

The bulletin for all referees – August 2011

RA News Digest



CONFERENCE SPECIAL



Members from Bromsgrove RA with Andre Marriner



FA Cup Final officials with their RA mementos



"I am not really sure what this will sound like."



Discussions in the Workshop

AN OUTSTANDING SUCCESS

The Board are extremely grateful to everyone who returned their Conference Feedback forms, as well as those who sent letters and e-mails. Most of the response was very favourable, especially for the Saturday, with particular praise for the Keynote Speeches and Workshop Presentations. We are happy to pass on your thanks to all the top officials who gave up their time on Saturday 16th.

It seems that the decision to move to the Barceló Hinckley Island was certainly the right one, although there are some improvements we will be seeking for next year. The main challenge for the Conference Committee will be to accommodate the increased numbers that we will be anticipating, as Full membership of the RA grows and more will want to come to the Conference.

A fuller report of the day has been produced by referees from the Suffolk County FA Academy and this will appear in the next edition of the joint RA FA publication *Refereeing*, which is scheduled for publication in September.

CONTENTS

- Conference Report
 - Ladies Trip
 - Quiz – National Final
 - Grand Draw Results
- County RA Sub-Committee
- Membership Update
- Lisboa Cup
- National Awards
- Congratulations
- RA FA Have Your Say

2012 CONFERENCE WEEKEND: 13-15 JULY BARCELO HINCKLEY ISLAND HOTEL

[Make a Diary Note Now](#)

CONFERENCE 2011

By mid-morning on Friday, many members were already enjoying the facilities of the Barceló Hinckley Island Hotel. Work started for Board members with a meeting with the volunteers from local ABSs who were giving up the weekend, to assist in a range of tasks such as helping with luggage, acting as scrutineers for the AGM and directing members to their breakout rooms for the workshop presentations on Saturday. They all did a most excellent job and the Board would publicly like to thank them all.

At noon, the Trustees of the Benevolent Fund met and after a quick sandwich, it was time to prepare for the AGM. Full details of what was discussed are contained in the minutes which have been circulated to all Secretaries. This includes the very interesting and informative Q&A session that followed the AGM, chaired by RA President David Elleray and featuring FA Referee Managers Neale Barry and Ian Blanchard.

By this time, the Supplies Stand looked after by Karen and Andy with their assistants, was up and running and well on the way to turning over total weekend sales of over £2000.



The Supplies stand in action.



Friday evening was a time to relax with friends old and new over good food and drink. This seemed to be made even better by the popular decision to replace live entertainment with background music.

However, there was still the traditional 'Sit Down Bingo' to play and Bill Williams of West Penwith RA in Cornwall became richer by £250 after being the 'last man standing'.

"What am I going to do with this dear?" Bill Williams seems to be asking wife Sue.

Saturday morning started with a real buzz of excitement around the hotel. However, for those travelling it was a rather wet journey and instead of welcoming individuals and groups of referees in their customary ABS/CRA/Academy polo shirts, these were covered in cagoules and other protective outerwear. But the weather was soon forgotten in the warm welcome accorded by our President, David Elleray, shaking hands with every one of the almost 450 people as they entered the Paris Suite with an air of excitement and anticipation.

David then made a quick move to the other end of the room to formally open the Conference and then into his excellent presentation on 'Lessons from the World Cup.' It was fascinating to re-live some of the controversial decisions and look at them more from an officiating viewpoint a year on.

Delegates then moved into the first of three chosen workshops, all of which provided considerable involvement and presented by many of our top officials, including Andre Marriner and Jake Collin who deputised at very short notice.

"I just wanted to pass on my congratulations on the way the RA Conference was put together. I think this is one of the best I have ever attended, the speakers and workshops were brilliant and David Elleray – well, what can one say only fantastic. It was great to see some old faces from the past especially Peter Willis.

At Coventry I run a Referee Academy of which some members attended and commented after how much they enjoyed the day. Next year I will be pushing for more to attend, once again thank you."

John Morris, Coventry Academy

"I would like to thank you all on behalf of the Andover Society for putting on what was considered to be an excellent Conference. Humorous, full of knowledge for all and a speech from Howard, Darren and Mike that was second to none. I don't know how you will follow that next year but my mind is made up that I will be attending again.

We all appreciate how much hard work is required to put on any event, let alone a Conference for so many people. Thank you all once again."

Kevin Willey, Andover RA

After lunch, the recently-appointed FA Chairman David Bernstein addressed the Conference; emphasising the role of the Respect programme and assuring everyone of the support that he and the FA in general have for referees.

This was followed by Neale Barry giving his annual update on Law Changes, managing as always to draw some interest and amusement from what often carries relatively little content for grassroots refereeing but great importance for football as a whole.

“Just to thank and congratulate you and the team for delivering such a wonderful RA Conference over the course of the weekend. I know only too well the meticulous planning, organisation and time taken in order to make an event like this a successful one. I consider myself to be very fortunate to have played such an active part in presenting one of the workshops and I look forward to being involved for many years to come. It was a truly enjoyable few days where upon I sincerely appreciated the hospitality that was extended to me and my colleagues.”



Dan Meeson - pictured above presenting to a captive audience.

It was then time for the two afternoon workshops before everyone returned to the Paris Suite for what for most people was the highlight of the weekend: Howard Webb, Mike Mullarkey and Darren Cann talking about their World Cup. ‘Outstanding’, ‘Amazing’, ‘Worth attending alone’, ‘second to none’: These were just a few of the comments given in the Conference feedback to describe the thoughts of those who were enthralled by what they heard of the experiences of our World Cup Final team in South Africa.

“I really enjoyed the day and so did the other lads who came, it was really interesting and I think I have learned a lot from the workshops.”

“I had a great day at the Conference and was made to feel welcome by everyone. The workshops were also of a high quality and thoroughly enjoyable, I learned a few things today.”

James Leyshon & Liam Corrigan: 16 year old level 7 referees from Liverpool Sunday RA and Everton F.C. Academy.

After the formal closure of Conference by David Elleray, it was time for those going home to say their farewells and others to change into their best outfits for the evening’s dinner-dance. This was another great opportunity for members and their partners to enjoy a social evening, at the same time celebrating the achievements of our officials who had been appointed to national finals and our five new Life Members, details of which appear later in this Digest.



“I thoroughly enjoyed the evening, it was great to catch up with old friends and meet new ones, and as I am sure most people who were there noticed, the girls enjoyed the dance floor the most!”

Lisa Rashid, West Bromwich RA (2nd right in photo)

“After the dinner dance we rushed straight back to Staverton to complete our Level 2 Licensed Referee Tutor training and then I went on holiday! I really enjoyed the evening, it was great to catch up with so many friends and colleagues in the game and I shall very much look forward to taking part in the full weekend next year.

Sarah Hollins, Stockport RA (2nd left in photo)

“Arriving late on Friday evening, it was impossible to move more than a few yards before bumping into another friend or colleague to catch up with in a relaxed, social environment.

Saturday morning and a very inspiring opening address from David Elleray, then my work began co-presenting with Darren Cann. The thing that struck us in both the workshops we hosted was the enthusiasm, engagement and enjoyment of all the delegates. The level of questions was excellent and showed how everyone, irrespective of their age or experience, wanted to learn and improve.

Being involved in the keynote speech was a great honour, if not a little nerve wracking! The reception we received at the end is something that will live with me forever. So humbling to receive such a reaction from peers and colleagues.



The evening was a wonderful celebration and represented everything that is great about the RA family. Great food, great company, great entertainment!” *Mike Mullarkey (above right, receiving his memento from David Elleray).*

“I found the programme very interesting and useful, helped of course by the outstanding presentation by Howard and his team. I was very impressed with the way the whole Conference ran so smoothly despite having so many delegates to manage. Congratulations to everyone involved.” *Roger Burden, FA Vice-Chairman*

THE LADIES' TRIP by Jean Mallery

At approximately 9.30a.m on a very wet and windy 'summer' day, a coach with 47 ladies on board, set off from Hinckley Island Hotel on a trip to Birmingham Botanical Gardens, arriving at our destination $\frac{3}{4}$ of an hour later.

The Gardens are set in 15 acres and have many features including four Glasshouses, Childrens' Discovery Garden, Historic Garden, Herb & Cottage Garden, Picture Gallery and many more. As the rain had not eased we all made our way to the glasshouses, which of course lead through to the gift and coffee shop. Around noon the sun came out and most ladies managed to walk around the gardens where we came across exotic birds in outdoor and indoor aviaries along with many colourful garden beds.



Boarding the coach again around 1.00p.m we travelled the short journey to the Museum of the Jewellery Quarter. As the Museum was small we were divided into three groups and taken around by a guide. This was very interesting as we were told the history of Smith & Pepper, a family run jewellery workshop which began in 1899 and closed in 1981. The family were unable to sell the business due to the recession, so the building lay empty for a few years. In 1993 Birmingham Council decided to purchase the building and keep it as a museum, leaving all the machinery and offices as they were.

Smith & Pepper were famous for their 'Bamboo Bracelets' and in the 1920s would sell for £1,000 each. Their value today is estimated at £15,000.

A short walk away was the 'Pen Room'; a small Museum crammed with antiques related to writing. In the 19th Century Birmingham was at the forefront of steel pen design and manufacture.

Arriving back at the hotel just after 4.00p.m we were directed to the Triumph Bar for complimentary tea/coffee and cakes. A very interesting and enjoyable day and our thanks go to Chris Genner for her hard work in organising this trip.

RA QUIZ FINAL by Eddie McGrath

The Quiz started with many County RAs running competitions to find representatives for the three regional contests held in March 2011, reported in the April Digest. The winners and runners-up comprised the six teams who competed in the National final at the Barceló Hinckley Island Hotel on Sunday 17 July, the morning after the Conference. After a tense and nail biting final expertly conducted by Quizmaster Sid Harrison, with great assistance from John Harvey (scorer) and Colin Harris (timekeeper), the result was:-

1:	Chiltern District	110
2:	Bath	103
3:	Gravesend	101
4=	Erewash Valley	96
4=	North Staffs	96
6:	Yeovil	91



North Staffs team ready for the 'off'. Left to right: Mike Sherwin, Nick Morgan, Paul Hussey & Ross Crawford.



The Chiltern team pictured left are (left to right): John Simmons, Peter Jones, Alf Field, Simon Parbery and Vince Smith.

The highest individual scorer was also from the Chiltern District team, Peter Jones with 30 points, closely followed by three others on 29: David Green and Andy Green, both Erewash Valley and Paul Hussey, from North Staffs.

It was very pleasing that RA President David Elleray was able to take time to remain after a busy few days to present prizes to the winners, runners-up and highest scorer.

He remarked on the high standard of competition and the thought-provoking questions compiled by Sid Harrison.

For the first time, the Quiz Final was held on the Sunday of Conference weekend. This proved to be a great success as the audience numbers increased considerably. Hopefully, next season there will be more entries so ABSs and CRAs are asked to think about organising their local competitions during the autumn.

RA DRAW

1st prize was drawn at the Conference Dinner by Sarah Garratt (pictured right). The winner was Bill McKnight who receives a Citroen C1 VTR+ 3 door car supplied by PrestonSkirrow. Bill had this to say about his win:-

“To say I was shocked was an understatement. It was my day off from our shop and my daughter phoned to ask me to phone Arthur Smith. My initial thought was that I would not get a call for a small prize but I did not expect to win 1st prize, this happens to others. I have given the car to my daughter.

I have been an RA member for 23 years. A great part of this time I served Wigan as Secretary and more recently as Treasurer, I no longer officiate but I have gained a great number of friends during my career.”



Bill McKnight is pictured with his new Citroen C1, receiving the keys from General Secretary Arthur Smith outside Head Office.

Other top prize winners were:

- 2nd Prize £1000: Keith Jonas – Cheveley
- 3rd Prize £500: Tracy Andrews –Southampton
- 4th Prize £250: Len Randall – Uxbridge
- 5th Prize £100: Rob Smaith – Wales

There were a further 50 consolation prizes of £50 each.

A full list of prize-winners has been sent to all ABS Secretaries.



The RA have a sponsorship scheme with PrestonSkirrow for cars supplied by Keith Price Volvo Ltd. See more details at www.prestonskirrow.co.uk. or contact Dave Skirrow at dave.skirrow@prestonskirrow.co.uk, or telephone 02920 657530.

COUNTY RA SUB-COMMITTEE

At the AGM on Friday 15 July, the following Motion was passed:

The Board should during the next year:

- (1) investigate options for reforming the Association rules on County Referees Associations with a view to identifying their key roles and functions, optimising their cost efficiency and best meeting the current needs of members, Societies and the Association.
- (2) propose rule changes at the AGM in 2012 designed to streamline, modernise and simplify the structure of County RAs.”



In order to move this forward, the Board have set up a sub-committee comprising (pictured from left to right) Albert Astbury, Bart O'Toole, Colin Harris, Paul Field and Eddie McGrath (sub-committee Chairman), who had their inaugural meeting at Head Office on Sunday 31 July.

As stated in proposing the Motion, the Board are not seeking to disband County RAs, but to consider amendments to the RA Rules to streamline their operation.

Several CRA representatives at the AGM expressed the view that their own County was operating satisfactorily and they do not see the need for change.

Others can possibly learn from them in adopting best practise. The views of all CRAs and some ABSs are being sought and their responses will be important in the sub-committee gathering information. Any other member who has a view of this matter is invited to e-mail Eddie McGrath at eddie.mcgrath2@gmail.com.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE by Eddie McGrath

The total number of full members as at the end of July was 6,928. This is only 196 (<3%) up on July 2010 and still 3,744 (35%) short of the number registered at the end of the 2010-11 season. It is alarming to note that 35 ABSs have still not yet registered any full members for the new season.

It has become apparent that referees are reluctant to subscribe prior to actually commencing officiating in the new season, around this time. If this is the case there should be substantial upward movement when the next figures are produced at the end of August 2011. Referees must be reminded that their subscription becomes due on 1 April annually and expires on 31 March the following year.

Further distortion of figures is caused by some ABS treasurers "sitting on" membership renewals until all or most have paid up. This practice must cease, as apart from falsifying membership figures their members may be officiating without the benefits of FULL membership, including insurance cover.

It is also both surprising and disappointing that only 1,093 full members have taken up the Physiocare option. Please ensure that all your refereeing colleagues are fully aware of this important new benefit which costs only £5 per annum and can be added to subscriptions at any time. They should also be reminded that the RA FA Incentive Scheme is now available only to Full members.

Hopefully those who attended the Conference on 16 July will have passed the word around on what an excellent and informative day it was; attendance at this event can be seen as a reason on its own to be a Full member of the RA.

LISBOA CUP 2011 by Luke Grinstead

There are many youth tournaments which take place during the summer enabling referees to develop through officiating in, and with colleagues from, other countries. One such tournament is the Lisboa Cup and Luke Grinstead, an 18 year old level 6 member of Bicester RA writes about his recent experience:-

"The Lisboa Cup is an international youth tournament held in Lisbon Portugal. It attracts teams from all over the world including England, Spain, France, Mexico, Poland, Korea, and Africa. Every year referees from all over the world are invited to officiate in this fantastic tournament. This year I attended along with 10 other referees from England and around 50 more officials from around the globe.



Luke with Leonel Abreau from Venezuela

It is a great chance for referees to develop their skills and also referee some fantastic youth teams, many from famous professional clubs. These include Liverpool & Bristol City from England; Sevilla, Valencia & Espanyol from Spain; PSG from France; Sporting Lisbon & Porto from Portugal; as well as representatives from Chile, Mexico, Poland and even Kenya.



The venues for matches were scattered around the outskirts of Lisbon with some fantastic small stadiums in use. The old Portugese national team stadium 'Jamor' was also in use for the opening ceremony and charity matches. It was a challenging experience with a very different climate to the usual British weather and the opportunity to referee some of the greatest teams in the world is not one to be missed!

The tournament's finals were played at 'Estadio Oeries', a fantastic new stadium with great facilities and a 3G Astro field. There was a fantastic atmosphere around every stadium and the finals were buzzing with fans out to support their teams.

Many games including all of the finals were covered by Portuguese TV cameras which added to the professional feel to the tournament. It was a great experience and I would recommend it to anyone wishing to hone their skills as a referee and gain valuable on field experience!"

NATIONAL AWARDS

At the Conference Dinner in July, five members received the accolade of becoming a Life Member, bringing the number alive up to just 38. They have all had a long and illustrious career with the RA and a brief summary is given here of each, in order left to right in the photo:-

James Spain – Thanet: James took his referees course in the RAF and whilst stationed in Germany expanded his refereeing involvement to coaching, assessing and mentoring. On leaving the RAF in 1963, James returned to his native Kent and joined Thanet RA, of which he has been a member ever since, serving them in a number of official capacities and is still their Kent CRA delegate. Although his refereeing was restricted to the local leagues, he refereed a number of pre-season matches involving his local clubs Ramsgate and Margate against Football League teams, as well as a testimonial match against a West Ham team that included Bobby Moore and their other world cup winning stars.

Trevor Boulding – Chesterfield: Trevor started refereeing whilst in the Navy and also trained other referees whilst on HMS Glory. He joined Chesterfield RA in October 1954 and spent many years officiating on the local leagues. He was the Derbyshire County representative on the former Midland Division and remains very active for his branch and CRA, working tirelessly as Recruitment & Retention Officer to support, develop, recruit and train referees. He has recently documented the history of Derbyshire CRA Committee.

Peter Waller – Thanet: Peter joined Uxbridge RA in 1956 whilst still doing National Service. On leaving the RAF he moved to Buckinghamshire and then Kent, serving both counties and a number of their branches in various roles. Peter has been Treasurer and Supplies Officer for Thanet RA now for 25 years, as well as continuing to perform many other tasks within football and elsewhere.

Colin Downey – South Middlesex: Colin may be better known to many as a Football League referee who ran the line on the 1983 Cup Final, which went to a replay. He later became FA Referees Officer. However, at the same time he served South Middlesex RA and Middlesex County RA in many roles and continues to work hard for local referees.

Tom Miller - West Devon: Tom qualified in the late 1950s whilst in the Army and has been a member of West Devon RA since 1966. He has held many posts for his branch and Devon County RA, including Chairman of both and is now County RA President. Tom was very much involved in the successful running of National Conferences in the 1990s at Torquay and Plymouth. He still travels around what is geographically one of the largest counties, as well as further afield to promote the RA, attending many meetings at branch and county level, where he is always available to pass on his knowledge and vast experience.

Also the following 15 members were granted the **RA Long and Meritorious Service Award:** Ray Brown (Mid-Cornwall), Gary Cobden (North Middlesex), Dennis Fothergill (Isle of Wight), David Griffin (South Middlesex), Alan Hughes (Wrekin), Ian McGrath (Bromley), Nigel Poole (Coventry), Brian Smith (Kingston), Paul Sturrock (Andover), David Tiffin (Hexham), Andrew Walter (North Devon), James Washburn (Banbury), Kevin Willey (Andover), Roy Williams (Mid Herts), Malcolm Woodall (Hexham).



New badges are now available for Life Members and LMSA holders. Those attending Conference were able to collect these and many were taken away to be handed over locally.

Those who have not received their badge should contact Head Office, but please check first to see if a colleague has collected it on your behalf.



Please note that any nominations for Life Membership or LMSA must be submitted to the CRA Secretary no later than 31 October. 50 year service award nominations can be made at any time. However, all of these nominations must be made on the new forms which are available from Head Office or can be downloaded from the website.



Pictured left is Peter Maxson, Chairman of Oldham RA, receiving from RA General Secretary Arthur Smith the Life Membership award posthumously on behalf of his father John who was President and Secretary of Oldham RA.

John Maxson was made a Life Member at last year's Conference but died suddenly soon afterwards.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Stuart Attwell on being appointed to referee the final of the UEFA U19 tournament in Romania on Monday 1 August, in which Spain beat the Czech Republic 3-2 after extra-time. Stuart had already impressed everyone with his skilful handling and management of the Spain v Belgium match in the opening round, which he had to abandon after major electric storms threatened the safety of the players and spectators.

Stuart flew out to Romania just 2 days after the RA Conference where he was one of the Workshop presenters.



Congratulations are also due to the officials appointed for last Sunday's FA Community Shield match between Manchester City and Manchester United: Referee - Phil Dowd; Assistant Referees: Simon Long & Andy Garratt; 4th Official - Kevin Friend and Reserve AR - Scott Ledger.



HAVE YOUR SAY by Janie Frampton



The FA Referee Department have looked at some length at the format of the RA FA events over the last 3 years. Whilst these have been very successful we are looking at changing the format for this year only.

As a department we are very keen to constantly evolve, to meet the needs of the ever changing environment of our workforce. With this in mind, we really need to find out what our workforce want and need from us as the National Governing Body. We feel the best and most efficient way to do this is to hold 'Have your Say' events to ascertain exactly what it is that is required to move referee development forward to 2015 and beyond. These events will also have an education session delivered by a top referee, we will keep you posted as to who will be delivering at your event!

This is a fantastic opportunity for all of us to help shape the future of refereeing in this Country going forward, collectively and collaboratively as a referee, tutor, assessor or mentor in order to achieve the best possible experience in refereeing. Let us know through discussion and debate, then be prepared to be motivated and inspired by one of our top referees delivering the education session.

Forthcoming events are listed below, all starting at 6.30p.m.. Make a diary note now and further details will be issued shortly by your County FA Referee Development Officer:-

<u>September</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Venue</u>
5 th	Herefordshire	Three Counties Hotel
8 th	Dorset	TBC
12 th	Cornwall	Cornwall FA HQ
15 th	Lincolnshire	Bishop Grosseteste College
15 th	Northamptonshire	Raunds Town FC
22 nd	North Riding & Durham	Middlesbrough FC
26 th	Devon	Exeter City FC
26 th	West Riding	TBC
26 th	Royal Navy	HMS Temeraire
29 th	Isle of Man	St. Georges Club House
30 th	Essex	Essex County Cricket Ground
<u>October</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Venue</u>
3 rd	Staffordshire	TBC
5 th	London	Tottenham Hotspur FC
6 th	Suffolk	TBC
6 th	Cambridgeshire	Cambs County FA
10 th	Cumberland/W'moreland	TBC
10 th	Sheffield	The Glazier Suite, Ice Sheffield
10 th	Shropshire	AFC Telford

Head Office Team

Arthur Smith: **General Secretary**
Linda Saunders &
Karen Vince: **Administration Officers**
Tel. 02476 420360
Fax. 02477 677234

Andrew Stickley: **Supplies Officer**
Tel. 02476 420364

Unit 12, Ensign Business Centre,
Westwood Way, Westwood Business Park,
Westwood Heath, Coventry. CV4 8JA

E-mail: ra@footballreferee.org
Website: www.footballreferee.org
Supplies: www.rashop.co.uk

Digest Editor: Colin Harris
colin_c_harris@hotmail.co.uk

****WITH BEST WISHES TO EVERYONE FOR THE 2011-12 SEASON****