

The bulletin for all referees – December 2011

# RA News Digest



## RA CHAIRMAN

It is with regret that I have to report that Alan Poulain decided to stand down as Chairman and as a member of the Board of the RA, with effect from the Board Meeting which took place on Sunday 20 November.

Alan said he was standing down “for personal reasons and in an effort to change my lifestyle. To say that I have enjoyed my time on the Board would be an understatement. I have been very lucky to have worked with many good people and met many more.”

On behalf of the President, the Board and all RA members I would like to thank Alan for his massive contribution to the Association during a period of significant change.

As a result of this, the Board have agreed that I will take on the role of Acting Chairman until the AGM on 13 July 2012, following which the Board will conduct its annual election of Officers in accordance with RA rules. The Board will also then decide whether it is necessary to co-opt any other member. In the meantime, there will be no change in the composition of the 3 Board Standing Committees.

I would like to take the opportunity to extend best wishes to everyone for a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Successful 2012.

*Colin Harris*



## RETIREMENT OF GENERAL SECRETARY

The General Secretary of The Referees' Association, Arthur Smith (left) has given due notice to the Board of his intention to retire from the employment of The RA following the AGM on 13 July 2012.

The Board are now inviting applications to fill this important position. If you are interested please send your CV with a covering letter, marked “*Private and Confidential*” to: N. Genner, The Board Treasurer, 130 Lea Vale Road, Norton, Stourbridge DY8 2AU or email [genner@totalise.co.uk](mailto:genner@totalise.co.uk).

Details of the position can also be found on the RA Web Site [www.footballreferee.org](http://www.footballreferee.org) or obtained from Mr. Genner.

## XMAS CLOSING

Head Office will close at midday on Friday 23 December and re-open at 8.30am on Tuesday 3 January 2012.

**Seasons Greetings  
from The President,  
The Board and Head  
Office Staff**



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## MAIN RA EVENTS FOR 2012 – MAKE A DIARY NOTE NOW

### Eve of Cup Final Rally - Friday 4 May

### Prestigious New Venue – One Great George Street, SW1.

(Between St. James's Park and Parliament Square.)



This is an excellent opportunity to come and meet the FA Cup Final Officials and hear from a special guest speaker (to be announced soon).

This is a Bank Holiday weekend with a full programme of Premier League and Football League matches. So even if you cannot get a ticket for the big match at Wembley, why not spend the weekend in London? Take in the Rally, a football match and a West End show!

### RA Conference - Saturday 14 July

### Barceló Hinckley Island Hotel, Leicestershire

\*\*\*\*\* **THEME: WORKING TOGETHER** \*\*\*\*\*

This event has become bigger and more successful every year, something that no Referee Academy should miss getting their RA full members to attend.



The Conference is part of a great development and social weekend for everyone and includes the RA AGM, FA Forum, Dinner/Dance, Award presentations and the National Quiz Final.

## HOWARD WEBB AT THE HOVE CENTRE

The Hove Centre was again the venue for the Sussex RA-FA Development Event which was attended by 337 referees and guests, a third of the referees in Sussex. For the second successive year Sussex set the attendance record for a RA-FA Development event.

No doubt the main reason for this was the presence of World Cup Final Referee, Howard Webb MBE, who was the star attraction for the evening. Naturally Howard spoke about his build up to and the World Cup in South Africa.

Howard concluded by taking questions with the final one being about RA membership. Howard replied encouraging all referees to become full members of the Association by joining their local Society. Throughout the evening Howard willingly signed autographs and posed for photographs even bringing his own supply of Red and Yellow cards.



*Pictured with Howard Webb are (left) Roy Cheshire – President, Sussex County RA and (right) Ken Benham – Chief Executive, Sussex County FA.*

Following up on Howard's encouragement, every referee attending received a copy of a local leaflet giving details of the nine Sussex societies. This will be followed up by e-mailing all those who are not yet full members encouraging them to follow Howard's advice and join their local Society and reminding them that only full members will be able to benefit from the RA-FA Incentive Scheme.

A Charity Raffle raised funds for a good cause. This season the recipient was the Chest Nut Tree House Children's Hospice who received the £500 raised from ticket sales. Prizes were donated by the Sussex County RA, its nine member Societies, Sussex FA and Howard himself. In addition over £680 worth of RA goods were sold in a table top sale.

With thanks to Dave Ellmer, Sussex CRA Secretary.

## RA-FA HAVE YOUR SAY EVENTS

These events are continuing to be held around the country and those taking place early in 2012 are as follows:-

		<u>County</u>	<u>Venue</u>
<u>January</u>	Monday 9	Cheshire	TBC
	Monday 16	Somerset	Wessex Hotel, Street
	Monday 23	Gloucestershire	TBC
	Tuesday 24	Leicestershire & Rutland	Holmes Park, Leicester
	Wednesday 25	Sussex	Sussex FA HQ
	Monday 30	Middlesex	Rayners Lane FC
<u>February</u>	Tuesday 7	Northumberland	TBC
	Thursday 9	Nottinghamshire	Arnold Town FC
	Thursday 16	Liverpool	Liverpool CFA
	Thursday 16	Kent	TBC
	Monday 27	Surrey	TBC

Further details of these events can be obtained from your County FA RDO. County RAs should ensure they take advantage of this excellent opportunity for the recruitment of referees into full membership of the RA.

## SUPPORT FROM THE RA

"As a referee at the end of an unfortunate circumstance that no referee should ever be subject to, I can clearly say the support received from the RA, FA and fellow referees was first class. I was inundated with messages of well wishing and guidance from referees I know very well and other referees across the country including various other RA branches.

The point I would like to make that sums up the refereeing world is that we are out there for each other whether refereeing on the local park or out as a team of 3."

*Chris Wicks, Reading RA.*

Chris was the referee in the well-publicised incident at Chesham in October and our thanks go to him for writing this. Thankfully, the RA were able to provide support, which would not be available to anyone who is not a full member.

It is also timely to remind all officials that if they are subjected to an assault during a match, from anyone, they should abandon it immediately and take the same action if one of their Assistant Referees is the victim, regardless of whether he/she is a neutral or club official. They should then report all the details and this is when a member should make contact with an Officer of his ABS, County RA, or Head Office for advice.

## THE FA NATIONAL REFEREE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The FA's National Referee Development Programme was formally launched in March this year and will form a major part of the FA's initiative to recruit, retain and develop referees involved in 11 a side football.

The programme is committed to training, retaining and developing enthusiastic, committed referees with support and coaching in a safe and constructive learning environment. This will allow confidence to flourish and individual aspirations to be achieved. The programme has no age restrictions placed upon it, but will rather focus on the adage that whatever your age and current experience in refereeing in grass roots football the programme has something to offer. This will apply to new trainee referees looking forward to their first 6 games to those possibly who have reached level 5 or 4 and are looking to progress.

This programme will support The FA in achieving their target of 8000 new active referees by the end of 2012 and to build strong foundations for the future including a clear pathway from grass roots football to the semi professional and professional game. This will support the new National Game Strategy to take football to 2015 and will ensure the target of providing a registered referee for every game will become achievable.

The programme is led in each County FA by their Referee Development Officer(s)/Manager (RDO/RDM). They will appoint other staff from their volunteer workforce to support them in achieving this, including an assistant who may be the County Training Officer and a team of Mentors and Coaches to support and develop referees through the programme.

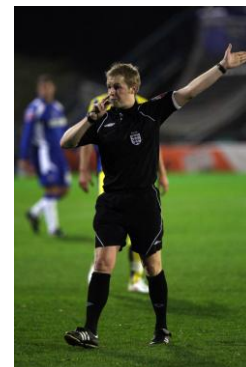
The scheme will rely on the County establishing or building upon relationships with leagues and clubs who will become their partners in providing referees with the appropriate environment for their games to be supported and developed. In addition it will rely on CFAs ensuring they build on their relationship with The RA and with individual ABSs to provide further support and encouragement of new referees particularly in their early stages.

Stage 4 of the programme is already successfully running with 8 Regional Coordinators looking after over 200 referees at levels 4 and 5 with the support of a Referee Coach from each County FA. From this group over 40 referees were promoted to Level 3 last season

For more information please contact your local County Referee Development Officer/Manager

### **Roger Vaughan**

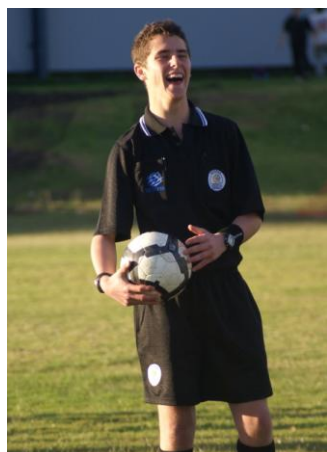
FA National Referee Manager Recruitment, Retention & Development



## JACK MORGAN WRITES FROM DOWN UNDER

Jack is a young referee from Southampton, now living in Melbourne, Australia.

"I have now been in Australia for over a year and I have completed my first full winter season there. I have learned so much and overall I was very pleased with how my season went, I refereed a total of 52 games nearly all of which were adult games and I finished the season with an appointment to be an assistant on a play-off game for State League 1 which is the 2nd highest league in Melbourne. I was thrown in at the deep end as I was given adult matches straight away having done just one back home but I have adapted my game and I feel I am a better referee because of it. In Australia we have assistants nearly every game so my lining has developed a lot and working in the middle with assistants has also been a fantastic experience.



Now the winter season is over we have had a few weeks break and then into the summer competition which is a youth competition made up of the best players from each 'zone' in the state. The standard is high and we get assessed every other week so it is a great opportunity to improve. So far I have coped with the heat as it hasn't reached over 30 degrees yet but I think I may struggle when we reach the 40 degree days!

Hopefully I will perform well in summer league and I hope to be selected into the TOP (Talented Officials Programme), which is a group of young referees who are given a lot of coaching and developing to try and give us the best opportunity to go as far as we can. My aim for next year is to be selected as one of the 5 Victorian officials who referee at nationals in Canberra, aim for the stars as they say!

I am coming back home for a holiday at the beginning of April for 2 weeks and it would be great to catch up with any of you whether it be at an RA meeting or at a match."

## ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS

Forms have now been issued for members to be nominated for election to the RA Board and these must be returned to the General Secretary no later than 1 February 2012, following which all members will be able to vote for those who are best able to represent their interests, regardless of where they are in the Country.

Membership of the Board is an operational management position, requiring a commitment to attend a minimum of 4 Board meetings and 4 committee meetings (usually held on weekends at Head Office) and the AGM each year. It also entails a considerable workload between meetings when e-mail is used extensively to deal with matters for the benefit of all full members of the Association. It also requires a working knowledge of MS Word, MS Excel, MS PowerPoint and the ability to receive pdf attachments to e-mail.

Those interested are advised to refer to the 'Board of Management' section of the Manual of Guidance (available from ABS and CRA Secretaries or Head Office) for further information. Any current Board member or the General Secretary will also be happy to discuss the workload involved and the way the Board and its' committees operate.

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Full membership as at 30 November 2011 stood at 9933, compared to 9446 in October. This is certainly a step forward and hopefully we will have hit the 10,000 mark by the time you read this. In round numbers the FA have 30,000 registered Referees, so where are the other 20,000 or so? It is our duty to bring them into membership.

**How about a New Year resolution? Each full member to recruit someone else for when the new membership year starts on 1 April 2012.**

Congratulations to those ABSs that are actively recruiting new members. Your efforts appear to be bearing fruit. We have, however, noticed that a proportion of members from last year have not been re-registered to date. Some of these appear to be long standing members. If there is a reason for this we would like to know.

Please feel free to e-mail [eddie.mcgrath1@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:eddie.mcgrath1@blueyonder.co.uk)

## RA QUIZ

Many County RAs have been holding competitions to decide their representatives at the regional contests, which will again be held in March; actual dates and venues to be announced at the CRA Liaison Meetings in January. Each County is eligible to enter either one or two teams in any of the regional contests; these can be two separate ABS teams or combined teams drawn from members of any ABS within the County.

The National Final will again be held at the Barceló Hinckley Island Hotel, Leicestershire, on the day following Conference - Sunday 15 July.

Those attending the final in July this year may recall a dispute over the answer to this question:-

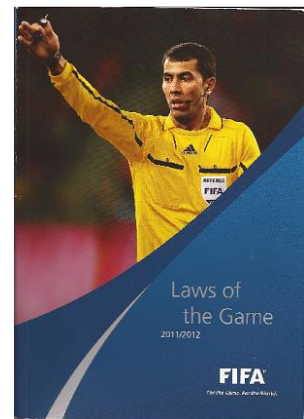
"A defender takes a direct free kick from outside his penalty-area. He plays it back to his goalkeeper, not realising that he has just collapsed. Deciding that he must prevent the ball from entering the net, the defender chases after it but slices it into goal. What action would you take?"

The answer given by quizmaster Sid Harrison was: 'Indirect free-kick for playing the ball twice' but this was queried privately afterwards by our President who felt the goal should have been allowed.

This was referred to Neale Barry who received feedback from his colleagues on the International Football Association Board that the correct interpretation should have been:

- the ball was in play properly
- the defender committed an infringement
- the referee may play advantage whenever an infringement or offence occurs
- therefore there is no reason in the Laws of the Game for not allowing the goal

The result of the contest was not affected in any way. We are grateful to both Sid and Neale for following this up and showing once again that we are always likely to be faced with unusual situations.



## RA DRAW

The income to the RA from the Grand Draw has fallen over the past few years. Last year we halved the ticket price and this had little effect on the number of tickets sold. This reduced the income not only to the RA national funds but also to ABS accounts.



The Board has reviewed the distribution process of the Grand Draw tickets and has decided to allocate tickets to each ABS on the ratio of one book for each full member, or the number of books the ABS sold this year, whichever figure is the higher. Tickets will be sent shortly by our printer to each ABS Secretary.

Tickets will be £1 each in books of 5. There will now be a cash alternative available to the major prize of a car; a 2nd prize of £1000, 3rd prize of £500 and 25 consolation prizes of £100.00.

A number of ABSs sold considerably more tickets than one book per member last year and their allocation has been increased to this level. One ABS sold over 300 books last year and almost 40 sold over 100. Hopefully, you may be able to sell more books and these can be sent on request from Head Office

Every full member now has the opportunity of supporting the Grand Draw and their own ABS as 50% of the sale proceeds will be returned to ABS funds. All we ask each member to do is buy or sell one book of tickets for just £5.

## GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY RA SKITTLES



All 6 branches in the County were represented at the annual skittles competition for the Ron Newman trophy at the Gala Club, Gloucester on 22 October. Sponsorship was generously provided by Shine Sports Coaching, which enabled over 40 people to also enjoy a fulsome buffet and excellent raffle.

Bristol were winners with 139 points. Mandy Kerfoot was the highest female scorer, with Keith Clark of Gloucester the highest male scorer, both with 28 points.

Pictured with the Ron Newman Trophy are the winning Bristol team (left to right): Peter Colley, Bernard Caddy, Frank White, Cath White, Nick Dawson, Mandy Kerfoot and Sam Fudge.

On the same evening, County RA Treasurer Dennis Young (Cirencester) was presented with his Gloucestershire RA 15 year service award by Vice-President Bill Bombroff.

## BOOTLE & DISTRICT REFEREES' SOCIETY

The Society was born in October 1971 by Referees who officiated in the Bootle J.O.C. League, some of whom were present which made the event something of a reunion. Junior Organisation Committees were formed after the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War to get young people back into sport.

The principal guest at a function at Marine FC recently to celebrate its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary was founder member Ken Galbraith, who was presented with his 50 Year RA Membership Award. In making the presentation Board Member Eddie McGrath referred to Ken's dedication and allegiance to the RA having served in a variety of positions, particularly his hard work in assuming local responsibility for the RA Grand Draw.



To assist in the presentation Eddie arranged for Liverpool and England International defender Jamie Carragher to attend as Ken and his family, who were all present, are lifelong Liverpool fans.

In addition to the award Ken will receive tickets for a forthcoming Liverpool game from the Society to recognise his invaluable contribution over the years.

Pictured above with Jamie Carragher above are Eddie McGrath and Ken Galbraith and left, young members Adam Scregg, Phil Devine, Chris Roberts, Joe Pettit, & Liam Corrigan.

**NATIONAL AWARDS GALLERY**



Tom Miller, West Devon RA President, receives his Life Membership from National Past President Peter Willis at a dinner in his honour at Plymouth.



Roy Goodinson with fellow Rotherham member Howard Webb after receiving his 50 year award.



Alan Hughes, Wrekin RA Chairman, received his LMSA from Board Member, John Starkey.



Jim Washburn, Banbury RA Treasurer, receives his LMSA from RA General Secretary, Arthur Smith.



Andy Walter, North Devon RA Chairman, pictured with Branch Secretary Brett Huxtable after being presented with his LMSA.



Paul Sturrock, Andover RA, with his LMSA and members (l to r) Mark Shopland (who only qualified two days previously and joined immediately), Liam Reeves and Liam Twigg.

## EAST RIDING RA

Three East Riding RA members holding their 50 year awards after presentation by Alan Poulain (middle). Pictured left to right together with (far left) Chairman Carl Boyeson and (far right) President Paul McWatters are Frank Broughton, Geoff Hanson and Colin Cartlich.



## COUNTY RA LIAISON MEETINGS

The main purpose of these annual meetings is a forum for open discussion with Board members on all matters relating to the Association. Dates and venues have now been confirmed for the three meetings in January, as follows:-

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup>: Aston Hotel, Sheffield/Rotherham.  
Saturday 21<sup>st</sup>: Pipers Inn, Bridgwater, Somerset.  
Saturday 28<sup>th</sup>: Thistle Hotel, Bloomsbury London.

On this occasion, the agenda will include the future role of County RAs, following the passing of the Motion at the 2011 AGM. It is therefore very important that all CRA secretaries attend one of these meetings and they have now received a letter asking them to advise Board Member John Starkey which meeting they will be attending.

## NAME CORRECTION

I would like to apologise for my errors in the October Digest with the names of two of our young contributors:-

In the photo accompanying his article on the FA Young Referees Conference, Ben Tomlinson is actually on the left of the picture. The name of the referee enjoying his Work Experience is George Kimber-Sweatman. If their ambitions are fulfilled, I am sure we will hear more of both those names in the future.

## USA CUP

Following the article about the USA Cup in the October Digest, I have been asked by Peter Ramsey (Assistant UK Co-ordinator) to advise anyone considering going to this event that enquiries regarding possible attendance are to be made to the UK Co-ordinator - Trevor Wing - [trevor.wing@northridingfa.com](mailto:trevor.wing@northridingfa.com); or to Peter - [p.ramsey@sky.com](mailto:p.ramsey@sky.com). Both have the necessary details and application forms, the latter to be returned to Trevor Wing.

Some points that need to be kept in mind: -

1. To be registered for the tournament you must be 17 year old or over on 1 July in the year going out.
2. You must have been refereeing for at least one full season.
3. You must have sufficient assistant referee experience as at least 60% of games will be on the line.
4. The Organisers are to be in charge of all Trans-Atlantic flight arrangements.



## Head Office Team

**Arthur Smith** - General Secretary

**Karen Vince** – Administration Officer

Tel: 02476 42036 Fax: 02477 677234

**Andy Stickley** – Supplies Officer Tel: 02476 420364

UNIT 12, ENSIGN BUSINESS CENTRE, WESTWOOD  
WAY, WESTWOOD BUSINESS PARK, WESTWOOD  
HEATH, COVENTRY. CV4 8JA

Tel: 02476 420360 Fax: 02477 677234

E-mail: [ra@footballreferee.org](mailto:ra@footballreferee.org)

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

The News Digest is edited by Colin Harris  
[colin\\_c\\_harris@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:colin_c_harris@hotmail.co.uk)

