

## Members LFA Cup Final Joy

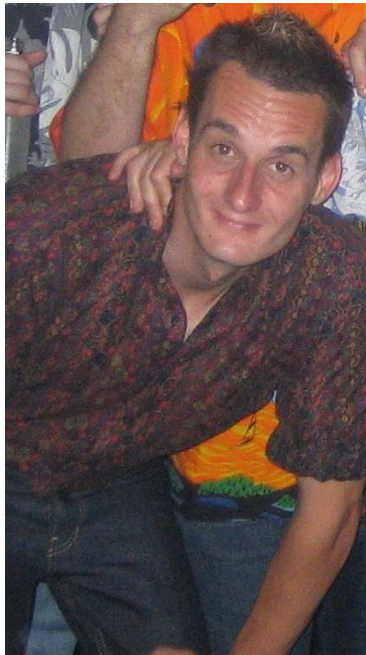
**Just this past Tuesday three of our society members had the honour of officiating on the LFA Under 12's Inter-league Cup Final. The match was between Barrow & District Junior Football League and Bury & Radcliffe Junior League, with Bury winning the tightly contested game 2-1.**

Society members Danny Hibbert (Referee), Lewis Clarkson (Assistant Referee) and Nigel D'Arcy (4<sup>th</sup> Official) were the match officials from the society. Mr D'Arcy described the evening as a typical 'cold and frosty evening up at the LFA Headquarters at Leyland'.

Overall the appointment of the three society members to the LFA cup final was a massive coup for the society and themselves, especially young Lewis Clarkson who recently has had some very good county cup appointments in the junior competitions and this was just rewards for his progression this season.



**Nigel D'Arcy**



**Danny Hibbert**



**Lewis Clarkson**

**Alan Bennett - Editor**

# What's been happening these past two months?

**Well it's been two months since our last magazine as our last meeting was at Warrington Referees as they had head of the PGMO Keith Hackett as their guest speaker.**

Hackett talked in depth about Pro-Zone and the behind the scenes formalities that the Premiership Officials go through. Furthermore on behalf of the society I would like to thank Warrington for their hospitality and friendliness on the evening. As for our society members appointments; there have been some exciting and interesting ones and below is some of the games our members have been officiating on (I apologise now if I have missed anyone).

Jordan Holmes – Just recently Jordan has joined the Lancashire Football League as an assistant referee. This will give Jordan valuable experience and the opportunity to officiate at Conference North and Unibond grounds.

Lewis Clarkson – Lewis was appointed as referee for the LFA Under 15's County Cup Quarter Final between Prestwich Heys v Briercliffe Rovers but unfortunately the game has been postponed the past two Sunday's due to bad weather.

Karl Evans – As usual Karl has been here, there and everywhere. He has taken in two TV matches as he was referee for a Victory Shield game live on Sky Sports. Karl then followed this up by being appointed 4<sup>th</sup> official for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Round of the FA Cup between Harrogate Railway v Mansfield Town which was screened on BBC 1. Finally this past Saturday Karl was in charge of the League Two game between MK Dons v Accrington Stanley which MK won 5-0.

Alan Bennett – Just recently I have had two very good appointments from the FA. I was appointed as assistant referee on two FA Trophy games. The first one was a replay between Radcliffe Borough v Chasetown FC (who is now the smallest team to ever reach the FA Cup 3<sup>rd</sup> Round) and then I was appointed to the Buxton FC v AFC Telford game which a fantastic experience.

Nigel D'Arcy – Nigel has had many county cup appointments lately, in both senior and junior competitions. Most notably he was appointed as referee for the 4<sup>th</sup> Round Amateur Cup tie between Burscough Bridge v Broughton Amateurs (5-4) and the U18's County Cup tie between Leigh R.M.I. v Kirkham & Wesham (2-3).

Duncan Tighe – Even our very own secretary has been getting County Cup appointments. Duncan was appointed to the 4<sup>th</sup> Round of the Under 14's County Cup at Pennington and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Round of the Under 16's County Cup which was also at Pennington.

***Alan Bennett - Editor***



## Experiences of a League Discipline Secretary Part 1.

Running a team is a hard job, especially a kids' team.  
Worst of all is a team of ambitious, wannabe, nearly adults.

Parents want them to be everything they weren't themselves, and will do almost anything to make them successful - so long as they don't have to help out with the hard work!

For managers, things to do fall into 3 categories:

- 1) Training and play,
- 2) Match day organisation, and
- 3) Administration

You might think that only number 1) wins championships. Probably true, but 2) and 3) can really get in the way of success, distract and reduce concentration, and worst of all, drain the team finances.

How does poor organisation and administration cost money? Well simple enough - **finer** !

Leagues at all levels operate a system of rules to try to keep the clubs under control, and the leagues running smoothly. Fines and administration charges are the standard way of enforcing the rules. The number of rules, and size of the fines are generally greater the more prestigious the league.

What team managers really need is help. Help washing the kit, help putting up the posts and nets, help collecting the subs from the players, or organising sponsorship, and help with the paperwork and the phone calls.

Managers should be allowed to get on with the business of training and playing, but how often have you seen them on match days juggling a book of teamsheets, a bag of £1 coins, while trying to give a motivating speech to players who aren't listening after a five nil defeat.  
Then they have to take the nets down after everyone else's gone home!

Don't feel too sorry for managers though, they're volunteers and can walk away at any time. The good ones get lots of others involved, concentrate on the football, and avoid the fines. Believe me, the others learn fast or struggle or at worst get stressed to the point of damaging their health.

How to avoid the fines, or "16 simple things to do to keep the League happy":

### General:

- 1) Register players and attend league meetings

### Before matches:

- 2) Confirm the match time and details with the opposing side and match officials
- 3) Provide a first aid kit
- 4) Provide footballs to meet Law 2
- 5) Provide corner flags to meet Law 1
- 6) Put up the posts and nets
- 7) Provide barriers, to separate players and officials from spectators.
- 8) Ensure players wear shinguards (Law 4)
- 9) Ensure players don't wear any jewellery. (Law 4)
- 10) Ensure players wear colours, which don't clash with other players and the referee (Law 4)
- 11) Submit a team sheet to the referee
- 12) Submit a team sheet to the opposing side/club
- 13) Commence all matches with at least seven players (Law 3)
- 14) Be ready to kick-off on-time

### After matches:

- 15) Phone the match result to the league after the match
- 16) Send the teamsheets to the league after the match



The referee has to help enforce some of these or at least report to the league if they don't happen.

My experiences of dealing with the 23 teams in the North West Youth Alliance Football League, their managers, players and spectators show that although it sounds simple to stay out of trouble, its not !

More next time.....

Paul Haworth



The NWYAFL is always looking for referees or groups of 3 officials who want to spend regular or occasional Sunday afternoons on academy level under 18s football, from Morecambe to Nantwich, and from FC United to Marine. Generous fees and expenses.



Society President Dave Harrop receives the Grant Cheque for £7000 from Emma Corrigan of the Community Foundation for Greater Manchester, in the presence of Leigh MP - Andy Burnham (right), and Society members Roy Birchall, and Nigel D'Arcy (centre).

Have a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year

# Members Appointments

Fixture	Referee	Assistant Ref	4 <sup>th</sup> Official
<b>15<sup>th</sup> December</b> <b>NWC Division 1</b> Abbey Hey V Congleton Town		Alan Bennett	
<b>L.A.L.</b> Tyldesley Utd V Bolton Ambassadors	Gary Finch		
<b>19<sup>th</sup> December</b> <b>LFA Senior Cup</b> Man Utd V Oldham Athletic		Alan Bennett	
<b>22<sup>nd</sup> December</b> <b>L.A.L.</b> Old Blackburnians V Hesketh Casuals	Nigel D'Arcy		
<b>L.A.L.</b> Mostonians Res V Horwich R.M.I. Res	Danny Hibbert		
<b>L.A.L.</b> Horwich R.M.I. V Rossendale Amateurs	Gary Finch		
<b>26<sup>th</sup> December</b> <b>Conference North</b> Vauxhall Motors V Barrow FC		Alan Bennett	

If you ever have any appointments that you would like to appear in the magazine then please e-mail me at [gordonajbennett@hotmail.com](mailto:gordonajbennett@hotmail.com).

Thanks

Alan Bennett

# Referee World

## SIN BINS

The question of sins bins is being debated again, a proposal to introduce sin-bins in football is to be considered by the Football Association. The FA has set up a working party to evaluate the proposal, which has come from the Football League. If it backs the move it will have to be proposed to the International Board, comprising four members of the game's international ruling body, FIFA, and four representatives from the four British associations. Also in a separate initiative a scheme which introduces a blue card and sin bin to five-a-side football is to be rolled out nationally.

Trials for blue cards took place in Gloucestershire and will replace yellow card cautions. Players are shown the blue card and sin binned for two to five minutes. After two blues the player is sent off. Gloucestershire FA spokesman Paul Britton said: "Introducing sin bins is practical, there is less paperwork after a caution is issued."



**Nigel D'Arcy pictured issuing a Blue Card in 5-a-side**

## REFEREES ON STRIKE

**About 30 Sunday league referees in the Black Country have not officiated games in protest at the number of verbal and physical attacks from footballers.**

This Sunday's games in the Warley and District League in Oldbury were severely disrupted by the weather.

But referees, who will put concerns to the league this week, are vowing to create their own disruption if threats, violence and intimidation continue.

If there is a strike next Sunday, about 80 matches could be postponed.

BBC News