

Jack Boardman Quiz

Congratulations to the society on regaining the Jack Boardman quiz. Team members were Danny Sims, Lewis Clarkson, Ross Thorpe and Martin Smith.

This year the event was held at Wigan Society and once again Leigh came out on top with Warrington in second and Wigan third.

It is now the 15th time the society has won the trophy and for the fourth time in succession.

Well done lads!!!!



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Congratulations James



On behalf of the society I would like to congratulate society member James Waterfall as this past Sunday, James and his girlfriend gave birth to a baby boy.

At 7:33am the baby was born and weighed 9lb 3oz. As of yet no name has been decided but we wish James and his girlfriend all the very best.

Congratulations Nigel

A congratulations must be given to Nigel D'Arcy as he was recently appointed to an LFA Cup Final.

Nigel was appointed as assistant referee for the Under 18's Inter League Final.

The tie was between East Lancashire Football League v South Lancashire Counties League.

Well done Nigel for this prestigious appointment.

Referee World

Clattenberg Re-instated

Following a disciplinary investigation into issues relating to his private business affairs, Mark Clattenberg was initially dismissed by a PGMO Disciplinary Inquiry. Mark Clattenberg appealed against this decision.

After full and careful consideration, the Appeal Panel has concluded that the original Disciplinary Inquiry decision should be upheld but a less severe sanction imposed.

The Appeal Panel has therefore reinstated Mark Clattenberg as a Select Group Referee, but ordered that a suspension of eight months be served from the original suspension date of 6 August 2008.

In addition Mark Clattenberg has been reminded of his responsibilities and contractual obligations as a Select Group Official, particularly in regard to full disclosure of any outside business interests.

PGMO is confident that he has the ability to regain his position as one of English football's top officials.

Rugby experiment with two referees

For the first time ever rugby league will be played with two referees on the pitch at one time. This experiment is taking place in Australia in the NRL. The new system will have one main referee, with the responsibility of taking the defending team back 10m. He will be the only one with a whistle.

The 'new' referee will hover around the play-the-ball area in an attempt to reduce the infringements that occur in that area. (It's worth noting that in Super League last year, 42% of all penalties occurred at the play-the-ball and if we want to reduce the number of penalties seen in a game, then this seems the obvious area for attention.) He will be able to communicate with the other referee via a wireless system but unable to actually stop the game himself.

Who's next for the Premier League?

An interesting article was printed in the Daily Mail a few weeks ago and Graham Poll was the columnist. Graham had a very valid point as who is the next top referee in the country?

Yes we are worrying about the lack of referees at the grassroots level but by the start of next season the Elite Group of referees maybe go down from twenty to thirteen due to the retirement age. Four top premierships referee Steve Bennett, Alan Wiley, Rob Styles and Mike Riley will all be at the retirement age, Uriah Rennie and Peter Walton all had a reprieve last season and were given an extra year despite their age. Furthermore Mark Halsey, Chris Foy and Phil Dowd will also be at retirement age in two years time so that would leave you with ten elite referees. And with the Premier League being reluctant to push young referees after Stuart Atwell struggling, the future of the Premier League Elite Referees looks incredibly bleak.

Man Utd Corner – Graham Poll

Enter Rooney and Giggs! There is no necessity in Law for the match officials to be informed of such a tactic (or use) although it might help the team get away with it.

Ungentlemanly conduct was replaced by unsporting behaviour a few years ago and IF the referee considers this act unsporting then he should not only stop play but caution the offending player and award an indirect free kick from the place the ball was when he stopped play. Alternatively he could say that no signal had been given for the kick to be taken and have it taken again.

Members Appointments

Competition	Fixture	Referee	Assistant Referee	4 th Official	Date
Unibond North	Skelmersdale Utd v Harrogate Railway	Graham Ogden			21/2
LAL Div 5	Tottington Utd Res v Mostonians 'A'	Gary Finch			21/2
LAL Div 6	Bolton Wyresdale 'A' v Hesketh Casuals 'B'	Nigel D'Arcy			21/2
Unibond Premier	Cammell Lairds v Boston Utd		Alan Bennett		24/2
LFL	Stalybridge Res v Pontefract Collieries Res		Nigel D'Arcy		25/2
LFL	Woodley Sports Res v Harrogate Town Res	Alan Bennett			28/2
LAL Premier Div	Bolton Lads Club v Rossendale Amateurs		Gary Finch		28/2
LAL Premier Div	Horwich RMI v Lymm		Nigel D'Arcy		28/2

Northern Counties Youth Competition

Back in November, society member Alan Bennett and Nigel D'Arcy were appointed by the Lancashire FA to officiate the Under 18's tie between Cumberland FA v Westmorland FA. Below is the match report from the game, supplied by Cumberland FA.

The Under 18's followed up their success earlier in the season in the FA County Youth Cup, by completing the double over Cumberland by winning 3 – 0 in the regional competition at Penrith.

As early as the 3rd minute the Referee stamped his authority on the game when he cautioned the home sides, Michael Lewis, for kicking the ball away.

The home side had the best of the early exchanges of the game but the first chance fell to the visitors on 18 minutes when Max Shaw found himself unmarked in the penalty area only to stub his shot easily at the Cumberland goalkeeper, Matthew Charters.

On 28 minutes Westmorland's Nathan McNeil saw his thunderous shot from 30 metres beat the goalkeeper but just went wide of the right hand post. McNeil was again in the action on 39 minutes when his deflected shot opened the scoring after an outstanding through ball found Dan Davidson on the right and his cross found McNeil. A couple of minutes later Davidson himself missed an opportunity to increase the lead, but shot wide.

Half-Time: Cumberland FA 0 Westmorland County FA 1

One of Cumberland's few chances of the game was disallowed early in the second half when Dean Wainwright was clearly offside. Davidson was unlucky not to increase the visitors lead when he just failed to get on the end after the goalkeeper fumbled the ball on 55 minutes.

Shaw got his second goal on 54 minutes when he tapped home Davidson's cross from the right. Westmorland's Thomas Wright was cautioned on a late tackle on 61 minutes.

Davidson got on the scoresheet himself on 62 minutes when his shot was well saved but he quickly followed up to score from the rebound.

As the home teams tempers frayed Michael Grayson was cautioned on 71 minutes for an awful tackle from behind on McNeil and the game got very physical for a while.

The visitors could easily have scored three more goals in the closing stages of the game when substitute Dean Raw's shot was well saved. Three minutes later substitute Greg Pearce's shot was also well saved after beating two men on the edge of the penalty area.

The same beat the offside trap a minute later, passed to Graham Baker whose shot was again well saved.

Coaches Mike Graham and Dave Pearce were delighted with the team's performance having dominated the whole of the second half and but for an outstanding performance by the home keeper the score line could have been much higher. They also very pleased with the way the team kept their discipline.

Full-Time: Cumberland FA 0 Westmorland County FA 3

Referee: Alan Bennett

Assistant Referees: Nigel D'Arcy and Graeme Jones