

# Leigh & District Association Football Referees' Society

## Annual General Meeting held Thursday 29th May 2008

**Mr Harrop in the chair** with the following members present: F Mort, D Tighe, N Lea, D Renshaw, G Knowles, P Haworth, R Birchall, R Drake, A Bennett, M Smith, K Berry, C Berry, G Halliwell, L Clarkson, D Sims, G Finch and K Evans

**Guests:** J Bennett, Jeanette Berry and Kayleigh Leach

**Apologies** offered and accepted from: C Mountford, D Wilson, F Brown, G Ogden, M Smith, J Bolton, D Hibbert, N D'Arcy, D Martin, R Thorpe J Waterfall and J Holmes

**Obituaries:** members observed a minutes silence for retire member Neville Caldwell

**Minutes of the meeting** held Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2007 had been distributed to all members and copies available at the meeting. The minutes were then proposed as a true record by D Sims and seconded by F Mort.

**Matters arising:** It was noted by the Secretary that the agreement to put names to the history photos on the website had not been completed. In reply Mr Haworth said both he and Roy had been unable to complete a meeting date, however it was hoped one would be in the next few weeks.

### Correspondence

#### Correspondence received:

- Eccles RA magazine
- Lancashire FA regulation and control of referees kit information
- Referees Association voting cards and minutes
- Invoice PG Sports polo shirts and additional jackets
- Lancashire FA Bernard Ratcliffe 30 year FA award
- Lancashire FA AGM minutes booklet
- Referees Association receipts memberships
- Lancashire FA cup final ticket allocation
- Local fund network completion of grant and end of grant report
- Lancashire Referees Association meeting minutes and AGM notices
- Community foundation grant meeting dates and quarterly magazine
- Westleigh High school invoice pitch hire
- End of grant form completion
- Football Association safeguarding children renewal information
- Wigan MBC community chest grant
- Refereeing magazine

#### Correspondence despatched:

- Invite to members to Annual General Meeting
- Lancashire FA request for Bernard Ratcliffe thirty year award
- Leigh Journal advert for course
- Leigh Reporter advert for course
- End of report completed form
- Wigan MBC community chest grant completed application

**Matters arising:** None

## **President's report:**

Mr Harrop gave a report on his overview of the society; he felt the society had moved on from a dark period in its history. He stated that it was fabulous to see Roy still involved in the society he joined Leigh and only Leigh society in (October) 1948. There was now a really good spirit within the ranks of our members and this was coming through at meetings and social events, he also noted that we had been in existence for ninety-one years. He thanked each of his fellow Officers for their sterling efforts to promote the society. He divided colleagues into three headings firstly the Older ones: to the Chairman who's handling of meetings was excellent, Roy who ensured rules were followed. Secondly to all the experience members who had participated in the training and mentoring scheme this had proved a great success. The society website was now proving its worth again supremely well overseen by Paul Haworth, in addition his tireless work on the Atherton Charity cup. The third group great to see Karl Evans who despite operating at the highest level still found time for the society, Alan Bennett who had picked up the mantle of the society magazine and the academy. Thanks in no small part to the Secretary who again gave so much of his time and effort without any great cost to the society. Finally Frank Brown a fun character who ha some may have know was recently diagnosed with a debilitating illness our best wishes to him he will be fondly remembered by those who knew him.

## **Secretary's report:**

### [A Season In Review 2007 / 2008](#)

Once again we find ourselves at the season end, some of us deflated, some of exasperated, some of us ran out of steam and some of us thinking I really enjoyed officiating this season.

This is where I stand personally I feel the season has been successful and the society as a whole has moved mountains, this compared to seasons gone by. Over a thirty-year spell we were in the wilderness, with little quality progression and quite frankly I still feel opportunities were deprived to members of this society, however those days have now gone and a more level playing field now exists.

This season we have managed to secure £12,000 of funding, which has enhanced many aspects of the society's projects, mentoring, appearance and development. Again in the forth-coming months I again intend to source further moneys to continue the training and mentoring project. For too long the society has expected new referees to come to us, well the terms are now different we need to recruit and retain new members as the most important part of the society's projects. I have looked back at the records and twenty years ago we had twenty seven members and ten years ago we had thirty two, this season we achieved fifty, of hose fifty the 90% are active referees (I include my docile self in that number) many of whom have been mentored, encouraged and generally trained by many of our senior members who make up the Training and Mentoring Team. This is the only route to ensure this society not only progresses but also produces quality officials to operate at the higher echelons of the game. It would also be appropriate at this time to put on record my appreciation to all these guys who over the season have gone out and supported our less experienced colleagues, their efforts have been the main stay of what this society is about.

The interesting thing on this society's activities are that other groups are now looking at what we are doing and want a similar boost in their associations. At recent meeting with the county FA it has been noted there and I feel we have raised the bar, people now see, some respect it some despise it, me, I want us just to keep going forward, move on looking at what's good in refereeing not trying to blame someone, and certainly not operating a negative attitude in society meetings and events. The reinstatement of the Jack Boardman Quiz was and will be a great staging event for the society, both Warrington and Wigan were impressed with the event and I am sure we will make a good showing when Wigan hold the event next February (BE THERE).

It would also be appropriate at this juncture to mention my colleagues on the society management committee (that's what we do), its a pleasure to be involved with men of such stature that can see and are prepared to move from the norm for the benefit of all in the society. Our President and Treasurer, who I know works tirelessly, as the Chairman who also has played a great part in modifying the society, ensuring that meetings are not boring (they were) no politics just referees talking about referees. Our media Officer who's overseeing of the website has been a breath of fresh air, another modern idea. Our magazine editor who for a young guy has added a new dimension to our society, in addition to that picking up the academy baton, another shining light. It has been an honour to work with some of them over the past thirteen years, and enlightening working with others who have taken up tasks in the last few years and months In addition all my colleagues on the society Executive have all played their part in this society's progression, over the past twelve months.

There are always going to be ups and downs and this season we have experienced both as a group and some of us as individuals. However as long as I am ensconced in the position of Secretary I will ensure the society will back, mentor, train and promote society members and always act in their best interests, may not always be pretty, but that's how I am, and we as a society should promote and act in members best interests, not just to meet on the third Thursday of every month from August through to May.

On sad note my long time friend and society member Frank Brown has been diagnosed with an illness that offers him only a few months to live. Frank always a character and a great sense of humour, sometimes misunderstood, sometimes barmy but always a referees man he would defend any colleague, I am sure like me we are all thinking about him at this time.

On a brighter note our most senior referee Karl Evans doing great, never changes I always say he is the same has the first time he came to a training class at the Soldiers, with his sister and Dad Graham, A lot to be said for remaining who and what you are.

In closing I hope you enjoy the break and can get away from it all on holiday I will be holidaying at least twice. It is a pleasure to be secretary of this forward thinking non-political society that produces quality match officials. I hope to carry on serving you the members for some time yet and we SHALL continue forward.

Treasurer's report: Mr Harrop gave a review of the society finances as of close of business on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2007. He continued to state that the society finances were in good state he highlighted various items noting their individual insertion in the accounts. He gave a full review of the use and payments regarding the first grant of

£4545.00. He continued to explain the second grant from the community foundation, this account was reviewed by them directly and the society accounts for that had been signed off by the foundation directly.

**Presentation of balance sheet:** Mr Harrop presented the society balance sheet it was noted that we had a healthy balance and we were comfortable. No items or questions were raised regarding the balance sheet

**Auditors report:** Both Mr Mountford and Mr Wilson were not present at the meeting however a written report had been submitted and they both concurred that the society accounts were in excellent order. Some salient points of note were it was a good idea to have two existing accounts and also it was thought a good idea to allow members a free membership in their second year rather than the first this ensured sustainability and grow of genuine members

**A vote of thanks** was offered to retiring Officers from M Smith who expressed the membership's gratitude to each of the society's Officers, G Knowles seconded this

**Election of Officers:** elected 'en bloc' proposed by M Smith and seconded by N Lea accepted by all present via spoken acceptance 18 for, one abstention

President: David Harrop

Chairman: Frank Mort

Vice Chairman Karl Evans

Secretary Duncan Tighe

Treasurer David Harrop

Executive committee members: G Knowles, Paul Haworth, David Renshaw & Gary Halliwell

## **Alterations to society rules for season 2008/2009**

### **Rule 3**

Replace '*bona fide*' by '*registered of formerly registered*'.

### **Rule 4**

*New roles to be Included on your Executive (proposed as Management) Committee:*

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(1) a *Recruitment & Retention Officer* (sometimes also known as *The Recruitment and Development Officer*) and

(2) a *Welfare Officer* to oversee the interests of persons under 18 years either in membership or not in membership but coming into contact with Society members under the auspices of Society business.

(3) an *IT officer or Webmaster* to run the website

*The officers, or roles, can be covered by Committee members who have other roles, so for example as Secretary I might also serve as Welfare Officer, or the Treasurer might also be the Recruitment & Retention Officer. Alternatively you could define the responsibilities of various officers and assign these areas to each.*

- (4) Line two delete Executive insert *Management*
- (6) Line six delete Executive insert *Management*
- (7) Line seven delete Executive insert *Management*
- (7) Line nine delete Executive insert *Management Committee*

### **Rule 6**

Line three delete full insert *no*

*Reason for removing the voting rights of VPs. Arguably the Society should be advised by elder statesmen but run by active officers and committee members. If the VPs helped to outvote a majority of active officers on a significant issue it would cause problems.*

- (1) Line three delete Executive insert *Management*

### **Rule 8**

Line one delete call insert *announce*

*The rule is that meetings are on the third Thursday of the month, so the Secretary is *announcing* meetings rather than *calling* meetings. Decisions to call additional meetings are in effect made by the *Executive Committee* - this could be specified in the rule.*

Delete line 4 & 5

*Rule 4, 6 & 8 alterations are designed to rename the executive committee to management committee*

### **Rule 11** (page 9)

- (1) Could confirm that the subscription includes the RAE subscription.

Lines 1, 2, 3 & 5 after each Association insert *of England*

- (4) It is now *The Referees' Association of England*, not the Referees' Association.

- (5) Delete lines 6, 7 & 8 insert: *Society subscriptions are due on 1st April each year. New members shall upon payment of their first subscription enjoy all the benefits of membership.*

- (6) Query collecting subscriptions by 30th September. RAE subscriptions are due by 1st April, so that should be the date they are due. Some Societies collect as early as January, it would be impractical to move by 9 months in one fell swoop, but I would suggest 1st April for dates due with membership lapsing by 30th June. In particular, members will lose their RAE personal insurance cover if RAE subscriptions have not been paid by 31st May. This is acknowledged later in rule 11 which states the Society pays the RAE before the March meeting, but who funds this from March to September?

(7) Rule 11 refers variously to '*Society Subscriptions Fee*', '*Society fees*' and '*Society Subscriptions.*' Proposal delete subscription fees insert '*subscriptions*' consistently throughout so far as possible.

(8) To Avoid the inelegant *his/her*. Line 22 Replace by '*Any member whose subscription remains unpaid by 30th June shall cease to be a member....*

*Delete lines twelve through until seventeen, full stop leaving Life*

### **Rule 12**

*Change 'in the hands of the Secretary' to 'sent to the Secretary by post or e-mail not later than'. Similarly 'in the hands of the members should be 'Notified to members'*

### **Rule 13**

*Might insert 'except in the case of any contested election of Officers and Committee.*

*Page 11 Finance ( C ) delete 30<sup>th</sup> April insert 31<sup>st</sup> December*

*Page 30 Reduce details to 1970 with full listing via society website*

*Noted that IT should be spelt in full*

A proposal was tabled to accept all proposed rule changes en bloc by G Halliwell and seconded by G Finch. A second proposal that each item is taken individually could not raise a seconder. A vote was taken and all proposals were accepted 18 for one abstention

## **Presentation of awards**

Jim Warburton Merit Award Trophy recipient Karl Evans

Stuart Hide Most Conscientious Referee Trophy (Member not present) see future meeting

Roy Birchall Meritorious Award Norman Lea

Jack Boardman Trophy (not proposed)

Karl Evans Trophy Danny Sims

A special presentation was made to our Chairman Frank Mort for services to the society

## **Any Other Business**

The members were shown a video clip session of incidents from games where a decision of yellow card, red card or no action

*With no other business the meeting was closed at 9.05*