

**THE LANCASHIRE REFEREES'  
ASSOCIATION**  
(founded 1922)

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE MEETING  
HELD AT ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH CENTRE, HARPERS LANE, CHORLEY  
MONDAY 26TH MARCH 2007

**858** David Hodgkinson, Chairman, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**859** **Apologies**

Apologies had been received from:-

R Ditchfield (Life Member) & B Z Ingiszi (Lancaster & Morecambe).

**860** **Minutes of the Meeting held on 29th January 2007.**

The minutes were agreed.

**861** **Matters Arising**

(i) **834(iii) - Furness Society**

The Secretary reported that he had spoken to George Martin at Barrow, who had said that attempts were being made to re-form Furness Society.

(ii) **853 Treasurer's Report.**

The Treasurer said that he had still not received Death Grant application forms in respect of Arthur Arrowsmith or Geoff Maskew.

Accrington Society had contacted the Treasurer to confirm that they would be joining the LRA from the 1st April 2007.

(iii) **851 RA Insurance Policy**

The RA had confirmed that the RA policy does not cover heart attacks, strokes, etc. It is purely an accident policy. However they are looking into the cost of providing a Life policy, but it was considered that this would be very expensive!

It was commented that there seemed little reason why RA members in their 70s should be made to join the RA Insurance scheme, unless they were actually officiating in some capacity. It was agreed that Bolton Society as part of the ongoing correspondence should raise this matter with the RA.

(iv) **856(c) Bolton Dinner**

It was reported that the Dinner held on 24th March has raised over £3,000 for the dependants of Steve Allon.

## **862 Correspondence**

### **IN**

- (a) RAE - News Digest: January 2007
- (b) RA - Membership Figures: January 2007
- (c) RAE - County RA Liaison Meetings: December 2006
- (d) RA - RAE change of rules/motions for RAE Conference 9th Jun 2007, nomination forms for RAE Board of Management, updates for Manual of Guidance, membership registration 2007-2008 letter, remittance advice for membership year 1st April - 31st March 2008, RA Grand Draw counterfoil return form & Change of detail form.
- (e) RAE - Board Meeting Minutes 3rd Feb 2007
- (f) RA - Board Meeting Minutes 4th Feb 2007.
- (g) RA - Provisional arrangements for Centenary Conference 11th/12th July 2008.
- (h) Bolton Society - Corres. with RA re RA personal Accident Insurance policy.
- (i) LFA - Details requested of the Society Fitness Co-ordinator?
- (j) Leigh Society - Query re membership figures detailed in the Treasurers report of the minutes 29th Jan 2007.
- (k) RA - Membership figures for end of February 2007.
- (l) RA - Details and agenda for the Conference Weekend 8th/9th June 2007.
- (m) RAE - Details of the Eve-of-Final Rally, Friday 18th May 2007.

### **OUT**

- (a) Societies - Request for nominations for the Meritorious Service Awards (by 16th April)
- (b) Leigh Society - Confirmation that 35 members are registered with the LRA.

## **863 Secretary's Report**

Items contained in Matters Arising and Correspondence.

## **864 Treasurer's Report**

### **Membership**

All Lancashire Societies (with the exception of Furness) will affiliate to the County Area Committee (LRA) next season. Furness is in a bit of a state of flux but I have no doubt that they will affiliate in due course.

I have not received the RAE membership figures for Feb and March so the invoices for the capitation fee will be sent as soon as the figures are to hand.

NOTE: Chorley Society has already sent its Capitation and Benevolent Fund money to cover from 1st April 2007. Many thanks. Receipts for monies received in respect of the next financial year will be issued after 1st April 2007.

## **Benevolent Fund**

Membership of the Benevolent Fund stands at 489 made up as follows:-

Blackpool,F&W (55); Bolton (16); Burnley (42); Bury (52); Chorley (29); Lanc & Morecambe (41); Leigh (35); Nelson & Colne (10); Preston (136); Rochdale (73).

Over the season £30 has been received in donations to the Fund.

I think that we are all agreed that all society members should be in the fund and to that end a figure is noted on the Capitation invoice. I have prepared a letter to be sent to Society Treasurer's explaining the new arrangements.

## **General Account**

Cash at TSB	£150.00
Cash-in-hand at start of meeting	£ 68.00

I have done a rough balance of income against expenditure and it looks like a loss of £250 pounds or thereabouts is to be expected. There are ways of saving expenditure, which I intend to look at but I think we can cope with another season at £1.00 per head. However we will need to review the situation eventually.

## **Trustees**

Following my enquiries I have found that Trustees are not elected but are nominated.

Two nominations have been received, David Barrett (Bury) and Brian Porter (Rochdale). Both are fully acceptable and we will ask that their appointments be confirmed at the AGM.

## **865 LFA/LRA Liaison Officer's Report**

Alan Armstrong confirmed that he had recently attended the LFA Referees' Committee Meeting. The following was discussed: -

- (a) **Promotion 6 > 5;** 15 were approved and 9 failed.
- (b) **CRB checks;** Confirmation that the CRB checks are dealt with by the FA (FA/CRB unit) and not the LFA. It would be the responsibility of Leagues to check the eligibility of Referees to officiate in their Leagues. There was a concern that a considerable number of referees had not completed the CRB check and the Child Protection Course and they would therefore not be eligible to officiate. Equally, there were also a number of Referees who did not see the need to complete the Check etc and would just retire from refereeing! In any event there is likely to be a considerable shortage of referees next season!

- (c) **"Overage" Referees;** A number of "overage" referees had taken the fitness test and had passed and would be considered for promotion.
- (d) **LFA Insurance;** The LFA confirmed that the LFA Insurance is an Accident Insurance policy and not a Life Insurance Policy. The cost to change to a Life policy would be very expensive!
- (e) **County Finals;** A number of incidents had recently occurred at a County Cup Youth Final. In view of what had taken place it was planned to hold a special training course for "4th" officials who might not be fully aware of their duties and the actions they can take, when acting as 4th official!
- (f) **Injuries to Match Officials;** The LFA confirmed that a letter will be sent out before next season, to instruct clubs on their responsibilities to look after and provide medical assistance, as necessary, to any referee/assistant referee, who might be injured or taken ill during a game.

**866 RA Report**

- (a) Mr Clancy said that he was waiting for the March RA membership figures so that he could prepare invoices for the capitation fees.
- (b) There was a concern that on the Contrib. Leagues, the ID card did not contain a photo of the holder (for CRB purposes). Bolton Society had taken the matter up with the RA.
- (c) Concern was also expressed that Assessors were being retired at 65 years of age: was this not ageism?

**867 Any Other Business**

- (a) **Election of Officers;**  
The Secretary reported that two nominations had been received and would be automatically elected:-  
Chairman     D Hodgkinson (Chorley)  
Treasurer     J Clancy     (Nelson & Colne)
- (b) **LRA Questionnaire;**  
The Secretary reported that 6 replies had been received to the Questionnaire: they were Blackpool, Bolton, Burnley, Chorley, Lancaster & Morecambe and Rochdale. Disappointment was expressed that more Societies had not taken the opportunity to share their information with the other Societies in the LRA. A general discussion then took place about the differing information provided.

What was of particular interest was that some Societies had applied for grants for training equipment, yet other Societies were not aware that such grants existed? Local authority grants were available, but they need to know the CRB policy of the Society!

Alan Armstrong said that he would provide a suitable document for use by Societies when applying for a grant.  
(Sec. Note: a copy of the document is attached to these minutes)

If any Society still wished their information to be included then they should forward it to the LRA Secretary.

It was agreed that copies of the summary would be distributed to all LRA Societies for their information.

(c) **WEB Site**

The issue of an LRA Web site was raised which it was considered would make communications with Societies much easier. Links could also be established with the RA Web site, Society Web sites, FA Web site, etc. .  
Following discussion the Leigh delegate said that he would investigate the cost of setting up an LRA web site.

(d) **Annual General Meeting**

The AGM would be held on Monday 21st May 2007, at St Joseph's Parish Centre, commencing 7.30pm.  
It was agreed that refreshments would be provided at 7.00pm comprising of a Hot Pot. A booking form would be circulated with the minutes so that orders could be taken for the Hot Pot.

**868 Date of Next Meeting**

The next bi-monthly meeting would be held on Monday 24th September 2007 at St Joseph's Parish Centre, Harpers Lane, Chorley, commencing 7.15pm.

The Meeting closed at 9.32pm.

.....  
Chairman  
24th September 2007