

*The Normidian
Magazine
Season 2011/2012*



THE
REFEREES'
ASSOCIATION



September 2011

COUNCIL 2011 - 2012

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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 next Meeting of the North Middlesex Referees' Society will take place at Holtwhites Sports and Social Club, Kirkland Drive, Enfield, Middlesex at 7.45 pm on Thursday the 15th of September 2011 when the guest speaker will be Gary Parrish a Football League Assessor.

EDITORIAL

Let's start with something positive, so it is naturally good to see that FIFA have indicated that there will be experiments this season on goal-line technology and a decision made on its implementation next March. The Premiership hierarchy have stated that if approved they will be straight in there as soon as possible and FIFA itself has also indicated it would then be utilised in the next World Cup Finals in Brazil. Another of the approved aspects is the recognition that the game can be played on 3G pitches provided the markings are quite clear when they are used also for other sports. However an experiment that borders on the absurd is still being continued which is that of the referee spraying the pitch to show where the 10 yards or 9.16 meters is at free kicks. Firstly one wonders if these do not constitute "unofficial markings" and secondly whether it degrades the referee. At present he/she has to take onto the field a paint spray canister which from the pictures I have seen in the Copa America is worn around the waist. Then comes the point at which the referee has to bend down and spray this line which supposedly will disappear after a few seconds. Unfortunately in that competition it remained there for some time hence it becoming an unofficial marking. If this became approved and had to happen at grass-roots levels and some referees could not afford paint spray cans would we see them going to Tesco or Sainsbury and buying whipped cream ones to squirt onto the pitch. It would be even more chaotic on a 3G pitch and gives new meaning to drawing a line in the sand or other approved pitch materials. This nonsensical experiment has come about because referees have yet again failed to control the "defensive wall" on the whistle as the best referees did yesteryear. However in those days they did not take up the unhappy position of being level with the kicker at free kicks that they do now.

There is of course an important new Disciplinary Code coming into force this season at grass-roots levels whereby suspensions will be on a match basis rather than on a period of days. This was highlighted at the end of last season but the FA held an important meeting at Wembley to promote it and the meeting was the first of its kind to be also available live on the web. Apart from a panel of the top referee-officials as speakers, there was also a panel of ex-professional footballers who also gave a very useful input and support for referees. Another issue over behaviour is the one actually involving players getting away with inappropriate behaviour and language on the pitch, so it was very good to hear that at the RA, AGM it was announced that Mike Riley has now given a strong directive to PGMOL referees that there must be less tolerance of it for this coming season. However their referees did receive a

boost in an article in an August edition of the Mail on Sunday which perhaps should be trumpeted more loudly. The newspaper produced a feature on a report of the research by the University of Chester which shows that Premier League Referees run further and more often at high speed than all but the fastest of the players. Average top speed for players is 21.6 mph and the average distance is 6.75 miles whilst the referees have an average top speed of 20.7 mph. and their average distance run is 7.12 miles. Perhaps that will teach a certain Sir Alex to keep quiet about Referees' fitness levels.

So it's another season and therefore an Editor's standard fear that he will not have enough material for the first edition of the magazine. However I am pleased to say that thanks to a small band of regular contributors that is not the case this time. Further as anyone knows being an Editor can be a thankless task, so when someone actually writes to you and congratulates you that is a most pleasant experience. I am delighted to say that happened to me in the close season when one of our oldest and dearest members George Basten put pen to paper and wrote to me and his thoughts were and are most appreciated. However it is my turn on both my behalf and that of the Society, to wish George well and a safe and speedy recovery to the illness that has befallen him, coupled also with best wishes to his dear wife Joan. That small band of brothers previously mentioned include Keith Heller aka Willy who is updating his match incidents again this season and Observer who continues to avail us of his experience, which is also much appreciated plus Mick Osborn. However if we are to maintain the number of pages achieved last season we will need contributions from other members or readers. So get writing. We have a change of date for the October Meeting which is now Thursday the 6th of that month since we have a very special guest in the shape of Steve Bennett, a former Premiership Referee. We trust that we will have a large contingent to hear Steve as he is an excellent speaker.

Finally congratulations to our Treasurer Gary Cobden on his nomination for the additional appointment as President of this Honourable Society.

50 Years of History – Charles Lifford.

In 1999, a book relating to the 50 years History of the North Middlesex Referees 'Society was published. Whether you purchased a copy is neither here nor there, what is important, and it should be to you, is that I have been keeping the History up to date, 62 years, in total .What have you sent me since that date? Have you had a County Cup Appointment? Does the Society know? Have you done a local Cup Final during this period, about which you can send me details? Have you had a photograph taken whilst refereeing, or been part of a group photo of referees that may be of interest to anyone in the Society? A full record has been kept of the 50 years up to 1999. If you don't do your bit –and it only needs to be a little bit – the History will not be maintained. Please send me as much or as little as possible.

THE RA. AGM

Extracts from the Minutes of the Meeting held in Leicestershire on Friday the 15th of July 2011.

The Chairman Alan Poulain opened the Meeting at 3pm and announced the deaths of 4 members. The Minutes of the AGM of the 4th June 2010 at Solihull were then approved with no matters arising.

The Chairman then gave his annual report and agreed to stand for another term, following which the annual accounts were adopted. A point to note was the cost of the Eve of the Final Rally and a review of its position was in hand. There then followed the annual report of the Benevolent Fund, before moving on to the Awards the nominations for which were unanimously approved. These consist of –

Life Membership and Long and Meritorious Service Awards

There were five recommendations for the award of Life Membership, namely Colin Downey (South Middlesex), James Spain (Thanet), Peter Waller (Thanet), Thomas Miller (West Devon) and Trevor Boulding (Chesterfield).

Fifteen awards of the Long and Meritorious Award were recommended: Roy Williams (Mid Herts), David Griffin (South Middlesex), Gary Cobden (North Middlesex), James Washburn (Banbury), Malcolm Woodall (Hexham), David Tiffin (Hexham), Ian McGrath (Bromley), Ray Brown (Mid Cornwall), Brian Smith (Kingston and District), Paul Sturrock (Andover), Kevin Willey (Andover), Nigel Poole (Coventry), Alan Hughes (Wrekin), Dennis Fothergill (Isle of Wight) and Andrew Walter (North Devon).

Twenty-five members were listed to receive the Fifty Year Membership Award. There were no society centenaries to record this year.

There were several Motions relating to technical matters which were resolved and then the President David Elleray gave his annual address which included references to the "growing RA-FA partnership now in operation was no threat to the RA like FAMOA had been. There was now a structure in place for co-operation between the two bodies, with strong support coming from the highest levels of the FA. There were good links between County FAs and County RAs, while the Referee Development Officers, salaried by the FA, were working effectively to reverse the decline in the number of referees. Things were now on course for around thirty thousand active referees in the next year or two. There was now a need to convert Associate Members into Full RA Members in order to strengthen the Association as well as offer benefits to individual referees.

There had been some disappointments along the way, not least regarding the national magazine situation. The RA had not been obliged to make any financial contribution, and there had been some problems with editing and AF staffing. A hard copy would be issued in September, with a further one before the end of the season. Mid-season there would be an electronic version available. Since the whole situation was affected by the FA's budget it could be that future focus might be on an electronic version for the three magazines envisaged each year." He concluded by emphasising that the Annual General Meeting was important, and thanked the Board for their commitment and attendance.

The Chairman closed the business section of the Meeting at 5.15pm.

The final part of the Meeting took the form of a panel discussion to answer questions from the delegates. The panel consisted of the Chairman, the President and Neil Barry and Ian Blanchard.

The questions included-

- Why change Development Days – Answer –There was no objection to Counties presenting their own training days and a new DVD is due.
- Why the registration fee has gone up by £5 – Answer - Basically the Counties had asked for it for administration expenses.
- Players’ rights of appeal against dismissal? – Answer- FA legal experts always consulted.
- Inappropriate behaviour and language allowed by senior referees – Answer- Mike Riley has now given a strong directive that there must be less tolerance this coming season.

Finally It was announced that the next AGM will again be held in Leicestershire on Friday the 13th of July 2012 and the Annual Conference held the next day.

The Chairman closed The Meeting at 5.55pm.

[Full Minutes available from our Secretary Robin Jagot]

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DEFINE VIOLENT CONDUCT

A” what not to do” by the most experienced referee on the Premier League is an object lesson to all young and aspiring referees. The slogan “never turn your back on the play” was never more in evidence than in the recent Newcastle/Arsenal match when the belligerent Joey Barton manhandled Gervinho in the Newcastle penalty area with the ball still in play. It was very hard for Peter Walton to make a decision on the incident as he was already moving up the field and did not look back until the incident was well under way. However surely one of the Assistants including the “dead linesman” as he used to be called or the Fourth Official should have seen the confrontation and brought it fully to the referee’s attention. However in all the confusion it was understandably lost that Barton’s action in the penalty area with the ball still in play constituted a penal offence and should have resulted in a penalty. Also how often do we see the retaliator sent off but not the original provoker/perpetrator who gets away with it. A point raised by Graham Poll in his Daily Mail refereeing column when dealing with the incident.

If all of the officials other than the referee did see what happened and as Barton was not sent off, does grabbing an opponent in such a fierce manner not mean it was an act of violent conduct? I ask this since having sent off a player for this a couple of seasons ago the London FA were not prepared to accept my verdict and report, on appeal by the player. However if anyone has a different view on the particular case in point or on my query please write in to air your view.

KG

IT'S ONLY A HOBBY BY OBSERVER

Remember that refereeing is a hobby and you should only continue to do it if you enjoy it. If it stops being enjoyable, give it up.

Did you have a miserable game on a Sunday morning?

Did you have trouble finding the ground?

Was the kick off late?

Was the game played in continual drizzle?

Was the pitch a quagmire?

Did the players wanted to kick each other rather than the ball?

Did every decision you made cause someone to complain?

How many cautions and dismissals did you have to write up?

YOU SWEAR YOU WILL NEVER REFEREE ANOTHER GAME.

But not immediately! Leave things for a few days.

Talk it over with your colleagues.

Give someone ring and talk it through.

Think of the good games that you have had, of the brilliant advantages you have played that have resulted in a goal, of the games when you have had complete control and everyone has shaken your hand and said, "Thanks ref."

Think of the pride and elation in being chosen to officiate a Cup Final by the County or the local League.

Think of the good times.

They will outweigh the bad ones and you will realise that refereeing is not a bad hobby.

IT CERTAINLY BEATS SHOPPING!

THE FORGOTTEN MAN

It has been extremely pleasing to see Referees, Howard Webb and Jack Taylor along with Assistants, Darren Cann, Mike Mullarkey, Mark Warren and our own Phil Sharp inducted as English World Cup Officials into the PGMOL Hall of Fame. David Elleray in both an address to a recent FIFA Officials' meeting and also the annual RA AGM mentioned the work and efforts of messrs Taylor and Webb in World Cup Finals but no-one has ever seemed to recall that the first English referee to take charge of a World Cup Final was George Reader. Even the PGMOL Web- site in reporting these things also omitted him.

Readers of this magazine will hopefully remember that we featured articles on the British World Cup officials, digging deep in some cases to discover them all. We found George Reader who was amongst others star referees of their day in the English and Scottish Leagues.

So just to put the record straight set out is a brief note of an extraordinary man as well as a football official. Reader who was born in 1896 was a noted schoolmaster who actually signed for and played three matches for Southampton in the old Third Division in the 1920's. Taking up refereeing in 1930 he progressed so rapidly that he was on the Football league line within 6 seasons and three years later was promoted to their "middle". Unfortunately because of the outbreak of World War Two he only refereed initially 3 Football League matches but took charge of 2 War Time Cup Finals and several Internationals culminating in Victory Internationals. He retired from the Football league in 1944 but was recalled by them for a match in 1948 for a local derby between Brentford & Chelsea. Meanwhile he had been touring the Continent refereeing International matches at at age 50 refereed the important game between The Rest of Europe versus Great Britain at Hampden Park. His experience was such that when the Brazil organising committee invited a team of British Officials to take part in the 1950 World Cup he had to be selected alongside Mervyn Griffiths (Wales) George Mitchell (Scotland) and Englishmen Reg Leafe and Arthur Ellis. Ultimately Reader was given the Final between Uruguay & Brazil aged 53 years and 236 months in front of what is believed to be a minimum of 174000 crowd. On the Line were his colleagues Arthur Ellis and George Mitchell.

After retirement Reader became firstly a Director and later Chairman of Southampton FC and was there to see them win the FA Cup at Wembley.

Born-22/11/1896. Died – 13/7/1978. Aged 81.

The Adventures of Willy ‘The Whistler’ Woodwork

Part 11 –The dropped ball

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Keep on smiling and keep on whistling,

Regards,



Willy Woodwork

Willy ‘The Whistler’ Woodwork

IT ALL MAKES FOR AN INTERESTING LIFE SAYS OBSERVER

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

It all makes for an interesting life!



Grand draw result sheet 2011

July 2011

Dear Colleagues

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

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

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

Yours sincerely

AWS Smith
General Secretary

FIRST PRIZE – CITREON C1

TICKET NO. 106375

William McKnight – Wigan, WN6 8EZ

SECOND PRIZE - £1000.00

TICKET NO. 41341

Keith Jonas – Cheveley, CB8 9DL

THIRD PRIZE - £500.00

TICKET NO. 70069

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

FOURTH PRIZE - £250.00

TICKET NO. 80156

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

FIFTH PRIZE - £100.00

TICKET NO. 35065

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

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

North Middlesex member Alex Flett has an encounter with Pierluigi Collina

During the Eve-of-Final Rally, the RA President David Elleray made a request for some young referees to assist him with an assignment on the morning of the European Champions League final. Needless to say, there was no shortage of volunteers, and a group of eleven gathered at sponsors MasterCard's PR consultants offices in London, along with Board member Bart O'Toole who co-ordinated the group on behalf of the RA. Here they met with UEFA Chief Referees Officer Pierluigi Collina for a discussion on refereeing.

One of the group, 19 year-old Tom Cartwright who has just been promoted to level 5 and is a member of Mid-Herts RA, provided this account of the meeting:

"Pierluigi first emphasized the importance of being prepared for anything and everything before games, including being physically fit. It is imperative that we are in the right position to give the right decision, or at least sell our decision! He explained how the game and refereeing have developed since 1930. The referee in the first world cup final refereed the game in a dark suit! This was because referees then were more like judges. Refereeing gradually demanded greater athleticism, with referees being expected to keep closer to play whilst making decisions. Pierluigi said refereeing had evolved further during his career to require more than an athlete making decisions, but someone who truly understands football.

We then asked a wide range of questions such as "how do you get over a mistake?" When asked "what is your opinion on goal line technology" he said this was a decision for IFAB alone; it was vital that technologies should be good enough if this is introduced.

He hoped that the additional Assistant Referees currently being trialed with UEFA would continue in the game and said it could develop into wider use; it offered a great alternative to the use of technology.

Finally, Pierluigi personally signed copies of his book 'The Rules of the Game' which had been presented to us. It was a fascinating and inspirational experience and offered a valuable insight into the rigorous demands of refereeing at the highest levels."



Young Members with Pierluigi Collina

Back row left to right

Kerry Downes (Basildon RA)
Alex Flett (AFA/North Middlesex)
Pierluigi Collina
Tom George (South Herts)
Tom Cartwright (Mid Herts)
Calum Chittenden (Mid Herts)
Adrian Waters (Hemel Hempstead)

Front row left to right

Andrew Hickman (Harrow)
Dave Harrison (Southend)
Ralph Holland (Basildon)
Jamie Starr (South Herts)
Frank Holland (Basildon)

This article was taken from the RA Digest published in June 2011.



Note from the Treasurer!

At the time of writing around seventy percent of members from season 2010/2011 have renewed their membership for the current season, for which I thank you. For those remaining members, a further membership form will have been e-mailed to you, or will be enclosed with this magazine, and this will show your individual renewal fee that is due. The Society fee has been held for a further year; however, the Referees Association fee has been raised by £1.00. You can also take this opportunity to join or rejoin the Society One Hundred Club – just complete the appropriate part of the membership Form, and include the additional remittance with your membership fee.

It would be appreciated if you could you all check your details shown on the Form, and amend any information that is shown incorrectly. Please also specifically check e-mail addresses shown carefully, as some that we have on file are resulting in rejections. Additionally, please check that the NPD Number (Registration Number) where shown is correct, and complete it if it is missing from the Membership Form. The number can be found on your County FA Registration Form. If you are not currently registered with a County FA, please indicate on your form as Not Registered. Please also indicate where requested whether you are an Assessor; Examiner; Instructor; or Mentor.

Additional Benefit – R. A. Physiotherapy Insurance - An Overview

This is available as an option for just £5.00 p.a., which can be added to your RA subscription, or subscribed to at any time during the year by forwarding the £5.00 fee even if you have previously paid your subscription. All referees run the risk of sustaining an injury preventing them from being able to referee for a period of time. If you sustain a musculoskeletal injury (MSI) your IPRS PhysioCare cover is there to provide you with clinically necessary physiotherapy treatment, to enable you to return to refereeing as soon as possible. To be covered your MSI must prevent you from being able to perform your duties as a referee for at least five consecutive days and must have occurred whilst you were either:

- i) travelling to and from a game in which you were officiating
- ii) refereeing a game
- iii) training
- iv) on recognised referees society business

You are entitled to the following:-

- Unlimited free access to the IPRS Rehab injury website for the period of your PhysioCare cover
- An initial physical assessment followed by up to 4 treatment sessions for each covered MSI
- Up to 4 separate, non-related MSIs in each annual Agreement Period

If IPRS intervention is appropriate they will refer you for treatment into their network of Associate Practices. Please note that, under this Agreement, you will not be able to recover the cost of any treatment that you arrange yourself.

Should you wish to take advantage of this additional cover, please indicate on your Membership Renewal form.

Gary Cobden
Honorary Treasurer



Congratulations to Life Vice President Peter Dace

In the May Local Elections Society Life Vice President was elected as a new Councillor on Northaw and Cuffley Parish Council. The local newspaper, the Cheshunt and Waltham Mercury reported:-

“Peter Dace, 70, has lived in Cuffley for more than 40 years. He is married with a son and daughter. He has held several Barclays Bank senior managerial appointments and served as a magistrate in Cheshunt Court throughout the 1980s. Peter was also responsible for the exhibition in Cuffley Library commemorating the 100th anniversary of the first train to arrive into Cuffley Station and works as a tour manager for Great Rail Journeys.

Peter said: "My aims are to ensure the upkeep and enhancement of the facilities which attracted residents to Cuffley and Northaw and, as a longer term ambition, to be involved in producing and exhibiting material for the 100th anniversary of the shooting down of the German airship over Cuffley in 1916."



The Vennearce Report

In April 1968, two former Life Vice Presidents of this Society, Messrs Owen Venning and Arthur Pearce produced a report setting out their visions for the restructure of the Referees Association, and this report came to be known as The Vennearce Report. The forthcoming Conference would call for the appointment of a paid Secretary with effect from the start of the following season. The previous Conference had established a sub-committee which produced a report calling for the appointment of a paid secretary, but argued that the time was not right. Lack of replies to the Report's conclusions were the foundations of this report.

Over the course of this Season's magazines, the Report will be reproduced, and the first extract follows:-

WHY

At the forthcoming Margate Conference, Notice of Motion calls for the appointment of a full-time paid Secretary, with effect from 1st April, 1969, and in justification we have tried in the subsequent pages to set out facts, ideas and aspirations on matters that, in our opinion, vitally concern every member, in every strata of the game.

At this Diamond jubilee stage, we feel that the Referees' Association has achieved little in the 60 years and do not subscribe to the general satisfaction which followed the Football Association acceptance of the request for "representation." In our opinion, this merely has resulted in our Honorary Secretary being

afforded the facility of presenting in person, rather than through postal channels, any complaints and/or suggestions for improvement in matters pertaining to refereeing, or, more explicitly, refereeing in the amateur sphere. The standing and influence of our Association in the professional sphere is so limited as to be virtually non-existent, representations on behalf of Football League officials, being the prerogative of the Association of Football League Referees and Linesmen. Even that Association is but a supplicant, not accepted as equal, although the contribution of refereeing to the game is of value equal to that of the legislative, administrative and playing organisations. It is of interest that thirty-odd years ago a referee named S.F. ROUS, was threatened with expulsion from the Football League list should he operate a diagonal system of control in that competition – a similarly forward-thinking referee of the present undoubtedly would experience identical reaction to any idea which, from his experience, he considers would improve control.

The Sub-Committee set up following Llandudno Conference produced an excellent report justifying a full-time paid Secretariat, but arising out of lack of replies to requests for observations on what, at the time, was far from a clear cut issue, suggested that the moment for implementation was not NOW. We feel that this conclusion was based on false premise and that the justification contained in the report warrants early implementation.

Our Honorary General Secretary has recently been quoted as having said “I believe that the zenith has been reached in what can be done in an honorary capacity.” In the previous year, he had been absent from home overnight on R.A. matters on no fewer than thirty-one occasions; had visited 124 Societies; had travelled 7,640 miles and spent £200 OF HIS OWN MONEY on our behalf. Is this fair and can this really be expected of anyone holding an honorary position? Even were it contended that he took the position fully cognisant of what it may involve or that he performs his duties to the point of being over-conscientious, surely in this day and age, when our Association has the potential to control refereeing in its entirety, the time has come for reconsideration of our position and for taking the first step – and it will be but the first step – towards making the Referees’ Association an effective administrative organisation.

This, of course, is for the members to decide, for a full-time Secretariat will be imperative only when they feel the time has come for our Association to assume the important role to which it is entitled and in respect of which so much remains to be done. If “Rome was not built in a day” at least there was a day when it started. At this juncture, in fairness to our present Honorary Secretary, we stress that his intentions or his availability, should the Motion be carried, are unknown to us, therefore it is neither our intention to suggest nor, by implication, to advocate, that the present honorary occupant necessarily should be appointed to the paid position.

The objects of the Association are not in question but whether they have been achieved remains a matter for considerable conjecture. Are refereeing standards really as high as they ought or could be? Is the status of the referee what it should be – indeed, has he any status? It is said that status has to be earned and is not given, but referees cannot even begin to earn it until they organise and control their own destiny.

Membership is in the balance, if not actually in decline. Many a young man comes into refereeing with enthusiasm, takes a somewhat naïve but calculated look at it over a couple of seasons, then turns away, after seeing little but a jungle, with limited opportunity of reaching the top, either by virtue of his efficiency or the efforts of the colleagues most competent to assess his ability. He quickly realises that all too frequently progress depends of the whims and fancies of extraneous organisations more or less divorced from the refereeing side and existing for the administration of clubs and competitions. Efficiency and fearlessness on the field, easily may count for naught in the light of this dependence on outside organisations. Furthermore, he realises that although the practical application of the Laws of the Game are his responsibility alone, changes in those Laws are made without any prior consultations with his representatives.

The game has changed considerably, even in the last decade, yet whether the R.A. has kept pace is questionable. It has no authoritative voice at present and as a remedy, we feel our proposals worthy of due and careful consideration. We accept that the envisaged and inevitable changes cannot be achieved in entirety overnight, but if our organisation ever is to become an Authoritative Organisation, the first step must be taken some time and our contention is that the time is NOW, rather than “some future date” which, like “tomorrow”, never comes.

With sufficient collective fervour and determination, whatever referees so wish will be capable of attainment.



North Middlesex Referees Society

One Hundred Club Membership Numbers Season 2011/2012

Below are the provisional Membership Numbers for the forthcoming season which runs from September 2011 through to August 2012. We still have several numbers from last season which have not been subscribed for again this season, so these numbers may change.

- | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Gary Cobden | 15. Mike Sibley | 29. Donald Stewart |
| 2. Gary Cobden | 16. Phil Bowman | 30. Peter Allen |
| 3. George Basten | 17. Roger Fox | 31. Mick Osborn |
| 4. Steve Palmer | 18. Steve Wildgoose | 32. Robin Jagot |
| 5. Cos Fernandes | 19. Steve Wildgoose | 33. Robin Jagot |
| 6. Cos Fernandes | 20. Tom White | 34. Robin Jagot |
| 7. Charles Lifford | 21. Tom White | 35. George Grant |
| 8. Daniel Webster | 22. Terry Hayne | 36. Mick Osborn |
| 9. Dave Chapman | 23. Terry Hayne | 37. Peter Allen |
| 10. Brian Langstone | 24. Peter Allen | 38. |
| 11. Kevin Wavell | 25. John Faithfull | 39. |
| 12. Stan Szplit | 26. John Faithfull | 40. |
| 13. Matthew Webster | 27. Peter Peters | 41. Peter Allen |
| 14. Mike Sibley | 28. Peter Peters | 42. |

The results of the May draw for season 2010/2011 is shown below – and the numbers relate to those issued during last season. Cheques for the winners are enclosed; they will be sent separately if you receive your magazine by e-mail. The remaining draws for season 2010/2011 will be undertaken at the September meeting.

May

1st 3 George Basten £16.80 2nd 13 Max Lea £8.40 3rd 40 Adrian Bland £4.20

We are still looking for new members for the 100 Club, so, if you would like to join for Season 2011/2012, please complete the form below and forward to Gary Cobden, Honorary Treasurer.

NORTH MIDDLESEX REFEREES SOCIETY 100 CLUB

I wish to purchase.....share(s) in the NMRS 100 Club at £1.00 per share per month.

Please find enclosed my cheque/postal order for £...00 to cover the subscription for 10 months.

Renewal information will be included with next seasons Membership Form

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

Society Use - Numbers Allocated.....

Gary Cobden

Honorary Treasurer



EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that an Extraordinary General Meeting of North Middlesex Referees Society will be held on Thursday, 15th September 2011 commencing at 7.30 pm at Holtwhites Sports and Social Club, Kirkland Drive, off Holtwhites Hill, Enfield, Middlesex. EN2 0RU

Agenda

1. To Elect the Society President.

Gary Cobden Proposed by Tony Ward Seconded by Stan Rosenthal

2. To confirm the election of the following Officers co-opted at the Annual General Meeting in May.

Council Member James Morris Proposed by Robin Jagot Seconded by Tony Ward

Training Liaison Delegate Michael Mackey Proposed by Gary Cobden Seconded by Robin Jagot

Robin Jagot

Honorary Secretary

24 Tiverton Road

Potters Bar

Hertfordshire

EN6 5HY

ACKERMAN

CELEBRATING
100 YEARS
1910 - 2010



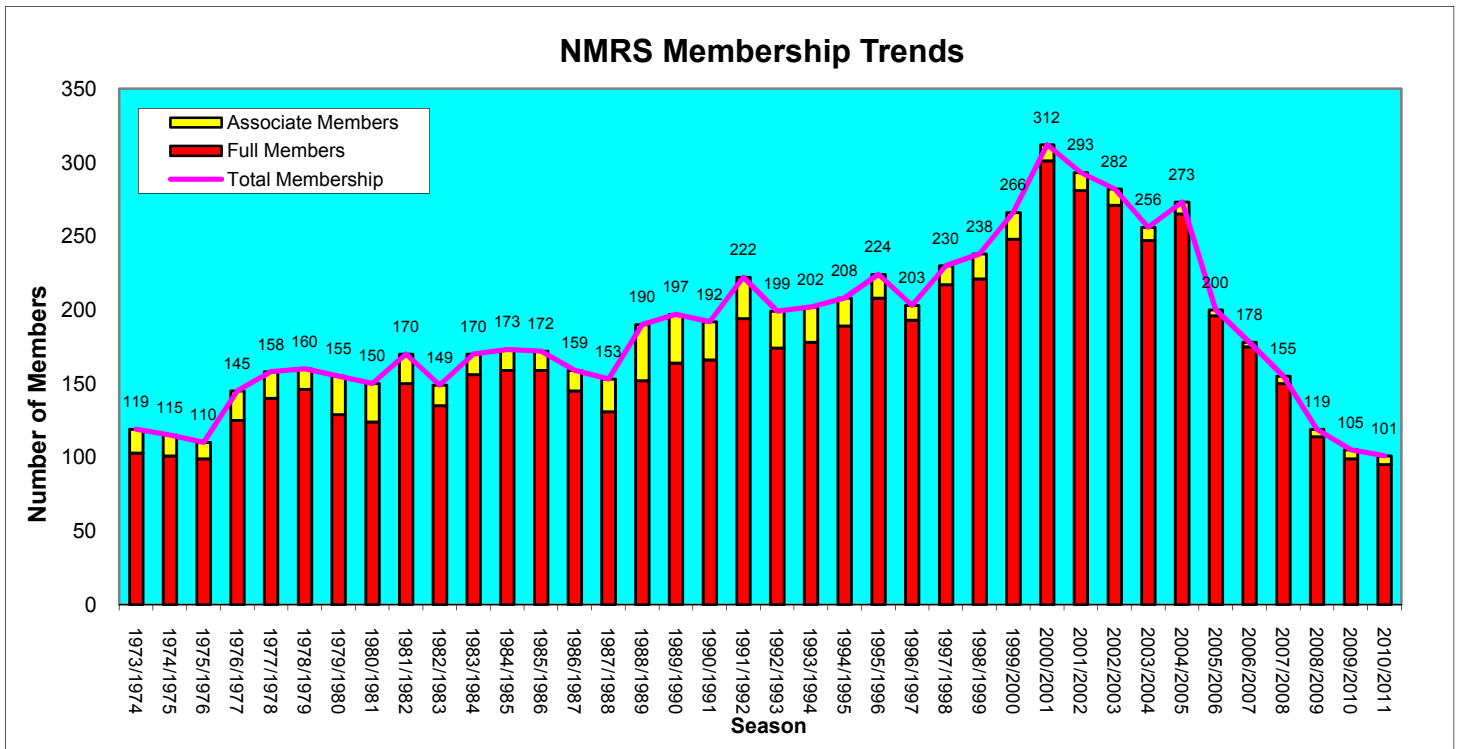
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020 8527 6439 (Fax)
020 8503 2002 (Fax)

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



Members may be interested in the chart above which shows the Society Membership numbers over the thirty-eight years since I joined the Society in April 1973. As you can see, over that last six years we have suffered a rapid decline in Membership, and we currently have twenty-six members from last season who have yet to rejoin for the coming season.



HALF A CENTURY AGO By Mick Osborn

Feeling my age, I began to recall what life was like some fifty years ago.

Season 1961-62: Stoke gave £3,500 to Blackpool to bring Stanley Matthews home and paid the 46-year-old winger £50.00 per week plus a £25.00 appearance fee. It was the best money the struggling Second Division club ever spent. The crowd attracted by Matthews' first home game numbered 35,288 in contrast to 8,000 that attended the match before he arrived. The rest of the team was happy as for every week the crowd exceeded 12,000, all the players received a bonus of £1.00 per thousand people. The police had to impose a crowd limit of 50,000 for the FA Cup 4th round match against Blackburn.

In contrast, the same year, Bill Nicholson paid £99,999 to bring Jimmy Greaves back from Italy to strengthen his already formidable Tottenham side.

However, in East Anglia, manager Alf Ramsey worked miracles with Ipswich and in one of their best performances, they beat Spurs 3-1 away on March 14 and, instead of relegation, as forecast, the club won the First Division.

NMRS was already 12 years old with a total membership of 138. Joan Collins, wife of Frank, the newly appointed Secretary of the Emergency Appointment Bureau, was the first lady to write an article for the Normidian. This story appears in "The History of the North Middlesex Referees Society," written by Charles Lifford and I thought it worth repeating.

Frank had already left home for his game when the telephone rang. It was a referee seeking a game. (They did in those days!) Helpful as ever, Joan consulted Frank's records and offered the caller a game, which would require him to travel from Edmonton to New Southgate. "Ain't you got nuffink nearer?" he asked. Joan replied, "If you have a large back garden, I'll send the 22 players round to you." You will have to put your own ending to this story as it was not recorded in the book.

On the 28th April 1961, the Society's Annual Dinner Dance was held at the Nightingale Hotel, Wood Green. Tickets cost 21 shillings, a rise of two shillings and sixpence over the previous year's price.

The 1961/62 season was a good time for Normidians. Sixty-seven plum appointments were recorded by our members that season, including Lines for Ron Hounsell in the Belgium v France international and the Inter Cities Fairs Cup Final, 1st leg. Eric MacRaild refereed the London Challenge Cup Final between Arsenal and Millwall. After attending Course No. 21 at the Society's Training Centre in September, Stan Barnes set out on a career in which he became the first Normidian graduate to become a Football League Linesman.

I hope 2011/12 will be a good season for you. With a little bit of luck, you could be mentioned in the Normidian in half a century's time.

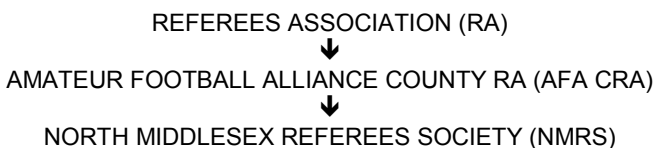
INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR SOCIETY

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

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

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

The National Structure for the Society is:



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

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

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

What are the Benefits of RA Membership?

Insurance - The major benefit is the Personal Accident Insurance Policy. For a small amount, the insurance policy covers you whilst actually refereeing; travelling to and from a match; attending meetings (including travelling to and from home); attending organised training; and loss or theft of kit whilst at a match. Full details are available to members on request, as it is now no longer a requirement that each member who has paid the insurance premium is supplied with a copy of the terms of insurance. A range of increased benefits are also available - for an additional premium - and members should contact the insurers direct if they wish to take up these benefits. Additionally, active referees who are over the age of 75 can now be covered by the Insurance subject to an additional premium being paid. Physiotherapy insurance is now also available for a premium of £5.00.

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

Refereeing is a joint publication of the Football Association and the Referees Association. It is mailed direct to all registered referees by the Football Association. The magazine includes features and updates from the Football Association and items of RA-FA and RA news.

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

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

Note

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

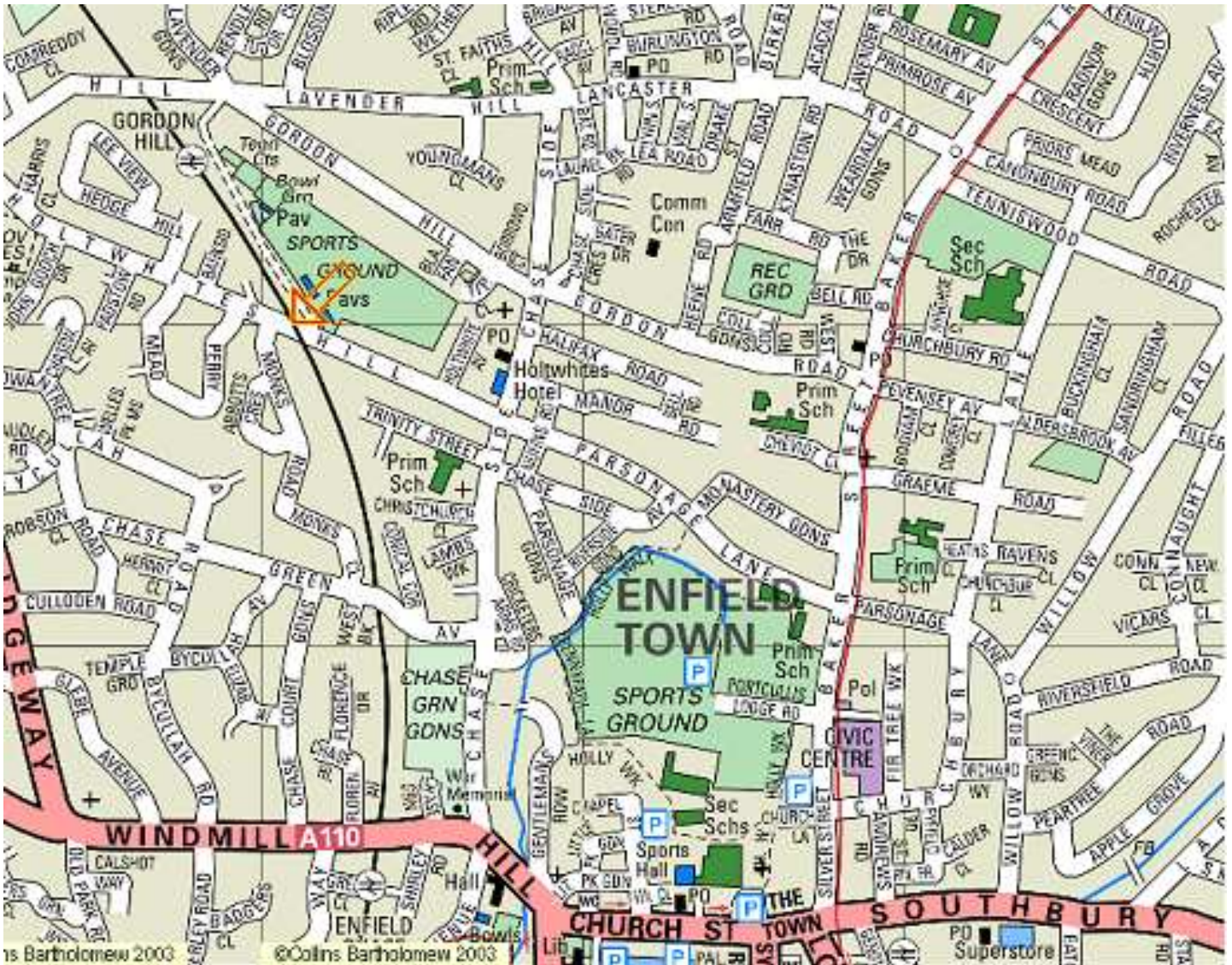
| | |
|---------|---|
| AFA | Amateur Football Alliance |
| AFA CRA | Amateur Football Alliance County Referees Association |
| CFA | County Football Association |
| CRA | County Referees Association |
| LFA | London Football Association |
| MCFA | Middlesex County Football Association |
| R.A. | Referees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

Updated July 2011

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Are held on the third Thursday monthly (except October – first Thursday) commencing at 7:30 pm, at Holtwhites Sports and Social Club, Kirkland Drive, Holtwhites Hill, Enfield, Middlesex, EN2 0RN
Telephone: 020 8363 4449

Dates for Season 2011/2012:- September 15; October 6 (first Thursday); November 17; December 15 2011; and January 19; February 16; March 15; April 19; May 17 2012



The venue is passed by Bus Route W9 and Bus Route 191 stops just a short distance away - direct from Enfield Town, and Enfield Chase; and Gordon Hill Rail Stations are only a short distance away. For fuller directions and how to get to the venue, see our website. See also www.tfl.gov.uk; www.nationalexpresseastanglia.com; and www.firstcapitalconnect.co.uk. If anybody has difficulty reaching the venue, and would like assistance, please contact one of the Society Officers – whose details are on the inside front cover.

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

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

PERMISSION IS GIVEN TO REPRODUCE MATERIAL WITH A SUITABLE ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

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