

The Normidian Magazine Season 2012/2013



*A Happy New Year
to All our Readers*

NORTH MIDDLESEX REFEREES' SOCIETY



THE
REFEREES'
ASSOCIATION



January 2013

COUNCIL 2012 - 2013

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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 at Holtwhites Sports and Social Club, Kirkland Drive, Enfield, Middlesex at 7.45 pm on Thursday the 17TH January 2013 when the speaker will be our own Stan Rosenthal.

EDITORIAL

If players were to make New Year Resolutions would any of them consider giving up “diving” and going to ground when barely if actually touched at all. What about vociferous appeals to the referee to intimidate him. Recently the latter point which is often a reflection of the former came up when the excellent Reading Manager Brian McDermott alleged that he had been told by officials that his side did not get so many and often important decisions, because his players did not appeal enough for them. In support of this but in a quite dissimilar and negative way that old barrator of officials (yes he is still at it) Andy Gray on Talksport suggested, nay confirmed, that you had to keep having a go at referees because in the end they would lose confidence and give you something. As we know from recent events it is becoming common for players to say something to the officials be they in the play or to the Fourth Official either in their dressing room or in the tunnel. The Manchester City manager has condemned Mark Clattenberg for reporting one of his players for making an unacceptable comment after a match. At grass roots levels would we not faced with the same thing report the player so why should those at a higher level get away with not being reported. By the same token players appear to be allowed to use foul language or dissent in the top level matches with almost impunity which they would not be allowed to do at grass roots, so if that ill was cured perhaps there would be less approaches to the officials either during or after matches at that level. Indeed it is often sad as an Editor to keep dealing with matters that occur in the Premiership or the Football League rather than at a more broad level. But it is at the top level of the game we see so much of what shapes the game at grass roots. However there is very much a ground swell of opinion in the press and the media in general that there should be an opportunity to review situations where foul play or cheating has taken place and use video evidence to provide justice to the same. This would subsist even if the referee in a match had seen the incident and taken all but the ultimate step of dismissal. Without trying to be over-critical of a referee as good as Mark Halsey it is almost impossible to understand how he could see two incidents involving a slap in the face and a semi-butt as not being violent conduct in a recent Everton game which saw their player banned for only 3 matches because under the current regime if a referee says he sees the incident or in this case the incidents and takes either action or no action that is it. Retrospective use of video evidence with

power to punish would overcome these discrepancies without it being deemed a criticism of the referee because there is no way any referee can compete with 26 cameras and numerous angles. A harder call is what happened in the Swansea .v. Manchester United game. Whether Ashley Williams deliberately kick the ball into the back of Van Persie's head is debateable and surely only the player could know but some television pictures were almost damning, However the referee..... in this case could not have seen the position clearly in a ruck of players and did an excellent job in calming things down and finally producing a yellow card for both Williams and the retaliating Van Persie. The idea of retrospective television evidence has the virtue of stopping people pressing for the new to be used goal-line technology to be extended to other aspects of the game.

As you read this we will be into a new year and hopefully it will see some improvements in behaviour at both the top and grass roots levels of the game. One can only hope of course. What we can do here is to extend the wishes of the Council to all our members and said readers for a peaceful, happy and successful 2013.

Ken Goldman

Editor

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Flagging Up.

Marc Burkett was appointed as the Second Referee at the FIFA Futsal World Cup Final 2012. This is the second referee this year to be appointed to a world cup final event following on from Mark Clattenberg refereeing the Olympic Men's Football Final.

Look out for the March Meeting when we have **Arsenal Physio Colin Lewin** who is also the cousin of an old friend to the Society the England Physio – Gary Lewin.

Early Bird note for the Eve of the Final Rally to be held as last year at One Great George Street London SW1 on Friday 10th May 2013.

England will host the 2013-4 European Women's Under 17 Championship Finals whilst the England Women's senior team are posted as eighth in FIFA's Women's rankings at the end of 2012.

Watch out for more news next month on the position of the RA and our Society's viewpoint together with the EGM to be held at the February Meeting.

There was no speaker at the December meeting of the Society, which was a Christmas Social well received by the few members who attended.

Former member and television Journalist Gerald Sinstadt says-

Referees do a good job ... they just don't get the credit they deserve

THIS week the red card count for players from the 92 Premier League and Football League clubs passed the century mark. One hundred players sent off in less than a dozen weeks. Two of this area's most experienced and respected referees added to the total last weekend: Phil Dowd at Crystal Palace v Millwall, Tony Bates at Birmingham v Leicester. In each case the dismissal was for a home player. In all, 12 players were sent off in the weekend matches; six of them were from the home team. While that may seem to confirm expectation, the law of averages working out exactly, that has not always been the case. I first took an interest in this subject many years ago. Then the ratio was one in three. In other words, a player from the away team was twice as likely to be sent off as a member of the home side. When I pointed this out to a campaigning journalist for a responsible Sunday newspaper, he found it hard to believe. An independent check confirmed my figures. Identifying a reason for the trend could be no more than speculation. We agreed on two possibilities, both related to the influence of spectators. A referee's decisions will get a different response depending upon which team is penalised. A home crowd reacting to a red or yellow card for one of its own will make its disapproval noisily apparent. Today that may be less blatantly hostile than it once was, but not much. We thought it probably takes an exceptionally strong-minded referee not to be influenced. How long can the official make calm, balanced decisions while a chorus of "You don't know what you're doing" is emanating from the home end? If not all officials are exceptionally strong-minded, that may contribute to the trend. The other possibility we debated concerned the away team. When the loudest voices are from the home fans the taunts can be repetitive: "You're going down, we're not." "Can we play you every week?" Over 90 minutes, we figured, a situation could arise where one player has eventually had enough, determines to show he isn't an easy touch – and oversteps the mark. Red card. Either theory, we agreed, might be true; possibly both. Whatever the explanation, the trend was slow to change. The earliest season for which I have retained records is 1987/88. Of 214 red cards, only 66 (31 per cent) were shown to players from the home team. I resist claiming 100 per cent accuracy for my figures (the odd omission is possible), but the imbalance is undeniable. Fast forward to more recent times and a different picture emerges. Last season home team offenders were about 40 per cent of the total (159 of 367). Something has been happening, and it may have less to do with players or crowds and more to do with referees. At any level, refereeing is a challenge. Whether at Trubshaw Cross or Old Trafford, every referee hopes to walk off to a handshake and "Thanks, ref". It sure beats a couple of hours filling in discipline reports. Believe me. At the highest level, the challenge is acute. Ninety minutes in which the referee makes how many decisions – a couple of hundred? Every one of those decisions can be subjected minutes later to electronic scrutiny from many angles and at different speeds. A jury of millions will reach a verdict. In due course, the referee will evaluate a DVD of his performance, first at home and then in the company of his peers. Exceptionally, he may be asked to reconsider a crucial decision. If he believes he was wrong, he is required to say so. To their credit, it happens. Human error is acknowledged and the record expunged. The heavy presence of Sky Television and the creation of the elite group of referees has to be in some large part responsible for change. A modern

referee in the Premier League or Football League is a professional more concerned with demonstrably getting things right than ingratiating himself with one set of partisans or another. None of this means we have achieved perfection. Far from it. Human error will always be with us. Referees who are serious about their officiating seek consistency in themselves from game to game, and overall consistency with others. It is a utopian aspiration. We all have bad days. And we cannot be clones. Nonetheless it is a worthwhile aspiration. Claims that "refereeing standards have never been so low" are unfair and unfounded. This column doesn't deny being a referee-friendly zone, but it is not blind. There will always be room for improvement. Meanwhile, goal-line cameras came another step nearer. No doubt some will demand more use of technology in other areas. Do not get me started on that.

Reproduced with thanks to the Eccles Referees Society Magaz- The Eccles RA Informer,

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BOOK REVIEW

There or Thereabouts by Rob Bradley published by Vertical Editions @ £14.99.

With a foreward by Sir Trevor Brooking this is the life story of Keith Alexander who was veritabily a 'man for all seasons' in his capacities as player, coach and manager. To be a journeyman in football does not always carry the kudos it deserves but in this book it can be seen that playing in the lower divisions and the non- league only helped Keith Alexander to become good at teaching and managing the game. But for his untimely death there is no doubt he would have added to a fast growing reputation, and promoted the cause of black players in following him in becoming coaches and managers. Tales of Lincoln City, Barnet, Macclesfield Town, Grimsby Town and many more are here, as is his love of his family. A fitting book for a man whose early death shocked so many and brought the great and the good to his funeral at Lincoln Cathedral. Some lovely photos in its 205 pages but no index.

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Meeting at Warwick University

Robin Jago will be attending the above meeting of County members to discuss the Board Enquiry Report. Questions will be asked on behalf of the members of the combined AFA/Lonsar/North Middlesex Societies. Robin will file a full report in the next edition of the magazine.

Also Council has asked that all members should please return their replies as to whether they wish to remain in both the RA and the Society or just the Society. If they are unsure they should send in a blank reply and try to make up their minds at a later stage.

If anyone does not wish to cut their printed copy of the magazine they should photocopy the page and send the completed page in, instead.

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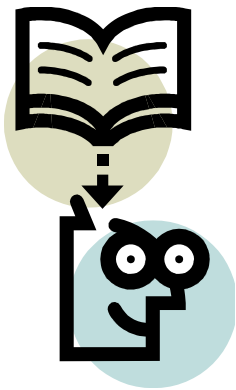


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The **North Middlesex Referees Society Quiz Nite** is back. Get your thinking caps on again, as its time for the 2013 Quiz – which this year will take place on Friday 22 March 2013 at Old Owens Association, Coopers Lane, Northaw, Potters Bar, Hertfordshire, EN6 4NE.

Tickets cost £10 each inclusive of a hot buffet

Teams should consist of no more than 8 players. If you would like to attend, whether you have a team, or will be attending on your own, please let Robin Jagot (Secretary) or Gary Cobden (Treasurer) know. Contact information on the inside front cover.



North Middlesex Referees Society - One Hundred Club - Season 2012/2013

The December draw was made at the recent Society meeting, and the winners are shown below. Cheques are either included with this magazine, or will have been sent to you by post if you receive your magazine by e-mail.

13	Roger Fox	£16.40
17	Tom White	£8.20
3	George Basten	£4.10



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5 December 2012

To All Members of the North Middlesex Referees Society

At a recent Council meeting it was agreed unanimously that we would send a letter to our members for them to consider the option of either remaining in membership with the Referees Association and the Society or to remain a Society Member only. You may recall that at the Society AGM in May 2012 it was agreed to seek the views of membership on this very important issue, in view of recent events which have taken place within the Referees Association and its Board Members.

This has led to an Independent Enquiry being set up to investigate possible irregularities within the R.A. Board. It is hoped that the results and outcome of the Enquiry will be known during December, and a meeting of County RA's is being held on January 6 to discuss the findings and outcomes of the Report.

Therefore I would be grateful if you can complete the slip form below, and return it either electronically or by post to the above address within 21 days. Should you decide that you no longer wish to remain a member of the Referees Association but wish to continue to be a member of the Society only then a Society Rule change will be required, and an EGM will be necessary. This has been scheduled to take place immediately prior to the Society meeting on 14 February.

Yours Sincerely

Robin Jagot
NMRS Secretary

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It is important that you advise us as soon as possible on the decision you wish to make!

A) I wish to remain a member of the Society only. YES / NO

B) I wish to remain a member of both the Referees Association and the Society YES / NO

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Notice of Extraordinary General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that an Extraordinary General Meeting will be held in place of the February Society meeting on 21 February 2013, at Holtwhites Sports and Social Club, Kirkland Drive, Enfield, Middlesex for the purposes of discussing a possible change to Society Rules to change categories of membership.

This will be to discuss the outcome of the RA Board of Enquiry and to decide on Membership options going forward.

A full Agenda will be printed in the February Normidian.

Robin Jagot
Honorary Secretary

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What on earth happened over the Festive Period and is 'Respect' dead (Again)?

Apart from some extraordinary games, we had some weird and wonderful decisions made by our colleagues at the top level, and I will highlight just a few in the following.

We could say it all started on Saturday 22 December with the dismissals of West Ham's Carlton Cole and Everton's Darron Gibson by referee Anthony Taylor. Both incidents were, at worst, dangerous play, and only warranted a caution as opposed to the sending off they each received for very similar offences. These red cards have both subsequently been rescinded by the Football Association, who, at the time of writing, has not yet released the written reasons for their decision. Taylor has apparently not been censured as he subsequently took charge of QPR v Liverpool the following weekend.

On the following day, during the Swansea vs. Manchester United match Ashley Williams of Swansea - in his frustration after being penalised - was cautioned for unsporting behaviour, after kicking the ball away and struck a prostrate Robin van Persie on the head. United manager Ferguson reacted angrily after the game by stating that this 'could have killed van Persie'. Williams faced no further punishment from the FA as the incident was seen by referee Michael Oliver. Additionally, Ferguson will not be punished by the FA despite his outrageous claim that the Dutchman 'could have been killed'.

Ferguson was the subject of another incident on Boxing Day when Manchester United faced a Newcastle side currently going through what some may call a slump – after a promising start they have fallen to 15th in the Premier League. Having led three times throughout the match, Newcastle then went on to lose 4-3 to a last minute goal. Enough said about that. The main talking point was Ferguson's apparent rant at not only match referee Mike Dean, but also at Assistant Referee Jake Collin and fourth official Nigel Swarbrick. In my opinion, his actions at the start of the second half were a disgrace, yet he will face no punishment for his actions as Mike Dean chose not to mention it in his report as he apparently deemed Ferguson's actions of entering the pitch to 'harangue' him was within the boundaries of reasonable communication. For those who do not know what happened, Ferguson's protest was because Newcastle's second goal was correctly awarded as, despite Newcastle's Cisse standing in an offside position, he was not interfering with play as an own goal was scored by Manchester's Johnny Evans.

A 16 year old referee who was at the game gave his observations to the Daily Mail: - 'By electing to omit details of Ferguson's 'discussion' with the officials Dean not only let himself down, but also his colleagues, and most importantly the army of referees – some as young as 14 – at grassroots level, who, week after week are subjected to foul verbal abuse in the junior leagues. Premier League referees could help bring an end to this by following the Laws of the Game and issuing red cards correctly, and whilst it would bring an instant flurry of dismissals players and managers would soon learn that such behaviour is no longer tolerated. And it would filter down to grassroots level which is more important, as it would set the precedent needed to deal with the abuse.' He continued: - 'I am fed up with seeing referees in the Premier League being so spineless. Why is it that they continue to allow players to question every decision, swear at them, and crowd around them in an aggressive manner? Top level referees aren't helping themselves and their cowardice is damaging our cause at grassroots level.'

And the reason Ferguson cannot be punished by the FA for either incident? It is because they and their stakeholders – which include FIFA – have agreed they cannot act retrospectively when an incident is seen by at least one official. It cannot be changed mid season, and needs the consent of FIFA; UEFA; the Premier and Football Leagues; the PFA; the LMA; and the PGMOL.

However, notwithstanding the over-zealous actions of Ferguson who will not be charged, two managers have been requested to submit their observations to the FA. Messrs Mancini (Manchester City) and Redknapp (QPR) were highly critical of referees in their post match press conferences. Mancini claimed referee Kevin Friend 'ate too much for Christmas. He was not in good form. He and the linesman, I think, after Christmas, it can happen to have a bad performance like today' in their defeat at Sunderland after being incensed that a free kick was not given in their favour in the build up to Sunderland's winning goal when Pablo Zabaleta was challenged by Craig Gardner. To add insult to injury the goal was scored by ex-City player Adam Johnson who beat Joe Hart at his near post.

Redknapp was left fuming at referee Chris Foy and assistant Harry Lennard after West Bromwich Albion's second goal where goalkeeper Robert Green appeared to be impeded. Redknapp said 'the linesman said it was murky down in that corner and he couldn't see so maybe he should go to Specsavers... it's just poor refereeing.' A very similar incident had occurred in the West Ham v Everton game on 22 December when Leighton Baines's corner was headed home by Leon Osman (one of the smallest players on the pitch) but the 'goal' was ruled out seemingly for Victor Anichebe's block on Jussi Jaaskelainen.

On the same day Blackburn sacked Henning Berg after just 57 days in charge, along with the rest of the backroom staff - none of whom had been brought in by Berg. Strange goings on at Blackburn, not helped by their 'Global Advisor' Shebby Singh on Radio 5 Live's 606 on Saturday 29 December when he made some strange comments concerning his relationship with the Venkys and saying it was a good day for both Blackburn who beat Barnsley 3-1 (Barnsley then promptly sacked their manager Keith Hill) and Tottenham who also won away (apparently Singh is a Spurs fan). Blackburn, who had sacked Steve Keen earlier in the season, spent 44 days in their search before appointing Berg as 'the right man for the job' - but Singh now hopes to have a new manager in post within days. Blackburn subsequently won again on New Years Day!

And despite beating Leeds United 4-2 on Boxing Day, Nottingham Forest promptly sacked manager Sean O'Driscoll with Forest just one point off the play-off positions in the Championship. Forest chairman Fawaz Al Hasawi said that 'the decision may look odd, but changes sometimes need to be made from a position of strength, and they wanted a high profile manager with Premier League experience.' No surprise then that Alex McLeish took up the post a couple of days later after saying in the summer when he was originally offered the job that he 'needed a break.'

On Saturday 29 December the 'Graham Poll three card trick' effect happened again when referee Mick Russell - from Hertfordshire - cautioned Sheffield Wednesday player Jeremy Helan twice during their derby match with Huddersfield, but failed to send him off. Huddersfield boss Simon Grayson was outraged with Russell and said the referee had wrongly recorded Michail Antonio in his book, confusing matters when he presented a second yellow to Helan, but the Owls continued with 11 men. After the final whistle, Russell recognised his mistake and cleared the air with Grayson, who was satisfied the error was not intentional, but blamed the referee's team for a lack of support. 'As we came off the pitch he came to me to apologise for the error he made,' said Grayson. 'I think he's probably written the wrong number down in his book, which is staggering and I also think he should have been helped by his officials, who should be overruling because they all know, when a referee makes a mistake like that, who he's booking.'

The PGMOL subsequently released a statement which said: 'In the eighth minute of the match Mick Russell, the referee, stopped play when Jeremy Helan was adjudged to have simulated an offence inside the Huddersfield penalty area. However, it appears that instead of Helan (number 24) receiving a caution, one was given instead for Michail Antonio (number 7). At this point the referee recorded the name and number of Antonio in his notebook and advised the fourth official over the communication system that Antonio, number seven, had been cautioned. In the 25th minute Helan was cautioned following a foul challenge. As the referee had not previously recorded his name he did not issue a red card for receiving a second caution in the same game. Russell has subsequently admitted making a genuine error and PGMOL and the FA need to determine why this arose and what sanction, if any, should be administered to the match officials.'

Also on 29 December Stoke City had Steven Nzonzi sent off in their match against Southampton by referee Mark Clattenberg for a challenge on Jack Cork, which angered City Manager Pulis who said 'Whether the reaction of Cork, who is a good player and a good lad, has influenced Mark, I'm not sure, but Steven certainly doesn't stamp on the player. There was no intent. He's actually planted his leg between his legs, which was quite clever.' The red card was subsequently overturned by the FA.

The fixtures on New Years Day mostly went off without incident save for the fact that referee Mark Clattenberg was involved again when he awarded a debatable penalty against Norwich after less than two minutes of their match at West Ham. His call was probably correct but went against decisions made by so many of his peers, and set a standard he failed to maintain, as Norwich also felt they should have had a penalty later in the game when Harry Kane was clearly fouled by West Ham's James Tomkins. Norwich manager Chris Hughton criticised Clattenberg's decision-making in his post match press conference and said his team had been on the 'poor end' of big calls. Norwich player Robert Snodgrass tweeted after the game: - 'The referee kills the game. If that's a pen you will need to give 100 pens a season, small decisions change games.' He will apparently not be punished by the FA as they do not believe the comment called Clattenberg's integrity into question or was verbally abusive towards the official.

Some further Christmas and New Year presents involved Barnet, struggling at the foot of League 2 sacking manager Mark Robson on 28 December leaving Edgar Davids in full control. And on New Years Day, Plymouth, also near the bottom of League 2, sacked their manager Carl Fletcher who announced it in a post match interview he was giving to BBC Radio Devon!.

And on New Years Day it was also reported that the FA fired a warning across football that their ailing Respect campaign must be stepped up. A communiqué to clubs and referees urges: 'Still a great deal of work to do.'

It is significant from the tone that match officials are expected to take a tougher line on dissent, and runs contrary to the leniency shown by referee Mike Dean when Sir Alex Ferguson laid into him and his team of officials on Boxing Day.

Referees have been reminded to draw captains into the front line of the battle against any shows of disrespect to officials, as they were instructed to do when the initiative started. Among the set of reinforced guidelines, referees are urged to:

- *Work with captains even if they are 'some way from an incident'*
- *Use captains in a 'more visible way'*
- *Deal firmly with dissent and 'not move away from it'.*

The FA have told referees and clubs that since its launch in 2008 Respect has 'generally been accepted very favourably' but that much has to be done to get it 'embedded in everyone's thinking including managers, players and referees'. Captains are expected to take a higher profile to help officials 'manage the players and the game effectively'. But the onus is mostly on the referees who, say the FA, need to 'play a leading role' to ensure that 'the authority and respect for match officials is reinforced'. They are also warned not to back away from confrontation but to 'stay and deal with it' by cautioning offenders.

Interesting Times over the Festive Period!!!



RA Membership- The Benefits?

In order for the members of the Society to make an informed decision whether to stay or quit the RA it is perhaps necessary to repeat what benefits there are in staying in the RA. These consist of –

- The right to join the RA-FA Incentive Scheme which can lead to free kit.
- Personal accident insurance.
- RA Website.
- Option to buy tickets for the Eve of the Final Rally.
- Advice in cases of assault.
- Awards for Meritorious Service
- Right to attend the annual National Conference.
- Representation on the Council of the FA.
- A Benevolent Fund to assist members who fall on hard times.

The FA Carlesberg Referee Awards.

The above awards have been launched to recognise and reward the contributions of referees and those supporting them make to grassroots football. County FA winners are then considered for Regional Awards and those winners are put forward for National Awards the winners of those being invited to a ceremony at Wembley Stadium later in 2013.

The Adventures of Willy 'The Whistler' Woodwork

Roll on roll off roll on!

Match: Cockfosters Casuals –v- Reds Rovers
Venue: Hackney Marsh – Pitch 165
League: Division Three – Sunday Park League (North)
Time: 78th minute

As a referee it is our duty to administer the laws and apply the appropriate actions. We may not all agree on the differences between careless, reckless and excessive challenges and when we are all alone in a park on a Sunday morning game with no assistants we all know that to award an off side decision is generally a judgement call as we do not have the position of the neutral assistant with a side on view running along the touch lines to assist us.

The three officials 'get it wrong' when their mistakes are highlighted on Match of the Day or a live televised match. It actually makes me feel better knowing that even the Premier officials, the FA elite, can also make mistakes the same as you and me on the local park. To be honest they make very few errors but when they do it is there for all to see in slow motion re-runs. Thankfully we are spared that at Hackney Marshes. If I do make any mistakes they are honest mistakes and without cameras at my matches no one can prove otherwise. Not that for one moment am I hinting that I do make mistakes.....perish that thought immediately.

So back to the reality of my match....Cockfosters Casuals versus Reds Rovers. The sort of match that should be shown on 'Match of the Day' and then everyone would witness what a good referee I really am. Hackney Marshes may not be White Hart Lane or Stamford Bridge but there are at least ten people watching my match and that must be possibly my highest attendance of the season so far.

Now this leads nicely to one of the new changes for this season in certain leagues regarding the players being able to start as a substitute then enter the field of play and become a player and then be replaced by another substitute and then be able to take part in the match again. This is generally known as 'rolling subs' but the substitution procedure must still be performed in the usual manner as per the laws of the game. This of course means that each

time one of the teams wants to make a substitution I have to run over to the half way line and firstly wait for a player to leave the field of play and then check the player coming on regarding boots, kit and jewellery. The players kept saying to me that they have already taken part in the match but I insisted the checks were mandatory and I had to do so as stated in the laws of the game. After all it is my duty to ensure this was done correctly on every occasion. But here we are in the last twelve minutes of the match and to date there has been seventeen substitutions. These had been carried out throughout the match and done for tactical reasons rather than any attempt to 'waste time'. Apparently the referee should add on thirty seconds for each substitution so on that basis was I supposed to add eight and a half minutes to the original ninety and that does not even include any other allowances for time lost. At this rate it could be at least twelve minutes minimum.

What would you do? Is it correct to add on thirty seconds for each substitution? Am I really supposed to check the players' boots even if they have already taken part in the game?

The other new law this season has been concerning socks. Would you believe it.....a law on socks! Can you picture the scene at the governing body of all football, FIFA and someone says 'And next on the agenda is socks'. Possibly the easiest law of all to implement but for us at grass roots level the problem always seems to be whoever was the referee before me, the week previous who says 'I'll let you play with different tape on your socks this week but make sure it doesn't happen this week.' So of course I ask the players to remove their white socks on top of their blue socks and also ask them to remove the white tape as well. 'But the ref last week let us play'.

That is the inconsistency between referees. If they were like me from the first match of the season this would still not be occurring. All refs should be helping one another and not hindering one another.

Would you allow players to use white tape over their blue socks? Is it a problem if they wear short white socks over their blue socks?

Can an out field player wear track suit bottoms under shorts and socks? If so does the colour matter? Can an out field player wear gloves? Again if so does the colour matter?

See you all soon,

Willie Whistler

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:

REFEREES ASSOCIATION (RA)



AMATEUR FOOTBALL ALLIANCE COUNTY RA (AFA CRA)



NORTH MIDDLESEX REFEREES SOCIETY (NMRS)

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

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

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

What are the Benefits of RA Membership?

Insurance - The major benefit is the Personal Accident Insurance Policy. For a small amount, the insurance policy covers you whilst actually refereeing; travelling to and from a match; attending meetings (including travelling to and from home); attending organised training; and loss or theft of kit whilst at a match. Full details are available to members on request, as it is now no longer a requirement that each member who has paid the insurance premium is supplied with a copy of the terms of insurance. A range of increased benefits are also available - for an additional premium - and members should contact the insurers direct if they wish to take up these benefits. Additionally, active referees who are over the age of 75 can now be covered by the Insurance subject to an additional premium being paid. Physiotherapy insurance is now also available for a premium of £5.00.

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

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

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

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

Note

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

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

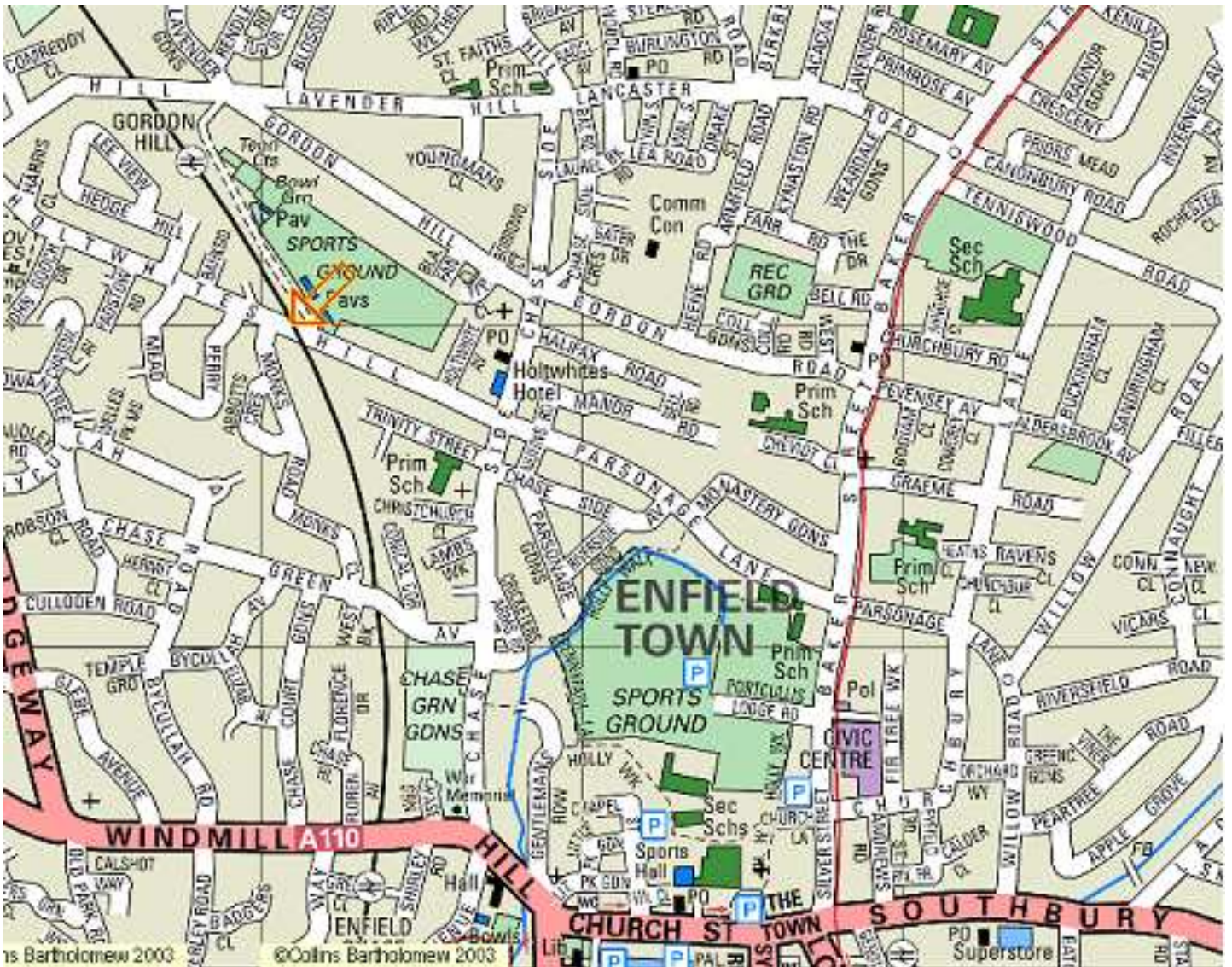
Updated July 2011

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Are held on the third Thursday monthly (except December – second Friday) commencing at 7:30 pm, at Holtwhites Sports and Social Club, Kirkland Drive, Holtwhites Hill, Enfield, Middlesex, EN2 0RN

Telephone: 020 8363 4449

Dates for Season 2012/2013:- September 20; October 18; November 15; December 14 2012 (second Friday); and January 17; February 21; March 21; April 18; May 16 2013



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; www.greateranglia.co.uk and www.firstcapitalconnect.co.uk for rail information.

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

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

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

PERMISSION IS GIVEN TO REPRODUCE MATERIAL WITH A SUITABLE ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

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