

**THE LANCASHIRE REFEREE'S
ASSOCIATION
(FOUNDED 1922)**

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE MEETING
HELD AT ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH CENTRE, HARPERS LANE, CHORLEY
MONDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER 2007

David Hodgkinson (Chairman) welcomed everyone to the meeting. He explained that, as he was still recovering from a major heart operation, Stuart Nicolson (Vice Chairman) would be chairing the meeting.

869 Present

David Hodgkinson (Chairman), Stuart Nicolson (Vice Chairman), John Clancy (Hon Treasurer), Colin Wright (Hon Secretary), David Scott (Auditor). Delegates from Accrington, Blackburn, Blackpool, Bolton, Burnley, Bury, Chorley, Lanc/Morecambe, Leigh & Nelson/Colne. In addition there were 3 other members in attendance.

870 Apologies

Dick Ditchfield (Life Member) & Bill Ingiszi (Lancaster/Morecambe)

871 Obituaries

It was reported that Mr I T Smith, Accrington had died on Saturday 22nd September 2007. A minutes silence was observed.

872 Minutes of the Meeting held on 26th March 2007.

The minutes were agreed.

873 Matters Arising

- (i) It was reported that the FA are dealing with the issue of Identity Cards for Referees.

874 Correspondence

IN

- (a) LFA - Tickets for FA Cup Final 19th May 2007
- (b) RA - Membership figures for March 2007
- (c) RAE - Notice of AGM, Friday 8th June 2007
- (d) LFA - List of referee promotions
- (e) RAE - Letter from Richard Blackman; thanks for copy of LRA Society survey.
- (f) Blackpool Society - Draft Child Protection policy
- (g) RA - Minutes of AGM 27 April 2007
- (h) RA - Minutes of Board Meeting, 28th April 2007
- (i) RA - Conference papers
- (j) LFA - Papers for 2006/7 AGM

- (k) Bury Society - Details of new Secretary: -
 Sue Greenhalgh, (01204) 885658
 43 Rhine Close, secretary@buryreferees.org.uk
 Tottington,
 BURY BL8 3NP
- (l) Jeremy Simpson - Thank you for Red Roses for FA Vase Final, at Wembley
- (m) Accrington Society - Details of new Secretary: -
 Andrew Sanders, (01282) 869062
 58 Sheridan Road, accringtonreferees@fsmail.net
 Laneshawbridge,
 COLNE BB8 7HW
- (n) RA - RAE Boards minutes, RAE News Digest, Personal Accident Insurance
 Guidance, Personal Accident Enhancements Cover, Personal Accident
 Medical Declaration, Grand Draw Result Sheet & RAE Revised
 Constitution.
- (o) RAE - Minutes of AGM 8th June 2007
- (p) LFA - Tickets for Community Shield Final 5th August 2007
- (q) RAE - News Digest; August 2007
- (r) RAE - Annual Conference Feedback
- (s) RA - Membership figures for June 2007
- (t) RA - Membership figures for August 2007
- (u) RAE - Details of future Liaison Meetings
- (v) RA - Minutes of Extra Ordinary General Meeting 1st September 2007
- (w) RA - RA Constitution
- (x) RA - Minutes of Board Meeting 2nd September 2007
- (y) RAE - Minutes of Board Meeting 1st September 2007
- (z) RAE - County RA Questionnaire
- (aa) RA - Letter re Grand Draw 2008
- (ab) LFA - Details of the Assessors course 2nd September 2007
- (ac) RA - Details of ticket sales for 2007 Grand Draw

OUT

- (a) Accrington Society - Details of new Secretary recorded, request for E mail
 address.
- (b) All Exec Members - notification of Special General Meeting 24th September
 2007.

875 Secretary's Report

Items contained in correspondence.

876 Treasurer's Report

(a) Membership

Only one Lancashire Society has failed to join the Association - Wigan. The
 following Societies are in Membership:-

Accrington, Blackburn, Blackpool Fylde & Wyre, Bolton, Burnley, Bury,
 Chorley, Lancaster/Morecambe, Leigh, Nelson & Colne, Preston, Rochdale.

We are not sure what is happening in the Furness area?

(b) Benevolent Fund

The arrangements of the fund have not changed and it is individual members who make a voluntary contribution of 25p to the fund. Societies with members in the fund are:-

Accrington (46), Blackburn (0), Blackpool F & W (57), Bolton (65), Burnley (49), Bury (49) Chorley (28 inc 2 LRA LM), Lanc/Mcbe (41 inc 1 LRA LM), Leigh (37), Nelson/Colne (8), Preston (33), Rochdale (132), Wigan (0)

(c) Donation Bury Society £10.00

(d) Benevolence Paid Bury member, death grant £750, paid August 2007

(e) Cash at TSB £181.14 as at 24 September 2007

(f) Cash in hand (at start of meeting) £83.20

The new funding arrangements are working with only one Society not abiding by the Rules of the RA/RAE

877 LFA/LRA Liaison Officer's report

Alan Armstrong reported the following:-

(a) The LFA were introducing a new course for 4th Officials,

(b) 30 referees had been promoted to Level 5,

(c) Eric Hart had been re-appointed as the Chairman of the Referee's Cttee.

(d) **CRB** 905 referees are registered this season: some referees had found difficulty when completing the forms. As a result Referees are now requested to go to Leyland or attend a Society meeting to receive assistance when completing the forms!

It had been pointed out to a Local League Secretary, that Leagues would not be able to use casual referees on a regular basis. The regular use of referees would only be allowed providing they are CRB cleared. It was reported that there had been a very poor response to an invitation to club officials to complete the CRB clearance if they were refereeing on a regular basis.

The current cut off date when all referees must be CRB cleared is August 2008! It was therefore very likely that there will be a massive shortfall in the number of Referees available next season and games would have to be cancelled. Some Leagues do not appear to be aware of the implications! It was reported that all Supply League referees had been cleared.

It was confirmed that the CRB clearance lasts for 3 years.

(e) It was reported that David Burgess had now taken over full responsibility for Physical Training in the County.

878 RA Report

John Clancy said that there was little to report, as most items had been covered in Correspondence.

There were 3 significant issues: -

(a) At the Extra Ordinary General Meeting of the RA on 1st September 2007 it was agreed that with effect from 1st April 2008, the RAE subscriptions for a full member would be £8.00.

(b) The northern **Liaison Meeting** would be held at the Holiday Inn, Clayton Road, Newcastle under Lyme on **Sunday 2nd December 2007**. The Co-ordinator was John Harden.

(c) The **RA Centenary Conference** is being held on **4th & 5th July 2008** at Solihull.

879 Any Other Business

(1) **Blackpool, Fylde & Wyre Centenary Dinner**

An invitation had been received for a member of the LRA Executive to attend the Centenary Dinner on 22nd February 2008. It was agreed that the Chairman would represent the LRA.

(2) **Parents behaviour at Youth Football!**

The Secretary referred to an article in the Daily Telegraph, 18th August 2007 by Brian Barwick, Chief Executive of the FA. In the article it stated that "he is to champion a scheme for good behaviour on touchline at grass-roots football. Parents wishing to watch their offspring play must sign up to an FA code of conduct from next January. If found guilty of yobbish behaviour, they will be banned from attending games, and their child, however talented, also faces expulsion from the club. Under the new code of conduct, parents must agree there can only be one voice from the touchline and that is the coach's. Ropes and barriers will be used to keep parents back from the touchline."

The Secretary said that if this was introduced it will be a remarkable step forward and should help young referees, as many were lost to the game by badly behaved parents.

The meeting fully agreed with the actions of the FA and were delighted that something was being done at last to cut out the bad behaviour of parents and also hopefully, some club officials!

Alan Armstrong said that he understood that the LFA were already taking action on some of these points and he would investigate further.

(Secretary's Note)

Alan Armstrong has confirmed that the LFA had paid for plastic stakes and ropes for 3 Junior Leagues (Wigan, Blackburn & Hyndburn), and apparently trouble was reduced by over 50%.

It is intended to bring in a new rule for the 2008/9 season that all junior football must have similar "fences".

Parents will also be asked to sign up for a family membership (to include parents, grandparents, girlfriends, etc.) and therefore clubs could be held responsible if there is any trouble. This has also worked where it has been introduced!

(3) **LFA Referee Examinations**

Concern was expressed that on occasions the LFA arrange for examination classes in various parts of Lancashire without the knowledge of the local Society. It was suggested that it would be helpful if the LFA could notify the relevant Society so that they could follow up those who have passed the examination. Following discussion it was confirmed that this had now been set up.

It was also pointed out the equally Societies have a responsibility to follow up anyone who has been successful, rather than "filing" the information away!

(4) **David Barrett**

David Barrett thanked the Executive for his appointment as a Trustee to the LRA.

880 Date of Next Meeting

The next monthly meeting would be held on Monday 26th November 2007 at St Joseph's Parish Centre, Harpers Lane, Chorley, commencing 7.15pm

The Meeting closed at 9.15pm.

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Chairman
26th November 2007