

**MINUTES of the MEETING of GUILDFORD REFEREES SOCIETY
held on MONDAY 6 APRIL 2009 at GODALMING TOWN F.C.**

Chairman Geoffrey Comley opened the meeting at 7.52pm with 22 members present. He welcomed our Guest Speaker for the evening, Tim Lawrence and then made reference to the sad news that one of GTFC's star strikers over the years, Paul 'Paddy' Hampshire, had just died aged 47.

Adrian Freeman advised us that Steve Nanson's wife had just given birth to baby Eva, so congratulations!

Apologies for absence were received from Messrs. C.West, Henderson, Nanson, Hobbs and Feast.

The minutes of the March meeting were printed in the Magazine. They were proposed Steve Ferris and seconded Brian Slyfield that they be accepted as a true record.

Matters arising – there were three from the Secretary – RA Tickets were still available and he urged everyone to buy whatever they can. The Martin Bland presentation on pro zone at Sutton had been a very good and interesting evening. Feedback from the Disciplinary road show on 25 March had been very positive. Indeed Tim Lawrence advised that there would be another two sessions on the subject next season.

Hon Secretary's report – Brian advised that Chris North had been promoted from level 6 to 5 and Barny Leavers had gone from level 7 to 6. Congratulations to both. County Cup Final appointments had now all been confirmed and Guildford had several members involved.

Please get your County registration forms back as soon as possible.

There would be no County 6-a-side tournament this year as only 5 Societies had shown an interest.

If you want a ticket to watch any of the County Finals then you must contact Mike Jerney.

Hon Treasurer's report – the books had gone for Audit/verification, but we had ended the year with £4,100. There was an imbalance of £67 which hopefully will be sorted by the AGM. For the new season we now had 42 members and one associate and the Treasurer thanked all of those who had registered so quickly.

Magazine Editor – asked members to consider articles for the next season i.e. send him anything for the August edition onwards.

Training – 90 candidates in the area had been trained so far this season. Some concern was expressed that appointments for new, younger Referees on the Surrey Primary League was not quite what it should be? Referees were not getting games. It was agreed that we would write to the SPL Secretary with our concerns, copy Martin Reed.

Delegates Report – from the meeting held on 29 March, Chairman Geoff Comley in attendance for us:

- An assessing co-ordinator for the East of the County to succeed Phil Sherlock was still required.
- It was felt that there was still not enough ‘grassroots’ news etc in the Football Refereeing Magazine.
- Adding your email address to the County registration forms was not compulsory, but County did find these addresses useful.
- Schools matches disciplinary forms should be sent to County.
- West Middlesex Society meeting on Monday 7 September at BP Sunbury will have Howard Webb as the Guest Speaker.
- The Delegates AGM will be held on Monday 1 June.
- Delegates felt that the latest edition of the SCFA/RA Newsletter was very good.

Match Incidents – Steve Ferris (on behalf of Martin Feast) advised about a game which despite the issuing of six cautions had been going OK, when a player took a quick free kick which struck an opponent who was still being spoken to by the Referee. The Referee issued a second yellow to this player for delaying the free kick. Members felt that this was particularly harsh.

Steve himself then advised of a game he’d had where he’d sent off a player but the player really had nowhere to go in terms of clearing the ‘vicinity’ as per law so Steve was prepared to leave him on the line. Subsequently there was a commotion at a throw in and when Steve investigated this player was involved in what turned out to be an incident involving a racist remark; indeed the player claimed to be a Nationalist. Steve had not heard the remark but said that the incident would be still be reported as this involved a racist remark. Meeting felt that Steve was absolutely right to report the matter despite not having heard the words, but in hindsight the player should have been banished from the line at the sending off in the first instance. (Appreciate your honesty and openness on sharing this one with us Steve).

The question was asked about where to send disciplinary forms for games played at the Fulham and Chelsea Academies. County Office or The Football Association? We’ll find out and report back.

AOB – Roger Hall remains concerned that the wearing of the ‘Respect’ armbands by captains is not as it should be in Senior Football. Indeed he cited the recent England International where the captain was not wearing this armband.

Martin Feast was looking for Referees for the Liphook Tournament on May 30/31.
HALF TIME.

The second half of the meeting was led by our guest Tim Lawrence who presented on Assistant Referees and Fourth Official responsibilities. A summary of the learning’s from Tim appeared in the May Magazine. Brian Fish thanked Tim for an excellent inter-active session and this was fully endorsed by those present.

Martin Tribe had the winning ticket but selected the wrong key in the Draw. **The meeting closed at 10.02pm.**

