

**MINUTES of the MEETING of GUILDFORD REFEREES SOCIETY held on MONDAY 13  
OCTOBER 2008 at GODALMING TOWN F.C.**

**Chairman Geoffrey Comley** opened the meeting at 7.56pm with 25 members present. He welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were five **apologies for absence** – John Thornton, Neil Oxtoby, Andrew Connor, Steve Smith and Sam Hourigan. The minutes of the September meeting were printed in the Magazine. It was proposed Martin Feast and seconded Steve Ferris that they be accepted as a true record. There were **no matters arising**.

**Hon. Secretary's report** – Brian advised that the RA now had 9,950 members (this compares to 12,560 at the close of last season). SCRA has 404 members (compared to 545 at the end of last season) though one Society had still to commit its' members to the Association.

South Bedfordshire's proposed motion at Conference 2007 had been discussed in detail and Brian would endeavour to get a précis of these deliberations in time for the November Magazine. The proposal was about a switch from being the 'RAE' to being the 'RA'. Conference 2009 will be held on 11 July in Solihull. The County FAMOA evening will be held on 13 November at Sutton United F.C.

**Hon. Treasurer's report** – numbers were as per Magazine. Contact had been made with Tim Whelan and the admin. was being progressed to secure our merger cheque from 2007. Tim sends his best wishes to all members and hopes your season goes well.

**Magazine Editor** – articles were requested for inclusion in the December Magazine. Also, he had still to write to various printers for quotes on printing.

**Training Report** – Tony advised that the last course had seen 24 candidates pass. The next course will be held on 30/31 Jan 1/2/3/ Feb 2009. Full details are on the SCFA website through RDO Tim Lawrence. Ray Cotton queried RA presence at the course(s) and Brian emphasised that the SCRA have an open invitation to all courses and when Delegates and Society Officers were available, they did indeed attend.

There had been a further 47 candidates passing the courses since July 1, making 71 in total to date. In total numbers, County now had 1156 registered Referees of which 871 were active males and 17 were active females. We have 72 Mentors and 54 Assessors.

**R.A. Delegates** – key bullet points from the meeting held on 22 September were:

- the DVD about offside had been shown at most Societies and was seen as successful
- the County 5s tournament now confirmed for 11 January 2009 at Woking, 3pm kick off
- SCRA is still looking for a Mentor co-ordinator for the Fulham Academy
- Liaison meetings across the country were now being arranged and ours will be in London in December
- Colin Harris is the new Editor of The RAE Digest

- The Surrey Elite League was now well covered with Referees
- An RA display stand is to be used at future County Cup Finals

**Supplies Officer** – Cyril had a new supply of socks at £4-95. In addition he had copies of the 2008-09 FIFA LOAF at £3 for those wanting copies.

### **Match Incidents/Problem Corner –**

Martin Feast was cautioning a player who refused to give his name. The Team Captain gave the players name, but the offending player continued to moan at Martin. A second caution was issued and the player was sent off. Martin simply wanted reassurance that he had acted correctly. Members fully endorsed his action.

Tony Ireland had recently attended a disciplinary hearing for an incident he had seen when acting as Assistant Referee. The Commission were full of praise for the quality of his report, which detailed a sending off offence that the match Referee had not seen. Tony was very surprised to hear that the player had 'got off' on the basis that the case was not proven. In instances such as this he urged all Referees to complete the available questionnaire about Hearings and this request was supported by Vic Rolland.

Roger Farmer outlined a situation in one of his games where a substitute came on in the second half wearing only one glove. When Roger made enquires he discovered that the player was protecting an inhaler within the glove. Roger did not want the player to carry this whilst playing and asked him to give it to the Team Manager for use if needed. Members agreed that this was the correct action and even agreed that if the Manager spotted the player was in trouble then just get on to the Field and assist him.

Martin Feast reminded everyone to check with County if you are asked to officiate in small sided tournaments to ensure that they are fully sanctioned. If they are not, then don't get involved.

Geoff Comley posed the question, "Are you fit to Referee?" The background to this was that with match fees at £30, Clubs were entitled to expect Referees to try their best to deliver and he had heard comments that in all instances we were not. Indeed both John Taafe and Brian Slyfield had seen games where seemingly fit Referees had not gone much beyond the centre circle and this had "been noticed" by those watching. **HALF TIME**

**Second half** - Our Guest Speaker for the evening, Steven Cook, had received a late Football League 4<sup>th</sup> Official appointment so could not be with us. Instead we split into 5 groups and responded to several questions about how we would deal with interference from sources other than the players. A summary of our output is listed elsewhere in this copy.

Congratulations to Richard Garland who had the winning ticket and selected the right key in the draw so took away the £100 prize. **The meeting closed at 10.13pm.**