

The bulletin for all referees – June 2011

RA News Digest



HAVE YOU MADE YOUR BOOKING YET?

RA CONFERENCE WEEKEND: 15-17 July at the Barceló Hinckley Island Hotel

The Main Event is on Saturday 16 July at 9.30a.m., when the Conference theme is: **EFFECTIVE OFFICIATING.**

Come along to meet and hear from 2010 World Cup Final referee Howard Webb MBE, 2011 FA Cup Final referee Martin Atkinson and their teams, as well as many more of our top officials.

The new FA Chairman, David Bernstein (right), who is a strong supporter of referees, has accepted our invitation to attend and, although he is unable to come to the Dinner, he will be addressing Conference immediately after lunch.

Saturday 16 July promises to be a most fulfilling day and a must for referees at all levels. Many groups of referees representing Academies and County FAs have already booked to attend. Please do not leave it too late and be disappointed. To reserve a place for you or your group for any part of the weekend's events, please contact your local RA Secretary; go to www.footballreferee.org or telephone 024 7642 0360.



AGM – FRIDAY 15 JULY @ 3.00 p.m.

ABS Secretaries should by now have received their voting papers. They are asked to ensure that these are correctly completed with the votes on behalf of their members and that if they are not attending the AGM in person, these are to be delivered on their behalf.

QUIZ FINAL – SUNDAY 17 JULY @ 11.00 a.m.

To round off the weekend, the RA Quiz Final will take place at the Barceló Hinckley Island Hotel. Competing teams are from Bath, Chiltern District, Erewash Valley (holders), Gravesend, North Staffordshire and Yeovil. The quizmaster will be Sid Harrison (South Beds RA) and trophies will be presented by RA President, David Elleray.

NEW RA TIE

The new RA tie (right) is now available from the supplies department for £10 each. Go to www.RAShop.



A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Since my announcement earlier in the year, following further consultation with the Board and our President, I have accepted that there is work still to be completed and I have decided to stay on as Chairman for as long as the Board wishes.

I hope to see as many of you as possible at the Conference weekend.

Kind regards

Alan Poulain

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EVE OF FINAL RALLY



Over 130 people gathered for the evening, which was once again staged with the valuable support of Volvo Cars Ltd. It appears to have been one of the most successful ever, although unfortunately a full

programme of Premier League matches the following day prevented more top officials attending. The Board enlisted the help of 3 young members and one of them, Kevin Carpenter, provided this account of Rally.

“As one of the two showpiece events on the RA annual calendar, I was delighted to be invited to steward at the event and took no convincing to accept. After having missed last year’s Eve of Final Rally being out of the country I was looking forward to attending my second, having been present in 2009 when Howard Webb received his accolade.

The Hotel Russell was full of grandeur, very much befitting the evening for those match officials being celebrated for their hard work and determination over many years in being given the honour of refereeing the greatest and oldest cup final in the world the day after.

I met my fellow stewards Thomas and Sean before the guests began to arrive and we all felt great pride in pulling on our crisp and freshly embroidered RA polo shirts. The guests began to arrive and were greeted with two footballs signed by the Cup Final teams Manchester City and Stoke City, which were fine prizes indeed for the raffle.



Stewards I to r:: Kevin Carpenter, Sean Smith and Thomas Jaggs

Various luminaries for the evening began to arrive including David Elleray and Neale Barry, as well as former cup final officials, who were coming to support their colleagues the night before the biggest game of their lives.



Martin Atkinson with young members at the Rally

I met David Dein, the guest speaker for the evening, and had a photo and brief chat with him. The main event of the evening began with the grand entry of the officials to take their rightful place at the head of the stage. David Dein stepped up and gave the audience an excellent speech which included an exclusive preview of an upcoming documentary about the formation of the Premier League, together with some forthright views on other areas of the game including modern technology.

Then it was time for Cup Final referee Martin Atkinson to address the people who had come to celebrate his achievements. Surprisingly for a Yorkshire policeman and referee even he admitted he was nervous, but gave a warm and honest short speech thanking all those you had helped get him the one appointment every English referee dreams of from first picking up the whistle.

As the officials and their partners left the hotel to rest before the big day those who had gathered wished them all the best, and had enjoyed seeing old friends again, making sure that the FA Cup and the Eve of Final Rally remain treasured institutions.”

The final words are left to the officials:-

“It was a fantastic weekend and one that Julie and I will cherish forever. The game couldn’t have gone any better for my team and I. It worked out perfectly and no one was talking about refereeing after the game which was the main thing for me and my team. I really enjoyed the Eve of Final Rally and I thought it was pitched just right. We weren’t there long into the night which is vital for preparation, but long enough to enjoy the whole event. It was very well organised and all the members were great, really respectful and the well wishes we received made the team feel very proud and honoured.” *Martin Atkinson.*

“To be part of the team for the most prestigious match in domestic football was fantastic. The weekend will live in the memory bank for a very long time that’s for sure. The girls I know enjoyed the whole weekend and it was nice that they were recognised with some flowers at the Rally.” *Lee Probert.*

A thoroughly enjoyable weekend and a match that went very well; low key with highly effective refereeing and leadership by Martin. The Eve of Final Rally was a great celebratory occasion, a chance to meet colleagues and friends. The short speeches by David Dein and David Elleray were excellent and perfectly pitched. *Adam Watts.*

AN ENCOUNTER WITH PIERLUIGI COLLINA

During the Eve-of-Final Rally, the President David Elleray made a request for some young referees to assist him with an assignment on the morning of the European Champions League final. Needless to say, there was no shortage of volunteers and a group of eleven gathered at sponsors MasterCard's PR consultants' offices in London, along with Board member Bart O'Toole who co-ordinated the group on behalf of the RA. Here they met with UEFA Chief Referees' Officer Pierluigi Collina for a discussion on refereeing.

One of the group, 19 year-old Tom Cartwright who has just been promoted to level 5 and is a member of Mid-Herts RA, provided this account of the meeting:

"Pierluigi first emphasized the importance of being prepared for anything and everything before games, including being physically fit. It is imperative that we are in the right position to give the right decision, or at least sell our decision! He explained how the game and refereeing have developed since 1930. The referee in the first world cup final refereed the game in a dark suit! This was because referees then were more like judges. Refereeing gradually demanded greater athleticism, with referees being expected to keep closer to play whilst making decisions. Pierluigi said refereeing had evolved further during his career to require more than an athlete making decisions, but someone who truly understands football.

We then asked a wide range of questions such as 'how do you get over a mistake?' When asked 'what is your opinion on goal line technology' he said this was a decision for IFAB alone; it was vital that technologies should be good enough if this is introduced.

He hoped that the additional Assistant Referees currently being trialled with UEFA would continue in the game and said it could develop into wider use; it offered a great alternative to the use of technology.

Finally, Pierluigi personally signed copies of his book 'The Rules of the Game' which had been presented to us. It was a fascinating and inspirational experience and offered a valuable insight into the rigorous demands of refereeing at the highest levels."



Young Members with Pierluigi Collina

Back row left to right
Kerry Downes (Basildon RA)
Alex Flett (AFA/North Middlesex)
Pierluigi Collina
Tom George (South Herts)
Tom Cartwright (Mid Herts)
Calum Chittenden (Mid Herts)
Adrian Waters (Hemel Hempstead)

Front row left to right
Andrew Hickman (Harrow)
Dave Harrison (Southend)
Ralph Holland (Basildon)
Jamie Starr (South Herts)
Frank Holland (Basildon)

HOWARD AT THE PALACE

"We had a fabulous day on 11 May at Buckingham Palace when receiving my MBE from the Prince of Wales.

It was a proud day for all of us and I felt honoured to be a representative of the refereeing family in receiving the award for services to football. I certainly feel that it was recognition for all referees who are doing such an important job week in, week out, all over the country. It was also testimony to the fabulous job Darren and Mike did in South Africa in assisting me to secure the Final appointment."



MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

It is pleasing to note that the first figures for the new membership year (to 31 May) that have been sent to Secretaries show an increase of almost 9% (4793 v 4406) compared with the same time last year. 6 ABSs are already showing an increase in their membership compared with the end of last season and many others have re-registered the majority of their members. These points provide good cause for optimism and hopefully an even more positive picture can be reported in the August Digest.

It does, however, mean that only 45% of last year's Full members have so far re-registered. One CRA and more than 60 individual ABSs have not yet registered any members for the new year.

This shows once again that we have many ABSs who take prompt action to collect and pass on subscriptions, but many others who appear lax in their approach, which is not very helpful to the Association or to their own members. ABS Secretaries and Treasurers are reminded that it is now even more essential that subscriptions are paid over to Head Office as soon as they are collected from members.

The recruitment leaflet shown top right is available from Head Office in printed or electronic format.

Members are reminded of two fundamental changes to the benefits of Full membership of the RA:-

Physiocare Scheme:

Available as an option for just £5 p.a., which can be added to your RA subscription at any time during the year.

All referees run the risk of sustaining an injury preventing them from being able to referee for a period of time. If you sustain a musculoskeletal injury (MSI) your IPRS PhysioCare cover is there to provide you with clinically necessary physiotherapy treatment, to enable you to return to refereeing as soon as possible.

To be covered your MSI must prevent you from being able to perform your duties as a referee for at least five consecutive days and must have occurred whilst you were either:

- i) travelling to and from a game in which you were officiating, or
- ii) refereeing a game, or
- iii) training, or
- iv) on recognised referee's society business



You are entitled to the following:-

- Unlimited free access to the IPRS Rehab injury website for the period of your PhysioCare cover
- An initial physical assessment followed by up to 4 treatment sessions for each covered MSI
- Up to 4 separate, non-related MSIs in each annual Agreement Period

If IPRS intervention is appropriate they will refer you for treatment into their network of Associate Practices. Please note that, under this Agreement, you will not be able to recover the cost of any treatment that you arrange yourself.

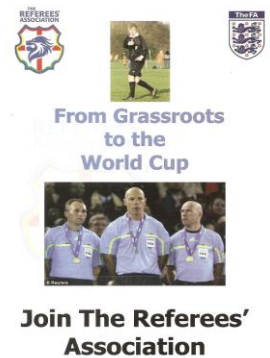
Further details can be obtained from the RA website or from ABS Secretaries who should ensure that all their members and prospective members are made aware of this scheme. Full members may take up the option to join the scheme via their ABS at any time on payment of £5, even after annual subscriptions are paid to Head Office.

RA-FA Incentive Scheme

From season 2011/12, this scheme is only available to Full RA members. It is operated by the FA to encourage referees and the 'support family' of tutors, mentors, assessors and coaches to be more active within their roles. Points are awarded to scheme members for matches they officiate in (up to assistant on a Supply League) and also for attending RA meetings, in-service training and also in encouraging the recruitment and support of other referees. These points are exchanged for referees' kit, equipment and other items from various suppliers including the RA.

The scheme has now been running for nearly eight years and last season had over 16,000 members. If most of those continue in the scheme, we will see a considerable increase in Full membership of the RA, to the benefit of us all. Everyone should therefore encourage their colleagues to join. Existing scheme members will shortly receive a communication regarding their participation in the scheme for the new season but will need to ensure their subscription is paid to their local ABS. On average, the amount of this subscription will easily be covered by the value of goods obtained through the scheme.

Any registered referee who is not currently a member of the incentive scheme may apply to join by e-mailing RA-FA@theFA.com confirming name, address and RA-FA (formerly known as FAMOA) number.



HELP AT HAND – A Case Study

“As with most RA Board members I wear a number of hats; for the RA and the FA, one of these for the FA being Assessor Co-ordinator for the West Midland Supply Pool. I organise assessments, with my team, for some 100 level 4 referees throughout the Midlands.

Following an assessment in the latter stages of last season a referee contacted me to say he was very disappointed with his assessment, there had been a number of problems in the game, including a mass confrontation involving most of the players. Unfortunately, the young referee, at his own admission, had not had a ‘good game’ and as expected was very ‘down’, the way most referees feel following a ‘bad’ game.

I sympathised with the referee, changed hats and looked at how I could turn this very big ‘negative’ into a ‘positive’ to help develop a very promising, young, level 4 referee. To do this I turned to his local Society, liaising with their Chairman and the local County FA RDO; both being excellent, offering full support to the referee. They immediately arranged for the referee to officiate a local under 18 game, with Society members present to offer support, one of whom was a relatively young FA Premier League Referee.



I also made the Supply League Appointments Officer aware of the situation and he kindly appointed the referee to a re-arranged game. Again the Society supported the referee and their Premier League Referee also attended the game to provide further support for the referee. This game went really well for the referee. Sadly, there was another mass confrontation and the referee dealt with the incident very well, implementing all the advice he had been given. With this excellent support from the referee’s Society he produced a performance better than expected and his confidence has returned.

This was a great example of the support that our ABS’s offer members and it was gratifying to see a dejected level 4 referee accept advice and then implement it to enhance his own development.

The most satisfying part was when the referee phoned to thank me for all my help. Whilst accepting his thanks, it was not me that achieved this, but all the people involved, without whose support I could not have helped the referee. In conclusion I would like to pass on my thanks to the Society; their actions personified our motto, ‘Service before Self’.

This could happen anywhere in the Country, although hopefully through the RA, help will always be at hand.”

Nigel Genner, Board Member



BLUE LAMP FOUNDATION

Pictured left are the two teams prior to a match between Northumberland RA and Durham RA on Sunday 1 May.

The match raised just under £1500 for the Blue Lamp Foundation, the charity for criminally injured Emergency Services personnel, founded by Cramlington RA member P.C David Rathband who was blinded while on duty in Newcastle last summer.

The match was refereed by former Premier League AR Barry Sygmuta and his assistants were two young Hexham RA members Kate Brooks and Laura Graham.

Many members will have seen the courage shown by David in the media nationally and we wish him well in all his endeavours.

GUEST SPEAKERS

You may like to know that during last season, Select Group referees made presentations at 110 Society meetings and 45 RA-FA events. We are grateful to Mike Riley and PGMOL for this support that our top referees are giving the RA.

Many ABSs will now be considering their programme of meetings for next season and are reminded that there is a protocol for inviting Select Group officials, using the form provided which can be obtained from Head Office. Use of this protocol is also recommended when inviting other guest speakers.



REFEREE DEVELOPMENT IN THE LAND OF THE RISING SUN by Keith Hill, former FA Regional Manager and National List Referee



"I arrived in Japan on 26 March, after a week's delay due to the earthquake & tsunami, to begin my 2 years here in Japan working for the JFA / J-League. I was keen to see as

much football and refereeing as possible, and I have certainly done that! From J-League to local football, international matches and women's football; I have already travelled up & down the country. I have visited the Chiba RA (about 1 hour east of Tokyo), at the request of Yasuhiro Matsuzaki (Chairman of JFA Referees' Committee & Head of Refereeing) who is a member there; I joined in with one of their fitness sessions, and I will shortly be meeting up with the Tokyo RA, which includes referee Yuichi Nishimura (2010 World Cup Final 4th Official).

My primary role here is the development of referees who officiate in the J-League and the top levels of refereeing with an eye on the promotion of the English ethos & style of refereeing. I am also tasked with cascading down to the 9 JFA regions and their instructors, the GTT (Generic Tutor Training) principles that we use in England to underpin the delivery of referee training & development programmes - this is crucial for the development of referees here into the future. I also manage the PGMOL / Japan FA Referee Exchange Programme and other JFA Exchange Programmes.

The overall standard of refereeing here in Japan is very good, with a clear passion from the match officials to do a very good job. They are all very proud of the role they play here in the game. I too share that pride and passion.

At this very difficult time for the Japanese nation, I am determined to ensure that my commitment and contribution will assist in the further development of refereeing in Japan and football in general. Things are tough here following the terrible events of 11 March when the earthquake & subsequent tsunami struck the eastern coast but this stoic nation is facing up to the challenges it faces with a positive attitude, one which I am proud to be sharing in.

The structure of refereeing in Japan is very different to England. Here, there are around 210,000 referees registered across the country at 4 levels. The vast majority (over 175,000) are Level 4 referees officiating in local football who have mainly come into refereeing from clubs that must nominate candidates to be referees in order that their teams can play.

At Level 1 (first class) there are 155 referees operating on the Regional Leagues, the Japan Football League and upwards to the J-League. 36 of these operate in the J-League (22 on J-1 & J-2 and 14 on J-2 only). Of the 22 J-1 referees, 10 are on professional contracts with the JFA. Every two weeks, along with other JFA colleagues, I meet with these referees at the Professional Referees Camp at the J-Step Sports Complex in Shizouka.

Here, we review performances as well as participating in physical training and development. The model is very much based on our own Select Group.

The demand on the professional referees is high with the majority of them being FIFA referees, operating throughout the immense Asian FC Confederation. An AFC appointment is a large commitment, for example a match in Thailand is a 4-day trip in total with 7 hour flights each way, with flights to matches in the Middle East or Australia being even longer!



Keith (right) with officials at a match de-brief.

Training & development investment here is large with the nine Regional Training Centres holding regular courses for aspiring referees at Level 2 & Level 3, as well as combining this with instructor development. Overseen by three training directors, the nine regions are co-ordinated to deliver weekend courses on a regular basis. I have now visited and delivered training on courses in three of the regions; at Nagoya in Tokai Region, Hiroshima in Chugoku Region and Tomakomai in Hokkaido Region. The referees and instructors on these courses are very keen to learn and develop themselves which is the key for progression and improvement, wherever you are. I am honoured to be working here in Japan at this difficult time in the nation's history - the earthquake & tsunami certainly weren't in the plan when I agreed to come and work for the Japanese FA!"

A fuller version of Keith's article can be found on www.footballreferee.org. This includes a moving account of his experiences in accompanying Japan FA Women's FIFA Referee Nami Sato back to her village which had been washed away in the tsunami. At the time of the tsunami striking the area, Nami had been in Jordan officiating in an AFC tournament. Nami lost her grandmother to the tsunami and on returning to Japan, found that her home had been totally washed away, along with around 300 others in her small village.

Keith has been passing the Digest on to the referees in Japan and our best wishes go to them all at this difficult time.

REFEREES' GOLF DAY

"A great day was enjoyed by all those who played on 1 June in super weather on a Staverton Park golf course which was in excellent condition. Players travelled from all over the country to play in the Competition.

Nearest the pin and the Raffle were both won by Gary Parish, a Premier League assessor from Essex with the Longest Drive going to a real bandit from Preston, Richard Aspinall, who is a newly promoted Level 6 referee.

The main prizes were taken by Gary Nowak with 37 points - he came 3rd, late entry Joe Archibald scored 37 points for 2nd and the top prize going to Colin Wood from St Helens who scored 38 points from his ' 8 ' Handicap.

Great thanks to all those who played and to the PGMOL, the RA and the FA who contributed to the prizes. The competition will be organised again next year."

By Andrew Newell



HUDDERSFIELD RA AWARDS

Huddersfield & District RA recently held a celebration dinner at which awards were presented to two of its members by RA General Secretary, Arthur Smith.

Rodney Smith received his award for Life Membership of the RA as well as 50 years service. Neil Simpson received the 50 year membership award.

Rodney is Secretary of Huddersfield RA and has also held the position of Secretary of West Riding CRA for over 40 years.

Pictured are (l to r) Brian Whitaker, Huddersfield RA President; Neil Simpson; Rodney Smith and Arthur Smith.



LADIES IN THE NEWS

Natalie Walker

Congratulations to Natalie from Blackpool RA, who has been appointed as an Assistant Referee on the FIFA Womens World Cup which starts in Germany later this month. We wish Natalie good luck for a successful tournament and hopefully we can include a report in the next Digest.



Wendy Townsend

Wendy, (*right*) who is Secretary of Colchester Referees Society, has been elected Vice Chairperson of Essex County RA.

36 year-old Wendy is very active in her refereeing, in men's and women's football; as well as being an assessor, level 1 tutor and mentor. She says: "I am looking forward to my new role and very honoured to be the first female to hold this position with Essex RA."

We know of a number of female ABS Secretaries and Treasurers, but are there any others that hold office at County RA level? Please let the Editor know.



Womens FA Cup Final



Officials pictured after the Womens FA Cup Final at the Ricoh Arena, where Arsenal beat Bristol Academy 2-0.

Left to right: Sian Massey (referee), Sarah Hollins (AR), Sarah Garratt (4th official) & Lucy May (AR).

FA VASE FINAL

Once again, the officials wore RA kit for the FA Vase Final.

Pictured are left to right: Scott Mathieson (referee), Darren England (AR), Robert Madley (4th official) and Darren Bond (AR); along with the Whitley Bay manager and mascot before their 3-2 win over Coalville Town.

To purchase this kit and for all your other Supplies needs, go to www.RAShop.



FA CUP FINAL: WEMBLEY – SATURDAY 14 MAY 2011



Lining up between the captains, mascots and managers of Stoke City and Manchester City is our team of (l to r) Simon Beck, Martin Atkinson, Lee Probert and Adam Watts.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Please ensure this Digest is forwarded to all members and prospective members as soon as possible.

If your ABS is planning a sports or social event in the summer, or have other news that may be of interest to members; please let me have details, together with photographs.

I would again like to mention that the abbreviations ABS (Association, Branch or Society) and CRA (County RA) are used throughout the Digest and in other RA communications to save space.

Thank you

Colin Harris

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