

*The Normidian  
Magazine  
Season 2011/2012*



THE  
REFEREES'  
ASSOCIATION



*October 2011*

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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 6th of October 2011 when the special guest speaker will be Steve Bennett former Premiership and FIFA referee. Please note the date of this meeting.**

## **EDITORIAL**

Ever since last season's Keys & Gray verbal conflagration questioning Sian Massey's ability as an Assistant Referee I have been irked by commentators summarisers and pundits on television and radio, making comments on the decisions of the officials. Whenever they say the Referee or the Assistant "got it right" has the same affect on me as rampant criticism and is as bad as indicating the official(s) "got it wrong". It is not the same as praise from a colleague since the remark usually comes from someone with scant knowledge of the Laws of the Game and who has not been at the metaphorical "coal face" and further has often resulted from and been based on several looks at action replays. Perhaps I am being paranoid but it occurs to me that both the value of the judgment and the praise that it contains smacks of a big element of irony, whether intended or not.

Enough said especially as last month's editorial started out in optimistic mood but I have been brought down to earth by the fact that the September edition of the magazine was somewhat neutered by the printer leaving out 4 pages of the same. Willy the Woodpecker was the main sufferer so that there are now two episodes from that valiant referee in this edition to make up for it.

Trawling around for ideas for the magazine I visited the FA website which is particularly useful and has helpful advice on such things as inspection of footwear and jewellery and the safety of players through equipment and offering guidelines on these matters especially in relation to Law Four which is the relevant one in this case. Also to be found on the same website is a long treatise on Fitness for Referees which runs to 44 pages, covering everything from fitness planning in great detail from the physical to the mental, encompassing also nutrition and understanding injury. This manual that can be downloaded is highly recommended to both young and old practising officials. FIFA too have a short article on their website entitled "Protecting the Ref" which although old now provides some interesting aspects.

Finally we as a Society were devastated to learn of the death of our very popular Vice Chairman Vince Yeudall and we should like to offer our sincerest condolences to his Wife Ann and all Vince's family. An Obituary appears in this edition.

Ken Goldman

## OBITUARY

It is with the saddest of regrets we report the death of our most popular Vice Chairman Vince Yeudall. He was universally well liked both in our Society and in the football world that he inhabited, whilst outside it he was a keen gardener, a DIY enthusiast and happy golfer but in particular a great family man and friend. As a long term Arsenal supporter he loved visiting both Highbury and the Emirates Stadiums to cheer on the team and was instrumental in his work with the Arsenal Charity & Community Section of the Club to garner referees, mainly from this Society, over a number of years, to officiate in their competitions. Also as a Referee he officiated in AFA competitions especially at Old Owens where he knew numbers of people. Likewise for several years he ran the line at Borehamwood for their youth teams and to show his fitness aged an amazing 79 years old, he performed two games there in one day, just prior to departing on a holiday to which as he told me he was looking forward. That was on the Isle of Wight and he was accompanied by his wife Ann to meet both of his daughters and his grandchildren down from Scotland. Sadly it was there after a couple of days that he suffered a stroke which was ultimately to prove fatal. However because he was a fighter it took some days before he finally passed away in hospital.

Personally I found Vince without doubt one of the nicest and friendliest of men that I have ever had the privilege of knowing and it is difficult to think of his not being at forthcoming meetings of the Society where he was always a regular and lively attendee at our the Christmas bash where his renditions on the mouth organ were legendary.

His cremation took place on the 12th September at the New Southgate Crematorium and was attended by our New President Gary Cobden, The Chairman Tom White, our Secretary Robin Jagot and several members of the Society including immediate past President Terry Wilson. Also in attendance were representatives of the Arsenal Charity & Community and Borehamwood FC. Following the service there was a wake at the Old Owens sports complex.

Vince leaves a wife Ann, two daughters Susan and Catharine, four grandchildren and one great granddaughter.

Ken Goldman

A fuller Obituary of Vince will appear in the November edition of the magazine, with information and details of Vince's football career drawn up by Charles Lifford the Association's official biographer. However if anyone wants to write any memories of Vince then we shall be more than happy to print them.

## TACKLING – ‘THE LOST ART’

By John Cartwright former England Youth Team Manager and Director of Coaching at the FA National School.

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Be honest, when coaching, when was the last time you taught and practised Tackling for the ball in a training session?

The art of winning the ball cleanly in a ‘solid’ tackle without a player ending up on his backside is mainly a vision of the past. From frontal, sides or behind, tackling for the ball has become a dangerous, badly-timed and sometimes unnecessary aspect of the game. We all want to see a competitive type of game not one that lacks passion and spirit, but Football’s Laws involved with tackling is somewhat obscure in their definition of correctness. The poor old, much-maligned Referee is placed in very difficult circumstances with issues relating to tackling. Arguably more than any other aspect of his job, deciding on correct and incorrect types of tackle generally makes or breaks a Referee’s performance in a match. A Referee must quickly assess a ‘faulty’ tackle made by a player and decide whether he has been simply careless, reckless, or dangerous when making the challenge for the ball. In all types of tackle from all directions directed towards an opponent with the ball, the intention to cause injury is highly unusual, but on occasions in tense situations, this can occur.

I am a passionate believer in the forgotten qualities of ‘street football, one of those qualities being tackling. Street matches taught players to ‘stay on their feet’ when tackling for the ball, for to ‘go to ground’ when making a tackle could be extremely painful. The lush, pristine surfaces on which games are played today encourage players to ‘dive in’ when tackling, for these ‘carpet-like pitches bear no resemblance to the concrete and asphalt surface of the street. Combined with these ‘solid’ street play areas, many competitive games in the past were played on red ochre gravel which could cause severe grazes if fallen on.

The ‘lay-down tackle’, better known as the ‘sliding tackle’ was usually seen on grounds where there was a good cover of grass or soft mud. It is this type of tackle that is now so prevalent in the game which causes so many of the problems that Referees have to deal with. Players now ‘slide’ into tackles from all angles that were once made on their feet. The art of ‘jockeying, guiding and timing of tackles is too often forsaken in preference of a ‘diving in’ challenge that takes ball and opponent together. Tackles of this type are used to ‘camouflage’ poor defensive ability whilst ‘destroying’ skilful play. The ‘sliding tackle’ was supposed to be used to form a ‘block’ with the leg(s) and lower body by the tackler to the ball, the player in possession would go over the prostrate body of the tackler who would return to his feet and take the ball away or at worst

slide the ball into touch. When was the last time you saw that! Defending players stretch for the ball with studs up today, the full power many of these miss-calculated challenges often impacting with the leg of an opponent causing severe injuries. Tackles of this type are used from all directions by defending players when going for the ball, all are dangerous, none more so than the tackle from behind or those from the front.

The question that has to be asked in regard to the tackle from behind is, should all tackles on a player who has his body between the ball and an opponent be banned? There are those situations when a pass is played up to a player who has a defender close-marking him; there are situations in which an attacking player has evaded a defender, or is screening the ball from him. In each of these situations or similar ones, a defender should be required to contain the player or, if beaten he must desist from making any challenge from behind whilst chasing back after an attacker. By forcing a 'no tackle from behind' law on players, the need for them to defend far more competently would improve their overall defensive play, increase skilful play throughout the field and help reduce injuries.

But are we able to disengage ourselves from what we term the 'manliness' of the crunching tackle. I believe that poor decision-making by defenders followed by bad tackles to recover from their mistakes reduces the skilful game of football to a 'fightball' version of it. Solid tackles should be made when confronted by an opponent; timing, judgement and tackling ability are then tested along with all the true qualities generally associated with good defending.

I believe the game would be better served if there were serious discussions on tackling issues within the game. Do I believe this will ever occur, not in my lifetime, we prefer the 'up and at 'em' game and the blood that goes with it. Am I a fanciful dreamer or are there others out there who have their own ideas? Let's hear what you have to say, FOR OR AGAINST.

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## IT ALL MAKES FOR AN INTERESTING LIFE SAYS OBSERVER

The other Sunday I was appointed to a league match at a local park. The changing rooms are very large and could accommodate a separate referee's room as well as about twenty teams.

Whilst I was changing the home manager brought in the match ball and gave me my match fee. At the same time he hoped that I had a good game.

In a short while, he returned back with the captain of the opposition. The captain apologised but he had only eight players and would not be getting any more as they had been headhunted by their first team.

A quick reference to the rules of the competition, confirmed that nine were needed. This was a 10.30am kick off and I told him he had until 11.00am under the rules before the game would be forfeited.

The captain said he would reluctantly have to forfeit, as he could not envisage anyone else coming.

This was all conducted very amicably and he was genuinely sorry about these circumstances.

Just then the managers in adjoining changing rooms from clubs in the same league arrived. The home team manager had told them that my match was in doubt and they asked if I could do their match instead, as they had no official. As I had come a fair distance, I was certainly keen enough. The club representatives from my game had no objections and said it sounded like a reasonable solution.

It was now 10.40am and I said, "If no additional members of my teams arrived by 11.00am. I would referee their match". By 10.50am no one had arrived and the other teams were going out (20 minutes late). I thought it was a shame to disrupt this game so I offered to start their game on the strict understanding that if anyone did turn up I would have to return to do the original match.

Well you can guess what happened. Three minutes had gone on my watch, when two of the missing players arrived fully changed. It was 10.58am.

At the next opportunity I apologised to my teams and transferred to the other pitch much to everyone's amusement.

I must say that all four sides were very amicable about the arrangements. Indeed there was no way that I would have considered such an arrangement if there had been any hint to the contrary.

However this was also due to my making sure all parties were quite aware of what was happening and the implications of the same.

Maybe my actions will have been frowned upon with hindsight but at the time I felt it was in the best interest of the game.

It all makes for an interesting life!

# *The Adventures of Willy 'The Whistler' Woodwork*

## *Part 11 –The dropped ball*

**Match:** Cockfosters Casuals –v- Reds Rovers  
**Venue:** Hackney Marsh – Pitch 165  
**League:** Division Three – Sunday Park League (North)

*With the Rovers player on the ground holding his leg and obviously requiring treatment the Rovers players were shouting for me to stop play. But unless there is a head or a serious injury then it is not for the referee to stop play. A Casuals player then kindly kicked the ball out of play. The Rovers player took the throw on with the intention of passing the ball back to the Casuals goal keeper. That was certainly the sporting thing to do and initially everybody watched as the ball slowly made its way back to the goal keeper. . But the Rovers forward had other ideas and run forward and beating the goal keeper to the ball took a few more steps and kicked the ball towards the goal. The ball hit the goal post and went off for a goal kick. The goal keeper shouted “We kicked the ball out of play when they had a player on the ground injured and everyone could see the ball was being played back to me. How unsporting was that! Surely the goal would not have counted Ref?” I told him “Actually the goal would have counted if he scored. I cannot tell players what to do. It was unsporting but not against the laws of the game”. The goal keeper just stared at me in amazement.*

*The very next challenge saw two players contesting the ball in a fair manner but both players required treatment. Of course the restart was a drop ball. One Casuals player stood by me preparing himself for the drop ball. Suddenly six Rovers players approached and also stood around the ball in anticipation for the drop ball. “They can’t do that” said the Casuals player. That seemed to be a reasonable comment and six players against one seemed rather unfair. As the referee I knew that no more than one player from each side can contest the drop ball so I told five players from Rovers that they must walk away. The ball dropped from my hand and touched the ground. Both players attempted to kick the ball and both missed. The ball trickled over the touch line and I remembered that a Casuals player was the last one to kick the ball so I awarded a throw in to Rovers. One of the Rovers players took the throw on and play continued. Not a word was said to me because I was the referee and I had applied the law correctly. There is no doubt that you would have done exactly the same as me.*

*I knew I had match control and the players were behaving themselves mainly because of my excellent refereeing. Two players contested for the ball. Both players committed themselves fairly and both players ended on the ground. The Casuals player immediately got up to his feet and started running towards the Rovers goal with the ball at his feet. The Casuals player run passed one opponent then another and another. Just before he entered the penalty area I heard the call “Ref, quick, blow your whistle it’s a head injury”. I turned around to see several Rovers players crouching over the player still on the ground on the half way line. ‘It must be serious’ I thought to myself and blew my whistle as the Casuals player kicked the ball into the goal. I knew it was my responsibility to ensure the players safety and if a player is injured then every second can help.*

*I rushed over to the player and at the same time summoned help from the touch line. Suddenly the Rovers player sprung to his feet with a broad smile on his face. “I’m alright now” he said. “I fell awkwardly but I’m fine”. “What about the head injury” I enquired. One of the Rovers players said “I thought he might have had a head injury but obviously I’m wrong”. I had blown my whistle for all the right reasons but now felt that I had been deceived. I cautioned both the players who had spoken to me for unsporting behaviour. If either of the two players were injured later in the game I pondered if I would be so quick to blow my whistle.*



*After that incident I needed something to put a smile back on to my face. One of the players asked for permission to leave the field of play and then after thirty seconds asked for my permission to re-enter. I of course made sure he left and re-entered right on the half way line. The player now had glasses on. He said to me “I can play in these Ref, they are made of plastic and are completely safe. I have to wear them as one of my contact lenses has dropped out!” I was not too sure and hesitated. The player continued “I can’t see a thing without them Ref, rather like you!” Fortunately he smiled. I wasn’t too sure what he meant by that comment. Maybe he saw me arrive at the ground wearing my glasses before I changed in to my contact lenses. It is important to be able to communicate with the players and show them that you have an empathy with the game. Talk to players and referee with a smile.*

*As I have stated previously you should never hurry a decision particularly if you are unsure. Unusual incidents may occur at any time and to prove the point, how many have happened to me just in this match alone. I started writing these articles last year and we are still in the second half.*

*I remember when I blew my whistle for half time just as one of the Rovers players took a throw on. He then approached me and said “Can a player take a throw on and play the ball twice?” I of course told him a player cannot play the ball twice after taking the throw on. The player insisted a player can play the ball twice legally as per the laws of the game. I told him he was talking complete and utter nonsense and that we should end the conversation before I cautioned him for dissent. I eventually blew my whistle to start the second half. It was the same player who kicked off, the very same player who took the throw on as I ended the first half.....the very same player who had taken the throw on and then kicked the ball to therefore play the ball twice legally! At the next stoppage in play he came over to me and he said “I told you I was right”. He most certainly was right and what a big smile I had on my face!*

*Keep on smiling and keep on whistling,*

*Regards,*



*Willy Woodwork*

*Willy ‘The Whistler’ Woodwork*

# *The Adventures of Willy 'The Whistler' Woodwork*

## *Part 12 –The best position*

**Match:** Cockfosters Casuals –v- Reds Rovers  
**Venue:** Hackney Marsh – Pitch 165  
**League:** Division Three – Sunday Park League (North)

*Many years ago those wonderful Instructors who trained me to become a referee installed in me that 'You have to be in the best position to give the right decision'. Obviously fitness plays a great part in this process but you can be running all over the pitch for ninety minutes but that does not mean you are in the best position to have the best view to observe what is going on.*

*I was also told to 'Give and go'. This simply means to award your decision and then move the next position which means where the ball is most likely to go to next! Two simple tips which if applied to your game can only enhance your overall performance.*

*But as you know with the match in question not everything always goes to plan. Casuals had previously been awarded a corner which resulted in the Casuals player shooting wide of the goal and I awarded a goal kick. I watched the goal keeper place the ball and turned to run to the half way line. Unfortunately for me the goal keeper took the goal kick quicker than I had anticipated and the next thing I knew the ball hit the back of my head and the impact made me fall to the ground. The ball then rolled out of the penalty and was intercepted by the Casuals forward. A number of Rovers players namely the defenders turned their attentions to assist me rather than make an attempt to play the ball. One of them even picked up my whistle and blew it. This was ignored by the Rovers players who proceeded to kick the ball into the goal.*

*With assistance I stood up. I was fine and had no after effects. The Rovers club linesman then informed me that Rovers had just scored. Rovers were insistent that the goal was perfectly good whilst Casuals were insistent they stopped playing to help me and that one of their players even blew my whistle so everyone knew that play had stopped. Decisions, decisions and I had to think quickly.*

*Firstly I knew that there was nothing wrong with the goal kick. Yes, the ball did hit me in the penalty area but the law clearly states that the referee is part of the field of play so it did not matter if the ball struck me or not. Secondly the ball left the penalty area and went to a Rovers player who went on to score a perfectly good goal. The player who blew my whistle was only trying to help but I did not tell him to do so nor did I ask for the Casuals players to stop playing. I decided the only decent thing to do was not to award the goal. Rovers had committed no offences but in the spirit of the game and for their sporting behaviour I decided to restart with a drop ball just outside the penalty area. I have no doubt that you would have done exactly the same as me.*

*When I awarded a corner to Rovers I asked the players to move back the full ten yards. They insisted they had retreated the full distance. Rather than threaten the players with a caution I walked over to the corner flag post. I then counted as I paced each step out loud, 'one two three' and continued 'nine, ten, eleven'.*

*"Eleven!" they shouted in unison. "Yes, eleven" I told them. "It's no wonder we are miles away from the ball" they replied. I smiled and explained why. Opponents must be ten yards from the ball starting from the edge of the corner arc. From the corner flag post to the edge of the corner arc is another one yard radius which added to the ten yards is eleven. So opposing players need to be a distance from the corner flag post of eleven yards! How well I knew the law. Did you know that as well?*

*It is interesting to note that in this country the measurements are in metric. If that is the case why do referees still tell players to retreat ten yards? Have you ever seen a referee pace out 9.15 metres!? No!*

*The next incident was a most curious one. Rovers scored a goal. Well actually they didn't score a goal because I disallowed it for off side. Meanwhile the Rovers players were so delighted with the goal against their arch enemies and closest rivals they did not hear my blasts of the whistle. The goal scorer run around leaping and jumping for joy. He then decided to remove his shirt and wave it above his head. Why do players do this? It is something I really cannot understand. Anyhow despite removing his shirt he had another one, exactly the same underneath. After explaining that I had disallowed the goal which the players accepted, I asked for the players name and produced a yellow card. The player queried my decision claiming that due to the cold weather he was wearing two shirts so to remove one of the shirts to reveal another could not possibly be an offence. But knowing the laws as I do I informed the player he had removed the shirt from over his head and it and it was irrelevant that he was wearing the same underneath.*

*He replied with the familiar "But Ref this is not the Premier league, surely you don't have to caution me?" I answered "Are you asking me not to apply all the laws today. Which ones should I not use?" Of course he knew I was right even though he didn't actually say anything as he walked away from me. It was my duty to apply the laws in a firm but fair manner and that is exactly what I do for every match.*

*I still regularly read the laws of the game as all referees should. You only have to read my articles each month (as I am sure you all do!) to see what can happen to any one of us at our next match. That is why it is imperative to regularly refer to the laws so they can be applied correctly as I always do.*

*Keep on reading those laws,*

*Regards,*



*Willy Woodwork*

*Willy 'The Whistler' Woodwork*

## **THE FA WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE – AN ETHOS AND INTRODUCTION**

So far as the Women's' Super League is concerned this is under the aegis of the Football Association who indicated that their intention in developing such a League was to ensure that the Country's talented players could play semi-professional football in a "top flight domestic league" which would hopefully help produce more players for international competition. In order to help foster interest and allow for more spectators, media coverage and sponsorship the League which started on the 13<sup>th</sup> of April 2011 is a summer League. This year it has broken midway through, to enable England's women's team to take part in the World Cup the break being for 9 weeks and in 2012 the Olympic year the break will be shorter. So that the Super League could get a good launch the FA invested over 3 million pounds of new money in to it and looks to build the league over the forthcoming two years. A broadcast partnership was set up with ESPN to televise a number of matches and the opening period has gone well so far as attendances at matches are concerned. Another of the stated and indeed desired aims of the WSL is to encourage more women and girls to enter the game ostensibly as players and participants but also to progress in other related fields such as refereeing, coaching or becoming physiotherapists or administrators. The main differences between the WSL and the existing structure comprising the FA Women's Premier League and its pyramid leagues below are that as stated the WSL is a summer league which is semi-professional as opposed to an amateur winter league and runs from a yearly basis rather than a season's basis, whilst entry to the WSL is also on a very strict financial footing. The initial and now existing eight clubs were required to go through a stringent process and several well known women's clubs failed to make the cut. Another differentiating rule is that WSL clubs can only register 20 players although there are special provisions to cover for injuries. The clubs who have achieved 2 year licences for years 2011 and 2012 are in alphabetical order – Arsenal Ladies; Birmingham City Ladies; Bristol Academy Women; Chelsea Ladies; Doncaster Rovers Belles Ladies; Everton Ladies; Lincoln Ladies; Liverpool Ladies. As the WSL players are paid according to their contracts (although no more than 4 players a club can be paid more than £20000 a year) there is no restriction on registering foreign international players from the EU, or elsewhere if granted a work permit.

The WSL is being supplemented by what has been named the "Call the Shots Campaign" which is aimed at all participants in and fans of women's football. It hopes to give a voice in what matters to them both in the game generally and the WSL in particular. It also wants to make the female game more exciting and dynamic whether at the grounds, on television and innovatively on line. It can be found on Facebook and will help to give out information about women's football in the local



## STEPPING UP- BY OBSERVER

Those of you who run the line are always subject to the danger (or hope) that the referee will not turn up, fall ill, or get injured, allowing you as senior assistant referee to take over in the middle. For some this will not cause any trepidation or the least difficulty; for others it could turn into a nightmare.

On senior football leagues, those appointed as assistant referees will usually be sufficiently experienced to take things in their stride if they had to take over in the middle. Football League assistant referees are drawn from the best performing Panel and Contributory league referees. Lower down, the senior assistant referees appointed to the Contributory leagues will normally have enough experience to hold their own if an emergency arises and they are thrust into the middle.

Further down the scale, appointments will often be made where two colleagues of minimal experience support the referee. The Supply Leagues often carry an assistant referee's list made up of newly qualified officials, sometimes supplemented by referees who "never" referee, but only line. County Cup fixtures below senior status also carry the same risks.

If called upon to take over, what should the senior assistant referee do? Firstly, take the example of the non-appearance of the referee at a reasonable time before the kick off. His first duty is to ascertain that he is the senior official present. Precedence rules are fairly straightforward, higher classification, longest service in class, longest service on the particular league etc. Having settled on the senior person present, it is a priority that clubs, (especially the home club) are informed of the predicament. The overall concern is that the match goes ahead properly and starts on time. To do this a suitable substitute for an assistant referee has to be found.

Many clubs have among their staff, management or supporters, a qualified referee, (although not necessarily active) who could be persuaded to oblige. Otherwise an appeal to the crowd might provide help; failing that, a coach or club official from either side might suffice. Whoever is volunteered, he must be acceptable to the management of both competing clubs. The volunteer must then be briefed as to his duties, which will vary according to his ability and affiliation. As with the normal practice on "the parks", station a club linesman his own defence.

It can happen that at the last minute, the referee appears. He then takes responsibility for the ongoing proceedings and will have to decide what to do. Should he not appear until after the commencement of the game, (not just a few minutes from the end) he will have to decide how to enter the match. Should he take over the line from the substitute or take the middle? This can depend on many factors. Is the current referee doing a good job? Would it be disruptive for a change of referee to be made? It is a fine judgement needing careful consideration and not one that mere pride can be allowed to influence.

A far more difficult situation can arise when a referee needs a replacement during a game. At the top level, not only will the substitute be totally able to cope with the situation, as they will have the luxury of a fourth official that will fill the gap. Lower down the scale no reinforcements can be brought up from the rear. The substitute might barely be competent and a real dilemma can occur. In general, the senior assistant referee must carry on. This might incur a delay since the former referee will probably not be able to continue in any capacity and another person must be recruited to run the line. As before, a suitable volunteer must be found and briefed in time for the match to

finish in daylight if floodlighting is not available, again with the approval of both management teams.

How does assistant referee take over? This will depend on what the original referee's instructions were before the start. Assuming that verbal communication is possible with the retiring referee, the replacement needs to check watch timings, goals scored, substitutions already made and players so far cautioned etc. It might have been the case that the first referee had instructed his assistant referees not to keep a record of the game, such things do happen. It might be easier for the new referee to take over the match card if he has no personal record.

Life is full of problems. Suppose the new referee finds he is not to be operating his favourite diagonal. If the change of official looks like being a quick affair, then it could be even more disruptive to have the assistant referees change their positions, so carry on with the original diagonal. If there is going to be a considerable delay then a change of diagonal is quite permissible before the restart. Further, unless particularly quirky, continue in the same manner as before. Major changes of tactics by the officials might lead to more confusion.

If on continuing the match, the new referee finds he cannot cope and is losing control, he should have the courage to stop the match and call for abandonment.

So what lessons are there to be learned?

Always go onto the field as an assistant referee, even if you are not the senior one, fully equipped to referee if necessary with whistles, watches, coins, pencils and a match card.

Try to get used to running the other diagonal to the one you favour. For dependent on ground, crowd, weather conditions or ground surface, you might need to do this anyway in your normal refereeing appointments.

Finally the most difficult problem is how to allocate the match fees after a game in which there has been a change of official. Can we leave that to the Laws of the Jungle and economics?



## **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.

# **NORTH MIDDLESEX REFEREES SOCIETY**

## **PRESENTATION DINNER**

**TO BE HELD AT**

**THE OLD OWENS ASSOCIATION CLUB HOUSE**

**COOPERS LANE POTTERS BAR HERTS**

**7.00PM FOR 7.30PM**

**ON FRIDAY 21ST OCTOBER 2011**

Tickets priced £25 includes a dinner and is an opportunity to celebrate the refereeing life of 7 members who are to receive long-service awards from the Football Association or the Referees Association.

.....

### **PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS**

**Thursday 15 September was a very proud day for me when I was elected as your President for the coming three years. North Middlesex Referees Society has had some very significant people hold this honour in the past, and I will seek to follow in their footsteps, and continue to contribute to the Society through this most prestigious of honours whilst also continuing as your Treasurer. Thank You. - Gary Cobden**

\*\*\*\*\*

### **LET US SPRAY - By Mick Osborn**

An item in last month's editorial grabbed my attention. It was about the experiment whereby the referee of a game played on a 3G pitch has to carry a paint spray to mark the pitch ten yards from the ball at free kicks.

Some years ago, during a pre match inspection, I noticed that there were no penalty marks present. Having satisfied myself that everything else was in reasonable order, I returned to the dressing room and sought out the team's manager to ask him to arrange for the marks to be made. It appeared that the grounds man was not on duty but the manager went off in search of the white paint used to mark out the pitch. After some considerable time he returned saying he couldn't find the key to the shed but had discovered a large spray canister of pitch-marking paint. He asked me if I would perform the necessary artwork as he was sure I knew more than he about where the spot should go. By this time the players were warming up on the pitch.

And so it was that I entered the field with the match ball in one hand and an aerosol can in the other. One of the more alert participants approached me and asked why I had the spray. To this day, I don't know what made me say it, but I said, "Haven't you had the latest directive from the FA? If a player receives a warning, the referee has to spray a spot on his shirt so that if he receives another warning, the referee will know that he must be cautioned for receiving two warnings and shown the yellow card." With eyes widening, he said that he didn't know that. Before this false information could be spread among the other players, I felt it necessary to explain that I was only joking. As if the FA would do such a thing!

I have told this story before but never put it in print. My reason for doing so now is not to invite comments on my feeble attempt at match-day humour, but to ask that if, for any reason, you have to use an aerosol can in your refereeing career, remember I did it first!



## **ARE YOU GUILTY? - By Observer.**

For the next magazine, can someone give the Editor a logical explanation as to why, when a ball hits the corner post and goes out for a throw on, the thrower is allowed to take the throw-in from several yards along the touchline with the Assistant Referee standing close by and doing absolutely nothing about it?

During the same game, the same Assistant can be seen to be quite insistent that the ball is thrown in from the correct spot when it near to the halfway line, more so when the 'technical areas' are on his side of the field of play.

If an attacker or a defender is allowed to take the throw-in from several yards along the touchline when he should be doing so within a metre of the corner post, because that is where the ball went out of play, then the match officials are granting the player a clear unfair advantage over his opponents. A THROW-IN IS A METHOD TO RE-START PLAY, NOT A SITUATION WHERE THE ADVANTAGE CLAUSE CAN BE APPLIED AT THE DISCRETION OF THE MATCH OFFICIALS.

We all see this regularly on the Premier & Football Leagues and of course this now is filtering down to the lower levels of the game.

If you have not recognised this sort behaviour, keep an eye out for it. If you are a referee who allows it, please STOP IT, you only have to give the throw-in to the opponents.

If you an official assessor ON DUTY, please do something about it.

@@

### **PAYING THE PENALTY**

Egyptian striker Amir Sayoud of Al Ahly in a national cup match in taking a penalty stopped at the ball feinted to kick it, fell over the ball which then bobbled to the Qatar goalkeeper, who easily picked it up leaving Sayoud with a red face and a yellow card for infringement at the taking of the kick.



## Grand draw result sheet 2011

July 2011

Dear Colleagues

I am pleased to be able to advise you that the results of this years draw which took place at the RA Conference held at The Hinckley Island Hotel on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2011 are as follows

The 5 main prize winners are listed below and the 50 Consolation prizes are cheques for £50.00 each.

On behalf of The Referees' Association, I extend thanks to you all for supporting us in our financial endeavours, and for your continued support whether buyers or sellers of the Grand Draw tickets.

Yours sincerely

AWS Smith  
General Secretary

**First Prize – CITREON c1**

William McKnight – Wigan, WN6 8EZ

**Ticket No. 106375**

**Second Prize - £1000.00**

Keith Jonas – Cheveley, CB8 9DL

**Ticket No. 41341**

**Third Prize - £500.00**

Tracy Andrews – 99 Canberra Towers, Southampton, SO19 9JW

**Ticket No. 70069**

**Fourth Prize - £250.00**

L Randall – 73 Willow Crescent West, Uxbridge, UB9 4AU

**Ticket No. 80156**

**Fifth Prize - £100.00**

**Ticket No. 35065**

**Rob Smaith – 10 Highmead Ave, Wales, SA15 3SP**

The 50 x £50 consolation prize winners' details are available from our Secretary Robin Jagot as lack of space does not allow their reproduction here.

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## North Middlesex Referees Society for Season 2011/2012

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### The Vennearce Report

Last month I covered the 'Why' from this Report. This month I cover the 'How'. Reading parts of this section of the Report in its entirety for the first time, some of our more senior colleagues will find that the concerns expressed by Messrs. Venning and Pearce around the financing of the Referees' Association back in 1968 are so pertinent when we look at the finances of The referees Association' today.

### HOW - FINANCE

The present system of collecting affiliation fees leaves much to be desired, to say the least, and the administration entailed in transferring to R.A. funds the money paid by members is laborious and costly. Consider for a moment, the normal journey of the four shillings. This is paid by the society member to his Treasurer who, AT HIS INCLINATION, remits it to the Divisional Secretary (in some Counties, it even passes via the County R.A. to the latter). In due time it finally journeys further to the National Treasurer, who may receive it as late as January of the year following the September in which it is paid by the member. It may, in fact, be in transit so long that it cannot be included in the accounts until the year following that in which it is due. At February 1968, only two-thirds of the affiliation fees had been recorded – yet only a month remains before the end of the present financial year. How on earth can one budget for eventualities? Must we wait until catastrophe strikes – as it did a short while ago, when a lottery was forced upon members in order that the Association could escape the Bankruptcy Court?

The Sub-Committee estimated that the services of a full-time paid Secretariat would cost some £3,500 per annum, but it may be more realistic to assess the figure as between £5,000 - £6,000 annually. In any sound business venture, one must start with capital and not being aware of the actual existing balance, will presume to start from scratch.

The immediate need then would be for a fund to be set up and money raised to ensure at least £5,000 in the bank by 1st April, 1969. To this end, one would advocate that a match fee of £1 be donated by all members – remember all claim not to be in this game for the money, so nothing would be lost. This in itself would raise more than enough to start. Let it be borne in mind that Kent R.A. alone commendably has raised over £1,000 for 1968 Conference, so imagine what the remainder of the Country could raise with similar effort or those which our Benevolent Fund so flourishing. Having raised our basic capital, regular annual income would be maintained by an annual registration fee in the region of £1.1.0. per member. Bearing in mind that the present affiliation fee is 4/- this represents an increase of 17/- - approximately the amount referees pay for their affiliation to their respective County F.A.

Every referee would register with THE REFEREES' ASSOCIATION by 30th June each year, enclosing his £1.1.0. registration fee. As with existing arrangements, without being registered the referee would not be eligible to officiate. The County F.A. could be reimbursed any expenses incurred in respect of referees – for handbooks etc., - and reasonably working this out to be five shillings per referee, still leaves 16/- per member, which would more than cover £6,000 per annum, an amount which does not, of course, include profit from the sale of R.A. goods; examination fees and other incidentals – including a profit making National publication. Consider how the current registration fees to Counties are spent and it will be realised that the greater portion goes to financing County activities, most of which is for administration of clubs and competitions. Non-active referees, of course, would not be expected to pay the £1.1.0. registration fee, and the figure to cover their membership could be decided either by Council or at Conference.

In the fullness of time, consideration could be given to floating a Limited Company, with shares at, say, 10/- thereby giving every shareholder the right to vote individually on matters affecting policy. A Board of Directors could be appointed from Council; the Secretary already will be available and with astute financial budgeting, the demands of taxation could be kept to a minimum.

It must be apparent to all that, at present, financially, the R.A. lives from hand to mouth; with no apparent knowledge of which way it is going until it arrives. With monies received direct at Headquarters by a given date, the Finance Committee would know in advance how much it had available in any given year.

One problem of course, is that County Football Associations have a tendency to guard jealously what is theirs, but presented with an organisation geared to undertake the responsibilities, they may even welcome having lifted from their already overworked shoulders a burden which must militate against their giving the necessary time to the extensive detail incumbent in the requirements of the playing and competitive side of the game.

Notes: - As this report was written in April 1968, it refers to amounts in pre-decimal currency, and, for the younger members who no nothing about pounds; shillings; and pence – or for the older ones who care not to remember – I summarise below the current equivalents of the amounts mentioned above.

£1.1.0. equates to £1.05

17/- equates to £0.85

16/- equates to £0.80

10/- equates to £0.50

4/- (or four shillings) equates to £0.20



## **Treasurer's Reminder!**

At the time of writing approximately eighty percent of members from last season have renewed their membership for 2011/2012. For those who have still to rejoin, a further membership form will have been e-mailed to you, or will be enclosed with this magazine, and this will show your individual renewal fee that is due. The Society fee has been held for a further year; however, the Referees Association fee has been raised by £1.00. You can also take this opportunity to join or rejoin the Society One Hundred Club – just complete the appropriate part of the membership Form, and include the additional remittance with your membership fee.

It would be appreciated if you could you 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.

Should you choose not to rejoin the Society, it would be appreciated if you could let me know, together with any specific reasons you may have for not rejoining.

In the event that you do not rejoin the Society, in accordance with the Society Rules, your membership will lapse, and this will be the final edition of the Normidian that we are able to send you.

**Gary Cobden**  
**Honorary Treasurer**



## **Thank You**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our advertisers for renewing their support of the Society in these difficult economic times. Your support is very much appreciated.

**Gary Cobden**  
**Honorary Treasurer**



## North Middlesex Referees Society - One Hundred Club Membership

Below are the results of the final draws for the Season 2010/2011 numbers which were undertaken at the September Society meeting. Due to print deadlines, cheques for winners will be distributed with next months magazine.

<b>June</b>											
1st	18	Steve Wildgoose	£16.80	2nd	40	Adrian Bland	£8.40	3rd	10	John Metselaar	£4.20
<b>July</b>											
1st	6	Charles Lifford	£16.80	2nd	37	Peter Allen	£8.40	3rd	7	Cos Fernandes	£4.20
<b>August</b>											
1st	35	George Grant	£23.10	2nd	17	Roger Fox	£12.60	3rd	23	Terry Hayne	£6.30

Eleven new shares have been subscribed since September. Tony Ward has numbers 38 and 39 for the coming season; Adrian Bland has number 40; Arthur Pearce has numbers 42; 43; and 44; new member Alex Bedwell has number 45; John Metselaar has numbers 46 and 47; and Terry Flack has numbers 48 and 49. However, 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. The first draws for the 2011/2012 membership year will be undertaken at the October meeting.

### 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 12 months.  
 Renewal information will be included with next seasons Membership Form  
 Name..... Signature.....  
 Society Use - Numbers Allocated.....

**Gary Cobden**  
**Honorary Treasurer**



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



**NORTH MIDDLESEX REFEREES SOCIETY**

**Minutes of the Extraordinary General Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2011  
at Holtwhites Sports Centre Enfield starting at 7.45pm**

**Apologies:** None received

**Chairman's Report:** The Chairman welcomed members and our Guest Speaker Gary Parish, Premier League Assessor to our first meeting of the season. The Chairman announced with regret the sad passing of our Vice-Chairman, Vince Yeudall while on holiday with his family in the Isle of Wight. The funeral recently took place at Southgate Crematorium on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September, which was well represented by senior colleagues of the Society.

As a mark of respect the Chairman requested all those present to be upstanding for a minute's silence in memory of Vince.

The election of President took place with Gary Cobden being duly elected for the next three-year term.

Proposed – Tony Ward, seconded – Stan Rosenthal. Our past President Terry Wilson had the honour of passing the “Chain of Office” over to Gary and spoke very warmly of his outstanding contribution to work carried out in the Society's finance and the Society Web-Site over the years. An honour richly deserved.

The election of Training Liaison Delegate – Michael Mackey Jnr. – Proposed – Gary Cobden  
Seconded - Robin Jagot – carried. The election of Council Member – James Morris - Proposed – Robin Jagot  
Seconded – Gary Cobden – carried.

**Secretary's Report:** The secretary reported that he did attend the RA Conference AGM and that a brief report was printed in the September magazine. Members were reminded that the Presentation evening was fast approaching and that a few tickets were still available to purchase at £25p.p. Those members who have already been allocated tickets would they please settle the payment with the Treasurer preferably or Secretary as soon as possible.

**Treasurer's Report:** The membership of the Society - Full Members - 84 Associate Members – 6. Several members had not renewed their membership but final letters would go out to them in October.

**Any Other Business:** The meeting was informed that Michael Mackey Jnr had recently become a Father and members wished the proud parents and baby-boy all good wishes for the future.

Several members had mentioned the position of the Society's Vice-Chairman. As a mark of respect it has been suggested that the position of Vice-Chairman be left vacant for the remainder of the season and that any election does not take place until the announcement of the next Annual General Meeting. Should our Chairman be unable to chair a meeting then arrangements can be sorted on or before any meeting takes place.

The next Society meeting will be held on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2011 starting at 7.45pm sharp and our Guest Speaker will be Steve Bennett, former Premier League Referee and now a FIFA Instructor.

**Chairman .....**

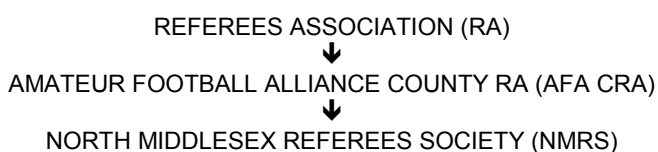
## INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR SOCIETY

**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.

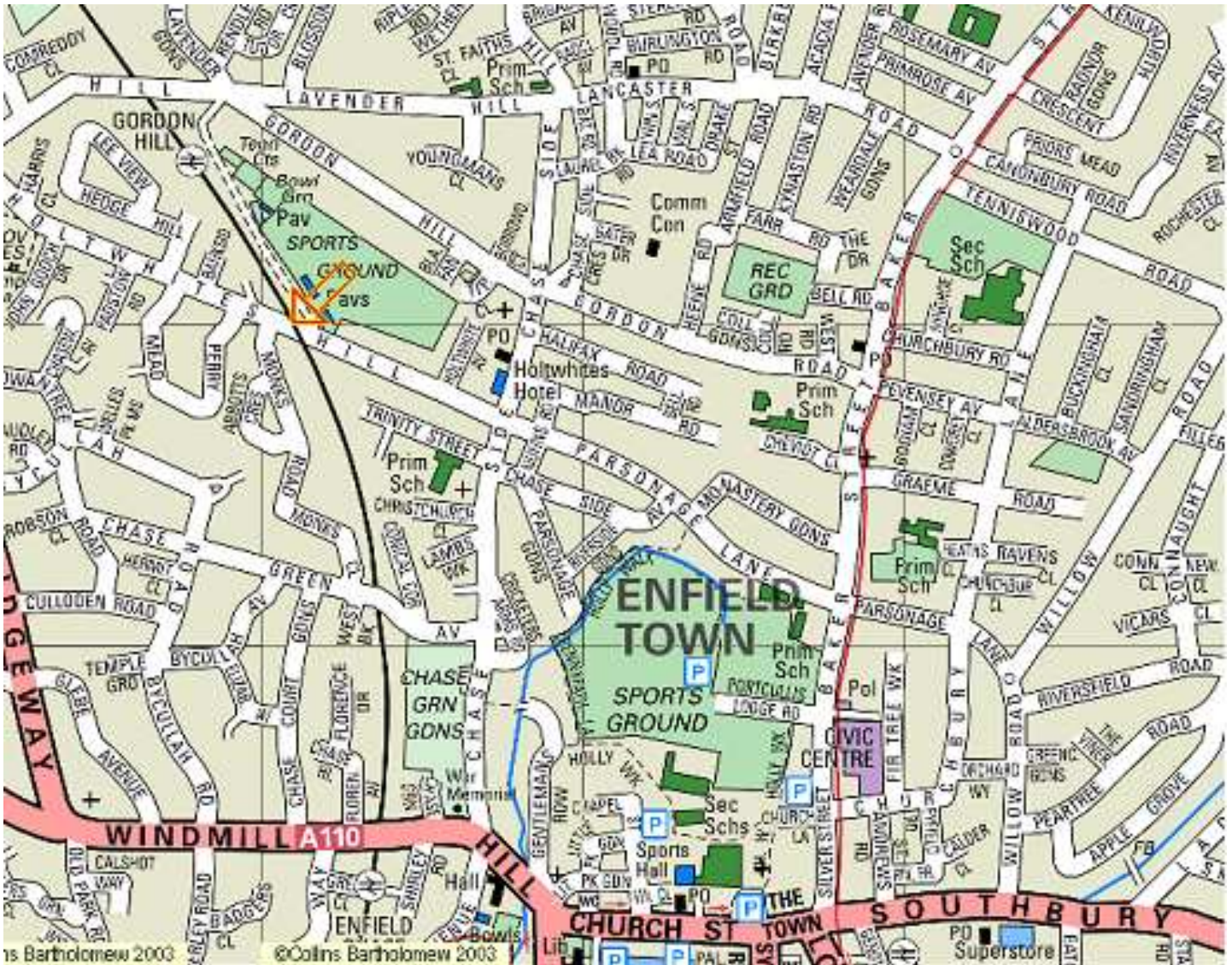
AFA	Amateur Football Alliance
AFA CRA	Amateur Football Alliance County Referees Association
CFA	County Football Association
CRA	County Referees Association
LFA	London Football Association
MCFA	Middlesex County Football Association
R.A.	Referees Association
RA-FA	Referees Association/Football Association 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](http://www.tfl.gov.uk); [www.nationalexpresseastanglia.com](http://www.nationalexpresseastanglia.com); and [www.firstcapitalconnect.co.uk](http://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