

PRESIDENT: GILBERT ISOM, LM

CHAIRMAN: CHRIS CORDY

Founded 1924

www.bristolra.co.uk

**BRISTOL
BRANCH**



NEWSBRIEF – FEBRUARY 2012

A belated Happy New Year to all of you as we enter the second month of 2012 – the year of Euro 2012, followed a month later by the London Olympics. What a summerfest of sport for us all. This does leave us with a slight dilemma, however, as the date for our normal August General Meeting falls slap bang in the middle of the Olympics!! So, even this far out we need to thinking whether or not we hold that August Meeting or just do what most other Branches do and start the 2012-13 round of meetings in September.

So, in the spirit of total democracy we are asking what **YOU** think will be best for us all? Room hire at The Mem does not come cheap, so on this occasion is there a higher priority than holding a small meeting in August – when getting a quality Guest Speaker might also prove to be a challenge?? Please send your responses either to:-

bristolrefereesassociation@gmail.com or

davidprice45@live.co.uk and your views will be taken into account in the final decision. Come along this coming Thursday and express your views then, at our next Meeting, even.

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 9th 2012 – BRISTOL GENERAL MEETING

This Thursday we have a spectacular lined up for everyone! Details of the evening's planned Agenda are over the page, but to summarise proceedings

We have several Branch Members who have been awarded their FA Long Service Award for their many, many years commitment and input to football at all levels. This covers decades of refereeing duties and responsibilities. To make it even more special we have also been pleased to hear that Roger Burden, Chairman of the GFA – and the FA's even higher-profile long-serving Vice-Chairman (National Game Rep.) – has a free evening and so is able to join us and make the presentations in person.

We are also hoping that he will be able to give us a short presentation on his work and experiences over the years, most particularly over the last two years of unprecedented turbulence as far as The FA is concerned. No difficult or tactless questions though, please!!

We also have the privilege of welcoming former Branch Committee Member Paul Rees back into Bristol for the evening. The "second half" will give him the opportunity for us all to hear the story of his entry into refereeing and his subsequent rise through the Levels to his current lofty position as a Level 2b Referee, and an Assistant Referee on the National List. I'm sure he's got some amusing stories to tell us – and even his disappointment at "losing" his appointment last Saturday to the cold snap. Ask him why, someone?!

He will also bring along some examples of the Training material that they use at the higher echelons of the game – so come along and see if you think you'd be "up to the challenges"!! Let's have a cracking turnout for a highly-regarded "local" colleague

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REFEREES' KIT "SWAP SHOP"

How many of us have got kit stuck on the shelf somewhere that perhaps doesn't quite fit right anymore – but is still in good enough condition to be worn when officiating? There could be a positive use for it! A new GFA Referees Training Course starts next week and has the full quota of 24 registered on it. These new colleagues will need to equip themselves so as to "look the part" when they go out and do their first 6 middles. Do you remember your first 6 matches – however long ago it was?!! Peter Colley will be representing Bristol RA on the first night of the Course and wants to be able to offer some kit – for free – to those just setting out. Can you help, PLEASE??

Do you have kit you could reasonably pass-on to Peter to take to this Course, please? If you have, then please bring it along on Thursday night and pass it over to him. All sizes welcome as there is quite a wide age-range of candidates/trainees. ***Please help this worthy cause.***

NOTICE OF THE 88th BRANCH AGM – THURSDAY 10th MAY 2012

This is a timely reminder that the 88th AGM will be held at the May Meeting. Our Branch Rules require that Nominations for Officers, and proposals for Changes To Rules, must be with the Secretary (details on footer) – and in writing – by 20th March. Nominations for Officers must be proposed and seconded, and be agreed by the nominee themselves.

The Committee currently has an Acting Secretary, and several Committee Member vacancies. Committee Member roles can be dealt with at the AGM itself, but the Officers of the Branch:- President, Chairman, Two Vice-Chairmen, Secretary, Treasurer and Gloucestershire FA Representative are the positions that must be formally dealt with by 20th March (Rule 6 covers these matters).

GFA CUP APPOINTMENTS – SEMI-FINALS AND FINALS

Congratulations go to those who have been appointed to the Semi-Finals later this month. The Fixtures and the "names" are available on the GFA website at:-

<http://www.gloucestershirefa.com/FixturesAndResults/CountyCups/>

In addition, Invitations for referees to attend Cup Final Training Seminars have now been distributed – Youth Thurs 1 March; South Fri 2 March; North Wed 7 March. "You know who you are" – but I don't! The actual roles & responsibilities: whistler, flag-waver, or dugouts manager, will be notified to everyone "on the night", and those who do not attend will be replaced.

Come along on Thursday and receive the accolade of your peers within the Branch.

GFA & SFA PROMOTION APPLICATIONS – 2012/13

Odd though it may seem, applications to be placed on the Promotion Candidates List are required to be submitted before the outcome of the current round of Assessments and the GFA Referees' Committee Promotion Meeting takes place. This is the timetable of The FA Regulations regarding promotions, and is not a "local" decision.

This means that any Gloucestershire referee who is interested in going for Promotion from L7, L6 or L5 **must** apply to Ken Fry **before 1 March 2012** – that's three weeks away. All current candidates already being assessed should also re-submit their interest to Ken even though their success or otherwise will not be known for some while yet. Ken's details are in the GFA Handbook, or he can be emailed at:- ke.fry@btinternet.com Look at P 176 of this season's GFA H'book for a complete run-down on all of the various criteria.

Could you also please share this with any of your League's refereeing colleagues so that they are aware of the forthcoming deadline, and they too get the same opportunity to register their interest and details. There will be a Fitness Test/Assessment to be taken; and mandatory Promotion Exam – set for each Level of referee. An In Service Training event will also take place – normally Oaklands Park, University of Gloucester or Hartpury College, and candidates cannot normally go forward if any of these "steps" are missed.

The acknowledgement/acceptance letter from Ken Fry will give all of the details of the Programme for the coming months and across the summer. Euro 2012 and the London Olympics have been avoided, for reference!

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BRISTOL GENERAL MEETING – THURSDAY 12th JANUARY 2012 – MINUTES

Date: Thursday 12th January 2012
Time: 7-30 pm
Location: The Memorial Stadium
Committee Attendees: Chris, Bill, BrianD, PeterC, DavidP, CraigC, TonyM
Attendance: 25
Apologies: A Wait, G Isom, S Tamlin, M Dadds, P Cunningham, P McGillan A Sedgemore, M Fudge, S Henson-Green, J Colley D Ghent, K Totterdell
Chair: Chris Cordy

- | Item No. | Topic
Summary / Action Points |
|----------|---|
| 1 | <p>Chairman's Opening Welcome</p> <p>Members wished a Happy New Year Dave Williams is our Guest Presenter tonight New member Bob Vickery and rejoining Libby Jones were welcomed in the usual way. Bill read the Minutes for the December General Meeting. Approved by members.</p> |
| 2 | <p>Secretary's Report Nothing to report</p> |
| 3 | <p>Treasurers Report Membership 93 + 6 Guests</p> |
| 4 | <p>County RA Meeting Report – Brian Derry Meeting held on 9th January 2012 at the Gala Club Gloucester with John Crowther the County RA President attending after a period of ill health. Membership down slightly at 210 against 217 at this time 2011. County Branches were invited to our Quiz night with no initial take up. Our National R A General Secretary Arthur Smith is retiring in 2012 - the post is being advertised. Any Takers? National Draw tickets are a £1 and will be available shortly to members.</p> |
| 5 | <p>GFA Report Peter asked members to attend the forthcoming RA-FA event on 23rd Jan 2012 at the GFA starting at 7.00pm. Guest Presenter is PGMOL referee Mike Jones. Book online please and a free gift to take away. 3 New Referee Courses coming up in Gloucestershire at Winchcombe Cirencester and a fully booked course at the GFA in February. A Senior Referee development evening on the 19th January at the GFA with attendance by invitation.</p> |
| 6 | <p>Recruitment and Retention no report</p> |
| 7 | <p>Website – no new news</p> |

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- 8 Programme
David had followed the system but without success for a major PGMOL speaker tonight.
Gratitude to Dave Williams for stepping in tonight at late notice.
February should be Paul Rees, Level 2b referee.
March Quiz Night.
April (prov) Brian Wiggington.
May is the AGM and a Guest Speaker from another sport t b c.
- 9 Supplies with Scott: so an apology for nothing for the members
- 10 Any other business
The Branch has funded the purchase of a new lap top that is being used tonight and Chris thanked Peter and Sam for the work done and to be done. Your committee and helpers are working for you.
We have 100 books of National draw tickets and if these were all sold and returned by the 30th June 2012 we would receive a welcome £250. Peter offered, as long as money is given, to write out the counterfoils for members.
Raffle raised: £30
After the Interval Peter welcomed back Dave Williams a level 4 referee and an FA Level 2 Tutor who organised the members into groups. They then looked at 12 pictures of match day incidents from which you had to decide what the punishment should have been as a result of the incident in the picture. Very good participation and they were all deemed RED card offences.
Chris gave a vote of thanks and a bottle to Dave.
Meeting Closed at: 9:25pm

BRISTOL GENERAL MEETING – THURSDAY 9th FEBRUARY 2012 – AGENDA

General Meeting – Memorial Room, @ The Memorial Stadium – 7:15 prompt, please – for 7:30 start

- 1) Chairman's Welcome
- 2) Apologies –
- 3) Any Matters from the January General Meeting?
- 4) Introduction of first Guest:- Roger Burden, Chairman GFA; Vice-Chairman FA
- 5) Presentation of FA Long Service Awards to Branch Members – Roger Burden
- 6) Football Memories – Roger Burden
- 7) Refill glasses
- 8) Raffle Draw
- 9) Guest Speaker:- Paul Rees, Level 2b Referee; National List AR; former Cttee Member
- 10) Closing Thank you – Next meeting Thursday 8th March – Quiz Night – Quizmaster Allan Mills

RA REGIONAL QUIZ FINAL – SUNDAY 25th MARCH 2012 @ ALMONDSBURY S&SC, MOXON ROOM

This event will be held locally again. Quizmasters will be from within the Region. Our Branch March meeting will be a Quiz Night – which created a few laughs last year if you recollect! The “top scorers” are in line for selection for the Branch Quiz Team to represent Gloucestershire, & a “2nd Team” also, perhaps? Note the date(s) in your diary, please Team Members will receive a free copy of the 2011/12 LOG. **These will be available on Thursday @ £1 each, and as this is a “Tournament summer” – Euro 2012 – the Laws do not normally suffer serious changes so it'll be good for next season [with luck!]. Paying full price of only £2 will assist Branch funds, of course.**

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RA GENERAL SECRETARY POST – JOB SPEC/CRITERIA

This has recently been modified and the following letter has been received from The Office:-

Dear Colleagues

1 February 2012

I am writing further to my letter dated 16 December regarding the recruitment of a successor to Arthur Smith.

A number of enquiries have been received as to whether the Board would be prepared to appoint on a part-time basis. Whilst this was not the original intention, it has now been decided to consider any applications submitted on that basis.

In order not to disadvantage anyone who may now be interested in the position, the deadline for applications has been extended to Friday 2 March. I shall therefore be grateful if you will make your members aware of this. An announcement to this effect will be included in the February issue of the RA News Digest and placed on the RA Web Site.

Anyone interested in the position should send their CV with a covering letter, marked "*Private and Confidential*" to: N. Genner, The RA Board Treasurer, 130 Lea Vale Road, Norton, Stourbridge DY8 2AU or email genner@totalise.co.uk. Further details of the position can also be found on the RA Web Site www.footballreferee.org or obtained from Mr. Genner.

Yours Sincerely

Colin Harris

If anyone has an interest then contact Nigel, as above – or look on the RA website for more info..

INVITATION TO BRANCH MEMBERS FROM WESTON-S-MARE – THURSDAY 1 MARCH 2012

Our colleagues down in Weston have the services of former top player Kenny Hibbitt as their Guest next month.

Kenny Hibbitt is the guest speaker at Weston-Super-Mare Referees Society on The 1st March, start at 7.30pm. Kenny played for Wolves for 16 years, Coventry City for 2 years, Bristol Rovers as player coach and assistant to manager Gerry Francis for 3 of them four years, and in 1990 he moved on to manage Walsall F C for four years before taking over as Cardiff City manager in 1994- to 1998. He has one England under 23 Cap, 2 league cup winner medals, and 1 U.E.F.A runners up medal. Kenny is now working for the Premier League as a delegate, attending Premier League games to feed back how the Referee has performed on the day.

The meeting is held at:- WSM Sport & Social Club, Devonshire Road, Weston-Super-Mare, BS23 4LG

Food will be provided. Please can you confirm your attendance?

It sounds like an interesting prospect. If we have a few members interested in going down then I would suggest "joint travel" arrangements. Contact me if you feel you might want to attend.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NEWSBRIEF

Every member is invited to submit contributions to your monthly publication. Your committee will try and communicate "central news", but I am certain that a bit of [publishable!!] local colour from "Parks football" would be appreciated by everyone.

FINAL REQUEST FOR THURSDAY NIGHT

Contact all of your local colleagues who are members and dig them out for a special night! Share transport!! Come and respect our FA Long Service Award recipients Come and listen to Paul's success story

Show respect – just be there

David

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