

*The Normidian
Magazine
Season 2016/17*



**THE
REFEREES'
ASSOCIATION**



November 2016

COUNCIL 2016 - 2017

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Visit the North Middlesex website at:- www.northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk

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

The next Meeting of the North Middlesex Referees' Society will take place on Thursday the 17th November 2016 at 7-45pm at the Holtwhites Sports & Social Club, Kirkland Drive, Enfield Middlesex when the guest speaker will be Keith Hiller the real Willy the Whistler Woodwork. Keith is a great interpreter of the Laws of the game as anyone who reads his articles in this magazine will be able to testify and will be very well worth listening to.

EDITORIAL

This edition of the magazine pays another tribute to our Life Vice President George Basten (apologies for the "typo" of George's surname which occurred in last month's edition) who sadly passed away last month. Details of his funeral have been provided by Peter Dace which is most welcome

Not much in the way of controversy recently although there were two interesting instances of the confusion that the Offside Law still provides in the matches between Chelsea and Everton on the 5th of November which duly provided appropriate fireworks in a 5-0 home win and Arsenal versus Tottenham Hotspur the next day which did not have the same spark. It was fascinating to hear Howard Webb try to explain to the television panel that a player in an offside position does not of itself commit a football offence and that the own goal scored by a Spurs player was legitimate. They seemed not to be convinced and were adamant that at least one Arsenal player was interfering with an opponent. Yet despite the use of video replays and a calm and rational explanation they would have none of it. They might have had a better argument with Hazard's first goal for Chelsea the day before when his wonderful shot passed across the body of another Chelsea player and clearly interfered with the Everton goalkeeper's view of the ball. However very little was discussed about that and no real explanation was expressed. One comment during the weekend's game was made with some apposite meaning when it was suggested that after the first couple of weeks of the season when one or two select referees had given penalties for holding etc at corners and the grabbing had been considerably reduced, this over recent weeks seems to have melted away like the snow we expect in winter and turned to the slush of pulling and pushing. What an absolute shame is that.

However boring it is to be going on about this but I see nothing is still being done about players kicking the ball backwards at kick offs whilst standing in their opponent's half of the field and this is happening even in International matches and Champions' League games.

Just a quick line as well to wish Referee Kevin Johnson better after a freak collision which saw him carried off in a match which he was officiating in a game at Plymouth who were playing Colchester. Having suffered something similar recently I know how painful such things can be. Get well soon Kevin.

Ken Goldman

- Editor

REPORT ON THE FUNERAL OF LIFE VICE PRESIDENT GEORGE BASTEN

The North Middlesex Referees Society was well represented at the Funeral of our Life Vice-President George Basten on 13th October last, held at Thanet Crematorium just outside Margate. In attendance were Tom White; Robin Jagot; Tony Ward; Phil Sharp; and myself. A nice wreath was sent from the Society as was one from Middlesex County Football Association.

We arrived at Joan's house some thirty minutes before the ceremony and drove behind the hearses to the Crematorium. The service was conducted by Kate Crosher, the Celebrant of the Crematorium and having discussed the options with Joan I was asked to give the address.

I read some words prepared by George two years ago and these are printed separately. I added some personal thoughts and mentioned how Joan and George had celebrated their sixtieth wedding anniversary on 24th March this year and much as I tried George would not send his marriage certificate and so I could not apply for the congratulatory telegram from Buckingham Palace.

In mentioning George and our Society I detailed he joined us in 1956; served over 25 years in our Training Centre; received the Meritorious and Long Serving Award from The Referees Association in 1979; served as our President 1983-1986; and appointed a Life Vice-President in 1986.

His hobbies were supporting Spurs, from his early days living in Tottenham and playing popular songs on his electric organ.

I quoted from Charles Lifford's excellent book on the Society - 'all those who have been privileged to know George are much better for it' - and how he exemplified the Referees Association motto 'service before self'.

In closing I said George was a Gentleman with great charm; devoted; dedicated; cheerful; unassuming; supportive; a modest man -most particularly HE WAS MY FRIEND.

After the service we travelled to The Bell Inn, Minster where Joan kindly provided refreshments for her other Friends and ourselves.

Peter Dace

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

Part 47 – Where is the technical area?

Match: Cockfosters Casuals –v- Reds Rovers
League: Division Three – Sunday Park League (North)
Technical area: Seemingly on the pitch!

Play had stopped as the match ball seemed to have gone a little flat and needed some air. Of course neither of the teams had a pump so we all waited for the Cockfosters Casual captain to ask if anyone had a pump on the next pitch. In an ideal world both teams are expected to bring a minimum of two match balls which are expected to meet all the requirements of Law 2. For anyone who has ever been involved with Sunday morning football it is a miracle if one ball is given to the referee before and the match and that it meets all the required standards.

As we all waited suddenly..... The flash back moment -

Many years ago I was fortunate enough to be appointed to referee the Sunday Park League (North) Division Three Cup Final. It was held at a local non league ground with two neutral assistants. That showed everyone what a good referee I was and when referees talk amongst themselves about ‘plum’ appointments this was one in my opinion that could not be beaten!

These are the appointments that we referees dream about. And what wonderful dreams I had to the build up to my big day. The weeks flew by and suddenly there I was in a stadium for the first time and the crowd had to pay to watch me. The match started and I clearly remember being called over by one of the assistants who explained to me that the players from both sides would not stay in the technical areas and this obstructed both the vision and movement of the assistants. Added to this the substitutes were kicking the ball between themselves very close to the touch line. Before the match one of the teams appeared to have about twenty people in their ‘dugout’. I insisted only the named substitutes and team officials could remain which meant wives, girlfriends, mascots, children and the two dogs had to vacate.

My next job was to explain that only one person at a time is authorised to convey tactical instructions. I was prepared to be flexible because when I watch matches on television the managers appear to stand for ninety minutes at the edge of their technical area shouting instructions and the officials never seem to say anything to them.

- **Would you have done the same?**
- **What would you have done differently?**

These comments all lead nicely to this match....Cockfosters Casuals versus Reds Rovers with both teams consistently being told not to stand on the pitch. In a way I was fortunate that I did not have neutral officials as their vision would be severely obstructed whilst the substitutes acting as my 'assistants' today were none the wiser as to how things should be.

Early in the match I asked both managers permission to move some bags and requested the substitutes stayed behind the bags which were to give the impression of some sort of barrier and a technical area. My request lasted no longer than ten seconds.

As soon as I blew my whistle to start the match I noticed both managers stepping over the bags, shouting instructions and actually standing at least two steps onto the pitch.

So what would you do?

- **Show a yellow card if the manager and substitutes continue to encroach onto the field of play?**
- **Abandon the match?**
- **Submit a report to county?**
- **Just ignore the fact all these people are standing on the pitch as it happens every Sunday morning?**

During this match every time a goal had been scored the managers and substitutes from both sides had run onto the field of play to celebrate. A referee is expected to caution a player if a player removes their shirt after scoring but when Rovers scored their three substitutes again run onto the pitch but this time they all removed their shirts and danced a celebration move which was obviously choreographed and rehearsed.

It made me smile as it looked very good but I felt this was delaying the restart and I duly showed the three dancing substitutes a yellow card. Reds Rovers could not understand my decision as to why I had cautioned their substitutes but they insisted that the law only applied to a player removing their shirt and not a substitute but I knew that in law that I was correctDo you think I was correct?

Suddenly I was thinking of my cup final again. Maybe there is still one more cup final left in me.....I certainly hope so!

See you all soon,

Willy Woodwork

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

TURF WARS- A History of London Football- by Steve Tongue published by Pitch Publishing Ltd @£9.99.

Football Club histories can amongst other things be dry or fascinating and this narration is without doubt very much in the latter category. Written by one of the few journalists equally at home in broadcasting or the written word this is a mammoth task completed with both style and fact, since the author sets out to record the events marking the complete stories of all the London Clubs who have appeared in the four top divisions. This also includes those minnows from non-League, Barnet in the North and Dagenham in the East as they finally made their way into the heady heights of the highest echelon.

As can be expected for analysis purposes the book is divided into sections and these consist of "Early days(1863-1899); Taking shape(1900-1920); Capital gains(1921-1939) Interlude(War); Austerity(1946-60); Glory days(1961-1970); Transition(1971-90); Greed is good(1991-2000): and Plus ca change (2001-16)". There is another interlude chapter which is entitled Non-league football which deals with the oft forgotten era of when the game was loved and supported by thousands of fans across a large range of amateur clubs, who as we know saw some promoted to the Football League when they became professional.

The book shows how much rivalry there has been over time especially between Arsenal and Spurs when the Gunners first reached the top division, but it did not stop Spurs allowing Arsenal to use their ground when Highbury was bombed in the war. Or the enmity involving failed take-overs and rescuing of the clubs in West London, including Chelsea, Fulham, Brentford and QPR .Or simply the desire to be top-dog especially in the First Division and the Premier League where Arsenal apart from short periods led the way.

Whoever you support in the London your team is included here and of course fans of Spurs the first club to complete the double of League and FA Cup in the 20th century followed by Arsenal and ultimately by Chelsea have the most to crow about, especially the Gunners in going a complete season without a league defeat. All of this and other exploits are more than ably recorded but the rest are not forgotten. These include Brentford and the battlers of Wimbledon (now Milton Keynes Dons) stays in the top division along with the

ups and downs of QPR and Fulham, the short appearances of Millwall and the even shorter experience of Leyton Orient the club that the author supports.

There is another vital aspect to the book which is the social history woven within the same especially in the earliest chapters but it progresses as the game progresses by the clubs, throughout the 33 Greater London Boroughs (which is why Watford are excluded) despite numerous postal address changes and the occasional name variations to the clubs themselves.

So if you are a supporter or have any interest in a London club their story is unfolded in these pages covering their triumphs their longevity and their despairs..

There are 317 pages in which there is a section on the “Top London Club” season by season; an excellent Bibliography; an Index to the Clubs themselves and some fine colour photos.

Thus no-one in the football loving population of London or indeed going further afield should miss out on acquiring this terrific paperback book.

Flagging Up

Apparently top class Referees are better at spotting fouls than those in lower leagues. Their visual concentration is far more sophisticated than sub-elite referees, a study of Belgian match officials has found. Researchers at the University of Leuven say their skill came with experience. (The Metro paper)

.....
It is understood that the FA (now known as the English FA after objections by FIFA) are pushing ahead with plans to follow the example of the Dutch FA, In experimenting with TV replays for referees, with the possibility of trialling in later rounds of the FA Cup this season. Already a Dutch referee has used the system sending off a player in a cup game in turning a yellow card into a red one on the advice of the video referee. The Dutch FA trialled the system last season and now use it in cup matches.
.....

WHERE HAVE ALL THE YOUNGSTERS GONE?

Just to advise that last month's meeting which as people are aware the Guest Speaker was not in attendance. WE did have back up and a deputy speaker who was going to provide a presentation on the interesting subject of:- "The Advantage Clause" and its Implementation backed up with a number of slides showing whether the Referee was correct to Play it or Not. As there were only 10 very senior members present it was decided to have a "Chat Show" on a number of footballing subjects from grass roots level to the senior professional level which lasted for well over 90 mins with our Chairman leading the way.

It was agreed at the meeting that we arrange a "Training Evening" to mainly encourage young referees and hopefully those referees going for promotion also to attend. The date agreed is the 3rd Thursday March 16th, 2017 at Holtwhites Sports Centre Enfield, Middlesex.EN2 ORN.

I find it so sad when I hear so many referees complain that we do not do enough to encourage young recruits and the importance of being a Society member and its benefits, when we have laid on a number of training evenings and seminars over the last five years to help with their progress and that so few have turned up. The classic example was the Training evening on "Lining" which was lead by Phil Sharp and only a dozen members attended and most of them were well established senior colleagues. It is quite clear to me that they are not being encouraged to join a local referees Society since the FA through the County FA's took over the Referees Training programme. You need only to look at the Referees Association membership national figures which at the end of last season stood at 6000 members when the number of referees registered through their County Associations is around 32,000 referees. Of these numbers level 10 (non-active) is 25% and Level 9 (trainee referees) stands at 20%.

Sadly it is becoming very clear to me that the continuing membership decline for the RA will mean its downfall and cease to exist along with the local Societies including one day North Middlesex.

Robin Jagot

A number of Counties are sending out the reminder that appears below. Don't say you have not been warned.

Unaffiliated Football

Dear Referee

Can I please remind you all that when you are refereeing that if you referee a game that is not affiliated to any County or FA that your insurance is not valid and that you will not be covered for anything to do with refereeing? So that means

- Should you get injured **YOU ARE NOT COVERED**
- Should you be assaulted **YOU ARE NOT COVERED**
- Should a player get injured he can sue you and **YOU ARE NOT COVERED**
- If you caution someone we do not deal with it **YOU ARE NOT COVERED**
- If you red card someone we do not deal with it **YOU ARE NOT COVERED**

Should you have any Misconduct we do not deal with it **YOU ARE NOT COVERED**

Late Flag

Brentford's Alan McCormack has been given a five-match ban and fined £6,000 after using abusive language towards a female match official.

An independent commission found the midfielder, 32, had committed an "aggravated breach" of FA rules during the [2-1 win over Cardiff](#) on 19 April.

Lisa Rashid was an assistant referee and men involved in the match overheard the comments and complained.

McCormack, who denied the charge, must also attend an educational course.

The Irishman was found to have breached FA Rule E3(2) by making reference to the official's gender.

.....
A JUNIOR football clash ended in farce after a referee mistakenly blew for full time NINE MINUTES early.

The jaw dropping scenes occurred late in Lesmahagow's league clash with Neilston on Saturday when match official Michael McCart blew for time after 81 minutes, apparently believing the 90 minutes were up

.....
Did you know that Forest Green Rovers are the world's first vegan football club? Or that Dickie Borthwick, dubbed "the oldest winger in town", has recovered from cancer and is still playing at age 80 for Dorset's Wyke Veterans. He intends to keep playing as his says his legs and knees are still good although he admits he has lost "a bit of speed".

.....
..... Dunga might still be coach of Brazil if video replay technology had been used at the Copa America in June.

The goal which gave Peru a 1-0 win over Brazil and eliminated the five-times world champions was a clear example of where the technology could avoid a glaring mistake, according to former international referee David Elleray.

In a replay of the incident, Elleray pointed out that it was clear Raul Ruidiaz controlled Andy Polo's cross with his hand before turning the ball into the net.

.....
[Sincere thanks to the media of all types from which the above are drawn-Ed]



MID-HERTS RA is proud to announce

An Evening with

**MARK
CLATTENBURG**

JOIN FELLOW REFEREE'S FOR AN EVENING OF QUESTION AND ANSWERS WITH ONE OF THE PREMIER LEAGUE'S/UEFA'S TOP OFFICIALS

Venue:-

SHAMROCK CLUB

RIDGEWAY, WELWYN GARDEN CITY,
HERTFORDSHIRE, AL7 2AD

Thursday 1st December 2016

Starting 19.30 pm

Admission: £5.00 (includes raffle ticket)

Bar and Refreshments available

Car Parking is limited – please travel with others if possible.

Mid Herts RA

Secretary:

Charlie Willson;

chasrw183@gmail.com

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.

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.

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