

The Normidian
Magazine
60th
Anniversary
Year

NORTH MIDDLESEX REFEREES' SOCIETY



1949 - 2009
October 2009

COUNCIL 2009 - 2010

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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 at Holtwhites Sports and Social Club, Kirkland Drive, Enfield, Middx at 7.45 pm On Thursday the 15th October 2009 when you will be invited to come along and meet our Mystery Guest Speaker

EDITORIAL

The submarine captain's urgent cry of "dive, dive, dive" was never more evident than in the recent "Eduardo" affair. After a media witch-hunt the only journalist that I could find who came out with any credit and any sense of proportion was Martin Samuel writing in the Daily Mail of the 16th of September '09. He got it right when after explaining the situation that occurred he stated "either way some lunges by the goalkeeper make it hard for an attacker to stay on his feet even if he avoids the man. By his actions he made it impossible for the player to continue his run or keep the ball under control." He then went on to indicate that for the referee it was a matter of opinion.

The scenario enacted in that match, namely confrontation between goalkeeper and opposition attacker is the most dangerous of the conflicts in the game. Therefore in order for the referee to caution for simulation he has to be certain of his decision. To give an extreme example in which I was involved during my playing days and which effectively ended them, I was playing for the London Society of Referees (LONSAR) in a friendly game with a visiting Referees team from Sweden. I was just about to volley a goal from some 10 yards when the Swedish goalkeeper threw himself at me full length across my legs. Fearing a broken leg I dived upwards but unfortunately came down badly and ruptured a medial knee ligament which subsequently meant a knee operation. Technically if the earlier UEFA finding on Eduardo had stood the referee in my game could have cautioned me for diving because the goalkeeper never made any contact with me and I made sure I got out of his way. That is how dangerous is both the goalkeeper/attacker confrontation, and a rash judgment by a referee on simulation. Other more higher profile cases than mine relate to Arsenal's Jack Kelsey diving at the feet of Blackpool's Brown in a 6th Round FA Cup tie resulting in Brown missing the 1953 Final with a broken leg. Kelsey himself the bravest of the brave dived at the feet of an opponent in a World Cup match, received a kick in the kidney region and never played again. Finally who could forget Bert Trautmann in the 1956 FA Cup Final who also dived at the feet of an opponent and suffered a broken neck, even though he played on to the final whistle. There have been numerous other instances of injuries in this form as well as many near misses,,so it might be interesting to reverse the "Eduardo" situation and look instead at what the goalkeeper did in Arsenal's now infamous game with Celtic at the Emirates. He came flying out of his goal to try to reach the ball before Eduardo and at the very least because of his proximity to the attacker made the forward veer off course and lose his balance. Was this actually a breach of Law 12 in that it is possible to accuse him of (a) impeding the progress of an opponent and/or (b) playing in a dangerous manner?

Either of these two suggestions would have resulted in a caution for the goalkeeper and an indirect free kick in favour of the attacker... In fact the referee who never wavered from it, awarded a penalty, but so far as I am aware did not caution the

Celtic keeper. In a more central position the award of a penalty would surely have resulted in a dismissal for preventing an obvious goal-scoring opportunity.

Having posed the questions and made certain representations it is probably incumbent on me to state what I think a referee should do in these circumstances. Firstly and obviously keep up with play as far as possible; secondly engage his two Assistants in pre-match instructions about what he is looking for and what assistance he/she needs; and finally so far as I am concerned involve that old refereeing chestnut, look for clear daylight (or floodlight) between the goalkeeper and the attacker. If there is such daylight it is almost certainly simulation. If the two of them are so close to each other and there is no assistance available for confirmation, then just play on. You can rest assured the attackers will claim a penalty if it is not given and the defenders will claim simulation whether it is given or not. Obviously my comments are not either the definitive or authoritative statements of the Laws or the commentaries on them, but perhaps a way to quickly decide what has become a problem and in the case of Eduardo almost a witch-hunt by the media. It only takes one television commentator or pundit to suggest something like a dive and 40 journalists watching several replays of the incident on a tv monitor in the press room, to be influenced in a certain way, for a player to be condemned for something he did not do. In the case of Eduardo thank goodness UEFA came to the right conclusion in the end.

Before anyone accuses me of a white-wash in favour of Arsenal because I support them, please note that if I had felt the other way, this article would have been, as a referee, written from an entirely opposite perspective. Anyone wishing to add or air their own views on this subject in this journal can do so with the greatest of pleasure.

Dealing with the” RTPs” by Dermot Collins – The FA Respect Regional Manager.

In Jim White’s 2007 account of managing a Under-14s football team ‘You’ll Win Nothing With Kids’ he makes the perceptive point that ‘Youth Football and Stella Artois are those things most likely to lead to a deterioration in adult behaviour’. It would seem that anyone that has had any contact with the youth game would share this opinion. The FA’s recent use of an advert featuring Ray Winstone as an angry touchline parent was met with a national wave of recognition which led to it being replayed and discussed on virtually every significant TV and Radio Channel. As someone that was asked to speak on many of these programmes I was met time and time again with stories of horror teams, coaches or parents. One coach from Ilford described his weekend match experience as being like ‘Going to war’ whilst a journalist at a local newspaper has launched a campaign against ‘RTP’s’ – ‘Raving Touchline Parents’. Thanks to Ray Winstone a serious problem for football has been highlighted and likewise broadened an understanding of the FA’s Respect programme beyond even the touchline antics of manager’s in the Premier League.

As a past member of the London Coaches Association I frequently remember that much of the casual conversation between Coaches revolved not around a discussion of tactics and technique but how to deal with the demands of parents as to the greater involvement/recognition/scouting of ‘little Johnny’. We have 60,000 youth teams playing in this country each week and this could not happen without parents volunteering to undertake the range of necessary roles. However alongside those who

put themselves forward as managers, coaches, drivers, referees, to make the tea, sell the raffle tickets and sweep the changing rooms, are those who somehow consider children's football at whatever level, to be a qualifier for the Champions League or the later stages of the World Cup. I recently watched a Little League match and was amused to see a volunteer linesman attempt to 'support' the Referee whilst at the same time shouting at the sweeper of his team to advance so that he could wave the opposing team off-side! I have on other days also witnessed those occasions when the touchline supporters are snarling, abusive and poisonous to the whole environment of children's football.

As a coach and a parent what I would like is for my sons or daughters to play Centre Mid for Arsenal. As this is unlikely I will settle for them enjoying themselves, getting fit, making friends, travelling to different places and learning some social skills that will serve them in life. What I fear however is that if we don't make a stand in youth football then if we use the game to be a teacher it will in some cases instruct our young players how to cheat, lack tolerance, to be rude and aggressive, disrespect officials, lose badly and win without dignity. Whilst the FA can launch its Respect programme ultimately with 60,000 teams there will never be an FA Official on every touchline and neither should it be the overworked Referee's role to get involved with misbehaving spectators. Although the FA/CFA's should deal with misconduct when this is reported, poor behaviour needs to be dealt with at the level of club and league. Ultimately what is required is 'self policing' whereby there is a common acceptance of an acceptable range of behaviour and beyond this the disapproval of the majority isolating those that overstep the mark. On occasions examples in the Professional game can undermine our efforts at a grassroots level, but this should never be used as a reason to throw up our hands and do nothing. Referees in the Premier Leagues last season reported a general improvement in behaviour and the use of team captains to assist the Referee in the management of games is now considered to be a useful innovation. The behaviour of some team managers however remains problematic and in reality the issue that we face is that whatever sanction – fine or suspension – that the FA can impose is not nearly as significant as the ultimate sanction that all manager's now live with as a result of poor results – the sack. The FA is committed to its Respect programme and will continue to work with the professional game to ensure that the example set by those at the top of the game are as supportive as possible.

The Ray Winstone advert was produced in order to signpost people towards a new free on-line course <http://www.thefa.com/Leagues/Respect.aspx> (which has taken the place of 'Soccer Parent' and will thus become a mandatory element of the Level One course. Twenty Five thousand new coaches will thus undertake this course each year. The FA will also be producing a DVD version of the course prior to the 2009/10 season and we would hope that this resource is used at Club Parents evenings. We would hope that a discussion of this material will certainly make the agreeing of a club code of conduct far more meaningful and perhaps allow the coach a little more time to focus on improving adult players rather than placating adults.

PETER DACE one of our most consistent contributors writes -

Game 2,972 – but much still to learn!

Many years ago I wrote an article for The Normidian listing all the items I carried with me when going to officiate at a game. I invited Colleagues to inform me of other items they carried and which could be added to my list. The only response I received was the advantages of taking a pencil-sharpener.

So since that time I have also carried a pencil-sharpener but, to my almost certain knowledge, I have not had to use it.

I suspect if I prepared today another list of items I carry it would be little different but outside my holdall and inside my car there are three essentials, one of which could not have been imagined when I started Refereeing during 1972 ie the mobile phone. Frankly I do not mind how early I get to a game provided I have with me the mobile phone (07855 948507), a flask of tea, and The Daily Telegraph.

However just last Wednesday – 19th August, I discovered another essential for my holdall that I do not recall ever needing before. I was Assistant Referee on a Capital League game at the wonderful new, out of town ground, belonging to Biggleswade Town FC – and what a super set-up from pitch right through to dressing rooms and Conference area. Carl Henry in the middle, the ubiquitous John Faithfull on the other line and Witham Town as opponents.

Unusually we did not walk the pitch together, probably too much socialising in the dressing room and so my first view of the pitch was when we ran out and peeled off to inspect the nets. I remained dressing room side (never forget the essential maxim ‘oldest Assistant stays nearest the toilets’) whilst John strolled magnificently to the far touchline to deal with the Benches.

The game kicked off and within seconds the ball was in the net in my half of the pitch. I surmise the ball was in the net because all the players duly returned to the middle for the next kick off – the only trouble, I had seen nothing of the game from kick off, indeed had no idea where the ball had gone, much less in the net! The reason? – increasing old age, decreasing eye sight? No, the sun was so strong and so low it totally blinded me and it really was impossible to see anything across the pitch.

I flagged to the Referee, who initially assumed this must be a VERY late flag for offside. He agreed I should get a cap and I raced back to the dressing room to get my car keys, to get a cap from my car parked immediately outside – and yes, of all the items I have carried in the previous 2,971 games this had not included a cap. Unfortunately for me security was so good that all doors to the car park were locked and with no one in attendance I had to return to the pitch cap-less where, until the sun finally dropped I continued without knowledge of what was happening in front of me. The game did finish 1-0 to the Home Team so although I had been part of the action the sight of the goal itself had totally passed me by!

The moral of this story – add a cap to my list, and walk the pitch before the game taking note of all pertinent matters including the position of the sun.

MICK OSBORN raises a question of Law with the top team

In Volume 10, August 2009, of the joint publication of "FA Learning and The RA," called "Refereeing", a section headed "Law Questions" compiled by Neale Barry, FA Head of Senior Referee Development, contained the following question:

"A player takes a corner kick which rebounds to him from the goal post. Do you

1. Allow the play to continue as there has been no offence.
2. Stop the game and award a direct free-kick to the opposing team.
3. Stop the game and award an indirect free-kick to the opposing team."

The answer given was, "The correct answer is 3 - this is a technical offence and therefore the restart is with an indirect free-kick from where the offence occurred."

Because this simple question seemed aimed at new and trainee referees, I wrote to the Editor of the publication, as follows:

"The answer to Question 2 should be '1. Allow the play to continue as there has been no offence.' There is no offence in the ball rebounding to him. It only becomes an offence, 'If, after the ball is in play, the kicker touches the ball again (except with his hands) before it has touched another player.'" (Quoted from the LOAF.)

I have received a reply from Neale Barry. He said, "As the question states 'rebounds to him' it is inferred/accepted that he touches it a second time. However, in the very theoretical 'letter of the law' I should have added rebound to him 'and touches it'. Thank you for bringing this to my attention."

[For this answer to be correct, the words "and he touches it again" should have been added to the question as Mick has pointed out but at least Neil Barry will be comforted to know that his article is being read]

OVERALL CONTROL AND AUTHORITY

OBSERVER provides another helpful set of hints.

There is not a section in the whole of the Assessor's report, neither is there any action on the part of the referee, which does not have some bearing on his overall control and authority. Indeed, it can be fairly said that the referee's control starts long before he ever gets to the ground, from his first contact with the Club Secretary. However, that is not within the purview of the Assessor, who is only able to comment on what he actually observes.

The Assessor will however be watching the referee and judging his control throughout the match, from the very moment he comes on to the pitch until the final whistle at 90 minutes - or in some Cup matches, 120 mins. Indeed, if he can identify the referee, the Assessor may have an eye on him from the time he arrives at the ground.

Let us have a resume of the points the Assessor may seek to observe:

Did the Referee arrive in good time to allow himself not to be flustered or hurried in his preparations?

Did he enter the pitch confidently?

How did he act in his first contact with the teams?

How did he stamp his authority on the game?

Did he demand the respect of the players by being officious or did he command their respect through his man management?

Even more bluntly, did he stamp his authority on the game?

Was he a fussy showman, more interested in applying the precise letter of the law than permitting play to flow?

Did he blend into the background, imposing himself when necessary but generally allowing the players to get on with the game?

Did he allow the players to do what they liked, allowing them to run the game throughout and seldom intervening?

The overall Control and Authority of any referee is the most important part of his performance.

However, it is not something, which stands alone, unaffected by other aspects.

One of the Guidelines under "Control & Authority" in the FA Handbook for Assessors is "if he lost control can you pinpoint the incident that led to this?"

There may have been a flashpoint, such as a fight, which he may not have been able either to anticipate or control.

Alternatively his loss of control may have started with a slovenly approach to the start of the game compounded by poor signals, lack of movement, or errors of judgement in Law interpretation.

How often have you heard a colleague expressed the opinion that it had been an "easy match to control." This has often been a match where the referee has come 'out' confidently. He has been firm but fair in his Law interpretation, has treated the players as men (rather than naughty children) and has generally shown good man management throughout.

Leaving the assessors, with the question, "Was it an easy match, or did the referee make it easy?"

It is true that there will be matches where the players are easier to control, more willing to accept the referee's word. In summary, sportsmen in the truest sense, but it is hoped that all Assessors will look to see how much the referee's attitude and actions have contributed to making it "an easy game.

It will be seen that a referee's competence in controlling a match, whilst affected by many factors, owes a great deal to his skills in man management. If the referee would ask himself, "Were I playing, would I respect a referee who presented himself the way I do, and who spoke to me the way I speak to players and officials, or would I resent him?" he would find ways of improving this aspect of his performance.

Good man management, confident and firm indication of decisions, good positioning and an intelligent application of the Laws (especially "Law 18") all go to assist a referee's control, and the Assessor will be judging the effectiveness of the referee on all these points.

So often the referee has looked as though he has been enjoying the game. Very often has a smile throughout (except when having to take disciplinary action); has spoken to players in a firm but friendly fashion; has usually been polite rather than demanding in his requests ("Back to here, please," rather than "Hey you! Ten yards!").

Referee's Control & Authority are some of the most important aspects of his overall game. Everything he does, every action, every word, has an effect on how well he manages the game. Hence the Assessors will place a great deal of emphasis on this in his report.

My personal advice to anyone serious in achieving the greatest heights in refereeing is: Obtain a full understanding of the Laws of the Game.

Achieve and maintain a high level of fitness.

Ensure that they can consistently achieve the basics of being a competent official both on and off the pitch and last but not least; do some work on a personal level in the field of man management.

LAST MONTH'S GUEST SPEAKER

The Society was pleased to welcome an old friend in John Cooke the Referee Development Officer for the AFA who turned up with a wonderfully large screen to undertake what proved to be a tremendous power-point talk using film clips and an inter-action mode with his audience.

Effectively the subject was what makes a good referee but he turned the subject on its head by first working on what makes a bad referee but the message was hit home by showing a couple of clips which brought both laughter first and sadness second, with the latter intending to illustrate that many people have inherent strengths which they need to summon up in order to attribute them to their refereeing. This led on to identifying the characteristics of a poor referee contrasting him/her with the good practise needed to make a good referee.

We were then encouraged to submit our viewpoints on what makes a referee fail. These included:-

- Covering up mistakes.
- Getting distracted.
- Lack of knowledge of the Laws.
- Lack of knowledge in applying the Laws.
- Lack of knowledge of either of the above so failure to give credible decisions.
- Failure to deal with administration.
- Turning up late for matches.
- Giving a weak handshake to Captains at the toss up.
- Poor instructions to colleagues.
- Inability to accept constructive criticism.
- Failure to obtain respect from the players.
- Inflexibility in refereeing game on game.

The characteristics of a good referee were the reverse mirror image of the foregoing, but there were other important aspects which included:-

- Having a rapport with both players and the game itself
- An ability to deal with dissent well.
- Knowing when to caution at the right time.
- Being aware of the characteristics of failure.
- Not replicating one's own faults or those seen in others.
- Being open and honest to constructive criticism.
- Trying to be as "professional" as possible.
- Trying to go out to enjoy refereeing and make the game enjoyable for the players.

John ended with a review of the above together with several other points and a useful summary of what he was aiming to put over.

A really excellent evening and those who missed it also missed an informative and educative treat.

The vote of thanks was given by Roger Fox.

Middlesex County FA – County Cup Appointments – Season 2009/2010

Sunday Intermediate Cup - Round 1

Persian F.C. First v Hampton Village F.C. Reserves

Stan Rosenthal

Under 18 Youth Cup - Round 1

Enfield Rangers F.C. U17 v Carpenters Youth F.C. U17

John Noblemunn

Under 16 Youth Cup – Round 1

Boundary Park Youth F.C. U16 v Pinner Albion F.C. U16

Limassol F.C. U16 v Bedfont Eagles F.C. U16a

Enfield Elite Youth F.C. U16 v Feltham Youth F.C. U16

Cos Fernandes

Ngunga Ngoma

Barry Kyriacou

Under 15 Youth Cup - Round 1

Enfield Rangers F.C. U15 v Staines Lammas Youth F.C. U15a

Daniel Webster

Under 13 Youth Cup - Round 1

Lea Valley United F.C. U13 v Headstone Manor Youth F.C. U13a

Michael Breen

Under 12 Youth Cup - Round 1

Eden Hall Youth F.C. U12a v Ickenham Youth F.C. U12b

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**Are once again pleased to support the North
Middlesex Referees Society in Season 2009/2010**





Membership Fees for Season 2009/2010 are now overdue!

Membership subscriptions for Season 2009/2010 are now overdue. At the time of writing 28 members still have to rejoin for the current season. For those of you still to pay, you will, by now, have received an additional Membership Form by e-mail if the Society has a valid e-mail address on file. For the remainder, a Membership Form is again included with this month's Normidian.

If you do not renew by the end of this month, this will be the last Normidian we can send you. Additionally, if you do choose not to rejoin it would be appreciated if you could let me know if there are any specific reasons for not doing so.

Membership Fees payable are as follows:-

- **Full Members - £27.00.** This includes your Referees Association of England fee of £15.00 including the Insurance Premium of £4.00. If you are over 75, you are not automatically covered by the Insurance Premium, and your fee payable will be reduced by £4.00.
- **Associate Members - £12.00.** You must pay your Referees Association of England fee through another Society, and this should be shown on your Membership Form.
- **Youth Members - £15.50.** Members under 18 years of age on 1 April previous, including your Referees Association of England fee of £9.50.

Individual fees payable are shown on your personalised Membership Form. Should you currently receive your Magazine by post, and you wish to receive your magazine by e-mail, then the Adult Full and Associate Membership Fees may be reduced by £2.00 and Youth Membership Fees may be reduced by £1.00. Please amend your personalised Membership Form accordingly. We currently have in excess of one hundred e-mail addresses for members on file, but only sixty members currently choose to receive their magazine this way. However, if you currently receive your Magazine by e-mail and want to receive them by post, then you need to increase your payment by the amounts above.

You are also reminded that if you have not yet paid your fees, you are not covered by the Referees Association of England Insurance. Please complete and return your Membership Form as soon as possible.

It would be appreciated if you could all check your details shown on the Form, and amend any information that is shown incorrectly. Please also specifically check e-mail addresses shown carefully, as some that we have on file are resulting in rejections. Additionally, please check that the NPD Number (Registration Number) where shown is correct, and complete it if it is missing from the Membership Form. The number can be found on your County FA Registration Form. If you are not currently registered with a County FA, please indicate on your form as Not Registered. Please also indicate where requested whether you are an Assessor; Examiner; Instructor; or Mentor.

Gary Cobden
Honorary Treasurer



A Rarity in 'Parks' Football?

Ashford Town (Middlesex) FC have a player at the club, Paul Burgess, who has been with them continuously since 1990. In that time, he has made 651 First Team appearances to date, as well as playing in countless Reserve Team and non-competitive matches. To honour his outstanding commitment to the club over the last two decades, he has been rewarded by a Testimonial Match in his honour. Paul is a lifelong Tottenham Hotspur fan, and the club were pleased to attract Spurs Legends to Short Lane, for the match on Sunday 27th September.



Letters to the Editor

Dear Ken,

Following contributions from yourself and Les, I thought I would put forward my thoughts on changes I would make to the Laws of the Game:

1. Change the guidance associated with Law 14 that means penalty kicks are heavily weighted in favour of the penalty taker. The acceptance that "feinting to take a penalty kick to confuse opponents is permitted as part of football" has led to a "pause" often forming part of a penalty taker's run up, in the hope the goalkeeper moves early. I would amend the law so that the taker could only take one step, which must be a continuous movement, before kicking the ball. Additionally, if the goalkeeper saves the penalty, or it hit the goalposts, I would restart play with a goal kick. Often a goalkeeper makes a great save, only for the penalty taker to score the rebound. This would also end the challenge for the referee and their assistant of needing to manage 10 players trying to encroach on the taker whilst also monitoring the taker, the goalkeeper's position and ensuring they know whether or not the ball has crossed the goal line.

2. Add an additional requirement to the substitution procedure within Law 3. This would stipulate that substitutions cannot take place once a match has entered the final five minutes of the second half. The professional game has led the way in teams making substitutions late on in matches to "wind down the clock" and disrupt their opponent's momentum. These substitutions are slow and painful to watch for all involved, and diminish the entertainment and drama that makes our game so special.

Finally, I'd also strongly lobby for a change to competition rules at all levels of the game. A change to using disciplinary records rather than goal difference to differentiate between teams with the same number of points in a league would represent a much greater statement of intent than initiatives such as the Respect campaign. Awarding 1 point for a caution and 3 points for a sending-off to a "discipline score", would also publically highlight a team's attitude towards the laws of the game compared to their peers.

Yours Sincerely

Russell Brooks.

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At the Referees' Association of England AGM held in Solihull on the 10th of July 2009 it was proposed during the course of the proceedings that the award of Life Membership should go to Bill Bomroff of the Bristol Society. There were 6 awards of the Long and Meritorious Award all unanimously approved; whilst 21 members were listed to receive the 50 year Membership Award. The centenary of the Bolton Society was recorded. Finally the Honorary President David Elleray gave his address following which the Chairman Alan Poulain closed the Meeting after extending his thanks to several people including the said Mr Elleray who had helped out at the AGM, that had opened at 3pm and closed at 5.40 pm.

North Middlesex Referees Society Meeting

Minutes of the Society meeting on Thursday 17th September 2009

Apologies: Percy Brown, Peter Dace, Terry Wilson, Robin Jagot and Lockie Bramzell

Chairman's Welcome: The Chairman welcomed members to the first meeting of the Season and in particular welcomed two new attendees Vince Anderson and Mario Kallias. No whistles were available but they had been promised for the next meeting.

Minutes of the Last Society meeting: None produced.

Secretary's Report: The Secretary was absent and did not send a report.

Treasurer's Report: Full Membership – 93 Associate Membership – 5 (September figures) Junior Membership – 21. Treasurer was happy to report that the finances were in a healthy state.

Editor's Report: The editor thanked those members who had provided articles for the magazine and he was hopeful that we continue to produce a 12-page edition, but apologised for the fact that owing to the printers holiday arrangements the magazine had to be published earlier than usual and thus there were only eight pages.

Any Other Officer's Report: Apart from Jeff Till reporting there were 17 people on the training course, there were no other reports..

Any Other Business: None

Match Incidents: A number of short issues were raised and debated with the Chairman summing up what had been decided in each case.

A five-minute break was taken and our Chairman Tom White introduced our Guest Speaker John Cooke the RDO of the AFA (details of whose talk appears elsewhere in the magazine) who was given a very warm welcome by the members present.

Chairman

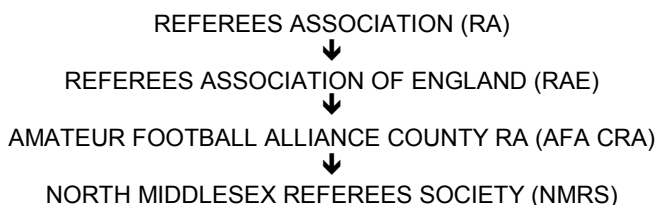
INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR SOCIETY

The Referees' Association (RA) is the national body for referees and delegates its operational powers to the Referees Association of England (RAE). The RAE 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 Society send a representative to AFA CRA who meet as requested locally. The RAE hold Area Liaison Meetings each year, generally in December. The Referees' Association Board meets four times a year. All delegates and officers of NMRS, together with those of the County and Referees Association Committees 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 RAE, and, in turn, the RA

The Objects of The Referees Association and The Referees Association of England 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. It is published four times a year, and is mailed direct to all registered referees by the Football Association. The magazine includes features and updates from the Football Association and items of FAMOA 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. This registration automatically enrolls you in the Match Officials Association run by the Football Association - FAMOA. However, the CFA's and FAMOA 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
FAMOA	Football Association Match Officials Association
LFA	London Football Association
MCFA	Middlesex County Football Association
R.A.	Referees Association
RAE	Referees Association of England

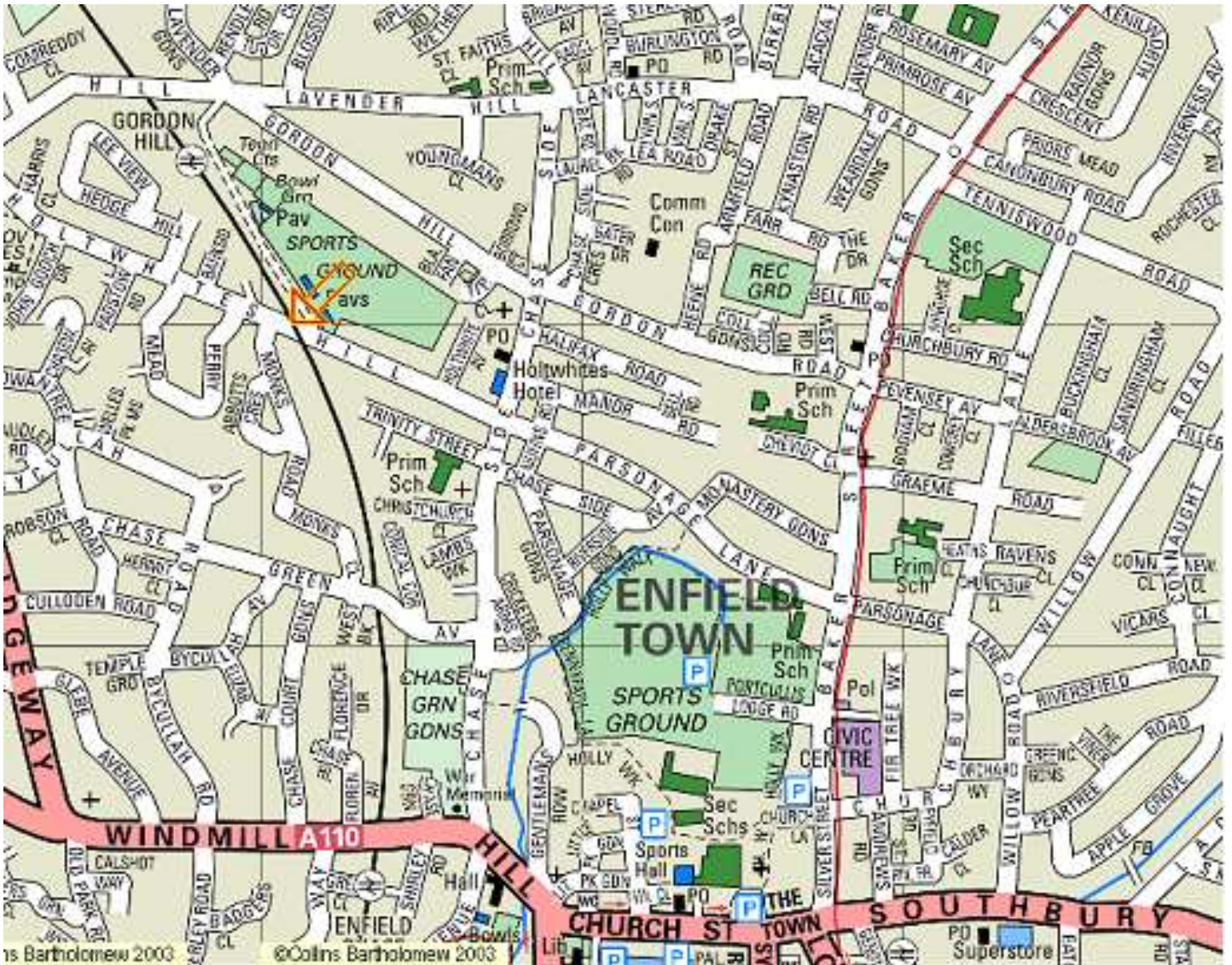
MONTHLY MEETINGS

Are held on the third Thursday monthly (except December 2009 - second Monday),
commencing at 7:30 pm, at

Holtwhites Sports and Social Club, Kirkland Drive, Holtwhites Hill, Enfield, Middlesex, EN2 0RU

Telephone: 020 8363 4449

Dates for Season 2009/2010:- September 17; October 15; November 19; December 14 2009; and January 21;
February 18; March 18; April 15; May 20 2010



*The venue is passed by Bus Route W9 direct from Enfield Town, and Enfield Town;
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