



The Referees' Association of England

News Digest - February 2009

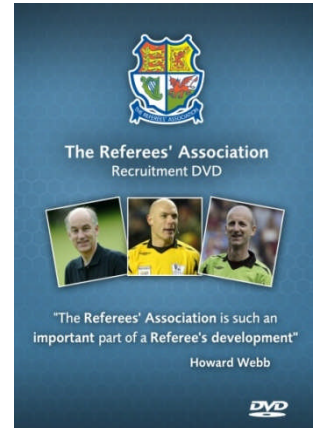
RECRUITMENT DVD

All ABS and County Secretaries, as well as County FAs and FA Licensed Instructors should soon receive a copy of this DVD, which has been produced jointly by the FA and RA. Most of this was filmed at the highly successful RA Centenary Conference with an introduction from RA President David Elleray. It also includes messages from Howard Webb shortly after his successful appearances at Euro 08 and Mike Riley whose support of the benefits in membership of the Association is beyond doubt.

Making participants on a Basic Referees' Course aware of the support and assistance that is available from the RA is vital when they embark upon what hopefully will be a long and successful career as a referee. The FA have agreed that a suitable period of time will be allocated at an early stage on each Basic Course for the DVD to be shown to candidates by a representative of the local RA.

The presentation runs for about 8½ minutes and further time should be allowed for questions and for the course members to complete the Referees' Association enrolment application forms.

A supply of recruitment leaflets which incorporates a membership application form is being sent under separate cover; this includes space for adding local contact details (e.g. R&R Officer). The DVD and the leaflet should provide local Societies with an excellent opportunity to promote the Referees' Association and encourage new referees to join. Please also remember that newly-qualified referees who join the RAE before 1 April 2010 are entitled to a £10 voucher (full membership) towards the purchase of supplies through the RA Shop.



Refereeing Magazine

All members should now have received this latest edition and I am sure will agree with the introduction from our President that it contains a variety of stimulating and educational articles, including several from our top referees on red card offences.

I hope you will also be pleased that the RA have been able to contribute more and this should continue in future issues, providing there are items that you want to read about. If you have any ideas for the RA section of Refereeing, or for the News Digest, please let me know.

Members of the RAE not registered with a County FA can obtain a copy of *Refereeing* magazine by informing their ABS Secretary, who should advise Head Office.

Refereeing is produced and despatched at no cost whatsoever to the RA or RAE.

Congratulations



To Stuart Attwell (left) and Andre Marriner (right) who have been appointed for the first time to the FIFA list of Referees for 2009; also to Simon Beck who has been appointed to the FIFA Assistant Referees List.

Congratulations are also due to two of our top lady officials; Helen Fulcher, who has been appointed to the FIFA Womens Referees List and Sian Massey to the Assistant Referees List.



Many members who were present at the 2006 Conference at Warwick will no doubt remember Sian giving a talk entitled 'Help me be England's Referee for the World Cup 2014'. It seems that Sian has already taken some big steps towards this aim.

Congratulations are also due to the officials appointed to the Football League Cup final between Manchester United and Tottenham Hotspur at Wembley on Sunday 1 March. Chris Foy will be the referee, with Peter Kirkup and Andy Butler as his assistants and Andre Marriner as 4th Official.

Membership Update: Now is the Time.....to start thinking about next season.

RAE annual membership expires on 31 March 2009 and the new membership year starts on 1 April. The full RAE Membership fee, including the RA Personal Accident Insurance premium **remains at £15 per member** for all members below the age of 75.

Members are reminded that anyone whose subscription has not been received at Head Office by 31 May will NOT be covered by the RA Group Personal Accident Insurance Policy and cover will only be resumed when payment **arrives at RA Head Office**. Members are urged to renew their subscription either before the new membership year commences on 1 April, or as soon thereafter as possible. Local societies should forward payments to Head Office promptly to ensure the continuity of insurance cover for members, not just for end of season matches but for tournaments and organised training that takes place during the close season.

It is also suggested that local Societies communicate with those referees in their locality who are not currently in membership, to encourage them to join.

The total number of RAE members as at the end of January 2009 was 10,744, 3% less than at the end of January 2008. The total membership at the end of March 2008 was 11,284, so we are just 540 short of reversing the continued reduction in membership that we have experienced since 2000. It would be a welcome achievement to reach last year's membership figure again by the end of March 2009; the newly-qualified referee initiative should be able to assist ABSs to achieve this.

Around the country there are currently a large number of candidates attending basic courses. With the new Recruitment DVD featured on page 1 to help promote the RAE and the offer of the voucher towards supplies for all newly-qualified referees, ABSs have every opportunity to get these new referees on board.



The recruitment of new members and the retention of existing members must be undertaken by local societies who are best placed to contact members and non-members alike but there is no doubt that the support of the County RA and National RA is vital.

We all have a part to play in seeking to increase membership, not only next season but every season, to ensure that our Association is best placed to meet the challenges of the next 100 years.

F&GP Committee

On the first Sunday of the New Year the committee met in Bart O'Toole's Chambers, housed in a Grade 1 listed building in London's Temple area which was the first to be constructed by Sir Christopher Wren after the Great Fire of London. It is often used in the filming of TV programmes.

The Committee's main functions, which took up most of the day's discussions, were Finance and Membership levels.

Committee Chairman and RAE Treasurer Richard Blackman presented the up-to-date accounts of the Association for discussion. This was followed up by the proposed budget for the next financial year 2009-10.



The focus of the meeting then turned to membership figures and Colin Harris presented his regular report, which it was agreed should be circulated to all CRAs.

Discussion took place on the success of the voucher initiative for newly-qualified referees and to consider what else could be done to encourage referees to join the RAE, looking towards the new membership year starting on 1 April.

F&GP in action left to right: John Starkey, Colin Harris, Alan Poulain, Richard Blackman, Bart O'Toole.

The Committee is responsible for a range of other issues and plans were considered for the 2009 Board election and, with the deadline of the end of January, in anticipation of any proposals for Rule Changes and Notices of Motion that might be received for the AGM.

Members of the Committee went their separate ways at the end of a very constructive day and in anticipation of another interesting year ahead.

Eve-of- Final Rally – Friday 29 May: Hotel Russell, London, WC1B 5BE

Guest Speaker – To be announced

The Rally is held to honour the FA Cup Final officials and give their fellow referees the opportunity to pay tribute to them less than 24 hours before the “match of their lives”, as well as meeting other top referees.

The highlight of the evening is when the Cup Final referee addresses the Rally after he and his team have received tributes and mementoes from the Chairman of the FA Referees’ Committee and our President David Elleray.

Tickets are priced at £10 each for adults and £5 for those aged 18 and non-members are welcome. The price includes a souvenir programme of the evening autographed by the FA Cup Final officials. Members can request a booking form from Head Office or book at www.rashop.co.uk. ABSs may obtain tickets on a ‘sale or return’ basis from Head Office.



2008 Officials pictured at the Eve-of-Final Rally, left to right:

Peter Kirkup - Reserve AR
Martin Yerby - AR
Mike Dean - Referee
Trevor Massey - AR
Chris Foy – 4th Official



RA Conference - Saturday 11 July: St. Johns Hotel, Solihull

Special Guest – John Motson

Following the success of last year’s Centenary event, we are delighted to announce that John Motson will be the Guest Speaker at the 2009 Conference Dinner.

The 2009 Conference theme is **‘Getting it Right’** and we will follow the popular format of recent years with workshops and presentations from our top Premier League officials, including some new faces, plus the chance to meet colleagues from all levels of the game.

This year’s workshops are being designed to include a significant degree of audience involvement.

The Conference Booking form will be ready for circulation by the end of February and members will be able to download this from the website.

The Board would like to thank the PGMOL Ltd., for their most generous support for the Eve of Final Rally and for Conference.



PROFESSIONAL GAME
MATCH OFFICIALS

Proposed Alterations of Rules and Notices of Motion

Changes to the Constitution following the approval of the South Bedfordshire RA motion in 2007 are being submitted for consideration at the AGM. The proposals are being circulated to ABS Secretaries and it is imperative that all members are given the opportunity to read these. Any amendments must be submitted to the Board by 31 March.

Board Elections

The term of Office of three Board members will finish on 31 December 2009 and an election for members to fill the three vacancies will be held later this year. We feel sure that there are members who may have additional skills to enhance the Board and they are encouraged to seek election to assist with the administration and management of our Association.

Nomination papers have been issued to ABSs and can be downloaded from the RA Website.

RA Grand Draw 2009

Tickets, priced at £1 each in books of 5 were distributed to County RAs in December and should by now have been distributed to ABSs, further supplies of tickets are available from Head Office on request.

50% of the value of ticket sales is returned to ABS funds; this amounted to £16,704 following the 2008 draw, although it is disappointing that 107 out of 306 (over 1/3rd) of ABSs did not participate. The Board wish to encourage all members to participate in this fund raising activity by selling tickets to family and friends because the draw provides the opportunity to win any of 55 cash prizes ranging from £5,000 to £50. The chance of winning a cash prize is approximately 1 in 650, lower odds than at any time in the past.

There is a potential sales force of over 12,000 members throughout the 3 National Associations and if every member were to sell just 1 book of tickets we would increase the retained profit for the RA to almost £20,000 which would enable the Board to

- fund special projects
- help to keep subscriptions at the current level.
- consider increasing the prize fund next year

The winning tickets will be drawn at the Conference Gala dinner on 11 July and cheques will be sent to the winners within 14 days of the draw. Tickets counterfoils and money need to be with the promoter by 31 May.

RA Website

Websites are an increasingly important source of information, but can only be of full value if the information is kept up to date. Society Secretaries or their website managers are asked to ensure that all contact details on the RA website are kept up to date.

If any difficulty is experienced with the RA website, please contact Alan Poulain on alan.poulain@btinternet.com

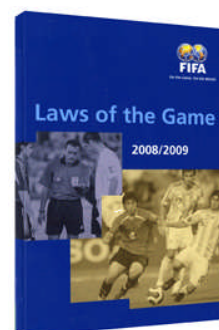
RAE Regional Quiz Qualifiers

In order to try and increase the number of teams participating, the Board have for this year agreed that in the event that a County is unable to supply a Society team, then a composite team representing the County RA may enter.

The International final, between the winners of the RAE regional competitions plus the representatives from Wales and Northern Ireland, will take place on Sunday 17 May 2009 at Stonebridge Manor Hotel, Coventry.

Regional qualifiers have now been arranged as follows:-

<u>Region</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Board Contact</u>
Mercia & West	Sun. 29 March	Almondsbury Sports Club, Bristol	Colin Harris colin_c_harris@hotmail.co.uk
Anglia & S.E	Sun. 5 April	Leatherhead F.C	Ray Mallery raymond.mallery@talk21.com
E.Mids/North	Sun 5 April	Parkland Sports & Social Club, Doncaster	John Harden johnharden65@hotmail.co.uk



Support from the RA family of referees

"Dear Mr Smith

I write to thank you with all my heart for the letter you sent me on the 7th January last, enclosing a cheque from the trustees of the Benevolent Fund. I am absolutely overwhelmed at the generosity of the trustees in thinking of me in such a way, and it is very hard to know what to say other than just a very warm "THANK YOU". I know you have been in touch with the local branch and their help too has been invaluable.

I had the accident on 11th November 2008 – I smashed the L1 (First Lumbar Vertebrae) of my spine, I was in hospital for 6 weeks until 21st December 2008. I am at present on crutches and have to wear a large brace, I will be unable to drive a car or lorry for a while and employment is out until after Easter at the earliest. However my GP and the spinal specialists and Physio's are hopeful of a return to refereeing/lining as a level 5 in time for the next season 2009-2010 next August.

Once again, my warm and grateful thanks to you and all your "fellow" trustees. I cannot believe the help and support given to me and it makes me proud and most humble to be a member of the RA. When members say what do I get from being a member, well I can tell you, help and support when you most need it from the best family I ever joined. I take this opportunity of offering my very best wishes to you for 2009."

This letter is typical of many received at the office from members who have suffered hardship but have been able to receive some consolation through membership of the RA.

The RA Benevolent Fund is a charitable trust administered by a group of Trustees and is maintained to provide partial financial relief to members and their dependents in cases of hardship. There is a continuing need for donations from Societies and individuals to maintain the fund which continues to be a lifeline to those members, and to their families, who find themselves in unfortunate and distressing circumstances. Donations can be made at any time to Head Office and will always be acknowledged.

The benefits available from the RA Personal Accident Insurance and the Benevolent Fund and are often overlooked until someone has to make a claim. The insurance policy is designed to provide assistance to those members who sustain an injury whilst refereeing, or who are the victims of theft of refereeing equipment. This applies not just whilst officiating but also when attending relative meetings or organised training.

The Board are pleased to confirm that agreement has been reached with the insurance company for the same level of cover to be provided for a further two years, with the premium remaining at £4.

A West Country member who sustained a serious leg injury whilst refereeing a local match and was off work for 6 weeks, received £125 per week after the initial 2 week excess period.

A member in the North who is a student recently received a payment of £180 following the theft of refereeing equipment from the changing room following a match he was refereeing.

These members and many others who have benefited from the RA insurance policy have been full of praise for the quick and efficient manner in which their claims have been dealt with by RA Head Office and the Insurance Company. Full details of the policy benefits can be downloaded from the RA website and your local ABS Secretary is able to help in making a claim.

Obituaries

The RA has lost a great stalwart in RA Life member Geoff White, who died on 20 January at the age of 76.

Geoff will be remembered by many for his forthright approach when making his point at the rostrum during the AGM. He was so proud when the RA held the 2005 Conference in his home town Southport where he arranged for the European Cup to be bought from Liverpool FC and shown to everyone at the Friday evening reception.

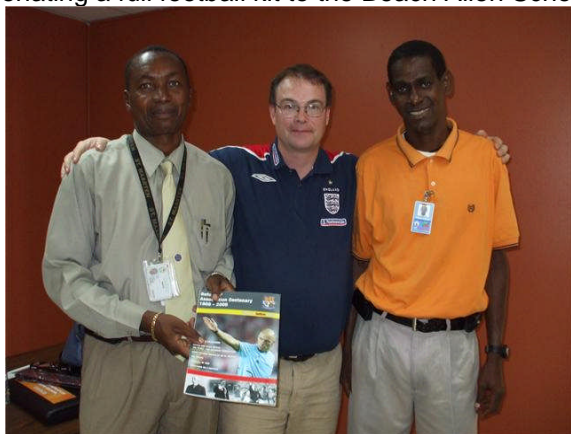
Geoff was also proud to receive his Life Membership Award from RA President David Elleray at last year's Centenary Conference. Geoff dedicated his life to the refereeing movement and encompassed the RA motto "Service before Self" to the full and will be sadly missed by all who knew and worked with him.

Our thoughts are with his wife Eveline and his family at this very sad time for them all. Geoff rest in peace.

The Board would also like to offer condolences to the families of the following members whose recent deaths have been reported: Jack E Cooke (Cambridge), Alan Nobbs (Lichfield), Bill Handley (Cannock), Danny Mangham (Bradford) and Ted Williams (Banbury).

News from Overseas

Whilst on a Caribbean holiday, Peterborough RA Chairman Robert Windle and his wife Julie took time out to meet local football officials on St Kitts. They were thanked personally by The Governor General Sir Cuthbert Sebastian OBE for donating a full football kit to the Beach Allen School in St Kitts.



Later in the day Robert met the local St Kitts Referees Association General Secretary and FIFA Instructor Anthony Rawlins who welcomed the initiative to form a link with Peterborough RA, initially through the internet and with a possible exchange in years to come. A final meeting was held with Clinton Percival of Newtown Utd, the current St Kitts and Nevis League Champions and an exchange of ideas and closer links were agreed.

The photograph shows left to right Anthony Rawlins (St Kitts R.A.) Robert Windle and Clinton Percival (Technical Director of Newtown Utd.)

Are there any other similar links with overseas branches, or meetings whilst on overseas trips? Please let the editor know.

Diary Dates – Secretaries are especially requested to take careful note of these dates:-

- March 31: Last date for the receipt at Head Office of amendments to proposed rule alterations or notices of motion
- April 1: Start of Financial Year - Membership subscriptions due
- May 16: RAE Board Meeting
- May 17: RA Quiz Final
- May 29: Eve-of-final Rally
- May 30: FA Cup Final
- May 31: Deadline for returning RA Draw tickets and counterfoils
- May 31: Insurance from previous year ends for 2008/9 members who have not renewed membership!
- July 10: RAE AGM - Solihull
- July 11: RA Conference - Solihull
- September 1: Last date for the receipt of nomination papers for election of Board members by RA General Secretary
- September 12: RAE Board Meeting
- November 15: Last date for the receipt of Voting papers for election of RAE Board members by RA General Secretary
- November 28: RAE Board Meeting

Editor's Note

News Digest has until now normally been published four times each year, following RAE Board meetings. This was to ensure that any key issues discussed and agreed by the Board can be communicated and also to make it easier to despatch by post to ABS Secretaries who are not on e-mail, together with other correspondence from Head Office.

However, as its' main purpose is to keep members informed of news and items of general interest, the News Digest will now be issued in each alternate month, the next issue being in April. Each issue will be posted on the RA Website and sent to each ABS & CRA Secretary and each Life Member. ABS Secretaries are asked to make their members aware of this and ensure those who do not have internet access are able to obtain a printed copy.

I would like to thank all those who have provided feedback on the News Digest, especially Phil Newman, a member of Worthing RA now in his 51st consecutive season of refereeing who wrote a very interesting and helpful letter. I welcome any comments on the Digest, or the RAE section of *Refereeing*. Space permitting I will print any that I feel might be of interest, so please state if you do not wish your comments to be published.

Please note that the acronyms ABS (association, branch or society) and CRA (county referees association) are used in the Digest in order to save space.

Kind regards
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