

*The Normidian
Magazine
Season 2013/2014
Welcome Back*



**THE
REFEREES'
ASSOCIATION**



September 2013

COUNCIL 2013 - 2014

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

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

The first Meeting of the Society for the 2013/4 season will take place on Thursday the 19th of September at 7.45 pm. at Holtwhites Sports and Social Club, Kirkland Drive, Enfield, Middlesex when the guest speaker will be Steve Child who is not only a Premier League Assistant Referee but also a FIFA Assistant Referee and had the honour of officiating as such, at last season's FA Cup Final.

EDITORIAL

Another season and another change in the offside Law, although this is down to new interpretations and the underlining of a principle laid down a couple of seasons ago. We cover these changes in the following pages and the alterations in the Laws to take account of Goal-line technology. There are a lot of people in the game and on its periphery who would like to see this technology extended to other areas of the game but anyone who has witnessed the England v Australia cricket test matches this summer will have seen how unreliable and indifferent it is and how much the Umpires have relied on it. That means in football that players would have even less respect for referees than they have now if numerous decisions were referred to technology. Furthermore as has often been quoted cricket is a much slower game than football and such referrals would lead to a fast sport being constantly interrupted and slowed down. Furthermore as a world game it has been made clear that all countries and their leagues do not have the money to pay to have even goal-line technology which this is something that Michele Platini clings on to for maintaining additional assistant referees in a system he devised. We also cover later the changes made by FIFA in respect of those participants that many people fail to understand what they are there for.

This being the first magazine of the season there has not been time for articles to flow in or points to be made about controversial decisions. BT in their new television sports programme has engaged the services of former Premier league Referee Mark Halsey to comment on refereeing decisions. In principle it is a good idea for giving explanations of what and why the Official has made those decisions. Unfortunately in the early games I have seen Mark has gone further and given his view on what the decisions ought to have been and that is a very different thing. That in turn may give rise to more problems for the referee especially following action replays, if either party has got it wrong.

On a more domestic front I will be looking to replace a couple of the magazine's pages this term as Willy "the whistler" Woodwork has taken early retirement and there is his space to fill. Many thanks to the author Keith Hillier for his efforts over the past couple of years but anyone who wants to fill that space with a theme similar to Keith's or even match incidents would be most welcome.

Ken Goldman

Editor

New Laws for Old

The variations to the Laws referred to in the Editorial relate especially to new interpretations of the Offside Law [L.11] and to several of the Laws to encompass the addition of the system of Goal-line technology.

Starting with offsides there is a new interpretation of **interfering with an opponent** which now means[when in an offside position] preventing an opponent from playing or being able to play the ball by clearly obstructing an opponent's line of vision or challenging an opponent for the ball.

Gaining an advantage by being in that position, means playing a ball that rebounds or is deflected to him/her off the goal post cross- bar or an opponent, having been in an offside position. This last interpretation follows one from the Premier league in a match between Arsenal and Everton some 2 seasons ago. This also applies likewise to a deliberate save by an opponent which is not necessarily the goalkeeper as it could be a defender's block. However where the opponent deliberately plays the ball (except from a deliberate save) this will not be considered to have gained an advantage.

The advent of goal-line technology (GLT) has meant inserting new clauses throughout the relevant Laws and as a result where GLT is used modifications of the goal frame may be allowed but in accordance with specifications stipulated in FIFA's quality programme for this. Likewise footballs with integrated technology are allowed but only where they are "FIFA Approved" "FIFA inspected" or "International Matchball standard" Furthermore Referees now have the duty to test the GLT technology's functioning before the game. If it does not function in accordance with the GLT Testing Manual it cannot be used and must also be reported to the relevant Competition organisers. FIFA state GLT's purpose is to verify whether a goal is scored and is to support the Referee but it must also be in the competition's rules.

Owing to GLT being introduced it has been necessary also to clarify the position of "Additional Assistant Referees" or arguably "Platini's Platoons" if that is not an unfair way of naming them. They are now officially integrated Additional into the Laws which state that they may be appointed under competition rules and those must specify whether the Fourth Official takes over as Referee or the senior Additional Assistant Referee takes over with the Fourth Official moving to Assistant Referee. Aar's are also there to assist the Referee control and run the match and if necessary inspect the pitch balls and players equipment and where there is equipment failure or bleeding when these are resolved. They are also there to back up records of both goals and misconduct.

As to positioning they are to be positioned behind the goal line on the right diagonal but cannot come onto the pitch unless in exceptional circumstances which are not defined at the moment. Originally it will be remembered these officials started life on the left diagonal which made more sense than as now, having one on the right diagonal, where the Assistant Referee is positioned.

@@

New Technology

Having indicated above the necessary changes in the Laws to accommodate goal-line technology what has been happening in the background. Well James Day writing in the Metro newspaper highlighted some interesting aspects. Firstly FIFA licensed four systems that either relies on cameras or a tracking chip inside the ball. The Premier League who had the choice went for the British built although Sony owned Hawk-Eye system in use of course at Wimbledon for Tennis. It uses what they have called a “Goal Decision System” that employs 14 cameras that track the ball at 340 frames per second. They claim its accuracy rate is up to 4mm and the decision whether the ball has crossed the goal-line can be made in less than a second.

Also in use this season in the Premier League is a new ball by Nike which they call the “Incyte” which is now claimed to give the most aerodynamic trajectory ever seen owing to its micro-textured dimple casing, while the manufacturers allege that its “Rapid Decision and Response” technology will maximise visibility so the players can see it earlier and react faster. It will be interesting to see if that latter claim can be substantiated because every player has a different reaction time. Also as to whether it will help all the Officials with their reaction time when they have need of studying the ball during play.

Even shin pads are getting a modernised make-over. The Elite Company has produced some guards that are made from “Kevlar” which is the material from which bullet-proof vests are made and have been approved by Tom Hughes a physiotherapist at Manchester United.

Finally as over 95% of referees watch some football on television and many will have seen the opening games on Sky, that provider is upgrading its 3D coverage, added Jamie Carragher to its team and augmented its touch-screen technology. Just as well perhaps as new provider BT has created a virtual reality pitch for their presenters.

Welcome to football in the first generation of the 21st century.

Membership Fees for Season 2013/2014 are now overdue!

There are still a few members from last season still to renew membership for Season 2013/2014 – fees became due on 1 April 2013. If you have not paid, and you receive your magazine by e-mail, you will have already received another renewal form this way; for everybody else, a further Membership form is included with this month's Normidian.

Both Society and Referees Association fees remain as last year, and amounts due are as follows.

Membership Fees payable are as follows:-

• Full Members

- **£27.00 if your magazine is received by e-mail and £29.50 if your magazine is received by post.**

This includes your Referees Association fee of £16.00 including the Insurance Premium of £4.00. If you are over 75, you are not automatically covered by the Insurance Premium, and your fee payable will be reduced by £4.00. However, should you wish to purchase insurance cover, this can be arranged on request. Please contact me for a proposal form which you need to complete and return to me.

• Associate Members

- **£11.00 if your magazine is received by e-mail and £13.50 if your magazine is received by post.**

You must pay your Referees Association fee through another Society, and this should be shown on your Membership Form. Alternatively, you may join as an Associate Member if you have other interest in football work – please indicate as such on your Membership Form.

• Junior Members

- **£15.50 if your magazine is received by e-mail and £18.00 if your magazine is received by post.**

For Members under 18 years of age at 1 April, including your Referees Association fee of £10.00.

Individual fees payable are shown on your personalised Membership Form. You are reminded that you are not covered by the Referees Association Insurance until your fees have been paid. Please complete and return your Membership Form as soon as possible.

If you wish to take advantage of the Referees Association Physiotherapy Insurance this season, this is available at two levels of cover for either £25.00 or £35.00. If you want to take advantage of this cover or require more information, please let me know, and I will let you have the relevant information.

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.

Please check your details shown on the Form, amending information shown incorrectly. Please also check that the NPD Number (Registration Number) where shown is correct, and complete it if it is missing from the 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 if you are an Assessor; Examiner; Instructor; or Mentor.

Outlined below are some of the benefits of membership of North Middlesex – other than Society Meetings:-

- The Normidian – full of articles, news and information on refereeing and other topical matters.
- Mentoring of new referees.
- Access to the NMRS and/or Referees Association Benevolent Funds if you fall on hard times.
- RA and other kit supplies available at meetings and to order.
- Society Website - also packed with up-to-date information on the Society.
- Monthly 100 club draw; Christmas social; and other social events.
- RA Conference – free attendance for members.
- Eve of the Final Rally tickets.
- RA Website.
- Representation on the MCFA Council; the MCFA Referees' Committee.
- Representation to the RA through the AFA Referees' Association.
- Advice, support and representation if assaulted, charged or suspended.
- RA Personal insurance when officiating or attending refereeing business.
- RA-FA Incentive Scheme with the potential to earn free kit.
- Free Motor Legal Insurance Cover.
- Free general one-off Legal Advice
- RA Representation on the FA Council.
- RA Representation on the FA Referees' Committee.
- RA representation to the FA Refereeing Department.
- RA Service awards

Gary Cobden
Honorary Treasurer



North Middlesex Referees Society - One Hundred Club - Season 2013/2014

Below are the initial Membership Numbers for the forthcoming season which runs from September 2013 through to August 2014. As you can see from the list, we currently only have 31 subscribers for the season, and we therefore have several members from last season who have not subscribed again so we would welcome you rejoining.

- | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Gary Cobden | 12. Steve Wildgoose | 21. Peter Peters |
| 2. Gary Cobden | 13. Steve Wildgoose | 22. Donald Stewart |
| 3. George Basten | 14. Tom White | 23. Robin Jagot |
| 4. George Basten | 15. Tom White | 24. Robin Jagot |
| 5. Steve Palmer | 16. Peter Allen | 25. Robin Jagot |
| 6. Cos Fernandes | 17. Peter Allen | 26. James Morris |
| 7. Charles Lifford | 18. Peter Allen | 27. James Morris |
| 8. Dave Chapman | 19. Peter Allen | 28. John Metselaar |
| 9. Stan Szplit | 20. Peter Peters | 29. Percy Brown |
| 10. Stan Szplit | | 30. Peter Jago |
| 11. Roger Fox | | 31. Peter Jago |

Draws for the summer months – May through to August will be made at the September meeting. The first draws using the updated numbers indicated above will be made at the October meeting.

If you have already rejoined the Society and would like to join the 100 Club for Season 2013/2014, please complete and forward the form below. If you have not yet renewed your membership, and would like to join the 100 Club, you can do so by indicating on your membership form.

NORTH MIDDLESEX REFEREES SOCIETY 100 CLUB

I wish to purchase.....share(s) in the NMRS 100 Club at £12.00 per share per season.

Please find enclosed my cheque/postal order for £...00 to cover the subscription for 12 months.

Name..... Signature.....

Society Use - Numbers Allocated.....

Gary Cobden
Honorary Treasurer



A Thank You

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Advertisers, Henry Tilly Ltd – through John Metselaar - and Brunswick Garage – through Andy Savva - for continuing their support of the Society.



Website

The Society website, <http://www.northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk> is currently undergoing a makeover, so please accept our apologies if links that you try do not work. Please report any broken links to:- webmaster@northmiddlesexreferees.org.uk.



Discuss

After the first Saturday of Premier League fixtures, former top flight referee Graham Poll opened up a discussion topic which might well be worth debating at the first meeting.

We all know that goalkeepers love saving a penalty saves. However Poll points out that 'match officials should pay more attention to their antics prior to the kick being taken. Both Arsenal's Szczesny and Liverpool's Mignolet were jumping up and rattling their crossbars in attempt to put off penalty takers. As a result the bar was bouncing.'

He continues 'that referees need to be attentive at all times in games and both Martin Atkinson and Anthony Taylor appeared to miss the two goalkeepers transgress law. The goalkeepers were guilty of trying to

affect Jonathan Walters and Christian Benteke as they were preparing themselves from 12-yards, though the latter scored the rebound from his miss.'

Poll adds that whilst here is no need for a caution, referees should have a word to tell the 'keeper to stop this practice – they have enough latitude with their movement as they can jump about and move along their lines whilst waving their arms whilst the penalty taker approaches. This new unsporting act could become a trend if referees don't 'nip it in the bud'.

From my memory, this is nothing new and has been happening for years. What do colleagues think???



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Clean & Bright

Dutch Football Club NEC Nijmegen have come up with a novel bonus scheme to stimulate more effort from their players. For them no more man-of the match Champagne. Instead they are offering their players a bikini car wash. Three young blond ladies have been hired to "buff" the bodywork of the car of the best performing player in every one of their matches this season. Former Liverpool youth player Victor Palsson was the first recipient. It appeared that he was very satisfied with the result and apparently wished that his spells with Dagenham and Redbridge and Hibernian would have produced similar prizes – Soapy fella.



Carlo Boggia

It is with regret that we report that our former member Carlo Boggia passed away during the summer. Carlo, who lived in Barnet, began refereeing in 1977, and spent much of his time refereeing on the Enfield and District Youth Sunday Football League, where I was Referees Secretary. Indeed, he succeeded me into that position. Although Carlo had not refereed since 2004, we were still in contact. Carlo was a regular attendee at Society meetings, although was never a colleague to seek the limelight.

Carlo had a varied career, and spent much of his time working for Waitrose in Whetstone. Indeed, as colleague Peter Dace recalls, he also worked for the Citroen dealership in Potters Bar where he would collect cars from customers; deliver them to the dealership where they were serviced; and then return them later in the day to customer premises.

Maintaining his love for football, he could usually be found at Barnet FC where he was a steward. What would he be thinking now with their demise from the Football League, and their move away from Underhill, indeed out of the borough, to The Hive in Harrow.

Carlo was diagnosed with cancer a few years ago, and things had seemed to be looking good as he was in remission; however, just before Christmas last year the cancer returned. Carlo passed away peacefully at home in June in the company of Macmillan nurses. He was 75.

The Society was represented at Carlo's funeral, and a donation has been made by the Society in his memory.

Our condolences go to his wife, Roberta, and his family.

Gary Cobden



An Unlikely Pairing!

Brighton striker Craig Mackail Smith and former Peterborough manager Barry Fry have joined together to form an unlikely midwifery team. The Seagulls star is going out with Fry's daughter Amber. When she went into labour at the family home in Horsham, Mackail Smith and Fry had to deliver the baby.

The family had been preparing to take Amber to hospital when it became clear that the baby was already on its way and it was too late to go anywhere. The pair took instructions over the telephone on what they needed to do.

Mackail Smith said: "We could barely hear the instructions because of the noise. So we did the best we could. We lifted her up and she pushed again and Barry was there to catch the baby as it came out – I've never seen him move so fast."

"When the baby came we were all in shock and could not believe what had happened. It was the best and worst emotions I have been through, all in one night."

"During the labour it was very difficult. Amber was in a lot of pain and we had no painkillers but when the baby was born it was amazing – it was the best thing I have ever been involved in."



Football Foodies

It is lucky that referees have to watch their weight unlike fans that at two London Teams have been given the opportunity to eat for their Clubs. Crystal Palace supporters can now eat officially commissioned pies whilst their counterparts at Brentford will be offered official cup cakes.



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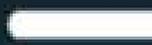
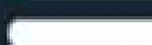


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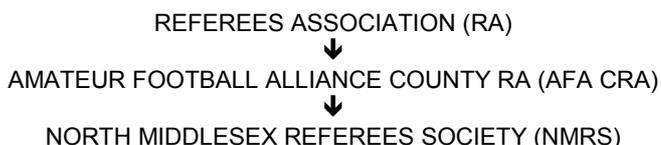
INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR SOCIETY

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. Physiotherapy insurance is now also available for a premium of either £25.00 or £35.00 dependent on the level of cover required.

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 2013

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Are held on the third Thursday monthly (except December – second Friday) 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 2013/2014:- September 19; October 17; November 21; December 12 2013 (second Friday); and January 16; February 20; March 20; April 17; May 15 2014



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; www.greateranglia.co.uk and www.firstcapitalconnect.co.uk for rail information.

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.

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