

*The Normidian  
Magazine  
Season 2016/17*



**THE  
REFEREES'  
ASSOCIATION**



*October 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 20th of October 2016 at 7-45pm at the Holtwhites Sports & Social Club, Kirkland Drive, Enfield Middlesex when the guest speaker will be our own Council member Daniel Lauszkin who is also the Referees' Disciplinary Officer for the Middlesex County FA.

### EDITORIAL

This Editorial opens unfortunately with the sad news of the death of one of our most popular Life Vice Presidents George Bastin and whilst more details appear later in the magazine it is sad to note the end of an era. We send George's family our condolences.

We had a great meeting last month on the revisions to the Laws of the game (again more details appear later) but nothing the speaker could say could convince me that the silly Law change of allowing the ball to be played backwards at a kick off is anything but an invitation to break the other Law about being in the wrong half of the field at that restart. Indeed I have seen on numerous occasions players well into their opponent's half before kicking the ball back to a team-mate. The extraordinary thing is that so soon as this Law was changed it was embraced by professional players and therefore also inevitably by parks players, who have all slavishly carried out this manoeuvre. One day someone is going to kid the opposition and take a shot at goal instead or simply revert to another forward movement from the KO. After all what is the point of going backwards if the goal is at the opposite end. I presume that kicking backwards has justified the suggestion that referees should be behind the KO as distinct from in front of it as we oldens had been taught years back. Incidentally has anyone thought of just back-heeling the ball from the centre - spot instead of being in the wrong half of the field.

Although nothing has been done to sort out whose responsibility it is at the drop ball to ensure there is no chaos there, something good has been done in regard to clarifying impeding the progress of an opponent. Previously when the Law was changed from obstruction to impeding, we had the ridiculous position that it was both an indirect free kick if no contact was made and a direct free kick if there was contact despite the fact that it was not one of the penal offences. Now the 10 original penal offences have been upgraded and it is now official that impeding with contact is direct and without contact remains an indirect free kick. There are of course numerous other new clarifications and as our speaker confirmed it is essential for all referees to obtain a copy of the newly revised Laws of the Game booklet.

Interestingly one of Leicester City's defenders has cited the crackdown on pulling etc at corners as one of the reasons his side as Champions have had such a difficult start to the season. This is good news because it is plain that other offending sides have had their wings

clipped by this initiative. It also means that the senior referees must maintain being vigilant and continue with the penalising. It will also then help referees at grass roots levels.

Interesting to note too, that Gavin Brown writing in the Metro Newspaper recently, indicated that “Statistics suggest Premier League referees are showing more red cards than ever but the trend reflects a clampdown on violence rather than an escalation of it. There is no tackling from behind, going in two footed, or showing your studs these days. The result is a faster cleaner game that is easier on the eye and entertainment may be rising ” However he went on to note a word of caution when he expressed “the hard men may have gone but the conmen remain. Unable to limit an opponent with a full-blooded tackle, players now try to restrict the effectiveness of their rivals by shirt pulling, obstructing and provoking by trying to get them booked or sent off”. Having then specified some of those methods he recorded his pleasure that there were fewer of what he called “reducers “but cautioned against believing that bad behaviour was not on the increase.

It is nice to see some positive comments from the media and hopefully this is a trend that will continue. Unlike, unfortunately, former Premier League referee Mark Halsey who has come out of retirement to make a sensational allegation that he had been told to say he had not seen an incident when he had observed it. PGMOL have denied the statement and said “There is no pressure to include or omit anything” Whilst there have always been rumours of such things in the past, nonetheless coming out with that so many years later rather than blowing the whistle, in both senses of the expression, at the time, really does no-one now very much good.

I wonder how many people saw the report that FIFA have claimed that history was made after video replays were used for the first time in an international match during France’s 3-1 friendly win over Italy in September this year. The video was used when Italy appealed for a penalty after an alleged hand-ball in the penalty area by a French player. The Referee Bjorn Kuipers stopped the game whilst TV replays were consulted but the decision was not to award a spot kick. FIFA President Gianni Infantino was so impressed he confirmed that he hopes the technology will be used in Russia’s World Cup in 2018. Mentioning the 2018 World Cup watch out for the new Adidas balls being used in the current European qualifiers. It would appear now that football has more “new balls” than Wimbledon tennis.

We had a good turn-out for last month’s meeting so hopefully we can have the same for our next meeting when one of our up and coming young members will be speaking amongst other things on discipline.

Ken Goldman

Editor

## OBITUARY

By Charles Lifford



**GEORGE BASTEN**

**George was one of the few Life Vice Presidents who could walk into any meeting of the North Middlesex Referees Society or function and immediately be recognised, so much has he left his mark, not only in the Society but throughout the whole of the County of Middlesex.**

**He joined the Society in 1956 and it was Arthur Stewart, who recommended he register with the London Football Association. Arthur was in charge of the Training Centre at the time. George duly took the examination and passed with a 100% mark and registered as a Class 3P (Probationer).**

**In time, he refereed the Tottenham Charity Senior & Junior Cup Finals. It followed that in due course he added to these, the Cup Finals of every local league on which he operated.**

**Having reached Class 1 in 1960 he continued to progress, from local football to senior status and officiated on the Athenian, Delphian, and Isthmian Leagues. He received many County appointments and it was not too long before FA Cup and FA Amateur appointments came his way.**

**So dedicated was George that twice weekly he would train with Walthamstow Avenue F.C. and often he would be invited to referee their friendly matches against professional clubs, like Brentford, Leyton Orient, Queens Park Rangers and West Ham United.**

**Many people were well aware of his ability and there was no doubt that he was destined for the very top, but it was not to be. For two years he nursed problems with his knees. Then heartbroken he decided he would have to call it a day.**

**Those who watched his progress with interest were devastated by his decision. However, it was typical of George that although heartbroken, he loved the game and refereeing, refereeing in particular, this proved to be the impetus for him to devote himself towards assisting referees to scale the heights so cruelly denied him.**

**So, back to the Training Centre, but this time as an instructor where he served in that capacity for 25 years mainly with Ron Hounsell, who had succeeded Arthur Stewart and it was here that he paired up with “Mr Dependable”, Les Davis, with whom he became great friends.**

**He was an Examiner for Middlesex County Football Association, who appointed him as an Assessor in 1964**

**In 1974 he took over as Middlesex County Football Association, Assessing Secretary, an office he held until in 1984. When he moved to Kent in 1989, he had completed 25 years as an Assessor.**

**He was presented with the Referees Association Long and Meritorious Service Award, in 1979 an honour that was so richly deserved.**

**It was in 1981 when Middlesex County Football Association presented him with a certificate “In recognition of Administrative Services to Football in Middlesex”, and how very pleased he was to receive such an award.**

**However, he could not have been more pleased with the lovely surprise when, after moving to Kent, he attended the Society’s Annual Dinner Dance, and was presented with a silver salver inscribed “35 years exemplary service. Our grateful thanks from the members of North Middlesex Referees’ Society”.**

**It is not generally known that, although he was Vice Chairman since 1977, George was offered the Chair in 1980 but chose instead the more onerous and stressful job of Social Secretary, which those present and those before him have shunned like the plague. One thing that was “beyond the call of duty” was that with Les Davis he would visit or arrange for someone to visit George Pearce, every week for at least four years whether it was at his home or at his bedside in hospital. George suffered with multiple sclerosis, had the inevitable not eventually happened there is no doubt in anyone’s mind that George would still be carrying out that task today.**

**For George, 1983 remained his “Red Letter Year” when he was elected President of the ‘North Middlesex Referees Society’. It followed that in 1986 after his period in Office, he was made a Life Vice-President of the Society, which he loved and had served, with so much distinction.**

**In 2009 he received the Football Association’s 50 years Commemorative Medallion.**

**In 2011 Peter Molyneux, former Secretary of the Southern Division of the Referees Association, presented him with the Referees Association 50 Years Membership Award.**

**When he died in September 2016 at the age of 87, it was a very sad day, for his wife Joan, having celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary in June.**

**It also being a sad day for all his family and friends but also for the Society, which he treasured so much, never failing to attend all the Social functions since moving to the garden of England.**

**It would be impossible to find a more modest, devoted and dedicated individual. All those who have been privileged to know him are much the better for it.**

**Who said “SERVICE BEFORE SELF”? George Basten not only provided the Service but himself as well.**

**A ‘referee man’, through & through.**

*The Adventures of Willy 'Red Card' Woodwork*  
*The Whistling Referee*

**Part 46 – Walking the dog and a nasty mess**

**Match:**      *Cockfosters Casuals -v- Reds Rovers*  
**League:**    *Division Three – Sunday Park League (North)*  
**Venue:**      *A very long walk from the changing rooms!*

There are incidents that can occur during a match and all referees must think '*why does this only happen to me!*' Well this was one of those moments when a man was walking his dog and suddenly decided to let the dog off the lead. Amazingly the dog was called 'Rover' and he suddenly decided to run to the penalty mark and basically 'do the business' or in other words..... go to the toilet (A number 2)! Both teams naturally expect the referee to clear up the mess but I had news for them because it was not going to be me! I calmly explained to the two captains that it was not my responsibility but the responsibility of the home team. The Cockfosters Casuals captain duly found a plastic bag and cleared the mess. I must remember not to shake his hand after the match! The owner of the dog apologised, placed the lead back on the dog and beat a hasty retreat.

With the dog now out of sight we continued with the match. Unfortunately the dog incident seemed to have disorientated one of my assistants as they were both patrolling the same half and both in line with each other. Within seconds Casuals had scored a goal. One assistant raised his flag for offside and you've guessed it.....the other assistant did not raise his flag. So what was I to do and which assistant should I consult?.....*what would you do?*

I took it in turns to consult both assistants separately. I listened to their comments and then made my own decision. Firstly I instructed the assistant to return to the other half of the pitch and not cross over the half way line again and then I awarded the goal as in my opinion no offside offence had occurred.

The assistants were the substitutes from the teams and not neutral officials so I did not have high expectations of their abilities to be experts on the offside law or in fact any law!

With the weather having taken a turn for the better this was the perfect time to go to the park and take the dog for a walk. This may be good for the owner and the dog but not necessarily so for the twenty two players trying to have a game of football. Now we had to contend with dog number two.

**Ironically as Rovers attacked the Casuals goal we all witnessed another ‘Rover’ who this time decided to do their best to ‘eat’ the ball.**

**I had no other option other than to blow my whistle to firstly stop play and ensure, yet again, that the dog was removed from the field of play.**

**I knew the restart could only be a drop ball. The Rovers players felt I should have played advantage to see if a goal may have materialised but I knew the players’ safety was paramount so I knew playing advantage was not an advantage in case one of the players was bitten, or even me! Once again the owner apologised and briskly walked off. At least the dog did not leave a deposit on the pitch this time!**

**As we all waited for the dog to go I noticed the referee from the next pitch walking toward me. He approached and asked for my advice. He explained his match was a double header and during the first match he had sent off a player for violent conduct and was unsure whether or not the same player could play in the second match of the double header. He also added he was concerned they may be retribution if this player participated.**

**I felt pleased the referee had approached me as I am sure he must have felt I was the ‘font’ of all knowledge. I became quickly disillusioned when he explained that I just happened to be the nearest referee to ask. Anyhow, I am always happy to assist other referees I told the ref the player can play as there is nothing in law that states he cannot play.**

- Would you allow this player to play in the second match of a double header if he is sent off in the first match?***

**The young referee also asked if a player can play in different coloured boots. The ref had initially informed the player that both boots must be the same colour and that the player could not play but only allowed the player to take part when he explained the other boots were at home. I smiled as I listened to the ref and explained the player can play as yet again there is nothing in law about players’ foot wear having to be the same colour. Then I thought about the time when the only colour available for all football boots was black.**

- Can a player wear different coloured boots?***

***See you all next time,***

***Willy Woodwork***

**Willy ‘Red card’ Woodwork.....the whistling referee.**

## **OBITUARY**

[Unfortunately owing to some cross wires what was intended as a message to members has had to be changed into an Obituary owing to the sad death of Kevin Nottage referred to in last month's magazine. With apologies to Council Member Daniel Lauszkin for having to amend his original email this is both his said and sad commemoration]

Dear All,

I write a short Obituary I hoped that I would never have to write but with a heavy heart I must inform you of the terrible news that good friend Kevin Nottage lost his battle with cancer this summer and passed away aged 42. He leaves a loving wife Androulla and 4 children, Lewis 18, Georgia 16 Stella 15. Louise 11.

Kevin was a referee and referee assessor within Middlesex FA had to quit active refereeing as a level 5 referee when the treatment for his cancer meant it was difficult to continue, but ever the optimist Kevin was determined not to allow the big C to stop his love of refereeing and devoted his time to assessing promotion candidates and observing new referees.

Kevin was an asset to the MFA as an assessor always willing to travel and help Jim Upfold out at the last minute. Referees who had been assessed by him always spoke highly of his feedback and analysis and this was something that didn't go unnoticed within MFA when at the beginning of the 2015-2016 season Kevin was asked to assess 5-4 candidates and took to this like a duck to water. He will be sorely missed.

Kevin's funeral took place on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> July at 10:30am at All Saints C of E Church, 122 Oakleigh Road North, Whetstone, London N20 9EZ followed by Southgate Cemetery.

Dan Lauszkin

## **Flagging Up**

Sylvia Gore the scorer of the first official goal for England's women's team has died aged 71. She was involved in women's football for over 60 years and scored her memorable goal in England's 3-2 victory over Scotland in Greenock in 1972.

.....  
Reverting to the Obituary of Johnny Brooks, in our last edition, Tony Ward has written saying that Brooks was his boyhood hero and that he played 3 times for England and not the once I had found on Wikipedia. The games were against Wales Yugoslavia and Denmark with Brooks scoring in the first two matches.- Thanks Tony and delighted to add this respect of a truly great player.

.....  
Euro '16 Referee Mark Clattenberg apparently had his wrists slapped for having the Champions league trophy tattooed on one arm to celebrate refereeing the final with the Euro 2016 logo on the other. – Metro Newspaper

## **Last Month's Guest Speaker.**

We had for our first speaker of the season Andy Taylor of the Middlesex FA whose excellent presentation was on the Laws of the Game as revised by IFAB rather than either The FA or later by FIFA as they were in the past. Andy confirmed that it is absolutely essential for all active referees to obtain a copy because there have been 164 alterations to the Laws since last season although he honestly admitted that he had had this confirmed to him rather than count the, himself. These alterations had been made to promote fair play and to tidy up some technical matters as well as to modernise them in accordance with current practices.

Initially Andy gave out cards which numbered from 1-17 for the laws and number 18 for common sense and each person who received one was asked to confirm whether or not they knew whether there had been any changes to that particular Law. It turned out that only Law 2 had had no changes or alterations to it. Thus Andy went through each alteration meticulously allowing questions or discussions on each and this was of course extremely helpful all round. This was coupled with queries by the speaker as to whether any of the audience had had any experience of the Law changes during their early season matches.

The matters in hand having ended there was a short discussion on safe refereeing and managing the game.

The talk took place with plenty of humour and goodwill and lasted for almost 2 hours as there was so much to get through although it had been preceded by "match incidents" which the speaker had answered but reserved the right to deal more extensively with in his presentation.

It was one of the most important meetings we have had for a long time and was well attended.

Our President Bob Martin gave the Vote of thanks.



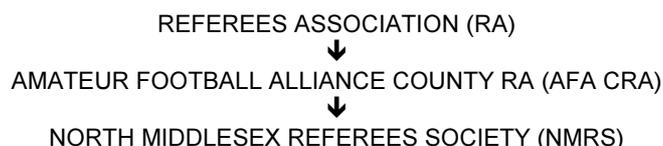
## INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR SOCIETY

**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](http://the-ra.org/refmagazine.php). The magazine includes features and updates from the Football Association and items of RA-FA and RA news.

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

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

**Note**

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

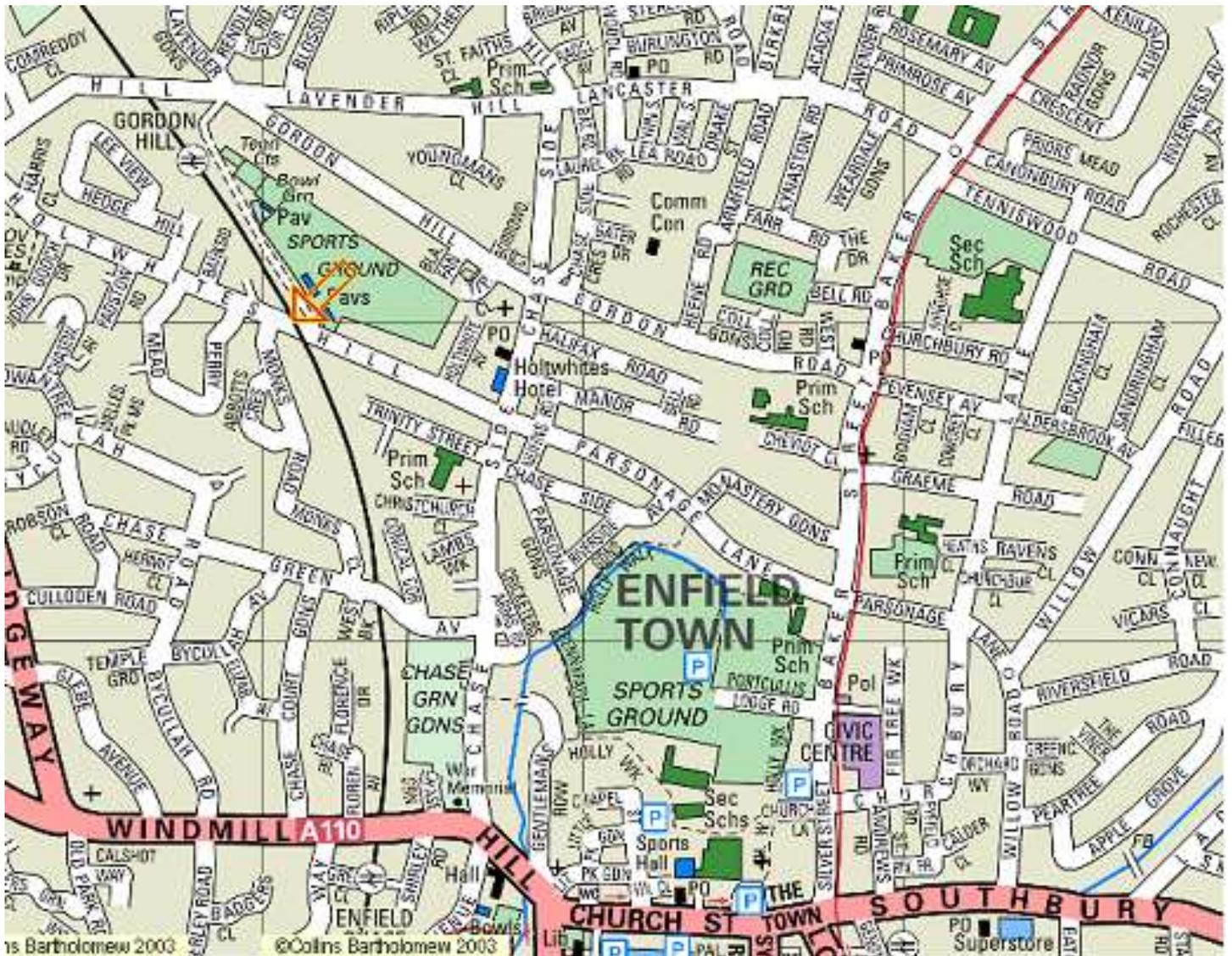
AFA	Amateur Football Alliance
AFA CRA	Amateur Football Alliance County Referees Association
CFA	County Football Association
CRA	County Referees Association
LFA	London Football Association
MCFA	Middlesex County Football Association
R.A.	Referees Association
RA-FA	Referees Association/Football Association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

Reviewed September 2015

## MONTHLY MEETINGS

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

Dates for Season 2016/2017:- September 22; October 20; November 17.2016; and January 19; February 16; March 16; April 20 2017; May - Tba



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