

*The Normidian
Magazine
Season 2015/16*



**THE
REFEREES'
ASSOCIATION**



January 2016

COUNCIL 2015 - 2016

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

The next Meeting of the North Middlesex Referees' Society will take place on Thursday the 21st January 2016 at 7-45pm at the Holtwhites Sports & Social Club, Kirkland Drive, Enfield Middlesex when the speaker will be Chris Proud who was a Premier and Football League Linesman and is one of our own distinguished members.

EDITORIAL

So once again Football finds itself in the Court arena albeit this time it's in the Employment Tribunal. I refer of course to the case being brought against Chelsea FC by their former employee Dr Eva Carneiro coupled with a different claim against the "Blues" previous manager Jose Mourinho. Whatever the position in the Law of the land so far as football Law is concerned there is a very interesting twist in this tale. It will be remembered that Hazard the Chelsea player was injured and Michael Oliver signalled that an appropriate medical person could enter the field of play. I state the matter in this way because it has particular relevance. The good doctor entered the field and treated the player but was so roundly criticised by the Manager and thereafter removed from the "bench" that she ultimately left the Club. So far no-one I suspect has indicated that the Manager could actually have stopped the Doctor if he had either so chosen or had been quick enough to prevent her from running on to treat the player.

Whilst not indulging in semantics the position of the referee in the circumstances indicated is in accordance with Law 5 is to ensure that no unauthorised persons enter the field of play. Thus when a referee signals for a physio to come onto the pitch he is merely giving that authorisation. The medical team (physio or Doctor) do not have to come on if they chose not to. The only exception I can find is that a player bleeding from a wound must leave the field of play. That may or may not involve a medical person coming on to the field. In the guidance provisions to Law 5 there are a number of pointers relating to injured players and the actions of the referee.

These are:- (1) Stop play if in the opinion of the referee the player is seriously injured (2) After questioning the injured player the referee may authorise one or at most two doctors to enter the field of play to assess the injury and arrange the player's safe and swift removal from the field (3) stretcher bearers should only enter the field of play with a stretcher following a signal from the referee (4) a player is not to be treated on the field and the referee must ensure the player is safely removed from the field (5) Any player bleeding from a wound must leave the field. He/she may not return until the referee is satisfied that the bleeding has stopped and (6) As soon as the referee has authorised the doctor(s) to enter the field of play the player must leave the field either on a stretcher or on foot. A player failing to comply must be cautioned for unsporting behaviour. There are also a number of pointers relating to

the injured player returning to the field including the fact that he/she may only do so when the game has restarted and also special dispensation for goalkeepers but they do not form part of what will be taken into consideration in the legal cases which we assume will continue unless settled. Whether the lady in question was “impulsive and naive” as suggested by her manager when leading to Chelsea being reduced to 9 men for a time or not the result should be of some interest not only to the participants but also to referees and physiotherapists at large involved in the game.

Of course those of us on the park pitches and generally at grass roots level will not frequently have the opportunity to call on physios let alone doctors but there are some aspects of the guidance which relate to all football. Special care also needs to be taken when refereeing matches played by youngster especially the very young and play should then be stopped as soon as it LOOKS LIKE a child is hurt. A bit of TLC can help but be careful to keep within the boundaries of what is learned on the Safeguarding Children courses and if there is a parent or other guardian there defer as quickly as possible.

Moving on from the present to the future there have been rumblings that IFAB at their recent meeting were listening to pleas for more technology to be entertained by the powers that control the game. That Referees and Assistant Referees have a difficult time at professional level there can be no doubt but to remove decisions from the officials to be instead determined by video links surely is undermining to say the least. Many cricket umpires have looked very foolish and that has not done much good to cricket. One appreciates that professional football is a business and not only a game anymore but to so remove it from grass roots seems ludicrous. There have even been ideas thrust forth that captains should be allowed 2-3 appeals against decisions and unfortunately if more action video is introduced the likelihood of that happening becomes even closer. I appreciate that in the year 2050 if there is still a game left, people will wonder what the guys with the whistle and flags were actually doing at the game like perhaps we do with the umpire sat up in his chair in the 1880's, but it would be nice to think we could postpone all of that for as long as possible. Personally I am very much in favour of goal-line technology for pro games but prefer the older and possibly better positioning at grass roots levels. Anyway perhaps we will see now that Mr Platini is gone from his European perch that his “extra officials” will also disappear from the side-line's, and both the law and history books.

This being the first magazine of the current year the Council wishes all members and readers a Happy New Year.

Ken Goldman

Editor

The continuing career of a Journeyman Referee – Part 9. Games 3,201-3,333 By Peter Dace (age 74 ³/₄ November 2015)

On your way home from the first-ever game in which you officiated, did you say to yourself 'I wonder how long it will take to get to the 3,333rd game of my career?' No, I didn't either BUT having officiated at my own 3,333rd game last weekend (Sunday 29th November to be precise) I can categorically state it took me 43 years and 1 month!

Games 1 - 1,111 took 14 years 1 month 7.10.72 – 8.11.86
Games 1,112 – 2,222 took 11 years 5 months 9.11.86 – 19.4.98
Games 2,223 – 3,333 took 17 years 7 months 20.4.98 – 29.11.15

Game 1,111 (8.11.86) in the Herts County League Walkern v Elliot Star 2-0
Game 2,222 (19.4.98) at Barclays Sports Ground, Ealing QPR under 13 v Spurs under 13 7-0
Game 3,333 at Spurs Training Complex in Whitewebbs Lane under 10 V Cambridge United 5-3

I have no memory whatsoever of the first two games mentioned but without difficulty I can recall game 3,333 because apart from all else it was the one game played at Whitewebbs that morning inside the DOME – whilst all my other Refereeing colleagues on duty were outside on the perfectly manicured pitches but in the wet and cold. Bad luck chaps, but maybe you will have better fortune at your own 3,333rd game!

So I reflect back on this long career and continue to look to the Heavens and to somebody up there who has allowed me to get so much pleasure (and inevitable disappointment and aggravation) from this strangest of hobbies which I still have difficulty in explaining to others why anyone would want to referee a football match. But how many hobbies pay you for the privilege?

Reading back through the previous eight parts of this themed article – and they go back to 1972, I see they were all written about the past and with little, if any, thought to what the future might hold. Part eight covered games 3,001 – 3,200 and I paid tribute to Eddie Carter, Hertfordshire Referee and occasional visitor to North Middlesex Society who retired having covered 3,392 games. Whilst congratulating him on this achievement I added 'but know I will NOT be able to better your total'. That was written for the Normidian of October 2013. But now, I have to wonder if I might just get closer to his total than I thought. I pay similar tribute to NMRS Member Dave Chapman who was 80 in October and even managed to referee on his birthday. Well done, Dave.

I ask myself, is having a game of football still as important to me as once was? And I find the answer is quite definitely YES, exemplified by after reffing two games over a weekend I immediately give thought to the following weekend and how I would react if further games are not forthcoming – will the phone ring and what if it doesn't? Would I be chasing the Referees Secretary to get a line somewhere, anywhere, what about teaming up with another unused referee to join a Referee appointed on his own? Even with a game allocated how would I react to the dreaded phone call on match day to say the game is off

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

Part 45 – Wall to wall

Match: Cockfosters Casuals –v- Reds Rovers
League: Division Three – Sunday Park League (North)
Referees mark so far: Ten out of ten..... of course!

I awarded a direct free kick to Reds Rovers just outside the Cockfosters Casuals penalty area. I paced ten steps from where the foul had been committed and where the ball had been placed. I wanted to ensure the players in the 'defensive' wall were the required distance from the ball. The players knew not to argue with me because I knew exactly the correct distance and if they did their usual comments of 'Are you positive that's ten yards ref? It seems more like twenty yards'. Those were the comments that normally made me produce a yellow card.

So all seems well here. Players are in the correct position as is the ball and just as I prepare to blow my whistle four Rovers players run forward and stand directly in front of the defending Casuals players. This inevitably led to players pushing, holding and a few toes being trodden on. I blew my whistle hoping this would all stop. The facts were that the Rovers players could position themselves directly in front of the Rovers players and I politely informed them that if I saw any contact I would award an indirect free kick to Cockfosters Casuals as they were 'impeding the progress of an opponent'. I was really pleased with myself to be able to quote the law to the players but the players felt I was making the whole thing up as the players had no idea what 'impedement' actually was. They spoke about obstruction and did not seem to understand 'to impede an opponent'. They had no idea the word 'obstruction' was removed from the laws of the game a number of years ago. In fairness to the players the dictionary shows that impede means to obstruct but there we are.

Fortunately Rovers decided to take notice of my advice and decided they did not require their players standing in front of the defending players. The kick was taken and went ten yards over the cross bar.

- Can the attacking team position themselves directly in front of the defensive 'wall'?
- Can a referee request the attacking players not to stand there and move?
- Was our referee correct when he quoted the law?
- What does to 'impede' a player actually mean? (Do you have the same dictionary as Willie?)
- Is to 'impede' an opponent a direct or indirect free kick?
- Is 'to impede' a cautionable offence?

Rovers continued to attack the Casuals goal but the Casuals defence were resolute. They had a great advantage in that all their defenders were tall and the Rovers forwards were not.

Casuals continued to repel the Rovers attacks on goal and all the high crosses into the penalty area were headed away with ease.

Suddenly Rovers concocted a solution to this problem. Yet another high cross was kicked into the Casuals penalty area but this time rather than being met by a Casuals tall defender one of the Rovers players jumped onto the back of a team mate and towered above everyone else as they run forward and met the ball with a powerful header that entered the goal. Rovers all immediately celebrated their goal and Casuals immediately wanted the goal disallowed.

This time I was unable to quote the law. I needed a moment and a copy of the laws of the game to read and check! I knew no foul had been committed and that there was no offside but what infringement had actually been committed? If a player jumps on the back of an opponent, yes, an infringement has occurred but I really could not think of any offence and duly allowed the goal. I suppose I could have checked with the referee on the next pitch but that would have shown the players that I was not sure even though in reality I was!

Luckily for me the next two times Rovers attempted this 'jump on the back' plan the player fell off his team mates back and fell to the ground and they duly abandoned this strategy.

- Was our referee correct to award the goal?
- If not, what offence had occurred and what would have been the re-start?
- Should our ref have asked the ref on the next pitch for advice?

My advice is for all referees to award every decision clearly and with confidence.

It works for me!

It is always keep a copy of the 'Laws of the game' in your kit bag for reference as I do.....it's always good reading!

Willy Woodwork

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

Flagging up

The Juventus Manager Allegri was furious with the officials following a Champion's League game with Borussia Monchengladbach which ended in a 1-1 draw not because the referee sent off Hernanes but about the three minutes that his team were down to 10 men when Morata was ordered off to change his socks. He complained "I know there are rules that everyone's kit has to be the same colour, but this is not a fashion show. We are here to play football for heaven's sake." – Funny but foolish as it does not harm to check.

Football Chiefs in Mauritania have dismissed allegations that the referee in charge of the super Cup Final brought the game to an abrupt conclusion after 63 minutes with the scores level at 1-1 and substituted a penalty shoot-out because the country's President Mohamed Azziz was bored. A spokesperson subsequently stated that the real reason the decision was made was due to "organisational issues" which had been agreed by both clubs.

OBITUARY

All true football lovers will be saddened by the death of Jimmy Hill who died very recently His many achievements included the reformation of both the wage structure for professional players whilst Chairman of the PFA and later as pundit pressing for 3 points for a win, creating the first all seater stadium when at Coventry, innovating the changing of the Throw-in Law and creating the first TV football panel for the 1970 World Cup.

It is in the realms of his connection to refereeing and the Laws of the Game he will be most remembered by Officials. Apart from passing the Laws of the Game paper when achieving his Preliminary Coaching Badge he actually appeared as a Linesman at a game at Highbury when the then Linesman had to go off injured. But it was his tireless work in getting the Throw-in Law changed that made a difference that is sadly not followed today. The aim was to ensure that if a player did not throw the ball in from the correct or as near as possible the correct position it should be deemed a foul throw and the throw given to the other side.

It is rather sickening to note that in seemingly all professional football this is ignored with players taking up to 15 meters from where the ball went out and frequently taking throws from the wrong half of the pitch. Both Jimmy and the game deserve better.

James (Jimmy) William Thomas Hill - Born Balham 22nd July 1928 - Died West Sussex 19th December 2015 - Aged 87.

We would also like to record the recent death of the popular Done Howe who was coach and Manager at Arsenal and coach of Wimbledon as well as coach and Manager at West Bromwich Albion as well as the England coach for many years.

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Late Flag

A prime example of Referees having a really tough job no matter where they officiate comes from Tunisia where in a League game the players had to comfort the Referee after he was reduced to tears following abuse from the crowd.

It was not quite so bad nearer home where disgruntled Arsenal supporters set up an online petition trying to get Referee Mike Dean prevented from officiating at any of the Gunners' future games. This followed Arsenal's game at Chelsea early in the season when he sent off both Gabriel and Santi Cazorla.

Mentioning players behaving well (above) brings us to the opposite where players behaved badly to each other, Dutch side Feyenoord decided it would be a good idea for some team bonding during the winter break they tend to have in Europe and took the players to Portugal. However the idea suffered a set-back when Miquel Nelom and Tonny Vilena had a fight. Their team mates were required to dive in and separate them as they squared up and aimed kicks at each other on the training pitch. It seems the flare up began following reaction to a tackle. Funny how these things tend to happen as there were recent rumours of the same thing happening between Oscar and Costa at Chelsea during training.

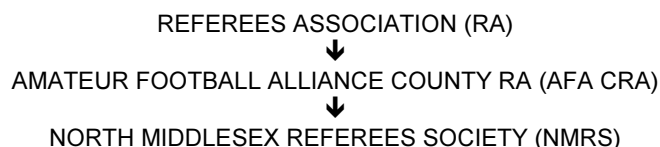
INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR SOCIETY

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.

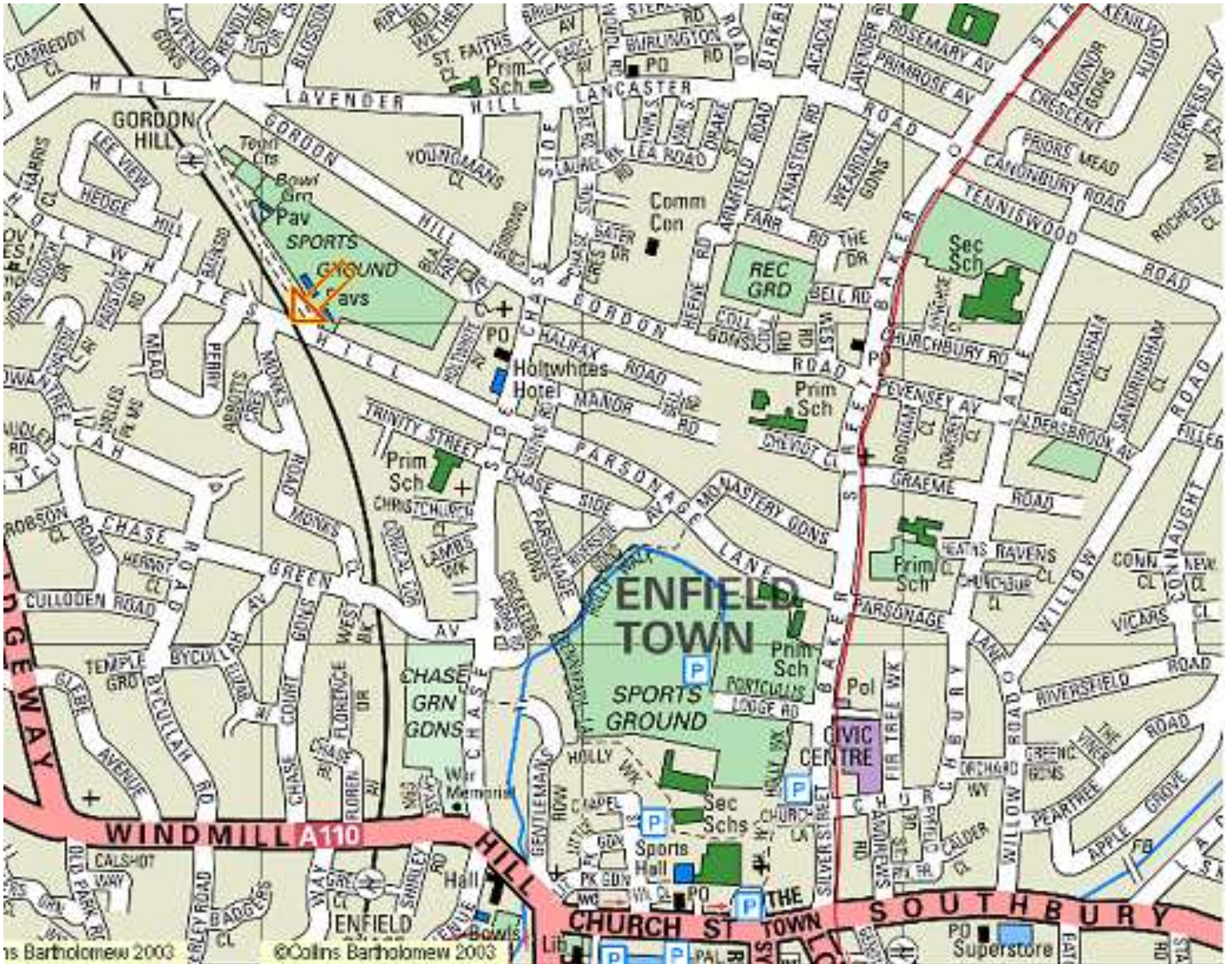
AFA	Amateur Football Alliance
AFA CRA	Amateur Football Alliance County Referees Association
CFA	County Football Association
CRA	County Referees Association
LFA	London Football Association
MCFA	Middlesex County Football Association
R.A.	Referees Association
RA-FA	Referees Association/Football Association 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 2015/2016:- September 17; October 15; November 19; and January 21; February 18; March 17; April 21 2015; May - tba



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