

# SURREY COUNTY FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION LIMITED

## NOTES OF MEETING WITH LEAGUE REFEREES' SECRETARIES HELD ON 12 July 2007 at Leatherhead Institute

**Present:** Malcolm Randall (SCFA Director), Vic Rolland (SCFA Referees' Committee Chairman), David Crick (SCFA Head of Refereeing), Richard Ireson (SCFA Referees' Secretary), David Dixon (SCFA Referee Development Officer), Mike Jerney (SCFA Challenge Trophies Secretary), Steve Smith (EEY), Colin Barnett (FSL), Geoff Comley & Ray Cotton (GWA), Ben Bennett (LHS), Martin Collis (MIT & WIM), Bob Stace (MSL), Cyril West (SHB), Simon Hedley & Fiona Creswick (SPL), Steve Allen & Gordon Worsfold (SSEC & SSEJ), Alan Wiggins (SY21L) and Alan Donovan (TAN),

**Apologies** were received from Ray Lewis (SCFA Chairman), Ray Ward (SCFA County Secretary), Rod Wood (SCFA Appointments Officer), Howard Taylor (SCFA Leagues Representative Committee Chairman), Derek Stovold (SIW), Noel Valapinee (WIM).

**Absent:** CROS, CRMS, CAMB, KDL, KNW, RHSA, RHSU, SACL, SIW, STS and SU

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### 1. Introductions

In opening the meeting at 7.30pm and welcoming everyone present, the Head of Refereeing introduced the other County FA Officers present and David Dixon, the newly appointed Referees Development Officer. He went on to confirm the Referees' Committee structure for the coming Season.

### 2. Amendments to the Laws for 2007/08

David Dixon took the meeting through the minimal changes.

### 3. Referee Registrations

The current numbers of referees registered was advised [848] against the total for last Season [1661]. The Head of Refereeing explained what the County FA has done to date to try to get referees to re-register with some 700+ letters having been dispatched from County Office in the last fortnight. It is likely The FA will also be writing [country-wide] within the next week or so to all those who have not renewed their registration. Some time ago, the Referees' department had also issued to Leagues a listing of all referees who had yet to re-register with any reasons why they couldn't included. A current listing was supplied to all those in attendance with apologies that 2 referees who had sadly passed away were inadvertently included.

It was then opened up to the floor to discuss what Leagues had done to date and what they planned to do. A number of points emerged:-

- Most leagues present had contacted those referees on their panel following the issuing of the first "not yet registered" list with some success
- It was felt personal contact was the best approach
- Both intermediate leagues have retained virtually all their referees
- One League is offering to pay half of the £12 Enhanced Disclosure charge
- Individual referees not really understanding the un-negotiable mandatory nature of CRB was seen as a major cause for the current re-registration rate
- MSL is planning to hold a 'Close season' meeting of all its referees (open to others) at which the CP DVD will be run and the aim is for CRB Verifiers will also be

there. **[This seems a really good plan and one others may wish to consider]**.

The Head of Refereeing confirmed that Leagues are not allowed to appoint unregistered referees to their games and that, if an unregistered referee officiates and something 'goes wrong' as far as Safeguarding Children (etc.) is concerned, then the legal responsibility will be the participating clubs', not the County FA.

David Crick went onto say that he intends to propose to the County FA Board that the RefsDept budget pays for the £6.00 Safeguarding Children renewals as from the next budget year as it seems unfair individuals should be expected to pay this on top of their registration fee.

#### 4. **Appointing to County Cup matches**

David Crick confirmed that the system in place for the past two Seasons would continue but that, for Intermediate Cup dates, no Level 7 referees would be need to be nominated and that for Junior and Lower Junior dates, no Level 5s would be required unless they normally operated at that level on their leagues. David looked for continued co-operation from the leagues and asked those who hadn't to date, to assist Rod Wood by doing so. I was understood some youth leagues did not operate with a panel. Every effort would be made not to disadvantage youth or Sunday Leagues by taking their referees for the other age group County Cup games.

The Leagues also discussed the question of Supply Leagues using Assistant Referees on non-marking division games as this takes match officials away from the local parks. It was confirmed that, technically, the CCL Division 1 and Reserve Divisions plus the SUB Regional Divisions should not have A/Rs appointed according to FA Rules. However, David Crick said that, whilst he is in total sympathy with the Junior Leagues, he still needs somewhere for new A/Rs to 'cut their teeth' without potentially negatively impacting Level 4 referees looking for promotion. Equally, there are some officials who only run lines through personal choice though it would be useful if these individuals could be identified. David agreed that this whole question is on his Agenda for when he meets the Supply Leagues shortly to discuss next Season.

The Leagues also suggested that it would be useful to know when cards acknowledging County Cup fixtures have not been returned to Rod Wood as this would give them a better chance of providing a replacement earlier. Taking a pro-active approach would be beneficial and this will be discussed with Rod to work out the practicalities.

#### 4. **Open Forum**

The support structure for referees in place was covered. Leagues were asked to confirm by mid-August whether they would have appropriate games available for new referees to officiate in order to settle in. All promotion candidates will have a Mentor this Season.

It was felt that Assessors and Mentors should have photo id cards. DRC to follow up.

5. Closing the meeting, the Head of Refereeing thanked everyone for coming and wished them a safe journey home.