



# NEW SLETTER

April 2003

No. 36

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING .

Our A.G.M. was held in February when a very good attendance saw most of the Association's Officials re-elected. President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer were all re-elected unopposed and the only change to the Executive Committee was the election of James Waters filling the vacancy created when Roger Blythe was elected to Life Membership.

The Association's representatives on the local leagues and associations had three changes when Andy Howard replaced John Speight at the Spen Valley League, Tony Murphy took Graham Commons place at the W.R.R.A. and Stavros Patsaros replaced Darren Hawkins on the H.W.Gate Sunday League.

President, Kevin Thompson reported on a successful year which had not had as many outside speakers as normal but the use of members to give talks on various aspects of refereeing had been both interesting and rewarding. He thanked the members concerned.

Secretary, John Byrne backed up Kevin's remarks and thanked delegates who had represented the Association and had reported back to the meetings.

The Treasurer gave a rundown of the finances and said we had a very stable financial situation with a surplus of £129.52 for the year. He thanked members who sold tickets for the RA Prize draw which brought us a donation of over £100 and the monthly raffles which gave us a profit of £161 for the year.

R.A. subscriptions for next year are to be increased by 35p due to an increase in insurance costs and the W.R.R.A. subs are to increase from £1.00 to £1.50. However, it was decided to keep the total payable the same as last season, which really means that our local subscription is reduced by 85p. *(Full details are on the back page).*

Graham Tierney gave a vote of thanks to the retiring officials.

### Bevan Sykes

As most of you will now know Bev Sykes died on Monday, 21st. April .

Bev was a member of our Association from 1972 until 1985 when he gave up refereeing and concentrated on the Sunday football scene. He was a Life member of the Heavy Woollen District F.A. , a Founder member of the Heavy Woollen Sunday Football League and was President of the H.W. Gate Sunday Alliance Football League until his tragic death.

Bev will be sadly missed in local football circles especially on Sunday mornings and our sincere sympathy goes to his wife, Margaret, and his family.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR SEASON 2003-04.

Your Subscriptions for Season 2003-04 were due on 1st April. The amounts due are listed below.

Referees' Association	£7.00
Insurance	£2.85
West Riding Referees' Association	£1.50
Heavy Woollen R.A.	£5.65
TOTAL	£17.00

If you were a member for the present season you will still be insured until 31st May but for protection after that date you need to have paid the Subscription for season 2003-04.

If you are not refereeing and wish to become an Associate member these fees are reduced to £14.00

If you are over 60 years old you do not have to pay the West Riding R.A. fee of £1.50.

### To summarise :

- Active and under 60** : £17.00.
- Active and over 60** : £15.50.
- Associate under 60** : £14.00.
- Associate and over 60** : £12.50.

Please send your cheque, payable to H.W.R.A. to

Peter Hodgson, 14, Hollin Hall Lane, MIRFIELD, WF14 8EU.

## F.A.M.O.A.

What is happening to FAMOA ? This new idea was launched with much publicity in May last year and 10 regional managers were appointed by the FA to oversee this radical new approach to refereeing which would benefit all referees from the Premier League down to the young recruit.

There seemed to be an unlimited amount of cash available for this new innovation and there was an excellent day conference at Huddersfield, but since that time the FA appears to have had financial problems and the future of FAMOA is looking a little dodgy. I hear (unofficially) that the area managers who we have had dealings with in the past, Derek Bray and Vernon Crew, have been made redundant along with several others. There is no mention of this on the FAMOA website which, however, has not been updated for some time and is still advertising FAMOA conferences for June and July 2002. The latest newsletter dated February is very glossy with super pictures but really is not very informative and is just a list of addresses and dates.

I worry that it is not going to live up to its initial intentions.

## LAW 9.

Which law is the one most often disregarded?

I think it is Law 9 which concerns the ball in or out of play.

The law states that the ball should wholly cross the line before it is deemed out of play and this includes the actual thickness of the line, but how many times do we see assistant referees signal the ball out when it is only half way over the line. When the ball is partly across the line players and spectators appeal for a throw in and it is usually given.

It is a difficult law to put into operation as when the ball is over halfway across the line it is a natural instinct to wave the flag for a throw-in.

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.**

**Thursday, 1st May.** Wheatley Cup Final : Ossett Common Rovers v. Churwell Lions at Ossett Town. K.O. 7.30 p.m.

**Saturday, 3rd May.** W.R.C.F.A. Minor Cup Final : Harrogate v. Huddersfield at Woodlesford. K.O. 2.30 p.m.

**Sunday, 4th May.** Brook-Butler Semi-final : Thornhill Lees v. Overthorpe at Beck Lane. K.O. 10.30 a.m.

**Wednesday, 7th May.** Spen Valley Cup Semi-final. Mount F.C. v. Liquid F.C. at Liversedge. K.O. 7.00 p.m.

**Wednesday, 7th May.** Heavy Woollen Challenge Cup. Babes in the Wood v. Towngate at Ossett Albion. K.O. 7.30 p.m.

**Thursday, 8th May.** Spen Valley Supplementary Cup Final at Liversedge. K.O. 7.00 p.m.

**Saturday, 10th May.** Spen Valley Cup Final at Liversedge. K.O. 2.30 p.m.

**Sunday, 18th May.** Brook-Butler Cup Final at Beck Lane. K.O. 10.30 a.m.

**Wednesday, 30th July to Saturday, 2nd August.** Yorkshire Cup International Tournament at Leeds Road Playing Fields, Huddersfield. If you wish to officiate at this Tournament contact Mavis Ward (Telephone 01274 873987).

# CONGRATULATIONS !!!

This season's appointments in Cup competitions include the following members of our Association and our congratulations go to each one of them.

**F.A Youth Semi-final Referee** : Alan Kaye.

**F.A. County Youth Final Referee:** Martin Atkinson.

**F.A. Vase Semi-final Assistant Referee** : Phil Bramley.

**W.R.C.F.A. County Minor Cup Final Referee** : Paul France.

**W.R.C.F.A. County Cup Final 4th Official** : Dave Margetson.

**W.R.C.F.A. Sunday Cup Final Assistant Referee** : David Wright.

**Wheatley Cup Final Referee** : Gary Scott.

**Wheatley Cup Final Assistant Referees** : Dave Margetson and Andrew Dent.

**Wheatley Cup Final 4th Official** : Paul Hopkins.

**Brook-Butler Cup Final Referee** : David Wright.

**Brook -Butler Cup Final Assistant Referees** : John Swinden and Ronnie Wood.

**Blackburn Cup Final Referee** : Stephen Land.

**Blackburn Cup Final Assistant Referees** : Jamie Waters and Steven Holroyd.

**Spenn Valley Cup Semi-final Referee** : Stephen Land.

**Sonder Heating Cup Final Referee** : Andy Bennett.

**Sonder Heating Cup Final Assistant Referees** : Colin Heeley and Paul Hopkins.

**Spenn Valley Supplementary Cup Final Assistant Referee** : Andy Howard.

**Heavy Woollen Challenge Cup Final Referee** : David Wright.

**Heavy Woollen Challenge Cup Final Assistant Referees** : John Swinden and Stephen Blackburn.

**Gate Challenge Cup Final Referee** : Stephen Land.

**Gate Challenge Cup Final Assistant Referee** : Andy Bennett.

The list above has 18 members and it is good to see so many of our referees giving such good service to their respective Leagues and Associations that they have been rewarded in such a way. **Well done to all of you.**

**Congratulations** also go to **Stephen Land** and **Mike Hickling** who have both completed 25 years of continuous service as a referee. They each received a 25 year award from the County F.A.

Finally, our best wishes go to **Martin Atkinson** who has been promoted to the Nationwide Football League list of Referees.

**Did You Know That :-**

The first F.A. Cup semi-final to be held outside London was held in Huddersfield. It was between Blackburn Rovers and The Wednesday on 6th March 1882 and was held at the Rugby ground of Huddersfield Cricket and Athletic Club at Fartown.

When Leeds played Arsenal in the Centenary Year Cup Final in 1972 the cheapest admission ticket was £1.00 and the programme cost 15p.

## PENALTY REF !!!

No refereeing decision causes greater controversy or debate than a penalty. The reason is simple. A penalty more often than not leads to a goal and, therefore, is frequently vital to the destiny of a match. Consequently, it is crucial the referee does not make an error in his decision to give the penalty and, once the kick has been awarded, that he deals capably with often angry and frustrated players and makes sure the kick is conducted within the laws.

Once the referee has decided to award a penalty, he should make his intentions clear in a firm and positive manner. He should point to the penalty mark but that is all. Referees who point to the mark and then run towards it and stand over it are inviting problems as they are running into the area of greatest and most concentrated player dissent. The best procedure is to point to the penalty mark, perhaps move towards it for a pace or two and then move away in the direction you are going to stand to supervise the kick. The referee can still expect a great deal of dissent, but some of the players will feel there is nothing to be gained by chasing the referee half the width of the pitch.

The referee can often be faced with a posse of players disputing his decision and he must decide which one or ones he must caution. One trick that I have used quite successfully in the past is to walk a few further paces backwards. If, for example, five players have been disputing, often one of them will continue forward, still exchanging words, while the remaining four will abandon their torrent of dissent. The player who continues can be cautioned, but the referee must apply common-sense and not decide to caution huge numbers of players whenever they show the slightest disappointment at the decision to award a penalty.

If the kick is taken correctly and a goal is scored the best thing the referee can do is get the hell out of the area in front of the posts, by running backwards towards the halfway line. He must keep a continual eye on the players, in case there are any flare-ups. A slow walk or jog back to the centre circle often results in a series of disparaging remarks. The defending team will quite likely be unhappy, and there may be a need to issue cautions, but a rapid retreat will reduce the chances of having to punish players in this way. Work on the theory that what the ears do not hear, the heart does not feel.

A lot of players cheat in and around the penalty area. A forward who dives when under a perfectly legitimate challenge from a defender in the hope that the referee will award a penalty is cheating. It is natural perhaps, I but it is cheating. Many players have become expert at faking fouls. Let us make no bones about it, a player, when confronted by a goalkeeper or defender will often dive. They have developed their skills to such an extent that it is sometimes very difficult to distinguish between a genuine foul or a dive.

*This article was taken from a book by Football League referee, Keith Hackett, written in 1986. Things haven't changed much have they ?*

## Referees Association.

The Referees Association have announced that the magazine The Football Referee will be published bi-monthly from next season. There will be five issues in September, November, January, March and May. The publication will be enlarged from 16 to 20 pages and will cost £1 per issue.

The RA also hope to publish a newsletter which will be available by e-mail, to any member who would like a copy FREE OF CHARGE. The RA are planning to e-mail a trial issue to members requesting a copy during late June or early July. If the newsletter proves popular it is hoped to compile and distribute this in October, December, February, April and June each season.

TO GET YOUR COPY YOU MUST SEND YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS TO THE RA OFFICE OR, EVEN BETTER, YOU CAN ADD YOUR NAME DIRECTLY TO THE MAILING LIST BY GOING TO FootballReferee-join@referee.u-k.org

## Query !

Would you allow a player to wear long trousers if they are the same colour as the rest of the team's shorts ? If not, then why are goalkeepers sometimes allowed to wear track suit bottoms in bad weather.

## STOP PRESS.

I have just heard that J. Swinden and S.Holdroyd have been promoted from Grade 6 to 5 and J.Waters and A.Howard have been promoted from Grade 7 to 6.

**Well Refeed - Gentlemen.**