

The Normidian Magazine

NORTH MIDDLESEX REFEREES' SOCIETY



January 2010

COUNCIL 2009 - 2010

PRESIDENT

Terry Wilson 25, Brookside Crescent, Cuffley, Hertfordshire, EN6 4QW 01707 889585
E-Mail - president@northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk

CHAIRMAN

Tom White 82, Graeme Road, Enfield, Middlesex, EN1 3UT 020 8366 4703
E-Mail - chairman@northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk

VICE-CHAIRMAN

Vince Yeudall 2, Churston Gardens, New Southgate, London, N11 2NL 020 8245 5695
E-Mail - vicechair@northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk

SECRETARY

Robin Jagot 24, Tiverton Road, Potters Bar, Hertfordshire, EN6 5HY 01707 651461
E-Mail - secretary@northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk

TREASURER

Gary Cobden 2, Chapel End, Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire, EN11 8DN 01992 469153
E-Mail - treasurer@northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk

SOCIAL SECRETARY Position Vacant

MAGAZINE EDITOR

Ken Goldman 17, Green Walk, Hendon, London, NW4 2AL 020 8203 1376
E-Mail – kengoldman@btinternet.com

TRAINING SECRETARY

Stan Rosenthal 40, Slades Hill, Enfield, Middlesex, EN2 7EE 020 8367 2579
E-Mail - training@northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk

GEAR SUPPLIES

Percy Brown 33, Cotton Road, Potters Bar, Hertfordshire, EN6 5JT 01707 851369
E-Mail - supplies@northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk

COUNTY RA DELEGATE

Charles Lifford Address Withheld Withheld
E-Mail - cra@northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk

COUNCIL MEMBERS

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

Michael Mackey (Snr) 46, Latymer Road, Edmonton, London, N9 9PU 020 8807 4898
E-Mail - counciltwo@northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk

Michael Mackey (Jnr) 46, Latymer Road, Edmonton, London, N9 9PU 020 8807 4898
E-Mail - councilthree@northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk

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

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Please notify Gary Cobden

HONORARY AUDITORS 2009-2010

Jim Taylor 020 8560 8262 Tim McGowan 07793 402610

LIFE VICE PRESIDENTS

George Basten	Peter Dace	Ken Goldman
Terry Hayne	Robin Jagot	Brian Langstone
Mick Osborn	Arthur Stewart	Tony Ward

Visit the North Middlesex website at:- 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 North Middlesex Referees' Society will take place at Holtwhites Sports and Social Club, Kirkland Drive, Enfield Middlesex at 7.45pm on Thursday the 21st of January 2010 when Doug Douglas Chairman of the Middlesex County Referees Committee will lead with aid of the latest FA DVD on Disciplinary Procedures and with the help of members of the Training Team cover the problems that occur with referees and Club personnel when Commissions meet. He will also take questions on any refereeing matters i.e. promotion/development/ & general day to day refereeing matters.

EDITORIAL

It is usual to record a review of happenings in the December edition of the Magazine as preparation for the New Year. However as we had other things on the agenda the review will have to suffice in this New Year edition. There are so many things cropping up in the refereeing world especially at the highest level that it may be worth recoding some of them here. Last time we dealt briefly with the current inadequate positioning of referees leading them to missing vital incidents. There is one more of importance to note namely at free kicks some 20-25 yards from goal. I have noticed that repeatedly after organising the wall back the required distance and indicating that the whistle will be blown for the free kick the referee has actually retreated alongside or behind the kicker. If the Assistant Referee is taking off-sides there is no-one to assess whether there is pushing or pulling in the wall or worse still whether the ball crosses the goal-line for a goal if it hits the bar, the post or the keeper. Several years ago, after an incident when it was unclear whether the ball had gone in the goal and hit a stanchion and come out, the consensus of opinion was that the referee would take up position near to the goal-line at that type of free kick. With the Thierry Henry hand ball in mind are we going to keep on risking repeats of problems by not improving on the current positioning both at free kicks and at corners where so much shirt pulling occurs and goes either unseen by the Referee or worse still unpunished. What then about the positioning of Assistant Referees especially when the ball is in the hands of the goalkeeper? There are so many goalkeepers especially in the Premiership that are kicking from hands outside the penalty area which go unpunished that it will not be long before we get a Law change to allow keepers to do it up to the edge of the "D" on the basis that if it goes unpunished for so long that the existing Law has become obsolete. If you don't think this is feasible then think back to all the changes on the penalty kick. The problem has arisen because Assistants are so worried these days about getting into position for off-sides when the keeper has the ball in his/her hands that they are completely missing this fundamental breach of the Law. Again surely this follows from bad "modern" coaching methods.

We as referees all know that Sky television puts all the Officials under the microscope at every match they cover. It is nice then, to have a go back at one of their number, the ubiquitous Jamie Redknapp for an enjoyable gaffe or blooper. Commenting on an incident where the referee made a decision not to award a free kick he stated "anywhere else on the pitch and it would be a penalty". If that was so, we could be in for some interesting times especially where it comes to encroachment at spot kicks, a topic I intend to return to next time.

The Council wish to offer all our members and readers a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Ken Goldman.
Editor

MICK'S MAGICAL EVENING - (Report by the Editor with Photos by Gary Cobden)

A great evening was had by one and all on Monday the 14th of December 2009 when members and guests of the North Middlesex Referees' Society, together with numerous dignitaries, turned up to celebrate the awarding of a Long and Meritorious Service Award to Mick Osborn. As befitted the occasion there were distinguished Refereeing guests from the Counties of Middlesex, Hertfordshire, London and the AFA, especially the last named as Mick had always been affiliated to the AFA having played football within their compass.



The Master of Ceremonies for this stellar evening was the “old smoothy” himself the veritable and now venerable Peter Dace, able within a twinkling to embarrass and amuse those on whom his wit and wisdom both maligned and alighted. All as the late Kenny Everett might have put it “in the best possible taste”

After the “round-ally” Peter Molyneux belying his 86 years gave a remarkable speech paying tribute to the North Middlesex Society and some of its individual older members, linking in “all our yesterdays” before turning firstly to both acknowledge and pay tribute to Mick Osborn, for all the work he has done for the North Middlesex Society in particular and Refereeing in general; and secondly to present him with his Award.



As would be expected Mick gave a very modest reply in which he stated, that unlike Ryan Giggs who had surprisingly won the Sports Personality of the Year Award for 2009 and had not known that this would happen and consequently had not prepared a speech, he Mick, had known that he was to receive his Award and had prepared for it. After some words of thanks to the various people in football who had featured large, in his football life Mick ended with a tribute to his wife Grace and a close personal friend



Ben Robins who had been unable to attend through illness. There was then a further presentation by our President Terry Wilson to Mick for his work for the Society especially as Social Secretary and his help with the Training Centre, whilst Terry also presented a bouquet of flowers to Grace Osborn.

There was a good turn-out of members of the Society for the evening, particularly from the older generation and in particular from the



Life Vice Presidents who included – George Basten, Terry Hayne, Peter Dace, Robin Jagot, Tony Ward and your Editor.

(Pictured above right are four Society MSA holders, l-r Robin Jagot; Mick Osborn; George Basten; and Charles Lifford.)



However the younger generation were also not forgotten as two new recruits Rob McDougal (left) and Calum Burgess (right) were presented by Mick Osborn with their FAMOA Badge and folder of documents.



Tributes must also go to the organisation of Robin Jagot and the brilliant spread of food prepared by Janet Jagot, together with Denise and Gary Cobden.

Certainly a night to remember, not only for Mick and Grace, but also for all those present.

Without doubt 'Service Before Self – An Appreciation by Terry Hayne.

The December meeting of the Society was special, our usual pre- Christmas social evening but with many friends and personalities present and not just for the laden buffet.

Over the years North Middlesex has been blessed with an envious succession of members achieving positions in the higher echelons of refereeing but as everyone has to start somewhere - the bottom – our highly successful training school has put a huge number of aspiring referees firmly on the right road. In spite of personal effort not everyone will reach the top but all have had a solid base upon which to build and that is dependent upon dedicated instructors who themselves form part of the foundation of this Society.

On 14th December Mick Osborn, a Life Vice President of North Middlesex, having held many offices and as a Licensed instructor from 1992, was presented with a well deserved Meritorious Service Award.

Many glowing tributes were paid in respect of this modest, fairly quiet, patient chap who can be depended upon whenever something needed doing and who would do it thoroughly, without fuss.

It is mentioned above that the Society has been blessed with achievers, they have to work hard for that, but the foundations of success and that of North Middlesex rely on the likes of the Mick Osborn's of this world. The fact that I have known him for very much longer than either of us would dare to recall does not mean that this is an 'old pals' tribute, far from it, I know the chap and he is genuine, even without him buying me a pint next time we meet. – Well done Mick.

Mick Replies –

Dear Friends

The Editor has kindly allowed me to use the Normidian to express my sincerest thanks to Council on whose recommendation I received the Referees Association's Long and Meritorious Service Award; to Peter Molyneux for making the presentation on behalf of the Association, and of course to fellow Life Vice President, Peter Dace, for managing the ceremonies so well in his inimitable style.

My thanks also go to the many people involved at the R.A, and for the support and kind words of fellow referees, particularly those who came to join in the celebrations.

The salver given to me by North Middlesex Referees' Society will be equally treasured. My wife, Grace, has asked me to include her thanks for the beautiful bouquet of flowers given to her on behalf of the members of the Society.

Truly a night to remember!

Yours most sincerely,

Mick Osborn

TALKING POINT - by Mick Osborn

Consider if you will, that you have been appointed by the Spectrum League to referee Blue Rovers 3rd team versus Green United 3rd team, in a double header at Enfield Playing Fields, on a Saturday, in early April. Blue Rovers is near the top of the Division but Green United is struggling to stay up for next season. The second match is due to kick off twenty minutes after the end of the first. Each team has fourteen players present.

The incident: You clearly see Player A of Green United, head-butt Player B of Blue Rovers. As a result of the head-butt, Player B gets a cut over his eye that needs stitches at the local A&E department, making him unavailable for the rest of the day.

What action would you take under each of the following circumstances and what would be your answer to the manager of Green United who asks if he may include Player A in his team in the subsequent match or matches?

1. The incident takes place outside the dressing rooms, thirty minutes before the scheduled kick off time of the first match.
2. The incident takes place in the 87th minute of the first match.
3. The incident takes place outside the dressing rooms after the first match has ended, fifteen minutes before the scheduled kick off time of the second match.

This matter was raised at one of our meetings as long ago as 2003. Basically, the dilemma was whether a player, banned from playing before, or sent off during, the first match in a double header, should be prevented from playing in the second? The view of the majority was that the player could not be banned as they were separate games. There was a minority opinion that he should.

At the time, I tried to get an official answer to the problem, so I wrote to the FA. Three months elapsed without a reply, so I wrote again. I'm still waiting for their letter! *

Should the timing be considered in reaching a verdict in these incidents? In the first example, the action took place thirty minutes before the effect of the ban. In the second, it was only twenty-three minutes. In the third, fifteen minutes.

Should the seriousness of the offence play a part in determining whether Player A could legitimately take the field in the second game. It would seem very harsh to ban him from the second game, had he been previously reported, or sent off for the use of offensive language, for example. But then, are we talking about law or justice? Not always the same thing.

And then, again, if a player is reported for, say, unsporting behaviour, before the start of a game and then receives a caution during the game, should he be sent off? And what if

Thank goodness I've reached the end of the page!

***["Must be coming by horse" as Arsène Wenger once remarked about an anticipated apology from Sir Alex Ferguson –Ed.]**

COURTING DANGER - By OBSERVER

Since the cases in Northern Ireland where our colleagues were subjected to court proceedings over referees legal liability following players injuries due to the state of pitches, members have obviously become more aware of the importance of stringent pitch inspections prior to every match.

It is reassuring that notice of this commitment has been emphasised in the majority of Society magazines, and The Football Association has promised help should the need arise in a court case within the boundaries of England. That is provided the referee has acted in a responsible manner and they feel the situation demands such support.

Besides ensuring the pitch and appurtenances are in order there is another task we must attend to prior to the kick off.

With more and more injuries inflicted through various forms of jewellery, referees must look at the participants to see what they are wearing. This can be quickly done at the kick-in just before the toss up on the local park.

It appears that at more senior level players are aware of their responsibility and such problems are not so prevalent in that class of football.

Not only can a player be a danger to an opponent, but also to himself. Swinging necklaces, especially in heading duels could take eyes out, cause cuts or even strangulation to the wearer. Earrings might possibly inflict facial injuries, and could be torn from the lobe.

The small stud or ring type can be just as dangerous as the more ornamental style. Similarly the reverse side could puncture behind the ear if subjected to pressure from any form of blow. Rings and bracelets easily cause nasty cuts and abrasions if they come into contact with an opponent.

Some players forget to remove their wristwatches before coming on to the field of play. Naturally such an adornment on a flaying arm may deliver an injury requiring stitches.

The wearing of glasses is perhaps the best example of an item that could prove more dangerous to the wearer than anyone else. Not only the lenses but the frames are vulnerable and so it is not advisable for a player to partake in a game with such aids to vision, far better to use contact lenses, which are favoured by some professionals. Obviously these are advantageous when a game is played in rain. The worse danger is a player who has metal in a knee or leg support. Do not be fooled check them, do not make to assumption that they are safe.

In cases of dangerous objects the easiest solution is to request for the removal of the offensive item, but if this cannot be done with jewellery then it must be padded and taped up. Perhaps we should set an example and take off similiar keepsakes, but then the referee should not come into direct contact with anyone on the field of play.

It is your duty to ensure the safety of players and there has been a constant reminder for the past few seasons in the leaflet containing the amendments to the Laws of the Game issued by The Football Association.

So we must go out and protect the participants by living up to our obligations for the well being of the game.

Penalising or not, as the case may be. By Ken Goldman

Over the last month there have been a spate of penalties awarded in the Premiership which have been shown on television. In the Arsenal .v. Hull game the Arsenal goalkeeper saved the spot kick but the ball ran loose but there were then 2 Hull players closer to the ball than he was after the parry. There could have been no doubt that the Hull players had encroached at the taking of the kick but no indirect free kick was given to the home side and the game played on. The next day Chelsea had to **retake** the penalty **twice**, because of encroachment, one of the few times in years that this had happened. On a third occasion following these events a penalty was scored but the cameras quite clearly showed that **both** teams had encroached but a very senior referee adjudged there was to be no retake and the goal stood. It seems and most referees will vouch for and endorse that the rules of encroachment under the Penalty Law(no 14) is so complex a thing that to repeat the rules themselves below is a worthwhile exercise as a reminder of all the relevant variations many of which are ignored at most levels. One has then to consider whether the goalkeeper moving forward before the penalty kick is taken is a worse offence than encroachment. If it is and I personally think it is so then it seems very strange that the International Board changed the procedure some time ago and gave the responsibility to the Assistant Referee to judge" goalkeeper moving" rather than the Referee as was usual. Surely there is more authority for the Referee to stand on the goal-line and the Assistant to watch for encroachment.

As indicated above here is the appropriate extract from the authoritative FIFA Laws on encroachment which we are happy to acknowledge as having been reproduced from their website.

"LAW 14 – THE PENALTY KICK

Procedure

a team-mate of the player taking the kick infringes the Laws of the Game:

- the referee allows the kick to be taken
- if the ball enters the goal, the kick is retaken
- if the ball does not enter the goal, the referee stops play and the match is restarted with an indirect free kick to the defending team, from the place where the infringement occurred

a team-mate of the goalkeeper infringes the Laws of the Game:

- The referee allows the kick to be taken
- If the ball enters the goal, a goal is awarded
- If the ball does not enter the goal, the kick is retaken

a player of both the defending team and the attacking team infringe

the Laws of the Game:

- the kick is retaken."

It was once stated to me by a distinguished Referee Official that the reason that the Law about the goalkeeper being allowed to move at the penalty kick being altered to what it is now, was because there were no retakes being ordered and the rule had fallen into obsolescence. If that was the case what then about encroachment? Has not the same thing happened and is it not more difficult to monitor, especially at junior level?

Therefore here is a suggestion which may not be quite so "off the wall" as it initially sounds. Why not retain the "D" where it is, but move the penalty spot to 10 yards (9.10 meters) (where most of the starts and restarts distances are anyway) and forget about encroachment altogether.

Middlesex County FA – County Cup Appointments – Season 2009/2010

MCFA Intermediate Cup – Quarter Final

Park View F.C. First v Stedfast United F.C. First

George Grant (R)

Under 16 Youth Cup - Quarter Final

Muswell Hill Youth FC U16 v Pinnacle Youth F.C. U16

Peter Jago (R)

Under 12 Youth Cup - Round 4

Park View Rangers F.C. U12a v Parkfield Youth F.C. U12

Kevin Wavell (R)

Under 11 Youth Cup – Quarter Final

Whetstone Wanderers Youth F.C. U11a v Broadwater United Youth F.C. U11

Ngunga Ngoma (R)

MCFA Womens Junior Cup – Quarter Final

Enfield Town Ladies F.C. Reserves v WFC Fulham Reserves

Jeff Till (R)





E-mail:-
office@ackerman.co.uk
sales@ackerman.co.uk
accounts@ackerman.co.uk

15/16 Hickman Avenue, Chingford,
London, E4 9JG

Telephone:-
020 8523 1321 (Office)
020 8527 5050 (Sales)
020 8527 5020 (A/cs)
020 8527 6439 (Fax)
020 8503 2002 (Fax)

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**Are once again pleased to support the North
Middlesex Referees Society in Season 2009/2010**





**North Middlesex Referees Society
One Hundred Club - Season 2009/2010**

The results for December are shown below. With 40 shares subscribed, the total amount payable is £28.00.

1st 25 John Faithfull £16.00 2nd 12 Matthew Webster £8.00 3rd 31 Malcolm Sonenfeld £4.00

Two additional shares have been subscribed for the remainder of the season, numbers 41 and 42 allocated to Terry Hayne.

If you would like to join the 100 Club for the remainder of Season 2009/2010, please complete and forward the form below.

NORTH MIDDLESEX REFEREES SOCIETY 100 CLUB

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

Please find enclosed my cheque/postal order for £...00 to cover the subscription for 10 months.

Renewal information will be included with next seasons Membership Form

Name..... Signature.....

Society Use - Numbers Allocated.....

**Gary Cobden
Honorary Treasurer**



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INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR SOCIETY

The Referees' Association (RA) is the national body for referees and delegates its operational powers to the Referees Association of England (RAE). The RAE 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 Society send a representative to AFA CRA who meet as requested locally. The RAE hold Area Liaison Meetings each year, generally in December. The Referees' Association Board meets four times a year. All delegates and officers of NMRS, together with those of the County and Referees Association Committees 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 RAE, and, in turn, the RA

The Objects of The Referees Association and The Referees Association of England 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. It is published four times a year, and is mailed direct to all registered referees by the Football Association. The magazine includes features and updates from the Football Association and items of FAMOA 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. This registration automatically enrolls you in the Match Officials Association run by the Football Association - FAMOA. However, the CFA's and FAMOA 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
FAMOA	Football Association Match Officials Association
LFA	London Football Association
MCFA	Middlesex County Football Association
R.A.	Referees Association
RAE	Referees Association of England

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Are held on the third Thursday monthly (except December 2009 - second Monday),
commencing at 7:30 pm, at

Holtwhites Sports and Social Club, Kirkland Drive, Holtwhites Hill, Enfield, Middlesex, EN2 0RU

Telephone: 020 8363 4449

Dates for Season 2009/2010:- September 17; October 15; November 19; December 14 2009; and January 21;
February 18; March 18; April 15; May 20 2010



*The venue is passed by Bus Route W9 direct from Enfield Town, and Enfield Town;
Enfield Chase; and Gordon Hill Rail Stations are only a short distance away. For fuller directions and
how to get to the venue, see our website. See also www.tfl.gov.uk;*

www.nationalexpresseastanglia.com; and www.firstcapitalconnect.co.uk.

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

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

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

PERMISSION IS GIVEN TO REPRODUCE MATERIAL WITH A SUITABLE ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

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