

*The Normidian
Magazine
Season 2011/2012*



THE
REFEREES'
ASSOCIATION



November 2011

COUNCIL 2011 - 2012

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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 November 2011 when the guest speaker will be - Tim Lawrence Referee Development Officer for Surrey.

EDITORIAL

The article in the last magazine by Observer bemoaning the fact that referees do not penalise the thrower who dispatches the ball from the wrong place on the touchline, is worth considering at greater length. This is especially so since I received a phone call from France from one Stan Lover who amongst his other considerable accomplishments in the refereeing world was the original author of the book known as "Ask the Ref". Stan who had been emailed the magazine and who wants to become a regular reader was more inclined in his own criticism to blame Assistant Referees for the shortcoming whilst I am all for berating the Referee on the pitch. You can of course ask 'does it all matter' and in the new phraseology that many of us abhor 'is it in the expectation of how the game should be officiated?' In my view Yes it does matter because basically if done deliberately or not caring then it is cheating. Both before and during the '60's it was never really contemplated and I can provide a personal illustration of this by way of anecdote. During a Sunday Cup Final in that era, the game being refereed by a pre World Cup Final Jack Taylor, I took a throw in from the running track surrounding the pitch. I was immediately pulled up by the aforementioned J.T. and instructed to take the throw from the touchline. On querying the position I was informed that the explanation was that the throw in had to be taken from where the ball left the field but with a margin of error of one yard (presumably now stretched to one meter) and that was how it was in those days. However reverting back to theme, in the 70's and 80's grabbing ground on the throws became so bad that Jimmy Hill in his television punditry managed to convince the law makers that they should penalise the practise and so now the existing Law prevails so that throwing in from the wrong place should result in the throw being given to the opposite team.

Nonetheless this interpretation of the Law is more honoured in the breach than in its implementation. Indeed one fears it is again getting so bad especially with players throwing in from the wrong half of the field, that sooner or later 'Jimmy Hill's Law' will be scrapped altogether as being obsolete. This type of thing has happened before in that we have unfortunately seen changes in the Laws taking place because referees have failed to implement the then existing provisions. [Perhaps that scenario is a ripe subject for a future article.]

So what should be done about this problem and how to do it? Well the how to do it should be effected by both the whistle and hand signals. However from several years of observation I have noticed that many referees for whatever reason do not control

either the game or the players by perceptive and/or judicious use of the whistle. A quick toot or three on the whistle can indicate that the player should advance no further or a signal as to where the throw should take place also does the trick and so does use of the voice.. None of that is all that difficult but it is successful. If not then the referee should immediately award the throw to the opposite team. If that reversal happens a couple of times, the players will start to actually ask the referee or nod to him or her, about whether their positioning to take the throw is correct. That only leaves what to look for to avoid problems over “stealing” ground. Firstly when it is near the corner flag it frequently proves too much of temptation to not advance. That can easily be jumped on. Similarly if a players starts to wander down the touchline with the ball you can be sure he won’t throw in from the right position especially if he faces “down the line”. Also the player who grabs the ball and runs with it to take a quick throw invariably will go beyond the proper mark. There are of course other aspects not covered here, but one Law not frequently dealt with either at throw- ins, is the need for an opponent to be two meters from the thrower. This was brought in to stop opponents from blocking the throw, but again frequently and especially at grass roots levels, this is not penalised and/ or the referee fails to require the opponent to retreat what in effect is only a short distance.

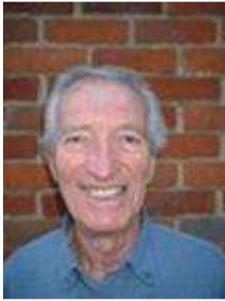
Does all of this matter? Well I leave it up to readers to decide and hopefully to send in their views for publication.

Ken Goldman
Editor

50 Years of History – Charles Lifford

In 1999, a book relating to the 50 years History of the North Middlesex Referees ‘Society was published. Whether you purchased a copy is neither here nor there, what is important, and it should be to you, is that I have been keeping the History up to date, 62 years, in total .What have you sent me since that date? Have you had a County Cup Appointment? Does the Society know? Have you done a local Cup Final during this period, about which you can send me details? Have you had a photograph taken whilst refereeing, or been part of a group photo of referees that may be of interest to anyone in the Society? A full record has been kept of the 50 years up to 1999. If you don’t do your bit –and it only needs to be a little bit – the History will not be maintained. Please send me as much or as little as possible.

We now have a chance to publish a fuller obituary of our former Vice President, Vince Yeudall, who sadly died a few weeks ago.



Vince attended St Wilfred's School in Blyth, Northumberland and played football and table tennis for the school.

He played at outside right not only for the School but also for the District side.

On leaving school, he moved to London where he continued to play football for various Clubs, Woodgate who played in the Northern Suburban League and Old Owens.

It can be seen from this introduction that Vince has travelled around the Country quite a bit, but there is more to come, this was due to the fact that in 1948 on leaving school he joined the Civil Service. He started at the bottom as junior clerk in the Stamp Duty Office of the Inland Revenue at Somerset House.

He represented them at football and table tennis.

All this came to an end when in 1950 he was 'kitted out' at Catterick where he arrived to join the Royal Corps of Signals for his spell of National Service.

He remained at Catterick long enough to do his basic training and he was then posted to the War Office in London. From there he moved on to Paris being posted to S.H.A.P.E. - The Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe, serving under the Supreme Commander, General Eisenhower.

He went into the history books as the soldier who handed The General the message that King George VI had died.

Whilst servicing in Paris he continued with his football career, the highlight of which was when he played against Pegasus, the FA Amateur Cup holders.

By the time he was due to leave the forces he had become a N.C.O.

Having completed his two years as a 'National Serviceman' he returned to his job with the Civil Service being given a post in the Inland Revenue, he was later moved into the Investigation Branch.

In 1955 he married Ann and their marriage has been blessed with two daughters Susan and Catherine.

At the Inland Revenue he began to move up the ladder, as a Senior Investigate Officer, travelling around the U.K. investigating 'tax fraud'.

In the late 80's early 90's he spent a few years with the Fraud Squad, working in Northern Ireland, but even here he could not stop playing football. This was with Ards Football Club. His services were later recognised by them making him an Honorary Member of the Club.

He played football until he was 60 years of age, finishing off his career with Old Owens Vets XI in the Old Boys League, retiring in 1993.

It was in March of that year having already started to referee some of his Club's matches, but like all helpful persons who referee he was told he did not know the rules. It was then that decided to take a Referee's Course and that he was when contacted Robin Jagot.

At the Training Centre he came under the instructions of Messrs Jagot and Osborn. Having passed the examination he registered with the Amateur Football Alliance and commenced his refereeing career with the Old Boys', Southern Amateur and Southern Olympian Leagues.

In 1994, he took over the Society post of Supplies Officer, a post that he held for three years.

It was in the same year that he became the Official Organiser for Arsenal Football Club, Charity Shield. It was in that capacity that he provided the Officials for all their 'within house' Charity organised matches.

Since then he has worked tirelessly for the Society membership with a lot of his energy not only directed at his own career in refereeing but for the young members of the Society giving them their first experience of a Professional Clubs set up.

It was 1999 he was elected Vice Chairman of the Society.

Plum Appointments

1995-96 Assistant Referee	Representative Match, Southern Olympian League XI v London University XI.
Assistant Referee	Amateur Football Alliance, Veterans Cup Final.
1996-97 Assistant Referee	Southern Olympian League, Burntwood Trophy, Cup Final.
1997-98 Assistant Referee	Amateur Football Alliance, Veterans Cup Final.
Referee	British Universities, Women's Cup Final.
1998-99 Referee	Ex England XI v Ex Scotland XI, at Upton Park. West Ham F.C.
1999-00 Referee	Ex Arsenal XI v Celebrities XI

The most memorable moment in his refereeing career, although refereeing for the England team's sponsors, Green Flag at Wembley, was the occasion when in season 1999-2000 when he was introduced to H M Duke of Edinburgh after refereeing the Ex Arsenal XI v Celebrities XI at Highbury.

Although, Vince was a very late starter, he proved on more than one occasion that if you need anything doing he will always find the time to give a 'helping hand.'

When he died on 1st September 2011, the Society lost a valuable asset as Vince was so willing to give his time in assisting the young inexperienced referees to get a feel with the 'professional' game. It was always appreciated that he enjoyed the pleasure of seeing the young members of the Society coming along to Arsenal Football Club to do their first match there.

It would be very remiss of anyone if his wife, Anne and their two daughters Catherine and Susan were not mentioned again, because all of his 'sporting activities' would not have been possible without their support.

He showed time and time again that the Referees Association's, "SERVICE BEFORE SELF" was written for Vince.

[With thanks to Charles Lifford for the very full information supplied]

LAST MONTH'S GUEST SPEAKER

One of the biggest attendances for some time welcomed last month's special guest Speaker Steve Bennett from Kent, who is now a FIFA lecturer and one of only 20 in the World. Steve of course was a long standing Premier referee having worked his way up from the Kent league, The Football League and ultimately to FIFA's International Referees' Panel. He took charge of the 2007 FA Cup Final the first at the new Wembley Stadium.

Steve started by showing a short FIFA film of the last World Cup in South Africa and the help and advice given to referees in his current capacity. He was hopeful that some of them might make the Referees panel for the Brazil World Cup in 2014 as he felt that there was some talent there. Another of his tasks is to be involved with instructing the Referees' Instructors and he pointed out that he now does a lot of assessing and analysis especially using video clips of match incidents the like of which he said he was about to show us on the night. One thing that he emphasised was that many referees think that they know the Laws of the Game and did not bother to check regularly, whereas the opposite was true and it was very important to actually know the Laws and to keep reading them especially in any areas of uncertainty.

Our guest threw in teasing questions from time to time during his talk and one point he felt was important was whether we were giving offsides and allowing the kick to be taken from the wrong place and was there some consideration for re-writing the Law to get the practice right. He also reminded everyone that for the purposes of dismissing a player that "serious foul play" was when a player was challenging for the ball whilst "violent conduct" was when the player committing the offence was not challenging for it. In regard to players having to leave the field for injury he emphasised the change that stated that where 2 players of the same side collide and receive treatment on the pitch, that is an exception to the rule in the Law and they can both remain on the field of play except where blood is present relating to either one or both of those players.

Steve then invited every one present to split into small groups while he showed 4 separate clips of match incidents as he had previously indicated he would. After the clips were finished they were re-shown with all the groups commenting on what decisions were made and what decisions the groups would have made where different. All of the clips were discussed at length as to the appropriate Laws and how the referees could have best managed the incidents.

His final comment was in the form of a rhetorical question as to whether overall we think about the game enough.

The vote of thanks was given by Grant Matthias.

The Adventures of Willy ‘The Whistler’ Woodwork

Part 13 –Substitutions

Match: Cockfosters Casuals –v- Reds Rovers
Venue: Hackney Marsh – Pitch 165
League: Division Three – Sunday Park League (North)
Weather: During 61st to the 64th minute – Wet and windy.

We have previously discussed the importance of making sure the referee has the players names prior to the match starting and making sure that the substitution procedure is carried out in full correctly. It is extremely rare for a red card to be shown and not to have that team to play the remainder of the match with ten players. But I, Willy Woodwork, as you will read in a moment, know that can happen as it happened to me in this match.

In the 61st minute Cockfosters Casuals asked to make a substitution. ‘No problems’ I thought as I run over to the half way line to check that all was okay. One on and one off. But as the subbed player left the field of play to my amazement he swore at me and then proceeded to tell me what a terrible game I was having. “You can’t send me off now” he said with a grin on his face. He thought he was being clever. Then I wiped the smile from his face when I answered “But I can still show you a red card.” I then took great joy in duly producing the red card. Inwardly now I was the one who was smiling. The substitute had already entered the field of play which meant the substitution was technically complete. I knew the law was quite clear on this stating that the procedure was complete as soon as the substitute steps onto the field of play he then becomes a player. This of course meant that Casuals despite having a player being shown a red card did not have to play with one player less. I suppose in this instance it was lucky for them but the red card still counts. Rovers felt this was very unfair and they had never encountered anything like this happening before. I also could not think of anything like this happening before. Of course I knew that I was correct in law. I was the referee so I had to be right. As I always say ‘expect the unexpected’.

The next minute also saw another substitution and another red card. The Rovers number ten was recklessly challenged by the Casuals number eight who I of course duly cautioned. The Rovers player was on the ground and in pain moaning as he held his ankle. I immediately signalled for the ‘trainer’ to come on to assist. The player appeared to be in great discomfort and was unable to stand up. It required a stretcher to remove the injured player. As the injured player went passed me as he lay on the stretcher he told me in no uncertain terms that I should have shown the red card to the Casuals player and went on to tell me what he thought of my decision. At this time Rovers had asked for a substitution to be made knowing the injured player would be unable to continue. I do not have a high tolerance level and despite feeling sympathy for the injured player I felt I had dealt with the offending player correctly and that a yellow card was the right decision. I never allow a player to shout and swear at me and I duly produced a red card. I then went over to the half way line to prevent the substitute from entering the field of play and told the manager that the substitute can enter but another player will have to be taken off as well of course in addition to the player on the stretcher who I had just red carded! In this instance Reds Rovers were penalised by having to continue with one less player.

In reality a player leaving the field of play to be replaced by a player coming on cannot be considered a complex procedure. But read on to see what happened next.

The next Rovers substitute came on to the pitch and all was checked by yours truly. With his first touch of the ball he had the ball in the Casuals goal. It was a perfectly good goal. I walked back to the centre mark and blew my whistle to restart the match. Suddenly a horrible thought entered my mind. The substitute when he entered the pitch just gave his surname and I duly put a tick beside his name in my note book. The player who had scored had the same surname of a team mate but this player was not one of the named subs. The captain came over to me and explained this player had arrived late and thought this being a local Sunday league match that it was okay for the player to play. This was going to cause me problems as I had awarded the goal and play had restarted. I explained to both of the captains why the goal had to stand but that the 'illegal substitute' was considered as an outside agent and had to leave the field of play.

Casuals did not understand how I could award the goal if the player was deemed 'illegal' and were none to happy when I allowed the player who had been substituted to return to the pitch to continue playing. I had to caution two players from Casuals for dissent and insisted they went away from me or even more cards may have to be shown. They were even more amazed when I did not caution the 'illegal' player simply because he was not a player or one of the named substitutes.

Naturally I was going to report the incident to the relevant FA county who in turn would deal with the 'player'. Then to annoy Casuals further, because I had blown my whistle to stop play previously, I restarted play with a drop ball. I was totally convinced I was correct in dealing with this confusing incident. Would you have allowed the goal to stand? Would you have done any thing differently?

Yet again I saw the assessor who had come to watch me busy writing notes. He seemed to be writing a lot. I was convinced that they could only be good things about my refereeing today.

I suppose on reflection I could have paid a bit more attention to the substitutes procedure but normally all that happens is one player comes on and one player goes off. Is it me or do these things only happen when an assessor comes to watch.

Naturally I stayed calm throughout these incidents and applied the law correctly. Let's see what happens next.

Keep those pencils sharpened.

Regards,



Willy Woodwork
Willy 'The Whistler' Woodwork

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Bristol Downs Football League

On my travels recently, I found myself in Bristol. During my time there I visited the Clifton Downs area where there are 28 football pitches – all close together similar to the more familiar Hackney Marshes. They are the home pitches of the 54 teams in the Bristol Downs Football League, meaning that the teams play their home and away matches on one ground, incurring no travelling expenses. The only time the teams venture away from the Downs is when they are unfortunate enough to be drawn away from home in a County Cup Competition. Additionally, the Downs has a no swearing and no spitting bye-law making it a rather pleasant area to watch football!



The Vennearce Report

This months extract from the Vennearce Report covers Training; Examination; Assessment; and Promotion of Referees. For those of you who were not around at the time this report was written (April 1968), it was written by two former Life Vice Presidents of the Society, Arthur Pearce and Owen Venning, and called for a radical restructuring of The Referees' Association.

TRAINING; EXAMINATION; ASSESSMENT AND PROMOTION OF REFEREES

Training, Examination, Assessment, and Promotion vary tremendously as between County and County and a universally standardised system applicable to every prospective referee, irrespective of geographical location, has become imperative.

A standard Training Curriculum and Examination Procedure should be agreed and applied universally throughout the Country. County Training Centres at strategic points should be set up and Training Superintendents appointed responsible for ensuring adherence to the standard Training and Examination procedure.

To this end, County R.A.'s would assume full responsibility – as is well within their compass – working in conjunction with the R.A. full-time Secretariat.

Another unsatisfactory feature is that at present, the large majority of referees are required to APPLY for promotion, but this would no longer be necessary in a modernised and realistic system under the aegis of County R.A.'s. From the registration form (see appendix attached) sent to R.A. Headquarters, details of Leagues and other relevant material could be sent to the appropriate County R.A. and from this information the latter would consider "promotion potential" at frequent intervals – and not only at the season's end. Through its pool of Assessors, the County could arrange for these to be assessed as many times as is reasonably practicable, and promotion would be purely on these independent assessments, any club markings being merely of academic interest in "border line" cases.

At present chaos exists through Assessors being sent on fruitless assignments – it has been known for a referee's appointment to be switched three times in a week; some assessors are overworked whereas others are not offered enough assignments to retain their interest in this very valuable sphere. Those dedicated men, who defy all weathers to help referees – quite honorarily – deserve better than this.

With regard to Football League officials, it is envisaged that an Assessor be sent to each League match to assess referee AND LINESMEN and from the numerous individual assessments of these independent observers over a season, valuable and completely unbiased reports would be available.



Respect? Did it die completely on Saturday 15 October when Redditch player Josh McKenzie struck referee Chris Wicks in their Southern League South match against Chesham United. Whilst Redditch must take some credit for immediately cancelling the players registration, the player was subsequently arrested by the Police and cautioned. This must be dealt with severely, and the right message sent out from the disciplinary authorities.

Also fourteen referees on the Oldham Sunday League protested on Sunday 16 October against the League allowing players who had previously been banned for behaviour and assaults on referees being allowed back into the League to play on another final warning. Why did this League just not cancel registrations of these players if they have assaulted a match official? What kind of message does this send out?

And in Somerset the Woodspring Junior FL has again written to parents and clubs asking them to stop verbally abusing referees – some as young as fourteen. The letter had been issued regularly over the last five years. But had been reissued again as the number of complaints has again risen following the instalment of a child welfare officer at every club.



President's Message

May I, through the auspices of this Magazine, express my sincere thanks and appreciation to our Secretary, Robin Jagot, for his sterling efforts in arranging the recent presentation evening held on October 21 to honour six of our members who were receiving awards from both the Referees' Association and the Football Association. I have received a number of messages of thanks for the evening which was attended by representatives from Middlesex County FA; Hertfordshire FA; London FA; and the Amateur Football Association.

Gary Cobden
President, North Middlesex Referees Society



North Middlesex Referees Society - One Hundred Club Membership

Below are the results of the first draws for the current season which were made at the October Society meeting. There are 49 shares subscribed for the current season, meaning a normal monthly payout of £34.30. In February and August the total payout will be £49.00. Cheques for winners are enclosed with this month's magazine, along with those for the final draws for season 2010/2011 which were published last month. If you receive your magazine by e-mail, your cheques will be posted to you.

September

1st 48 Terry Flack £19.80 2nd 7 Charles Lifford £9.60 3rd 33 Robin Jagot £4.90

October

1st 6 Cos Fernandes £19.80 2nd 45 Alex Bedwell £9.60 3rd 17 Roger Fox £4.90

We are still looking for new members for the 100 Club for the season, so, if you would like to join for Season 2011/2012, please complete the form below and forward to Gary Cobden, Honorary Treasurer.

NORTH MIDDLESEX REFEREES SOCIETY 100 CLUB

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

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

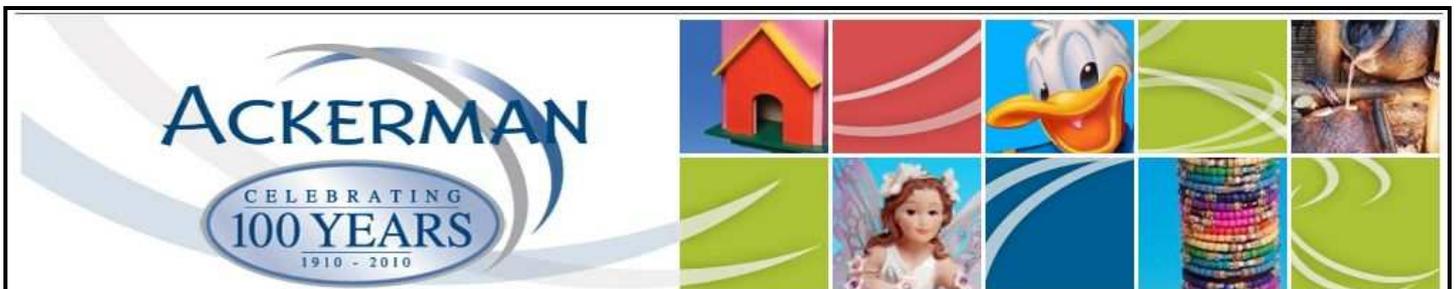
Renewal information will be included with next seasons Membership Form

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

Society Use - Numbers Allocated.....

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Honorary Treasurer



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Are once again pleased to support North Middlesex Referees Society in Season 2011/2012



Presentation Dinner – 21 October 2011

On 21 October a Presentation Dinner was held at Old Owens Association in Northaw, and was attended by 84 guests including representatives of Middlesex County FA; Hertfordshire FA; London FA; and the Amateur Football Association.



Donald Stewart, 81, brother of singer-songwriter and musician Rod was one of four members to receive the 50 Year Service Award from the Football Association. Don is pictured, right, receiving his award from FA Councillor, and former Premier League Referee, Ray Lewis. Don played for Highgate Redwing FC and was their Secretary from 1950-1961. He has held various administrative roles in football and qualified as a referee in 1981. Don is still refereeing regularly, and, since 1996 he has been Secretary of Vagabond Old Boys FC – the celebrity football team in which his brother plays!

President Gary Cobden received the Referees' Association Long and Meritorious Service award. Gary is pictured (right) receiving his award from Peter Molyneux a Life Member of the Referees' Association. Gary commenced refereeing in 1973, aged 15. He was elected as an Auditor of the Society in 1984 and became a Councillor in 1988, taking over as Treasurer in 1989, a position he still holds. Gary has also been a Councillor on Middlesex County Football Association since 2003, and currently serves on the Referees Committee, and is also Chairman of the Rules Revision Sub-Committee.



Peter Dace started refereeing at the age of 31 in 1972. Until that time he had played regularly. In his years as a referee, Peter has officiated in over 3,000 games, and served the Society as Treasurer for fifteen years between 1974 and 1989, and also served two spells as Vice Chairman of the Society. He also spent eight years as Assistant Referees Secretary for the Capital Football League, and is now a Life Member of the League. He is also a Life Vice President of the Society. Peter is pictured, right, receiving his FA 50 Year Service award from FA Councillor, and former Premier League Referee, Ray Lewis.



Mick Osborn, 74, is pictured, left, receiving his FA 50 Year Service award from FA Councillor, and former Premier League Referee, Ray Lewis. Mick qualified as a referee in 1978, and in 1987 was elected to the Council of the Society, immediately taking on the role of Social Secretary, a position he held until 1991. Mick assisted at the Society Training Centre for fifteen years between 1994 and 2009, and qualified as an FA Licensed Referee Instructor in 2000. Mick is now a referee mentor helping newly qualified referees. A former President of the Society, Mick has also been Vice-Chairman and Chairman, and he received the Referees' Association Long and Meritorious Service award in 2009.





Robin Jagot is pictured, left, receiving his FA 50 Year Service award from FA Councillor, and former Premier League Referee, Ray Lewis. Robin started refereeing aged 21 in 1962, refereeing regularly until 2002. He served as Society Training Secretary for 30 years until 2008. He was elected as a Councillor for Middlesex County FA in 1989, became a Vice President in 2005, and was elected to the Board of Directors in 2010. He currently serves on the Referees; Development; Womens; and Disciplinary Committees. A former President of the Society, he is currently the Secretary and organised the Dinner. He received the Referees' Association Long and Meritorious Service award in 1999.

George Basten, 82, received the Referee's Association 50 year award for services to Refereeing. George is a Life Vice President of the Society, and previously served as Vice Chairman; Social Secretary; and President. He joined the Society in 1956, and in 1960 began helping the Society Training Centre, serving the team for over 20 years, during that time also becoming a referee examiner and assessor. Between 1974 and 1984 he was Area Assessing Secretary for Middlesex Referees Association. In 1981 Middlesex County FA presented him with an award "in recognition of the Administration Services to Football in Middlesex." George also holds the Referees Association Long and Meritorious Service award, and the Football Association 50 Year award for services to football. George is pictured, left, receiving his award from Peter Molyneux a Life Member of the Referees' Association.



Additional pictures appear on the Society website, <http://www.northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk>



Short Additional memo on the Presentation Dinner.

Guests of Honour –Mr & Mrs Ray Lewis were representing the FA; Peter Molyneux representing the RA and Mrs Ann Yeudall wife of our late Vice Chairman Vince Yeudall.

Toast Master – Peter Dace who was also a recipient of an award.

After a 3 course Dinner with coffee or tea the awards were presented firstly for the RA Awards by Peter Molyneux to –George Basten-50 years and Gary Cobden 20 years. Secondly the 50 year FA Awards by Ray Lewis to Robin Jagot; Mick Osborn; Donald Stewart; Tony Ward and Peter Dace.

The Toast to the Society was given by Jim Taylor President of the MCFA and Responded to by the President Gary Cobden

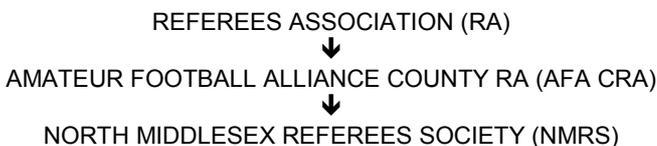
INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR SOCIETY

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. 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.

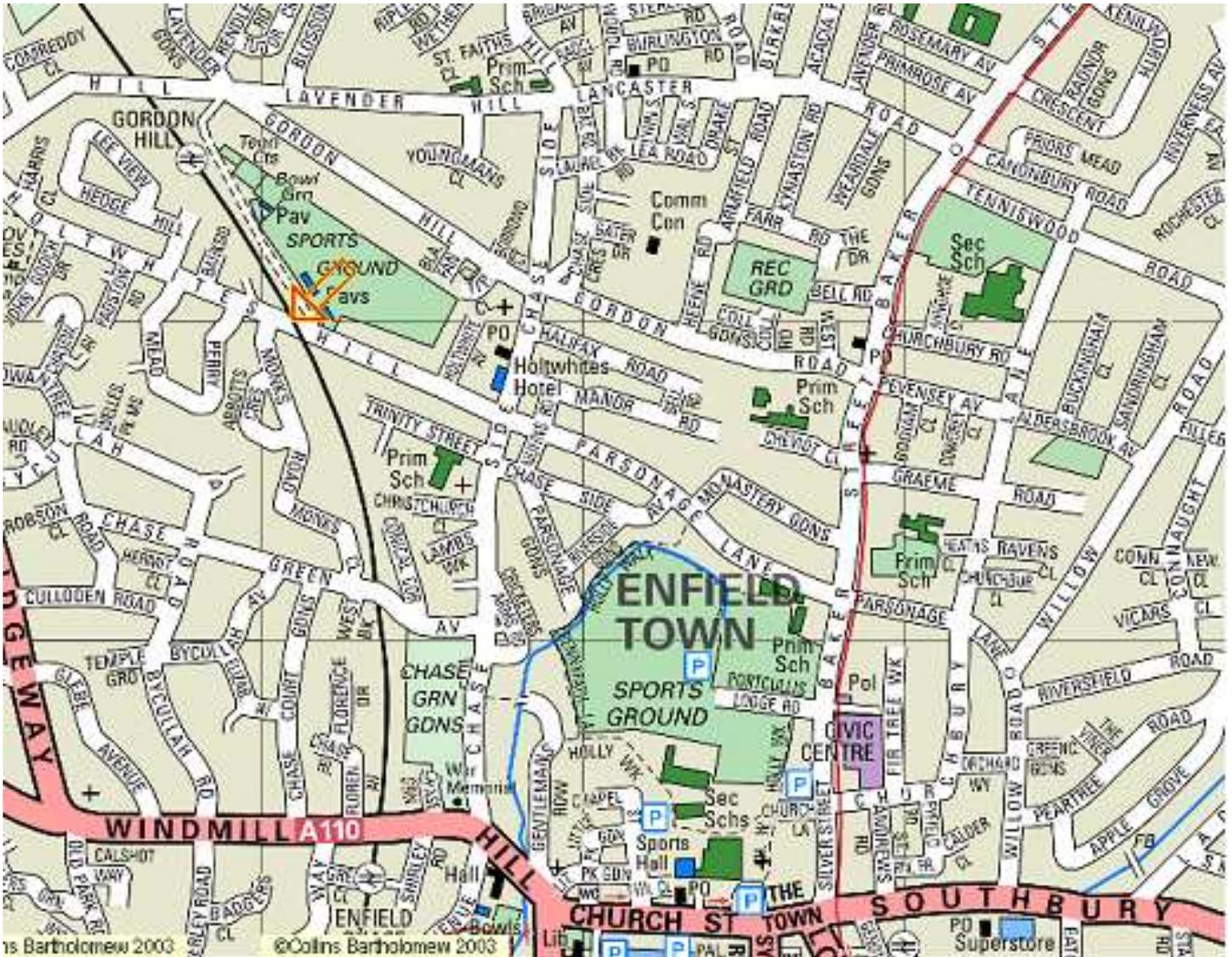
AFA	Amateur Football Alliance
AFA CRA	Amateur Football Alliance County Referees Association
CFA	County Football Association
CRA	County Referees Association
LFA	London Football Association
MCFA	Middlesex County Football Association
R.A.	Referees Association
RA-FA	Referees Association/Football Association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

Updated July 2011

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Are held on the third Thursday monthly (except October – first Thursday) 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 2011/2012:- September 15; October 6 (first Thursday); November 17; December 15 2011; and January 19; February 16; March 15; April 19; May 17 2012



The venue is passed by Bus Route W9 and Bus Route 191 stops just a short distance away - direct from Enfield Town, and Enfield Chase; and Gordon Hill Rail Stations are only a short distance away. For fuller directions and how to get to the venue, see our website. See also www.tfl.gov.uk; www.nationalexpresseastanglia.com; and www.firstcapitalconnect.co.uk. If anybody has difficulty reaching the venue, and would like assistance, please contact one of the Society Officers – whose details are on the inside front cover.

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

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

PERMISSION IS GIVEN TO REPRODUCE MATERIAL WITH A SUITABLE ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

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