

*The Normidian
Magazine
Season 2015/2016*



**THE
REFEREES'
ASSOCIATION**



October 2015

COUNCIL 2015 - 2016

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

The next Meeting of the North Middlesex Referees' Society will take place on Thursday the 15th October 2015 at 7-45pm at the Holtwhites Sports & Social Club, Kirkland Drive, Enfield Middlesex when there will be an open discussion on "the Laws of the Game- are they fit for purpose and where can they be improved?"

EDITORIAL

One supposes that in the end Justice was done even though at the time it was not seen to be done. I write of course about the Arsenal defender Gabriel being successful in his appeal against a charge of violent conduct after being sent off by Referee Mike Dean in the match with Chelsea at Stamford Bridge. The original decision was made even more difficult because the Referee did not see the incident himself and had to rely on third party Officials. Nevertheless there can be no doubt that Gabriel did flick back with his foot towards Diego Costa in almost the same way as David Beckham had done in a World Cup match all those years ago when he too was sent off. As a result of the decision to revoke the Gabriel dismissal two sections of the penal offences have been shaken up so that now it is unclear what is actually meant by kicking or attempting to kick an opponent. Is a flick back or tap a kick or is it only a kick when the foot is thrown forward with violence or in anger? We have had a similar problem where one player slaps another and in England it has been held that if it is below the neck it is a caution and above the neck it is a dismissal although I can't quite find that in the Laws or the "Advice". Likewise is attempting deemed the same situation if you fail to make contact i.e. a matter of force. Someone somewhere surely needs to sort this out and fairly quickly. [Just an aside it is reported that some professor has come up with a theory that the odds of Arsenal losing are greater if they are refereed by Mike Dean]. Just shows you what referees have to put up with these days and that does not count Jose Mourinho, with everyone even Howard Webb getting in on the act.

In the same match acting as referee expert for BT Sport he was asked whether an Arsenal player should have been treated as conceding a penalty and his considered reply was something to the effect of -no not at first but after I have seen a couple of relays yes it should have been a penalty. Well Howard as you would have gathered when you were out there in the middle you don't get a couple of replays to decide whether or not it's a penalty.

Having criticised other referees for criticising other referees I am afraid I am going to do the same thing myself but only I hope it will be appreciated in the spirit of offering some practical advice to younger referees. In a match I recently saw at Brentford the referee was quite rightly being encouraged by the Bees' supporters to caution the opposition Goalkeeper for persistent and unsporting time wasting. At last exasperated after his goodwill had been exhausted the referee yellow carded the keeper. However he made a fundamental mistake. He waited until the keeper took the ball from one side of the goal area to the other at the goal kick and then cautioned him immediately. Naturally we are all

aware that that manoeuvre is a legitimate one which originally was initiated to speed up play but which unfortunately has often had the opposite effect. Therefore the caution was pre-emptive. What he should have done was wait until the ball was placed and the keeper had walked back and then turned and then administered the caution. In the same match the referee did what referees of yesteryear were advised against especially after a famous referee Clive Thomas blew up in the middle of a corner in a World Cup match. It is all a matter of time-keeping credibility so when in this case having awarded a penalty at the end of the game which was scored he allowed Brentford to kick off and immediately blew the whistle. The advice from yesteryear now apparently forgotten was to blow up immediately the penalty was completed in some way, inferring that the referee had added time on for the "take" and no more and no-one can complain. Alternatively the advice was to allow the kick off and play for 30 seconds to a minute so everyone believes time was not really up when the penalty was awarded and on the basis that no-one can really get the time right to the exact second. The advice was given to take pressure of the referee and to at best avoid frustration and at worst unfortunate suggestions including incompetence.

And now my grumbles on the strange ways of the Law makers' ideas on the game and how they might re-evaluate problem aspects. Firstly I have to admit to being exceedingly confused about FIFA's edict on where one should be positioned at a kick off. Very many years ago referees went their own ways in this positioning. Then it was intelligently suggested that as the ball had to be played forward the referee should stand in the centre circle forward of the ball. In the last few years the strange thought has occurred that since many teams play the ball back from that kick the referee should stand behind the ball. But of course the next move is invariably to play the ball forward so the referee is now worst placed to get up with the play. I sometimes wonder if the Law makers and the Advice givers have ever contemplated in practical terms what they suggest and implement. As an example of this and revisiting the goal kick, Vice President Tony Ward at the time of the change allowing the defending team the choice to kick from either side of the goal area commented that it would be treated as a method to waste time rather than save it and how true that has turned out to be.

Finally two more gripes. Firstly what has become of the IFAB proposals to end the triple jeopardy of being sent off for denying an obvious goal scoring opportunity, conceding a penalty and receiving a one match suspension. Surely it is time to suspend its operation where a penalty is awarded as this produces in return an obvious goal scoring opportunity and the player can receive a simple yellow card caution. The position is exacerbated when it is the goalkeeper who is sent off. The situation outside the penalty is different because it does not so provide the same opportunity. Secondly one of the most frustrating things in the game is where a player is treated on the field and then goes to the touchline, is waived back and sprints back onto the pitch. Often when winning this is used as a ploy to waste time. Perhaps a rule could be introduced of a mandatory two minutes waiting time on the touchline before being able to return. Players and managers might then think again about

going down as if struck by a thunderbolt only to miraculously recover when they want to return to the fray.

I am afraid that there has been extra of me in this edition even than is usual and the above may seem more like an essay than and editorial but this because virtually no-one has seen fit to pen type or in any different form submit an article, letter, or any other form of contribution. Surely we do not want to be relegated to having just a Newsletter after so many years of proudly presenting our wares to members or readers from other Societies. Times are hard for Referees' Societies in general at the moment and all of us need supporting, so can you out there especially the members get writing or emailing your contributions however large or small especially match incidents and provide some fare for the November edition of The Normidian.

Ken Goldman

Editor



Small print from the LOAF.

Did you know that most matches can be played on artificial surfaces but only in accordance with the rules of the competition, and the colour must be green?

Roll-on roll-off substitutes frequently used these days can only be permitted at lower levels i.e. grass roots/recreational but only with permission from the member Association concerned. Normally once a player has been substituted he/she cannot return to play but permission is now available in these lower level games where the roll-on roll -off principles apply.

Where electronic performance and tracking systems (EPFS) are available they must be only be used it must only be with the agreement of both the Association concerned and their competition rules which shall ensure that firstly they do not pose any danger to the players or officials and secondly the information and data transmitted from them is not permitted to be received or used in the technical areas during the game.

The Adventures of Willy 'Red card' Woodwork

The Whistling Referee

Part 42 – Step no further

Match: Cockfosters Casuals –v- Reds Rovers
League: Division Three – Sunday Park League (North)
Time remaining: Final third so 'up the tempo'
Weather: Sunny at the moment, wished I had applied some sun cream

In the final third of the match a referee should not let their standards slip. Just because the players may become tired there is no excuse for the referee to relax and slow down. Concentration and fitness is as important from the first minute to the last minute. I am a firm believer of 'Good positions mean good decisions'. Trust me it works!

I had just awarded a corner to Cockfosters Casuals when their manager asked to make a substitution. I checked to see if they had any substitutions and they were correct as this would make their third and final one. Because I was near the goal line I left the substitution to the assistant referee. He was one of the Reds Rovers substitutes but I had briefed him in my pre match instructions. I had told him to check the foot wear and make a note of the substitute's name. I would have performed this task myself but as I was close to the goal line I did not want to delay the restart of play. I took my position in preparation for the taking of the corner kick. It was a good position as I was able to see any possible holding or pushing and also I did not have my back to my assistant. I noticed the substitute run down along the touch line but at no time had he actually stepped onto the field of play. He placed the ball in the quadrant and beckoned instructions to his team mates. I had a doubt in my mind as to whether or not the substitute process had correctly been carried out as per the laws of the game. The assessor began scribbling in his note book and this cast doubts in my mind. I was confident that I was having a great match so far and I did not want one simple mistake to end up with a lower mark from the assessor. I decided to take evasive action and I run over to the substitute. 'Did you enter the field of play on the half way line'? He looked at me as if I was mad and as if I was speaking to him in a foreign language.

'What are you going on about ref?' he replied. I repeated the question and told him he would have to run back to the half way line so the substitution process is completed correctly. He stepped onto the pitch and exclaimed 'There ref, look, I've got both feet on the pitch so can I now take the corner.' By now the players were becoming impatient and asking 'What's going on ref, what's the problem?' I told them there was no problem as I insisted the player run back to the half way

line, step onto the pitch and only then can he return and take the corner kick. He told me that I was being ridiculous and stupid. I then told him he was being cautioned!

Common sense prevailed when the Casuals captain told the substitute to just carry out my instructions which he eventually did. For the first time in the match I noticed the assessor smiling. He of all people knew that I was correct and the substitute can only enter when told to do so on the half way line. I am convinced that you would have done exactly the same as me. How could you do anything else as anything else would be wrong by law?

The corner was eventually taken and the game continued.

At the very next stoppage of play Rovers this time requested to make a substitution. They were giggling and laughing and I wondered what was going on. The player being substituted made a point of leaving the field of play exactly on the half way line. This was not necessary as the substituted player can leave the field of play anywhere. It is only the player the substitute who must enter on the half way line. Rovers were trying to be clever as the substitute picked up the ball ready to take the throw on. Rovers knew exactly what they were doing so with a smile on my face I walked over to the substitute and told him he had to enter on the half way line. 'Sorry ref, lucky I wasn't about to take a corner'. 'Very funny' I replied as he stepped onto the pitch as he should have done and then off again to take the throw.

Willy Woodwork

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

But was our referee right?.....

- **Was Willie correct to make the substitute who was about to take the corner go all the way back to the half way line and then back again to the corner flag?**
- **Was it necessary to insist the substitute about to take the throw in also step onto the field of play in the first instance?**
- **Could the referee just played on for both occasions?**

See you all soon for the next exciting edition of our whistling referee.

Updated North Middlesex Society 100 Club List for Season 2015/2016: which will run from September/2015 through to August 2016. In previous seasons we had a first, second and third prize. We will in future only have a first and second prize starting with the September Draw taking place at the October meeting. If you wish to join the 100 Club list then contact the **Secretary** if you wish to be included this season. The cost per share per season is £12.00.

The Draw for the 100 Club Draw for May/June/July and August/2015 were as follows:

May/2015 – 1st – Peter Peters, 2nd – John Faithfull, 3rd– Steve Wildgoose

June/2015 – 1st – Robin Jagot 2nd – Peter Omondi 3rd – Tom White

July/2015 - 1st Arian Bland 2nd - James Morris 3rd - George Basten

August/2015 – 1st Peter Allen 2nd - Roger Fox 3rd - Steve Palmer

(1st Prize - £12.80 - 2nd - £6.40 3rd - £3.20)

This completes the Draw for last season.

Season 2015/2016 Revised list: as at 20th September, 2015

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Gary Cobden | |
| 2. Gary Cobden | 15 Dave Chapman |
| 3. John Metselaar | 16 Cos Fernandes |
| 4. Roger Fox | 17 Cos Fernandes |
| 5. Roger Fox | 18 Peter Allen |
| 6. Tom White | 19 Peter Allen |
| 7. Tom White | 20 Peter Allen |
| 8. Robin Jagot | 21 Charles Lifford |
| 9. Robin Jagot | 22 Steve Wildgoose |
| 10. Robin Jagot | 23 Steve Wildgoose |
| 11. Bob Martin | 24 George Basten |
| 12. Steve Palmer | 25 George Basten |
| 13. Richard Martin | 26 Chris Proud |
| 14. John Faithfull | 27 Peter Peters |
| | 28 Peter Peters |
| | 29 Adrian Bland |

Secretary

LATE FLAG

Italian lower league referee and part time model Elena Tambini aged only 24 has pocketed her whistle to become a TV pundit despite being tipped to become a Serie A Official.

By contrast a school girl referee has pleaded with parents to refrain some swearing at her during football matches. Emily Dyke suffered so much abuse she nearly gave up. The final straw which almost broke the preverbal came during an under-eights' game when she was called "an f-king disgrace." The 14 year old from Guisborough, North Yorkshire asked parents on Facebook "How they would feel if their child was targeted".

A former professional footballer 27 year old Nathaniel Kerr formerly on the books of Crewe Alexander and Rotherham was jailed for a year after a horror tackle that broke an opponent's leg during a Sunday league game. Apparently he launched a two-footed lunge on Stuart Parsons because he was infuriated after another player failed one of his team mates. Kerr having stamped on Parsons' leg shouted abuse as the latter lay in agony in Stockport. The victim needed a pin and plate after his ankle was broken in two places. In sentencing Kerr Judge Stuart Driver QC described the tackle as a "serious assault that just because it happened on a football pitch does not excuse it."

Goalkeeper Lawrence Vigouroux caused his loan period to be suspended initially but which has subsequently been resumed in paying a club fine of £50 in pennies. Swindon boss Mark Cooper commented on the payment "He has apologised to the rest of the boys. It was brilliant banter but, in the context, it was the wrong way to go about it."

Two brilliant goals that could have been disallowed on the same day recently – firstly Christian Benteke's magnificent overhead kick which one the September Match of the Day goal of the month was incredibly close to a defender and might well have been ruled out for dangerous play as happened in another match recently.

Secondly Wes Hoolihan set up a goal after a terrific run and pass but before, during and after the run he held one of his shin pads in his hand. Should the game have been stopped and the player told to replace the pad, or the game continued with the player waived off to make the readjustment, or a team mate having scored, should the goal have been disallowed?

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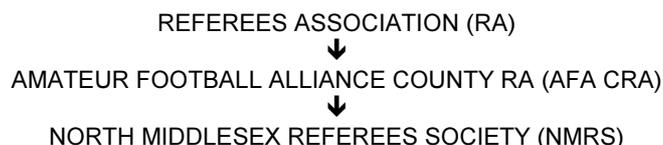
INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR SOCIETY

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

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

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

The National Structure for the Society is:



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

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

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

What are the Benefits of RA Membership?

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

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

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

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

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

Note

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

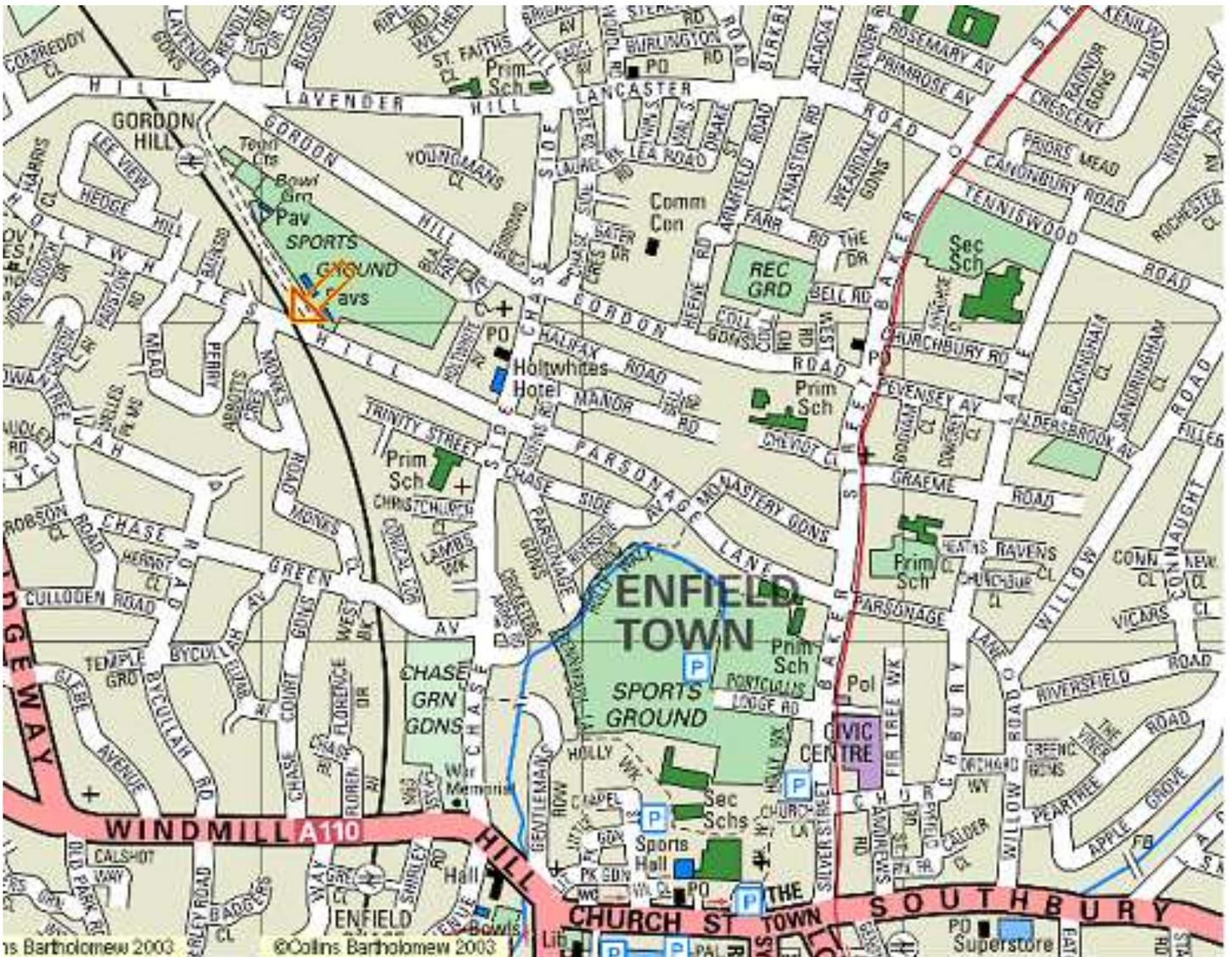
AFA	Amateur Football Alliance
AFA CRA	Amateur Football Alliance County Referees Association
CFA	County Football Association
CRA	County Referees Association
LFA	London Football Association
MCFA	Middlesex County Football Association
R.A.	Referees Association
RA-FA	Referees Association/Football Association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

Reviewed September 2015

MONTHLY MEETINGS

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

Dates for Season 2015/2016:- September 17; October 15; November 19 2015; and January 21; February 18; March 17; April 21 2016; May - tba



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

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

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

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

PERMISSION IS GIVEN TO REPRODUCE MATERIAL WITH A SUITABLE ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

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