

*The Normidian
Magazine
Season 2015/2016*



**THE
REFEREES'
ASSOCIATION**



September 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 17th of September 2015 at 7-45pm at the Holtwhites Sports & Social Club, Kirkland Drive, Enfield Middlesex.

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the first edition of the Normidian Magazine for season 2015/16 and there have been plenty of contentious decisions up for consideration, already in this fledgling term. The late great England and West Ham Manager Ron Greenwood often ruefully stated that "no matter what a person does for a living when it comes to football they are always an expert". How much more does this apply to the function of refereeing. Managers players and especially spectators all think that they know more about refereeing and the Laws of the Game than the men and women out in the "middle" or on the line and are able to come to a better conclusion on the decisions which are made in the match. As most people will know my Arsenal leanings, I will endeavour to be as impartial as possible but I wish to state a case for Lee Mason for his handling of a tricky situation in the game he refereed between Crystal Palace and Arsenal in early August. I raise the issue because it is symptomatic of what referees have to endure from the Premier League to the Parks. In the case in point Lee Mason took a sensible approach to not sending off the Gunners' Francis Coquelin for a couple of silly fouls none of which were malicious, after he had been cautioned. Indeed the player was removed by his manager after having been spoken to alongside the captain moments after one of those fouls. I suggest that Mr Mason had taken the point of the fouls being stupid into consideration for not cautioning the player a second time and dismissing him from the field of play. The referee was apparently told at halftime in the tunnel by the Crystal Palace manager by his own admission that he should send off Coquelin the next time he committed any kind of foul. After the game the referee was slated on television for his refusal to send off the player, was castigated on Talk Sport later by Crystal Palace fans and to add insult to insult was told he was wrong by that critic of all referee's critics Graham Poll in his Daily Mail column. At that point one was reminded of the twin peaks of swearing and Wayne Rooney in a couple of Mr Poll's matches.

The point of this Editorial is to confirm that the referee on the day knows the tenor and temperature of the match and when or whether to exercise discretion or to come down heavily by use of the yellow and if necessary red cards. After all not every non-malicious tackle should result in 2 yellow cards and a dismissal and it would be a tragedy if referees after this match are encouraged or worse still told to strictly apply the Laws and remove players for anything that pertains to an infringement of the Laws rather than applying Law 18 common sense, in the exercise of their discretion. However as usual many of the problems caused relating to cautions and dismissals would be so much easier to solve if FIFA would embrace a sin bin system.

Mentioning sending offs could there have been a sillier one than the removal of West ham goalkeeper Adrian up for a corner who turned to effect an overhead kick without any knowledge of the whereabouts of a Leicester City opponent. Unfortunately he made heavy contact with him and Mr Anthony Taylor felt obliged for some reason to dismiss the 'keeper rather than simply to award a free kick for dangerous play. Worse still was the decision to uphold the dismissal. Was it because the decision was deemed correct or was it because it was felt necessary to support the referee? We thought perhaps that type of decision would not be made again after Nani of Manchester United was sent off in a Champions League game a couple of seasons back for a similar incident.

Finally no time here to deal extensively with the new interpretation of the Offside Law, but suffice it to say Bournemouth got the thin end of the wedge in the goal they conceded against Liverpool. Well done the Premier League for coming out and saying the goal should have been ruled out for offside.

Anyone wanting to have their say about these and other decisions throughout the season should send their comments in to me which will be gratefully received.

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Some Useful Tips from Premier League Referee Andre Marriner.

When it comes to warm-ups before the match you want to get your heart rate up to its game level so I will jog for 2 laps of the pitch, then take on some dynamic work, do some shuttle runs. The aim is to get my rate up to 85% and then include some stretching before finishing with a couple of sprints. The warm-up is so important- the last thing you want to do is pull something within the first few minutes.

As to attitude when you cross that white line and blow the whistle you have to take on a new persona, different from what you are at home with your family. You don't go into this job to be liked but you do need a pretty thick skin.

At halftime you want to get your breath back and chat about certain aspects from your Assistants' point of view especially as to any mistakes we make.

The last 15 minutes of the game fatigue sets in and errors are made- and it's exactly the same for the referee as it is for a player. I don't want the result of a game to depend on an incorrect decision from me, so it's vital to stay focused. We are accountable for our decisions- and I want it to be perfect.

At full time hopefully you'll get a few handshakes from the players and that's often a barometer for how well it's gone.

(With thanks to Tony Hodson the original interviewer and Sport Magazine)

CONSISTENCY BY MARK JACOB

In an era where we have rolling news 24/7 with every aspect of our lives being scrutinised to the minute detail - this was not a time to hang up my boots and go from a poacher to a gamekeeper.

However had I known sooner that the transition would be as smooth and supported by a network willing to advise, encourage, and promote I would have made the conversion a lot earlier with the knowledge that there is a clear career path in a profession that has become the gatekeeper of the Beautiful Game.

Unfortunately where there is beauty there is always a beast lurking. This takes the form of the television pundit who despite several of them having participated in the game (and some to a world class standard) have absolutely no idea what the Laws of the Game actually say. So how can we as referees ensure that park life does not mirror the glitz and glamour of the baized surfaces of the English Premier League and beyond?

We are certainly not helped by high profile decisions analysed to within the final minutes of their shelf life by the sages of the screen. However if we cannot get the decisions correct how can we expect the commentators to?

The first week of the season saw a promoted team find out the reality of what life is like at the top.

A disallowed goal for a high boot in the penalty area and an unseen shirt grab only compounds the injustice felt by players and managers alike. Has the bar therefore been set as to a high boot by an attacking player in the penalty area? You can almost hear it now the appeals by centre halves followed by "Ref but in the Norwich game" What does the Law say? Law 12 refers to playing in a dangerous manner as any action that, while trying to play the ball, threatens injury to someone (including the player himself). It is committed with an opponent nearby and prevents the opponent from playing the ball for fear of injury. A scissors or bicycle kick is permissible provided that, in the opinion of the referee, it is not dangerous to an opponent. Given that the "offence" occurred in the penalty area one can hardly criticise the attacker from attempting to score a goal. Indeed did the defender fear injury?

More forgivable however was the referees failure to award a penalty for the shirt grab - this perhaps would be justified by either his position or his perspective.

So we move on - the following day and more controversy - a keeper charging to the edge of his box and bringing a player down. Once again the spotlight was on the man in the middle. This time top marks. Yet opinion was divided in the studio - and once again without any analysis of the Law. This time the Law quite clearly states that a player is sent off if he denies an obvious goal scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards the player's goal by an offence punishable by a free kick or a penalty kick. The Law could not be clearer. However the offending Club had the temerity to appeal the referee's decision. What happened to the days of the frivolous appeals and the additional game ban?

A week later and we are debating persistent offending - whilst the man in the middle eventually dealt with the offending player - was it several foul tackles too late thus rendering any possible advantage to the non-offending team null and void. Again we all ask for consistency but if those at the top of the profession are not practising what we are trying to preach how can we be expected to garner any form of respect on a wet Saturday in November at Firs Farm ?

The following day and we are then discussing changes to the Laws with the persistent offender this time being Law 11.

One is always reminded of the late and great Danny Blanch flower's quote "If he isn't interfering with play what is he doing on the pitch?"

Leaving aside the disallowed goal which we can justify as being "in the opinion of" we simply cannot condone the decision not to raise the flag especially in light of the directives which have been circulated during the summer and which, to give them credit, TV stations for once have broken down the Law by providing footage of match game examples thus there being no excuse not to get it right. Once again the unlucky recipient was a promoted Club.

Being new to the world of officialdom I guess the moral of this piece is that we at grass roots level must be consistent from the outset.

Be it kit and jewellery checks , correctly adhered to substitutions, the use of the Captain and ensuring that while those in the professional game may not always get it right - we do and we explain why . Then and only then will we earn the respect that we crave.

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Flagging Up.

Seen recently at the Surrey Coaches 50th anniversary dinner was Howard Webb who gave a brief amusing speech to an assembled crowd of leading coaches and Managers. After a short spell following retirement from active refereeing as technical director for PGMOL developing the select group, he became performance director at the Premier League selecting officials for Premier League matches. However word has it that that too is a brief encounter because he is poised to become Head of Refereeing at the Saudi Arabian Football Federation. We can only wish him well.

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One player well known for causing damage to opponents is Louis Suarez but even he will have a problem injuring them in the future because it is understood that he has just become the owner of the first ever knitted football boots. A limited edition costs approximately £200 for the boots which are knitted from heel to toe- Obviously a dedicated innovator of fashion.

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A new offence that referees will have to look out for is throwing grass at an opponent. Celta Vigo's Fabian Oreliana was so incensed at Barcelona's time wasting at a free kick that he performed that childish act and was promptly sent off in a La Liga game.

THE THOUGHTS OF CHAIRMAN PAUL FIELD

I have been a member of the R.A. Board for 5 years during which time I have seen seven different Chairmen, a Board of Inquiry regarding the general management of the RA, and we had an office facility which was not fit-for-purpose, The RA has now started to move forward and this is now **history** but let's remember one quote which typifies the organisation: Henry Ford said – ***“If you always do what you've always done, you will always get what you've always got”***. In the case of The R.A., a poor product which is not relevant to majority of the Refereeing family, declining membership and often people being in office for far too long.

In my view, The R.A. now has to move forward and there are sound building blocks for the future which are positive steps. We need to remember that our main reason for existence is to provide a platform for on-going training, development, mentoring and mutual support. The thriving LRAs are the ones that concentrate on this, have lively debates, a good social side and little business transacted at meetings. As a collective (individually and LRA's) we are all responsible!

There is an urgent need to change people's perception of the RA and the quality of the membership experience. I aim to bring stability over the next 12 months and acknowledge that, ultimately, I will be judged on results.

The blocks which are available to all:

- 1) QUEST (Quality)
- 2) 3-year plan (Vision)
- 3) RA-FA Youth Council (Engagement)
- 4) RA-FA Working group (Representation)
- 5) 4 x CPD events for LRAs provided by the FA (Added Value)

During the coming weeks/months I will be engaging with our stakeholders to build a structure which up skills the Board and the Association, brings diversity and becomes more representative of the refereeing work-force as a whole.

All I ask is an open mind – change is difficult, there will be frustration, “red-tape blockages” and LRAs that can't/won't change/adapt – but the failure to change will ultimately end with the **Referees' Association becoming history**, so grab the opportunity and come with me on our journey to revitalise The Referees' Association. Conference 2015 was on the whole, an outstanding success. While we are disappointed in the critical mass of numbers attending, the overall quality was greatly enhanced with the workshops being more manageable and therefore the learning experience and tutor interaction improved accordingly. The enjoyment of the delegates attending who completed the feedback forms gave overall good to very good. There is some valuable feedback which the Board will seriously consider and as we plan for next year.

Overall ratings: Very good 46% Good 37% Low 17% (AGM, Saturday lunch arrangements)

Dates and location for Conference 2016 will be confirmed shortly. Currently the Board have received no alternative venue suggestions.

North Middlesex Referees Society - One Hundred Club - Season 2015/2016

Below are the initial Membership Numbers for the forthcoming season which runs from September 2015 through to August 2016. As you can see from the list, we currently only have 25 subscribers for the season, and we therefore have several members from last season who have not subscribed again so we would welcome you re-joining.

1. Gary Cobden
2. Gary Cobden
3. Peter Omondi
4. Terry Flack
5. Tom White
6. Tom White
7. Robin Jagot
8. Robin Jagot
9. Robin Jagot
10. Bob Martin
11. Steve Palmer
12. John Metselaar
13. James Morris
14. James Morris
15. John Faithfull
16. Dave Chapman
17. Cos Fernandes
18. Peter Allen
19. Peter Allen
20. Peter Allen
21. Peter Allen
22. Charles Lifford
23. Roger Fox
24. Steve Wildgoose
25. Steve Wildgoose

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. However there will now only be two cheques prizes each month instead of three.

If you have already re-joined the Society and would like to join the 100 Club for Season 2015/2016, 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.....

Robin Jagot
Honorary Secretary

Membership Fees for Season 2015/2016 are now overdue!

There are still a few members from last season yet to renew membership for the current Season – fees became due on 1 April 2015. 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**
 - o **£27.00 if your magazine is sent by e-mail and £30.50 if your magazine is sent by post.**
Includes your Referees Association fee of £16.00 (includes the Personal Accident Insurance Premium of £4.00). If you are over 75, you are not automatically covered by the Insurance Premium, and your fee is reduced by £4.00. However, should you wish to purchase this insurance cover, it can be arranged on request. Please contact me for a proposal form which you will need to complete.
- Associate Members**
 - o **£11.00 if your magazine is sent by e-mail and £14.50 if your magazine is sent 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**
 - o **£15.50 if your magazine is sent by e-mail and £19.00 if your magazine is sent by post.**
For Members under 18 years of age at 1 April, including your Referees Association fee of £10.00.

If you who receive your magazine by post, please note that we have been able to maintain your subscription premium at £3.50 due to the fact that we purchased a significant number of stamps before the last major price increase a couple of years ago, and still have enough stamps remaining. However, this will increase in 2015/2016 so, if you have an e-mail address, it would benefit all if we could send your magazine this way.

Individual fees payable are shown on your personalised Membership Form. You are reminded that you will not be covered by the Referees Association Insurance after 31 May 2015 unless your fees have been paid to the Society by that date. Please complete and return your Membership Form as soon as possible. You need to bear this in mind if you will be refereeing late season or early pre-season games.

If you have previously opted to take advantage of the Referees Association Physiotherapy Insurance, the fee for this is now either £25 or £35 based on the level of cover required. If you want to renew, or require more information about this cover, please let me know, and I will forward the relevant information.

You can also take this opportunity to join or re-join 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 check the details shown on the Form, amending any information that is incorrect. Please also check 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. You may wonder what benefits you get from your membership of North Middlesex and The Referees Association. If you receive your magazine by post, you should also have received a 'flyer' from the Referees Association with the magazine which summarises benefits, and provides contact information; in the event that you did not receive a copy, please contact the Society Secretary. If you receive your magazine by e-mail, an electronic copy accompanies this mailing. However, outlined below are some of the visible – and invisible – benefits of membership:-

Available Benefits from the Society and Referees Association other than Society Meetings.

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

**Robin Jagot
Honorary Secretary**

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The offside Law again.

There have been some new interpretations to the Offside Law for this season. Now anyone will be in an offside position that makes an "obvious action" to play the ball but fails to make contact and will be flagged offside if it is considered they impact on an opponent's ability to deal with the situation. Whilst this type of wording will not always make incidents crystal clear especially for Assistant Referees (see the Liverpool/Bournemouth problem) Mike Riley the General Manager of PGMOL spoke for many when he said the change targeted morally offside actions. However surely an easier definition which could have been used for years is the one that says if a player is in an offside position and the ball goes towards the player and the player goes in any direction towards the ball that is offside simply if for no other reason because that makes them active.

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

Part 41 – Back, back..... back of the net

Match: Cockfosters Casuals –v- Reds Rovers (*Yes...still the same match!*)
Venue: Hackney Marsh – Pitch 165
League: Division Three – Sunday Park League (North)

Welcome to you all,

Hope you all enjoyed your summer break and here we all are again ready to be shouted at, screamed at and be told '*You are the worst referee ever*' and that '*You don't know what we're doing*'. How we have all missed those lovely sentiments!

As soon as you blow the whistle for your first pre-season friendly of the season, it will feel like you've never been away. What a joy it is to be a referee!

But enough about you, let's focus on my match which is still in progress.....

I had been observing the Cockfosters Casuals goal keeper and felt that he was not taking goal kicks from the correct position. As we all know the ball can be placed anywhere inside the goal area but my suspicions were that this goal keeper was placing the ball just outside of the goal area to hopefully gain a few additional yards. I felt it was time for me to investigate so I positioned myself just inside the penalty area to obtain a great vantage point.

Naturally this time the goal keeper placed the ball well inside the goal area. He took a few steps back and then propelled himself forward in the hope his goal kick would reach the half way line. He kicked the ball only for it to hit my back, go up in the air and land directly at the feet of the Reds Rovers forward who promptly kicked the ball into the unguarded goal.

The Casuals goal keeper was fuming at me as were his team mates as I pointed to the half way line to award the goal. '*How can you award the goal?*' the goalie shouted. This was followed by just about every other Casuals player shouting at me. The only comment I could hear clearly was the Rovers goal scorer saying '*Thanks Ref for the early Christmas present, I'll make sure they award you with the assist*'. They were words I could have done without hearing but at least they were said calmly unlike the other comments being directed in my direction.

I knew I had to calm the situation and requested the players move away from me. I consciously took some steps back and beckoned the players away. Unfortunately no one listened until I produced my note book and showed a yellow card to the goal keeper. One other Casuals player was also cautioned and that action finally made the other players walk away from me.

I explained the goal was awarded as no laws had been infringed. The ball after being kicked, hit me on my back as I was positioned inside the penalty area but then left the penalty area and was active and therefore in play. I went on to explain the referee is a 'goal post' meaning if the ball hits the goal post then play continues and likewise if the ball hits the referee then play just continues.

In hindsight I will place myself outside of the penalty area next time!

- *Does play continue if the ball hits the referee?*
- *Was Willie correct to award the goal?*
- *If not, what should be the restart?*
- *Was our referee in a good position to observe the goal keeper?*
- *What is the best method to move players away from you?*

Decisions, decisions...that is what being a referee is all about!

My next decision is something that does not happen to often thankfully but was an unfortunate clash between two opposing players as they challenged for the ball from a Casuals corner kick. As the players fell to the ground injured I felt immediate concern but before I could even blow my whistle the Casuals player kicked the ball into the goal.

My first reaction was for the two injured players on the ground and I blew my whistle and frantically waved over for the players to receive immediate attention. We were all very fortunate as the Rovers captain was a doctor who worked in the A & E department at the local hospital. (I might try and see him after the match about a little problem I have)

As the doctor checked over the injured players my next decision was to award or *not* award the goal. I knew I had not blown my whistle to stop play and technically I suppose play was still live but and this was the big '*but*'.....two players were on the ground injured and I knew players safety is paramount and that must be considered before anything else.

On that basis I decided not to award the goal and restart with a drop ball in the penalty area.

Thankfully Casuals decided not to contest the drop ball which was the sporting thing to do but as a referee we cannot tell players if they should or should not contest a drop ball. What a good referee can do is ask *if* the drop ball will be contested. Hopefully as was the case this time they take the hint and decline. What a good referee I am.

For the record both players were given a clean bill of health by the doctor.

- *Should the goal have been awarded?*
- *Does the ref have to blow the whistle to stop play?*

As play then continued two players prepared themselves to challenge for the ball which had been launched high in the sky from a goal kick. The next thing I knew was the Rovers player placing his hand on my shoulder for extra leverage which enabled him to lift himself at least another two foot over his opponent. I immediately blew my whistle and the offending player said '*Ref, only two minutes ago you told me and I quote 'the ref is a goal post' so on that basis I can place my hand on the goal post and jump*'. What a fine statement that was but I told the player his actions had gained him an advantage and was unsporting behaviour. The player smiled and walked away. He knew I was right.

- *Was our ref correct?*

For your own benefit please keep reading my articles as it can only make you a better referee and perhaps one day you might become as good as me.

See you all soon,

Regards,

Willy Woodwork
Willy 'Red card' Woodwork

Late Flag

Wishing member and avid reader of this magazine Peter Allen well after his hernia operation, Unfortunately Peter who lives on the coast in Sussex can't get to meetings because of where he lives but keeps in touch through the Normidian. He is one of others who because of the distance from our meetings keep abreast of things the same way.

UEFA President Michele Platini gave a press conference in Monaco at the beginning of the month in which he addressed the subject of "Respect" for match officials. One hopes that it percolates down to all levels.

The London FA hold a Referees' Masterclass once a month, usually on the first Monday of the month that is for those who want to develop their refereeing skills regardless of their current levels. Anyone interested contact Fiona.pettitt@referee-equipment.co.uk for further details.

Also as many referees are showing an interest in coaching the game they may be interested to note that the London Football Coaches Association are moving their sessions from East London to North London at the new Arsenal Hub next door to the Emirates Stadium. Their sessions are on the last Wednesday of the month starting this month. Anyone interested in football may join and therefore attend the sessions and should contact Alan Jackett at awjprem@btinternet.com or obtain an application form from the website the London Football Coaches Association.

There have been rumours that a couple of Referees' Societies one in Middlesex and one in Hertfordshire have or are about to fold. That would be a great pity although we would welcome their members to join us if that were to be the case. Would anyone with any knowledge of this situation please notify the Editor. It is bad enough that membership of the RA has fallen dramatically without long standing Societies disappearing.

Once again the old and regular plea from the Editor to get writing on anything appertaining to refereeing, match incidents or even news from or about members past or present. It is all welcome and helps to keep your magazine interesting and informative.

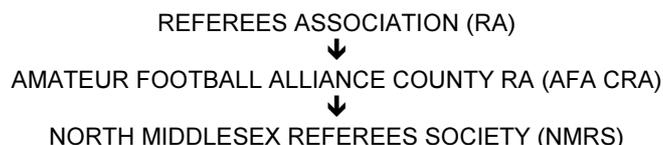
INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR SOCIETY

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.

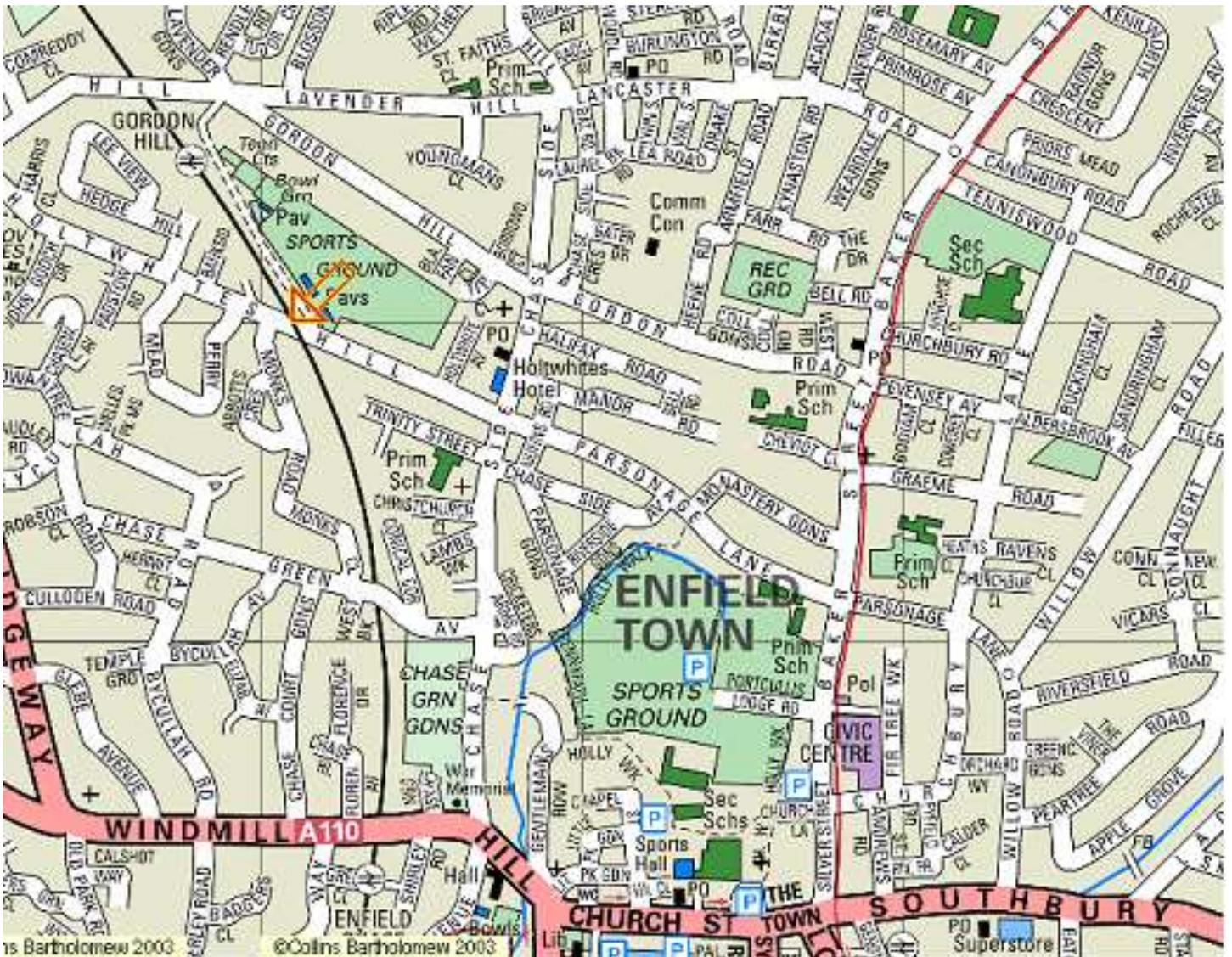
AFA	Amateur Football Alliance
AFA CRA	Amateur Football Alliance County Referees Association
CFA	County Football Association
CRA	County Referees Association
LFA	London Football Association
MCFA	Middlesex County Football Association
R.A.	Referees Association
RA-FA	Referees Association/Football Association 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; and January 21; February 18; March 17; April 21 2015; 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