the throw but then beckoned to his goal keeper. *'You've got a long throw, you take it'* he shouted to his goalie. The goalie came sprinting out of his penalty area and run over to the touch line. He took the ball and prepared to take the throw.

'Hang on a moment' said one of the Casuals players. *'He can't take a throw in, he's wearing gloves. They gives him extra grip. That's an advantage and it's not fair.'* That made me think.....was it an advantage.....possibly yes. Would the gloves give the goal keeper extra grip.....most probably. I had never seen a goal keeper take a throw in before and certainly never seen any player taking a throw in wearing gloves or in this case the gloved goal keeper. What was I to do?

All referees should have a good knowledge of the laws and as you all know I know all the laws and apply all the laws. There is nothing in law that says a player can or cannot wear gloves so on that basis I allowed the goal keeper to take the throw on wearing his gloves. Of course we could all guess what happened next.....the goal keeper produced a powerful and massive throw which landed right on the head of the Rovers centre forward who made perfect contact with the ball and scored. Casuals were not happy but I was satisfied that I was correct in law.

- *Can a goal keeper take a throw on?*
- *Should the referee ask the player to remove the gloves?*
- *Would you have allowed the goal keeper to take the throw on wearing gloves?*

As I awarded a corner kick to Casuals the player removed the corner post and throw it to the floor. I immediately blew my whistle and shouted *'You can't do that. Put the post back please. It must be in place'*. The player responded to my request but then said *'But we only have three corner flag posts. Does this mean every time there is a corner on the other side that we have to bring this one over?'* I explained that corner flag posts are compulsory. The player smiled and asked *'If we only have three corner post will we only be playing three quarters of the match?'* He had a fair point as Casuals did only bring three corner flag posts to the match as the other had broken the previous week apparently. But what about the games I referee when the home teams have produce no corner flag posts.....am I not supposed to play the match?

- *What would you do?*

Best wishes

Willy Woodwork

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

PETER DACE says, there are still 'Three * wheels on my wagon, and I keep rolling along' (with acknowledgement to The New Christie Minstrels) OR the continuing career of a journeyman Referee – Part 10 Games 3,334 – 3,400. Yes Folks – part ten of a series of articles first published in the November 1985 edition of The Normidian. * But realistically only one or two!

Students of my Refereeing career, current membership one and THAT'S ME, will be more than aware another article is due on my career to date and yes, I know I only wrote about my game number 3,333 in the Normidian of January 2016 but that was just because it was game 3,333 and now I return to the usual format when a game total has some noughts in the number.

And so it came to pass that last Saturday, 21st January 2017 plum appointment 3,400 came my way and thanks to Arthurian League Referees Secretary Gareth Dineen my kit bag also containing forty five seasons of Refereeing experience was appointed to Old Malvernians Football Club playing at Brunel University in Uxbridge. A league one encounter with Old Cholmleians and both teams needing the points.

The journey from my house entails driving largely on the western section of the M25, a route full of both unknowns and too many other vehicles. Fortunately on this occasion the M25 was kind to me and on a bitterly cold day most other drivers had taken the safer option and stayed off the roads. As a result I arrived some ninety minutes before kick off with plenty of time to inspect the pitch – possibly the best in a league of good pitches, as it is long, wide, an excellent playing surface and surrounded by an athletics track. The sun was shining brightly in a cloudless sky but the temperature around midday was probably one or two degrees at best and still ninety minutes before kick-off for temperatures to deteriorate further.

At first sight the grass looked perfect but bearing in mind the excellent article on inspecting pitches - written by our good friend Phil Sharp, World Cup Final Assistant Referee - and contained in a circular from Hertfordshire FA (hopefully to be included elsewhere in this edition of Normidian) I knew I could NOT believe my first impressions. The Club Secretary was anxious the game should go ahead and said his Players would support that view. However there was one small portion of the pitch largely frozen and likely to become totally frozen and that the goal area which was shielded from the sun by a security cage used for throwing the hammer, discus etc. The rest of the pitch was arguably playable and my test, using a key, showed there was some penetration into the good grass cover. Nevertheless the overriding factor was player safety.

Frankly I was in two minds and I felt it was very much marginal whether the pitch should be used. Fortunately I then met the Groundsman who said the full size 3G pitch adjoining was available for our game. So I opted for that surface on the basis that although injuries could still occur, there was a far better chance that all players (and me) could safely return to work on Monday.

In the event the game went ahead on the 3G and the result was 7-5 to the away side, yes twelve goals and not a controversial one amongst them, but most particularly no injuries.

So for me, and no doubt the players, a memorable game, due to both the score line and the circumstances.

As always, I continue to look to the heavens and thank 'someone up there' who allows me to continue this journeyman career, indeed during a recent nine day period I covered six games including four at the wonderful training complex of Spurs in Whitewebbs Lane and I pass thanks to Michael Mackey Jr who voluntarily liaises with the Club to cover games for refereeing colleagues. However as a 'lad' of just 75 I must pay tribute to old friend and North Middlesex colleague Dave Chapman who at age 81 last October is still refereeing regularly both days every weekend. Will I reach game 3,500, who knows, but like all Football Managers I intend to take 'each game as it comes'.

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Flagging Up

Bodo Menze creator of Schalke's youth policy says of his American club that at ages 10 and below teams do not need referees. Despite a suggestion by the referees that without them the games would fall apart he reports that it has not been the case. Children he says "can self-regulate and they can do it because they have an amazing sense of justice. They know what is right and what is wrong" He adds "Neither the coaches nor the parents can complain or abuse referees thus keeping the focus on the children's play"

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Talk Sports' Alan Brazil recently took to defending referees when he said "Sure its not been the few weeks for the elite panel of referees as far as consistent correct decisions are concerned but that does not really justify the outbursts by several Premier League managers. See more scape-goating of the officials in those fixtures."

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In December last in Japan Real Madrid reached the final of the Club World Cup by beating Mexico's side Club America by 2-0. Their second goal was scored by Ronaldo but was originally ruled offside by the referee but after consultation with the video official he allowed it to stand. This lead to Real's manager Zidane to say that he thought the current system being trialled led to confusion.

David Elleray speaking on behalf of IFAB clarified the latest rules that referees do not have to wait until the ball goes out of play- they can now stop the game for review as soon as the ball is in a neutral area i.e. when neither team has a good attacking possibility.

[? So much for instant replays]

Hertfordshire FA Referee Development Officer, Phil Sharp, has put some Pitch Inspections guidance together for Referees.

At this time of year we should all be prepared for the weather to worsen and the need to be proactive with pitch inspections before a match can be played.

Please find below some useful guidance notes to assist you if there is the possibility of a match not being played due to the condition of the pitch/weather conditions.

Pitches Not playable

- Frozen / rutted pitch – dangerous for players safety

 - Waterlogged pitch – players safety and making the game a farce – movement of ball stuck in puddles

 - Snow covered pitch – pitch markings and match ball need to be seen and thick snow makes a farce of the game

 - Fog / Other weather conditions – If the referee can't see both goals from the centre circle or the Assistant Referees can't see across the pitch to judge offsidess and the ball being played from the other half – makes a farce of the game or if you feel the conditions endanger the wellbeing of the players

 - Any pitch that would be considered dangerous to play on, such as large holes in the ground, fallen tree, abandoned car, large amount of broken glass

 - Be prepared to listen to advice and consider taking the players off the pitch and resume the game in a short period of time, if the likelihood is that conditions will improve. In Youth Football discuss with both match delegates.

 - Make it a habit to watch a reliable weather forecast in the run up to your games www.metcheck.com for example. It shows a level of professionalism to the teams if we can be seen to be proactive when we speak to them.
-

Remember – our number one priority is Players Safety and if you have doubts do not start the game or if started be prepared to abandon the game if the conditions deteriorate.

Communicate with the Clubs and inform them of your thoughts but you make the final decision. The score at the time of the match abandonment is secondary to players safety. Inform the teams that you will notify the League/Competition and they alone decide the outcome of the game or if the match is to be replayed.

Please find some other points to keep in mind below:

- If the local Council Authority owns the pitch, they may call all games off at a location in advance and the match cannot be played there.
- If the home club feel there could be a problem with the pitch they should notify their opponents and the match officials ASAP and advise what actions they are taking. If you don't hear from the home Club be pro-active and contact them and ask what they plan to do?
- Clubs and referees should check competition rules to see if the regulations allow for the match to be switched venues (away team ground for example) or other correct procedures in such circumstances.
- Referees should be prepared to arrive early to inspect the pitch and advise both teams and the League/Competition that a pitch is not playable after the inspection.
- Referees should always communicate with the referee appointments officer of the League/Competition if in doubt over a pitch inspection.
- Referees being assessed / mentored must inform their Observer / Mentor ASAP.
- Review the weather forecast for the area of the match for the day of the game and be aware if the weather is forecast to deteriorate after your kick off time

Referee Fees surrounding pitch inspections / matches called off

If you are asked to do a pitch inspection, please check with the League/Competition

as some cover travelling expenses to be paid but this could also be seen as a free service to Clubs by referees to help them and not charge for local pitch inspections.

General regulations are:

- If you are informed the game is postponed before you travel from home/work - you are not entitled to any payment/fee.

- However, if you travel and you get to the venue and the game is then called off, you are entitled to half of your match fee from the home club.

- If you start a game and then have to abandon it due to worsening conditions, you are entitled to your full fee.

We would seriously suggest that you don't start a game that you think will not be completed, if the pitch will not be playable by the end of the game or the weather forecast strongly indicates it will get worse!

Please also consider the Clubs pitch. If you start a match and completely ruin their pitch, which they won't be able to use for weeks or it will cost a lot of money to repair, then don't play the match.

Finally, If your game is called off or you call a game off upon inspection, besides letting your League know, ask them if there is another game that requires a referee that you could get to and cover.

Read more at <http://www.hertfordshirefa.com/news/2017/jan/pitch-inspections#q1x1w4LIIMCc2JSG.99>

[Reproduced with thanks to the Hertfordshire FA]

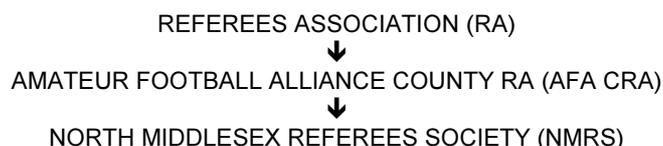
INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR SOCIETY

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. The magazine includes features and updates from the Football Association and items of RA-FA and RA news.

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

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

Note

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

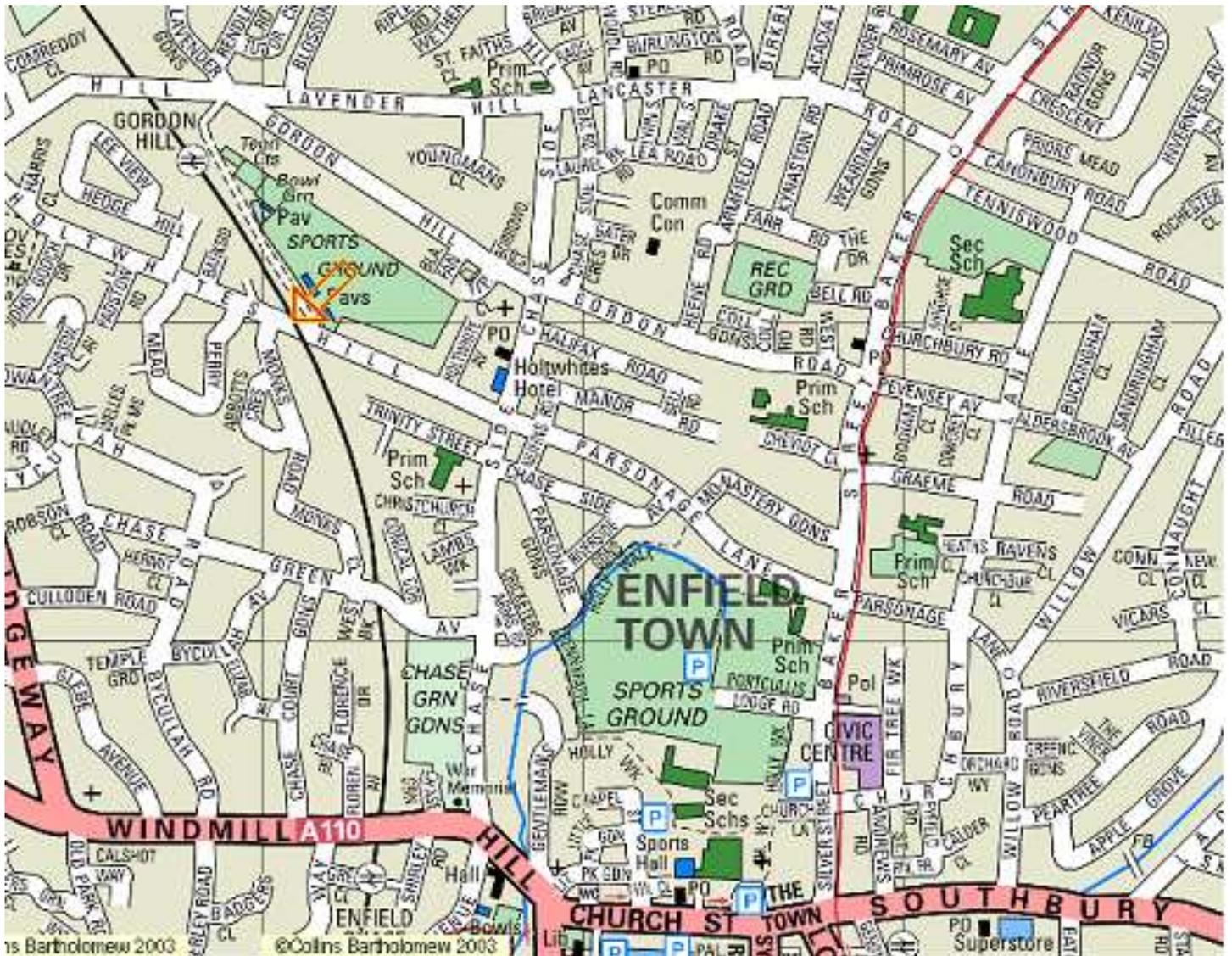
AFA	Amateur Football Alliance
AFA CRA	Amateur Football Alliance County Referees Association
CFA	County Football Association
CRA	County Referees Association
LFA	London Football Association
MCFA	Middlesex County Football Association
R.A.	Referees Association
RA-FA	Referees Association/Football Association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

Reviewed September 2015

MONTHLY MEETINGS

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

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



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

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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