

*The Normidian
Magazine
Season 2016/17*



**THE
REFEREES'
ASSOCIATION**



January 2017

COUNCIL 2016 - 2017

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

The next Meeting of the North Middlesex Referees' Society will take place on Thursday the 19th of January 2017 at 7-45pm at the Holtwhites Sports & Social Club, Kirkland Drive, Enfield Middlesex when the guest speaker will be Mike Heavy a Level 3 Referee and Chairman of the MCFA football committee and Board Manager.

EDITORIAL

It would appear that raging technology is upon us already and that robotic officiating is on the way since referees have been able to use a pitch side monitor to review decisions in the Club World Cup series in Japan lately. Video assistant referees will reassess "match changing" situations before informing the on-field official. The referee then has the option of reconsidering the footage. This has not been permitted in previous trials.

The historical first one to operate it has been Hungarian Referee Victor Kassai in the said tournament (won by Real Madrid thanks to a hat-trick by Ronaldo) when he ordered a video replay to award a penalty during one of the semi-finals. He used the touchline monitor and then awarded Kasmima Antlers a penalty against Atletico National from which they scored and subsequently won 3-0. Whilst goal-line technology has proved invaluable in the professional game what does it all mean for grass roots and parks football? Indeed what does it reflect when the pundits on television and that includes Howard Webb have to look three times at an incident and still don't always get it right and then voice both their opinions and disputes for half an hour after the game .

There is a place for video replays and that is after the game especially in dealing with simulation. Although there is no definition of "diving" in the Laws, especially as a player may in effect dive out of the way to avoid injury, the attempted deception of the referee is not being treated either by the Laws, the Law makers or the disciplinary committees who sit in judgment on players harshly enough. There were two classic examples of "diving" recently when in a match between Spurs and Swansea Dele Alli did a high dive and was awarded a penalty from which Spurs scored but Alli did not admit the simulation. Then when the Hull player Robert Snodgrass dived to win a penalty for his team, which he actually took himself and scored and he admitted afterwards, even offering an apology that he did dive to gain it. In this country it was often believed that this was not the sporting thing to do but the vast amounts of money in the professional game here has changed all that. Worse still as it is seen on television it is of course then copied by grass roots and park players and worse still by youngsters. There clearly must be a groundswell against this form of simulation to the effect that it should result in a retrospective one match ban and should rise by an extra match each time an offender is caught repeating the offence. At pro level the game is so fast that the officials have the greatest difficulty in determining such simulation and if they cannot rely on the sportsmanship of the players there is often little that they can do to spot a "wrong-un". There are some clear-cut and obvious "dives" and these are when the player

goes up in the air with clear daylight between himself/herself and the opponent trying to make the tackle. The much more difficult one to spot is the one where both players are very close to each other and the defender goes for the ball or the attacker shields both his body and the ball. When that tackle comes in the referee must simply hope that either he/she or the assistant is in such a positive angle that the decision simply flows from the action of either one or both of the players.

Two further matters apparently being considered, the one being helpful and the other abrasive. The latter hinges on the consideration of each side having three television appeals as of right in the same way tennis and cricket do. The former relates to FIFA discussing the idea to allow only captains to speak to the referee to bring it in line with this time Rugby Union. That would certainly stop players complaining right through the game.

However not all technology is harmful since we have the goal-line variety which has been a boon in professional football and the referee- communication system, the helpful use of which is often referred to in Howard Webb's autobiography reviewed elsewhere in this magazine.

Finally I would have liked to have returned to a subject that I mentioned in last month's magazine about experience. Whilst Oscar Wilde wrote "Experience is simply the name we give for our mistakes" that does not appear to be the case when it comes to refereeing. Instead the more experience the referee has the more he/she is likely to spot things more quickly. Believing that this is an interesting topic I hope to come back on this in a later magazine.

Perhaps this rather long Editorial might provoke some responses on its subject matters or even spur some people to supply their own viewpoints observation of matches or even their personal "match incidents" and if so I would be delighted to publish those experiences etc in the magazine. Likewise if anyone has any knowledge either with or on Walking Football we would dearly like to hear about the same.

However and whatever the Council would like to wish all members and readers a happy and healthy New Year.

Ken Goldman

Editor

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

Part 46 – Walking the dog and a nasty mess

Match: *Cockfosters Casuals -v- Reds Rovers*
League: *Division Three – Sunday Park League (North)*
Venue: *A very long walk from the changing rooms!*

There are incidents that can occur during a match when all referees must think ‘*why does this only happen to me!*’ Well this was one of those moments when a man was walking his dog and suddenly decided to let the dog off the lead. Amazingly the dog was called ‘Rover’ and he suddenly decided to run to the penalty mark and basically ‘do the business’ or in other words.....go to the toilet and basically produce a number two! Both teams naturally expect the referee to clear up the mess but I had news for them because it was not going to be me!

I calmly explained to the two captains that it was not my responsibility but the responsibility of the home team. The Cockfosters Casuals captain duly found a plastic bag and cleared the mess. I must remember not to shake his hand after the match! The owner of the dog apologised, placed the lead back on the dog and beat a hasty retreat.

With the dog now out of sight we continued with the match. Unfortunately the dog incident seemed to have disorientated one of my assistants as they were both patrolling the same half and both in line with each other. Within seconds Casuals had scored a goal. One assistant raised his flag for offside and you’ve guessed it.....the other assistant did not raise his flag. So what was I to do and which assistant should I consult?.....*what would you do?*

I took it in turns to consult both assistants separately. I listened to their comments and then made my own decision. Firstly I instructed the assistant to return to the other half of the pitch and not cross over the half way line again and then I awarded the goal as in my opinion no offside offence had occurred.

The assistants were the substitutes from the teams and not neutral officials so I did not have high expectations of their abilities to be experts on the offside law or in fact any law!

With the weather having taken a turn for the better this was the perfect time to go to the park and take the dog for a walk. This may be good for the owner and the dog but not necessarily so for the twenty

two players trying to have play a game of football. Now we had to contend with dog number two.

Ironically as Rovers attacked the Casuals goal we all witnessed another ‘Rover’ who this time decided to do their best to ‘eat’ the ball. I had no other option other than to blow my whistle to firstly stop play and ensure, yet again, that the dog was removed from the field of play.

I knew the restart could only be a drop ball. The Rovers players felt I should have played advantage to see if a goal may have materialised but I knew the players’ safety was paramount so I knew playing advantage was not an advantage in case one of the players was bitten, or even me!

Once again the owner apologised and briskly walked off. At least the dog did not leave a deposit on the pitch this time!

As we all waited for the dog to go I noticed the referee from the next pitch walking toward me. He approached and asked for my advice. He explained his match was a double header and during the first match he had sent off a player for violent conduct and was unsure whether or not the same player could play in the second match of the double header. He also added he was concerned they may be retribution if this player participated.

I felt pleased the referee had approached me as I am sure he must have felt I was the ‘font’ of all knowledge. I became quickly disillusioned when he explained that I just happened to be the nearest referee to ask. Anyhow, I am always happy to assist other referees I told the ref the player can play as there is nothing in law that states he cannot play.

- *Would you allow this player to play in the second match of a double header if he is sent off in the first match?*

The young referee also asked if a player can play in different coloured boots. The ref had initially informed the player that both boots must be the same colour and that the player could not play but only allowed the player to take part when he explained the other boots were at home. I smiled as I listened to the ref and explained the player can play as yet again there is nothing in law about players’ foot wear having to be the same colour. Then I thought about the time when the only colour available for all football boots was black.

- *Can a player wear different coloured boots?*

See you all next time,

Willy Woodwork

Willy ‘Red card’ Woodwork.....the whistling referee.

Please Read - Your child or that of someone you know may be in danger.

As part of The FA's role in aiming to do everything it can to support a safe and enjoyable framework for football, a new film has been made outlining the four key steps to safeguarding.

The film, featuring Wayne Rooney, Steph Houghton, Jack Rutter and Nathaniel Chalobah, explains how both parents and children can raise concerns they have about adults working in football and centred around how the 8,500 safeguarding officers working across England football take the following four steps:

1. Checked – to ensure adults are suitable to work with youngsters
2. Trained – from coaches to referees, all are given suitable safeguarding training
3. Hear – concerns from both children and adults will be listened to
4. Report – the importance of raising concerns about a child's welfare

Following these simple but crucial steps means that there is a framework in place to ensure that, if standards ever fall short with poor practice or unacceptable behavior, they can be addressed.

Anyone who has a concern about the welfare of a child or the behavior of an adult towards a child or young person under 18 years of age in football, is required to refer it to The FA Safeguarding team. The team is staffed by professionals who are experienced in dealing with these concerns.

Read more at http://www.thefa.com/news/2016/dec/02/england-leaders-explain-4-steps-to-safeguarding?utm_campaign=1795319&utm_content=9311588417&utm_medium=email&utm_source=SmartFocus#QACpORRUgAUrAdTI.99

Safeguarding – Play Your Part

I am writing to ask for your help today in sharing some important information about safeguarding children.

As a match official you are in a unique position to use your networks help the game spread vital messaging about keeping children safe. We are confident in the breadth of work being undertaken in this field across the country but are never complacent.

To that end, please take 60 seconds to watch a new film featuring players from our national teams and then share the link as widely as possible:

Please ensure that you are aware of the specific helpline we have commissioned the NSPCC to set up to help encourage more people to come forward. The number is 0800 023 2642.

Thank you

Greg Clarke

Chairman

The FA

The above is part of what we all need to do to protect young players of both sexes where we are in a position to do so.

This page and the next one deal with this very important subject.

Although it has not proved practical to reproduce the video referred to in the above text, details of the same can be obtained from either the FA's website or that of the NSPCC. Who as can be seen also have a free telephone help-line.

Anyone of course who has information about an historic child abuse should communicate the same to the authorities as soon as possible.

Book Review.

The Man in the Middle – By Howard Webb- Published by Simon & Schuster UK- Price £20.

This is the autobiography (albeit assisted by Joanne Lake) of a rare breed of men and an even rarer breed of Englishmen who have refereed the FIFA Men's World Cup Final to give it its full title.

That great day came in Johannesburg in "South Africa 2010" in the match between Holland and Spain where he shared his honour with friends and colleagues Darren Cann and Mike Mullarkey as his Assistant Referees. Both the meeting at which they heard the news and the match itself with some of the criticism it threw up are amply covered with the joy of the former tempered by the problems of the latter.

Football of course has not been Webb's only career having been inducted into the police force in 1993 and there are stories of unintended bravery in both occupations. Indeed the work with the "force" is both ably woven and blended into the whole book and especially shows the struggle of trying to win promotion equally in both capacities.

Plenty of space is devoted to the long road from youth football to the top with promotions coming regularly and with advice and assistance given by more senior referees, including his father who supported his son's refereeing throughout his career. Of particular note in the early years came when as a boy first at the job being physically threatened by an errant father as too often is the case. Many might and often do quit in such circumstances but Webb carried on both regarding and regardless to continue with such banes as biased club linesmen and the wait for promotion.

In what turns out to be a revelatory Chapter 4 we see that even when reaching the top the rivalry and factions occur between men who are supposed to be the closest of colleagues which will throw a light on the fact that even as professional referees are no different to others.

There are many insights into players refereed, match incidents and the game as seen from a different perspective to most football autobiographies as it is seen from the referee's point of view. What stands out most from this book is the author's complete honesty and self deprecation especially in regard to the chapter encompassing that World Cup Final in the chapter entitled "Today's Your Day" wherein he cautioned nine players and dismissed one. In the final chapter we are invited into favourite reminiscences on the cusp of retirement with a hint of pathos displayed but also a touch of heart on the sleeve.

Above all this is a book showing that love of football that all referees must have, but also one written with complete honesty which does not shirk to self criticism since there must be few referees who would admit so readily to their mistakes. - A great read.

Flagging Up

UEFA have appointed the City of Lyon to host the 2018 Europa League Cup Final.

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The London FA who are in the process of re-organisation have appointed in their Refereeing Department, Nick Frith as cup and competitions officer and Nicholas Wright as Administrator for Governance. We wish them both well in their new positions.

.....

An Assistant Referee who was reportedly accused of being too friendly with the Barcelona players during their recent match with Real Madrid has been suspended for 2 weeks by La Liga [who ever heard of players and referees being friendly let alone too friendly?]

.....

Whitton Albion will doubtless be claiming to have gained the fastest ever penalty in football history against their opponents Chester FC in the first round of the FA Trophy last month. The time of the penalty in question? – Just six seconds.

.....

Did all you Spurs fans notice that in their game against Hull in December there were in the second half of the game four ex-Spurs players in the Hull side. Is this a record?

.....

Striker Timo Munoz is in line for a FIFA fair play award for his behaviour in a recent lower-league game in Germany. With his side losing 0-2 the FC Bocholt attacker raced into his opponent's penalty area and fell to ground in a challenge by an opposition Baumberg player. The referee immediately awarded a penalty to his team despite angry pleas from the Baumberg team whereupon Munoz marched up to the referee and declared he had not in fact been fouled. Proving that referees are not all dogmatic or inflexible the official promptly reversed his decision at which point there was a round of applause and a hug from his relieved opponents.

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INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR SOCIETY

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

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

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

The National Structure for the Society is:



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

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

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

What are the Benefits of RA Membership?

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

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

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

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

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

Note

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

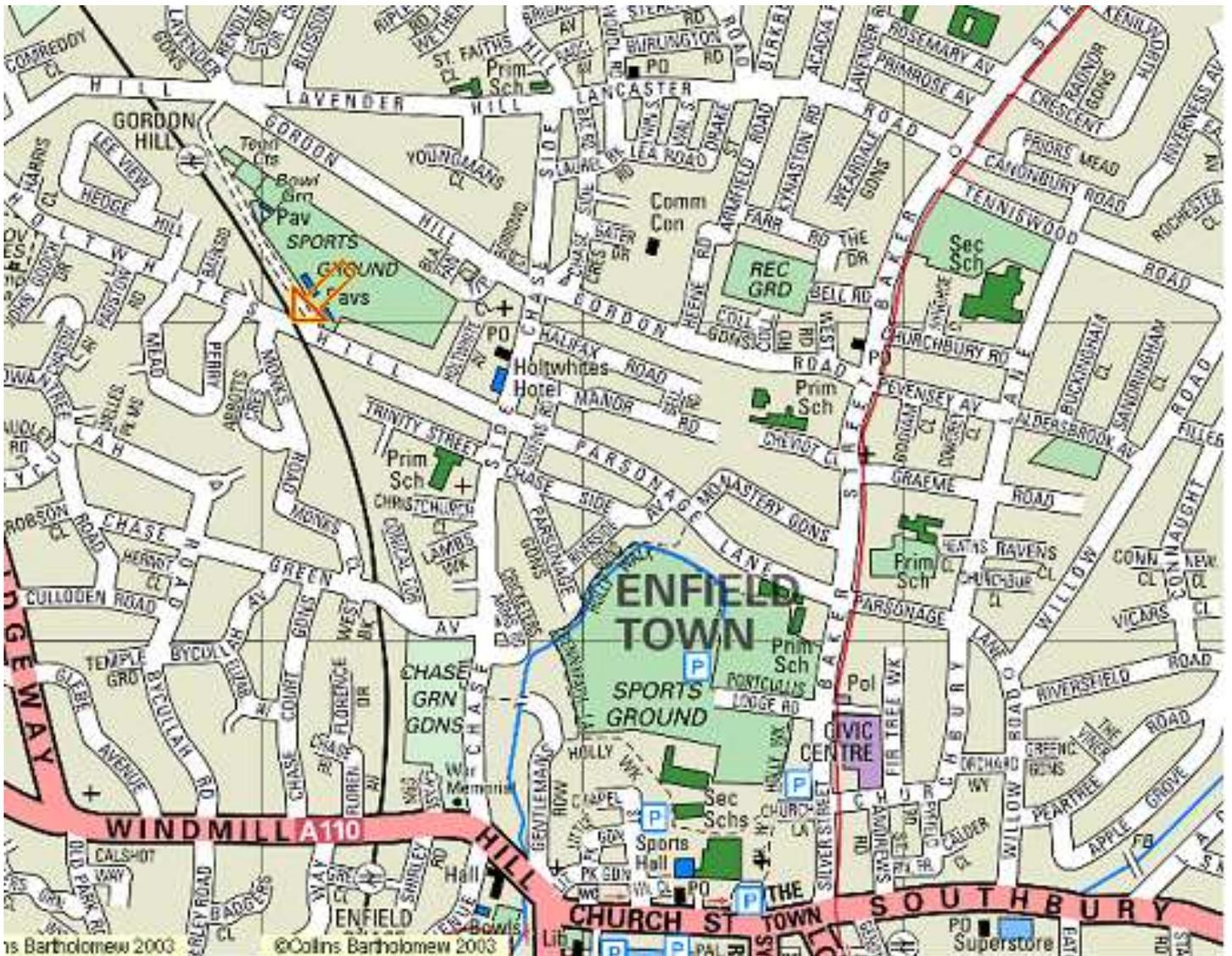
AFA	Amateur Football Alliance
AFA CRA	Amateur Football Alliance County Referees Association
CFA	County Football Association
CRA	County Referees Association
LFA	London Football Association
MCFA	Middlesex County Football Association
R.A.	Referees Association
RA-FA	Referees Association/Football Association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

Reviewed September 2015

MONTHLY MEETINGS

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

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



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

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

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.

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