

Champions

Well after a ten-year wait, the Jack Boardman Quiz was back and held on our own ground at Hilton Park Leigh. Once again Leigh ran out victors to lift the trophy for the fourteenth tie by a winning margin of half a point.

Leigh was winners with a score 49.5, Warrington were second with 49 followed by Wigan with 42. The thirty year old competition had been resurrected after a ten year gap. All that were in attendance agreed that it was very enjoyable evening and once again on behalf of the Society I would like to thank members of Wigan and Warrington society for their attendance and participation.



Team Leigh

A special mention must go to Paul Haworth for putting together the questions for the quiz and Duncan Tighe for helping reinstate the quiz. The good news is that talks are already under way for the quiz to be held next year in Wigan. Wigan's secretary Peter Gooch has assured me that the pies are already on order.



Next year's hosts Wigan

Atherton Charity Cup

It's that time of year again; the Atherton Charity Cup 2007/2008 will hopefully be underway this Monday. Unfortunately a couple of fixtures have had to be cancelled due to the weather but hopefully the competition will begin on Monday up at Daisy Hill.

Listed below are the fixtures for the Preliminary Round and the First Round of the competition;

Preliminary Round

1. Bolton Wyresdale FC **vs** Bolton Lads Club FC **Thu 3/4/08 6:15**
2. Atherton Colls FC **vs** Hindsford FC
3. Hindsford Res FC **vs** Westhoughton FC **Mon 31/3/08 7:45 @ Daisy Hill**

1st Round

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|----------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Daisy Hill FC | vs Ashton Athletic FC | Tue 1/4/08 7:45 |
| Atherton Town FC | vs Brightmet United FC | Wed 2/4/08 6:15 |
| Atherton Town Res FC | vs Howe Bridge Mills FC | |
| Bolton County FC | vs <i>winner Prelim 3</i> | |
| Tempest United FC | vs <i>winner Prelim 1</i> | |
| Ashton Town FC | vs Three Crowns FC | |
| Leigh Athletic FC | vs Stoneclough FC | |
| Hindley Town FC | vs <i>winner Prelim 2</i> | |

One again Paul Haworth has kindly agreed to be Referees Appointment Officer for the competition and he his hoping to have three officials on all of the eighteen games that will take place during the competition. In addition your services would be much appreciated and if you fancy helping out then contact Paul or speak to him at tonight's meeting.

Good luck to all teams that are taking part and this is a good opportunity for some of our society members to gain experience of being an assistant referee, working with assistant referees and watching other society member's referee.

the last word

Karl Evans has just returned home from the Dallas Cup and next month we are hoping to read about in the magazine. However prior to the Dallas Cup Karl was appointed to his first Championship Game between Blackpool v Barnsley.

In the Blackpool programme, an interview with Karl was published and this is what Karl had to say.

Karl, welcome to Bloomfield Road for tonight's game, can you remember your first visit to Blackpool as one of the officials?

The first time I visited Blackpool I was surprised with the noise the home fans mad when they had scored especially with the noise of the loud drums.

We believe tonight is your first game as a Championship referee, is that something you're looking forward to?

Yes very much so, I have worked hard this season to have the opportunity to referee a Championship game and I'm looking forward to this opportunity.

What made you take up the whistle?

When I was 15 and used to play football it used to annoy me when we turned up for a game and no referee turned up so I thought as there was a shortage of referees, I would take my exams and referee the local junior leagues.

Do you get stick off any of your mates for being a referee?

Yes I get stick from them, more often that not when we watch a game that's on TV and a decision doesn't go the way which they think it should go.

Footballers have to make sacrifices with their diet and lifestyle, as a referee is it the same and have you found it difficult?

It's not something I have found difficult as I started at a young age and after progressing through each level different sacrifice have been made along the way. The biggest sacrifice of all is going out with my friends on a Friday night.

Banter in football is well known, has there ever been a time that you couldn't help but laugh at a comment that has been made from the stands?

I used to always laugh when I officiated on the Contributory Leagues as a lot of fans used to shout at me, "You back at school tomorrow?"

As an official you get to visit many different grounds, is there one ground that you particularly enjoy visiting?

Morecambe is a personal favourite as I have visited it on many occasions. I suppose you the more times you visit a ground you become more familiar with the surroundings.

Is there one particular referee that you model yourself on or look up to?

Not one particular referee as I like to take the qualities of each referee I watch or work with and try and bring those qualities into my game.

On the various highlights programmes on TV decisions are scrutinised more than ever, are you in favour of video technology to help with certain decisions?

I'm in favour of anything that improves our game as long as it doesn't slow the game down. The major decision which may benefit from such technology would be if the ball had crossed the goal line or not.

Every player's dream is to play in a cup final or play at Wembley, what are your ambitions in the refereeing world?

My ambition is to referee at the highest possible level. My ultimate dream would be to referee a World Cup Final but at the moment I'm taking one step at a time.

Members Appointments

Competition	Fixture	Referee	Assistant Referee	4 th Official	Date
L.F.L.	Leigh R.M.I. Res v Workington Res	Alan Bennett			29/3
L.A.L.	Old Mancunians v Bury Amateurs	Gary Finch			29/3
L.A.L.	Bacup Utd v CMB	Nigel D'Arcy			29/3
L.A.L.	Ashtonians Res v Rochdale St Clements 'B'	Keith Swindell			29/3
Coca-Cola League 1	Cheltenham Town v Northampton Town	Karl Evans			29/3
L.A.L.	Broughton Amateurs v Failsworth Dynamos	Nigel D'Arcy			5/4
L.A.L.	Old Blackburnians 'B' v Castle Hill Res	Martin Smith			5/4
L.A.L.	Accrington Loyal Ams v Ashtonians Res	Keith Swindell			5/4
L.F.L.	Woodley Sports Res v Ossett Town Res	Alan Bennett			8/4
Conference North	Workington v Solihull Motors		Alan Bennett		12/4
LFA U16's County Cup Final	Atherton Town v Rochdale St Clements			Dave Renshaw	17/4
L.F.L.	Fleetwood Town Res v Bamber Bridge Res		Jordan Holmes		18/4
L.F.L.	Woodley Sports Res v Guiseley Res		Nigel D'Arcy		29/4

A special mention must go to Dave 'Reg' Renshaw on be appointed as 4th official to the Lancashire FA Under 16's County Cup Final. On behalf of the society I would like to congratulate Dave and wish him all the best for the game.

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

Referee World

PORTO PRESIDENT AND REFEREE TO FACE CORRUPTION CHARGES

PORTO president Jorge Nuno Pinto da Costa will stand trial for allegedly bribing a referee before a Portuguese Premier League match in 2004, a Porto tribunal source said yesterday.

The referee, Augusto Duarte, who was in charge of the match between Beira Mar and Porto that year which ended in a goalless draw, will also stand trial for corruption, the source said.

Pinto da Costa's lawyer declined to comment while Duarte was not immediately available to comment.

The decision, by a criminal court in Porto, follows an investigation which began in 2003 and involves several football directors and referees.

The Lusa news agency quoted Portugal's public prosecutor's office saying Pinto da Costa was accused of giving an envelope containing 2,500 euros to Duarte before the match.

The trial follows publication of a book by an ex-girlfriend of the president of Premier League leaders Porto, which alleged the team had often benefited from bribes paid to referees.

REF'S, BE BRAVE FOR THE SAKE OF THE GAME – POLL

The select group of referees meet fortnightly and their next meeting begins today; it will be interesting to hear what their group discussion brings.

Will Steve Bennett be heralded as their standard bearer? Will Mike Riley be able to justify his tolerance last week and will Keith Hackett finally shrug off the pressure of the Premier League chairmen and encourage his squad to continue from Bennett's stance on Sunday?

The answers will come next Saturday when the Barclays Premier League resumes but one thing that is certain is that referees cannot set the agenda in football. What they must do is react to protect the image of the game and players should be able to see the long-term benefits of this.

I travel the country in my job and am told week in week out of the need for referees to stop allowing players to abuse and intimidate them. Spectators are being put off the game by the players' attitudes and excesses.

Pundits often predict that there would be carnage — matches reduced to farcical eight-a-side games — if referees implement a clampdown on dissent and abuse.

From what we saw on Sunday, I cannot agree. Chelsea and Arsenal players were clearly aware of a change in the referees' mood and likely tolerance; they will have seen Bennett's dismissal of Javier Mascherano and Mark Clattenberg wisely briefed the captains to ensure that the message was clear.

The response was excellent but let's not count our chickens ... we wait with interest the next matches.

One problem for match officials is the natural human instinct to be liked — contrary to popular belief, referees do not enjoy being figures of hate or derision.

John Gregory advised me back in 1992 that my problem was that I wanted to be popular and that a referee has to accept that he will never achieve that if he is to do his job properly. The aim must be to be respected. The only way to achieve that is by standing up for the game they love.

Be strong, resolute and consistent in their approach towards dissent and the players will soon improve their behaviour, but back down now or fail to work as a team and the game could be lost.