

THE LANCASHIRE REFEREES'
ASSOCIATION
(Founded 1922)

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE MEETING
HELD AT ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH CENTRE, HARPERS LANE, CHORLEY.
MONDAY 28TH JANUARY 2008

David Hodgkinson (Chairman) welcomed everyone to the Meeting. He wished everyone a Happy New Year!

892 Present

David Hodgkinson (Chairman), Stuart Nicolson (Vice Chairman), Colin Wright (Hon Secretary), John Clancy (Hon Treasurer), Joe Brothwood (Blackburn), Alan Armstrong (Blackpool), Keith Whittaker (Bolton), Kelvin Sarsfield (Burnley), David Barrett (Trustee/Bury), Graham Hargreaves (Chorley), Bill Ingiszi (Lanc& M'cbe), Duncan Tighe (Leigh), Brian Porter (Trustee/Rochdale).

893 Apologies

Dick Ditchfield (Life Member)

894 Minutes of the Meeting held on 26th November 2007.

The minutes were agreed.

895 Matters Arising

(1) **889 Referees' Chart (LOAF).**

It was reported the Referees' Chart could be purchased from the FA Publications Dept at Leeds, costing £2.10 each plus postage!

896 Correspondence

IN

- (a) RA - November 2007 membership figures.
- (b) LFA - Appointment of Dean Mohareb as the Referees' Development Officer.
- (c) RAE - Notification that the subs from 1 April 2008 would be £11.00 plus £4.00 for the Personal Accident Insurance (total £15.00). The new membership year starts on the 1st April! Every member joining during the 2008-2009 membership year will receive a commemorative coin to celebrate the centenary of the RA.
- (d) RAE - Remittance Advice/ membership registration Form.
- (e) RAE - Minutes of the Board Meeting 24 November 2007.
- (f) RA - Minutes of the Board Meeting 25 November 2008.
- (g) RAE - Summary of the County RA Questionnaire 2007.
- (h) RA - Sale of Obsolete Stock.

This will reduce the cash at the Bank (TSB) to £18.99. However there is still £24.50 in Benevolent Fund Subs to transfer to the Marsden (Charity Account), which will require a transfer from the Marsden Rainbow (General Account) rather than go into the red at Lloyds TSB.

Delegate's expenses for the March meeting will be defrayed from Petty Cash in Hand.

We have also purchased some Red & Yellow Cards at a cost of £100. Mr Ditchfield paid this account and I have reimbursed him from the Nationwide Building Society Supplies Account.

Some Societies have kindly paid the £1.00 subscriptions for new members as well as benevolent fund 25p subscriptions. However, you have before you a paper I have prepared relating to subscriptions generally, which we can discuss.

The Treasurer then circulated a paper for discussion.

The paper indicated that taking into account the income and expenditure for the year, a small loss on the year might be incurred of £26.51. However any income from sales plus transfer of money, a small profit might be achieved.

Overall this was the equivalent to a loss of 26 members on the year.

Following lengthy discussion it was indicated that there was over £6000.00 in the General Account and over £30,000.00 in the Benevolent Fund Account. In the circumstances it was agreed that there was no need to propose an increase in the capitation fee!

The Treasurer said that he would have to arrange for the David Barrett and Brian Porter to have their names added to the Marsden Building Society account now that they had been made Trustees of the LRA. The Charity Commission will also be notified when he receives the appropriate documentation.

It was agreed that the Treasurer would actively consult with David Scott to find another Auditor.

899 LFA/LRA Liaison Officer's Report

Alan Armstrong said that the next meeting at the LFA was in March!

The following items were discussed:-

- (i) The CRB checks are still ongoing,
- (ii) A national FA task force had been formed to look at Referee recruitment.
- (iii) The question regarding the expenses paid to an Accrington member who had attended a Disciplinary Commission had apparently been resolved.
- (iv) From September a barrier will have to be placed around Youth football pitches to ensure that parents, spectators, etc are kept away from the edges of the pitch!
- (v) It was felt that the LFA could do more to encourage referees to join their local Referees' Society.

(vi) A Referee had been fined £50 by the LFA for not attending a Disciplinary Hearing. There was a concern that this was a new policy introduced by the LFA and further details had been requested? A number of Delegates expressed considerable sympathy with the LFA, when they try to impose a penalty against a player, club, etc and the Referee lets them down by not attending a Disciplinary Commission even though he has advised them that he will attend!

900 **RA Report**

Keith Whittaker reported that he had attended the Liaison Meeting on 2nd December, which he had found very interesting and useful.

- 1) The question arose as to whether the a NW Regional Quiz could be organised in future, as part of the National Quiz?
- 2) He had the RA Draw tickets with him for distribution to Societies. Apparently Wigan wanted there tickets sent by post if a delegate was unable to attend! The Leigh said that he would arrange to pass them onto the Wigan Secretary.
- 3) The RA Centenary Conference is being held on 4th & 5th July with a Gala Dinner.
- 4) The new RA Web site is up and running!
- 5) The cost of the Personal Insurance for Referee's, for the forthcoming year, remains at £4.00.
- 6) From September 2008 only CRB registered referees would be allowed to officiate in matches. No emergency referees would be allowed! It was therefore suggested that each club should have a CRB registered referee!
- 7) Wigan Society had now joined the LRA, but unfortunately not the Benevolent Fund. The Treasurer was asked to advise the RA so that no further action would be taken against Wigan!
- 8) The RA had introduced a new kit that was proving very popular. A starter pack was available for £50.50.
- 9) It had been proposed by the RA that any Society who had been in existence for 100 years would receive an inscribed Block and Gavel.
- 10) It was also reported that RAE Board Members would be happy to visit any County RA meeting..
- 11) It had been requested that copies of the LRA minutes should be sent to the RA.

901 **Any Other Business**

(1) **Election of Officers**

The Secretary reported that the positions of *Vice-Chairman* and *Secretary* become vacant at the forthcoming AGM, in accordance with Rule 15 of the Constitution.

He said that he also wished to announce that he had decided, after being Secretary of the LRA for over 13 years, that he would not be standing for re-election.

(2) **Names of Delegates**

Following a request, it was agreed that the names of Delegates attending the Meeting would be published in future editions of the minutes.

(3) **Notices of Motions and Proposed changes to Rules**

The Secretary reported that whilst the closing date was 31st January, no Motions or proposed changes to Rules had so far been received. However the Rules Revision Committee would meet following tonight's meeting.

902 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be held on Monday 31st March 2008 at St Joseph's Parish Centre, Harpers Lane, Chorley, commencing 7.15pm.

The meeting closed at 9.27pm.

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Chairman
31st March 2008