



# The Referees' Association of England

## News Digest - April 2009

### Eve-of- Final Rally – Friday 29 May: Hotel Russell, London, WC1B 5BE



Wayne Barnes

We are pleased to announce that Wayne Barnes, England's top Rugby Union referee, will be the Guest Speaker at the Eve of the Final Rally. He was appointed to the top level aged only 21 and refereed the 2007 Rugby World Cup quarter final between France and New Zealand. He is an amusing and entertaining speaker.

The Rally is held to honour our colleagues who will be officiating in the FA Cup Final the following day. There is the opportunity to meet them and other top referees, have a picture taken with them and obtain autographs.

Tickets are priced at **£10 each for adults and £5 for those aged 18** and non-members are welcome. The price includes a souvenir programme of the evening autographed by the FA Cup Final officials. Members can request a booking form from Head Office or book at [www.rashop.co.uk](http://www.rashop.co.uk). ABSs may obtain tickets on a 'sale or return' basis from Head Office.

### RA Conference - Saturday 11 July: St. Johns Hotel, Solihull

#### 'Getting it Right'

The line-up of presenters for the Conference has now been finalised and there is certainly something for everyone, as well as plenty of opportunities to meet colleagues from all levels of the game.

As previously announced, the Guest Speaker at the Conference Dinner will be John Motson.

Members can obtain a Conference Booking Form from RA Head Office.



PROFESSIONAL GAME  
MATCH OFFICIALS

**The Board is most grateful to the PGMOL Ltd., for their most generous support of these popular events.**

### Membership

The total number of members as at the end of March 2009 was 10,897. This compares with 11,284 at the end of March 2008; a reduction of 387 (3.43%). 21 counties have shown an increase in membership over the year and congratulations are due to Suffolk County RA, whose 21% growth is the highest in the country.

The voucher offer to newly-qualified referees who join the RAE appears to have been very successful, with 663 taking up that offer. However, this means that at least 1050 members in 2007-8 (almost 10%) did not re-join in the year just ended and the Board would like to hear of reasons why.

A total of 24,545 referees living in England were registered with the FA as at 31 March but only 44.40% of these were in membership of the RAE. In Oxfordshire, over 76% of referees are members of the RAE. It is hoped that next season other counties could get nearer that proportion and we can look towards our ultimate aim of 100% membership.

I intend including a feature in the next Digest on how Suffolk and Oxfordshire have achieved their very creditable levels of membership.

Hopefully, the recruitment DVD and leaflets that were recently issued, together with the continuation of the voucher offer, will assist ABSs in attracting new referees into membership. What is needed immediately is to get existing members to renew their subscriptions for the 2009-10 season, not only to assist in boosting numbers and helping cashflow, but most importantly for the individual member is to ensure their insurance cover is maintained during the coming months.

## Important Information and News for Members

Howard Webb has been selected as one of three European referees to officiate at the Confederations Cup in South Africa in June – his assistants will be Mike Mullarkey and Peter Kirkup

Re-structuring at the FA Referees' Department sees the seven Regional Manager posts disappear and replaced by three National Referee Managers: Roger Vaughan (Recruitment & Retention), Janie Frampton (Education) and Ray Olivier (Workforce).

### FAMOA Incentive Scheme

We are pleased to announce that the FA have agreed that RAE Members who are in the FAMOA Incentive scheme can now receive an additional 100 points towards the purchase of referees kit and other items through the scheme.

There will be an additional section in the new log book which will be sent to existing members of the incentive scheme at the start of next season, to be completed by the ABS Secretary or Treasurer, to confirm membership.

Membership of the incentive scheme is open to all referees up to and including level 4, as well as instructors, assessors etc., who are registered with the FA. For further details contact FAMOA@TheFA.com.



The RAE Board is very grateful to the FA for their agreement to this new benefit to RAE members, which is another example of how the two Associations continue to work together.

### New Constitution

All ABS and CRA Secretaries will now have received the final version of the Board's proposed amendments to the rules to be presented for approval to the AGM on Friday 10 July, together with a schedule of the amendments to the original draft that have been made in the light of further consideration and helpful representations from members.

Members are reminded that the successful Notice of Motion submitted by South Beds in 2007 provided the RAE Board with the requisite mandate to progress the dissolution of the RA. The vote to be taken in July 2009 is on whether to accept these proposals which would form the foundation for the revised Constitution of the Association.

Ancillary matters such as the choice of logo will be considered once the Board are in a position to put the new Constitution in place.

### RAShop – from a level 5 referee, formerly Football League AR.

"After my years almost at the top and coming back down again, I was honoured with a County Cup semi-final. So I went to RAShop and ordered a new shirt with badge incorporated. The order was tracked all the way so I could see its progress and the shirt arrived in less time than expected. Excellent quality and £25 less than other "more famous" or so they would like you to believe brands. A week or so later, my stop watch stopped – permanently. I knew just where to go and by Tuesday via RAShop, a new watch arrived."

Why not visit [www.rashop.co.uk](http://www.rashop.co.uk) for all your referee equipment and like this member you will be pleased you did.

### Close Season and Unsanctioned Matches and Tournaments

It is very important that all referees are aware that the FA have a close season from 1<sup>st</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> June each year when no matches should be taking place. It should also be remembered that officials must not take part in any unsanctioned matches or tournaments as they are not covered by FA or RA insurance and no support is available in respect of disciplinary sanctions etc. If members are in any doubt whether to officiate at any time, they should refer to their County FA.

### RA Draw

A reminder that all money and counterfoils need to be returned to the General Secretary at Head Office no later than 31 May

## RA Quiz

The teams contesting the RA International Quiz Final at Stonebridge Manor Hotel, Coventry on Sunday 17 May 2009 are now known. The quiz master will be Rob Preedy, assisted with scoring and timekeeping by colleagues from Bromley RA.

Bridgwater (representing Somerset CRA) won the Mercia & West qualifying competition, with East Devon in second place. In the Anglia & South East competition, Gravesend (Kent) were winners, with Chiltern District (Berks & Bucks) in second place. Only 2 teams entered in the East Midlands & North Region - Doncaster (Sheffield & Hallamshire) and Erewash Valley (Derbyshire). These six teams will take part in the final, along with Fermanagh & Western, representing the Northern Ireland RA for the seventh consecutive year.



The Bridgwater team with their trophies for winning the Mercia & West Regional quiz.

Left to right: Keith Buller, Phil Willis, Dave Jackson, Keith Ingram.

Keith Buller was also the highest individual scorer following a tie-break against the other Keith.

The Board are disappointed that only nine teams in total entered the regional qualifiers and also that the RA of Wales will not be represented in this year's final. There appeared to be no response to the invitation for County RAs to form composite teams if an ABS team was unable to enter. Perhaps other members could look at the example set by Larry Marsh of Mid-Cornwall who set off at 8.30a.m to pick up his team-mates for the drive to Bristol for the Mercia & West quiz, then arrived home again at 8.30p.m after a round trip of almost 400 miles.

The Board are committed to continue the quiz on the Laws of the Game provided there is sufficient interest. Please contact John Harden on [johnharden65@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:johnharden65@hotmail.co.uk) if you have any ideas on how the quiz can become more attractive.

## External Affairs Committee

In this last of the three articles about the work of the Board's standing committees, we look at the EAC.

Among the key roles of the EAC is the Association's representation with the FA and the relationship with the general public and media. As such, General Secretary Arthur Smith serves on the FA Referees' Committee and also acts as Press Officer (PRO). Nigel Genner (*pictured right*) chairs the committee and is joined by Board members John Harden, Bart O'Toole and Board Chairman Alan Poulain.

Other roles this committee perform are a) to refer any pertinent queries on the application and interpretation of the Laws to the Football Association for their consideration, or other such bodies who can assist with the correct interpretation of Law; b) to liaise with the PRO to enhance the reputation of referees at all levels with the media; and c) to offer assistance and guidance to members when in dialogue with County Football Associations about matters of concern.



Through a Sub-Committee chaired by RAE President David Elleray, EAC is also responsible for arranging the two main annual functions – Conference and the Eve of Final Rally. Because of the nature of their work and the need sometimes to discuss matters at short notice, many meetings are done through Conference calls, thereby also saving time and cost.

## Bristol Rovers Link with Local Referees

As a result of an approach from Bristol Rovers F.C to enhance their relationship with local officials, young members of Bristol RA are being given the opportunity to attend midweek League 1 matches to get more of an insight into the match from the viewpoint of the officials, including the assessor.

Matt Griffiths said: "It was a good evening and I learnt a few tips to help me improve my game. The referee let us listen in to the pre-match briefing and invited us into the dressing room after the match to talk us through anything that we wanted explaining."

Mark Dadds said: "It was a very good opportunity to see what it is I am striving to achieve. The referee and his team were very accommodating and the assessor, Brian Baker allowed each of us to sit with him for one half, giving a very informative explanation about what he was looking for and pointing out things the referee was doing well and how we could learn from him.



Referee Mick Russell, a member of Mid-Herts RA who has recently returned from a long injury lay-off, said: 'This is a good way of helping young referees to develop their game.'

*Pictured before the Bristol Rovers v Huddersfield Town match are referee Mick Russell with Bristol RA members Matt Griffiths (left) and Mark Dadds (right).*

Hopefully, other ABSs could strike up a similar relationship with their local professional clubs.

## ABS Centenaries

Although the Referees' Association celebrated its centenary last year, a number of local societies were in existence for many years before 1908.

In 2006, the Board agreed to commemorate any Society who reach this milestone by presenting their choice of either a suitably engraved Plaque or a hand-made Gavel & Block. The first presentation was made by the Chairman Alan Poulain to North Riding (Yorkshire) on 6 January 2007 and since then eighteen more Societies have been rewarded in this way.

Unfortunately no central records of the date of formation of individual societies exist and it is appreciated that for various reasons local records may not be available. However, those societies who know the date (the year is sufficient if no other details are available) of their formation are asked to notify Internal Communications Committee Chairman Ray Mallery at [raymond.mallery@talk21.com](mailto:raymond.mallery@talk21.com).

The Society will then be contacted nearer the date with a request for confirmation signed by the Secretary and Chairman and to arrange presentation of their choice of commemorative gift.



### Head Office team

**Arthur Smith**  
General Secretary

**Linda Saunders**  
**Karen Vince**  
Administration Officers

**Duncan Macaulay**  
Supplies Officer

1 WESTHILL ROAD COUNDON  
COVENTRY CV6 2AD  
Tel: 024 7660 1701

Fax: 024 7660 1556

Email: [ra@footballreferee.org](mailto:ra@footballreferee.org)

Visit the RA website at:  
[www.footballreferee.org](http://www.footballreferee.org)

### Editor's Note

The Board encourage the production of local newsletters by ABSs and CRAs. However, it is important to ensure that any articles reproduced from newspapers or other journals are factually correct. Advice on this can be obtained from Head Office.

This Digest is produced to provide news and items of interest to all RAE members. The Board need the co-operation of ABS Secretaries to pass it on to their members by e-mail wherever possible, or to make them aware that it is accessible on the RA Website.

Members are invited to submit items they consider newsworthy or of interest to the general membership, especially anything that will encourage recruitment and retention of referees in the RAE.

Colin Harris, 10 Cottonwood Drive, Longwell Green, Bristol. BS30 9UF.

[colin\\_c\\_harris@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:colin_c_harris@hotmail.co.uk)