

RA Draw

Well done to Martin Smith as his son won second prize of £1000 in the RA draw. I'm led to believe we have had at least one winner in the draw for the past five years maybe even more.

However congratulations to Martin Smith and to those of you who didn't sell your tickets, this result may make you think twice when it comes to selling next years tickets.

LFA Ticket initiative Scheme

As part of the respect initiative, Lancashire FA teamed up with a number of professional clubs to offer tickets to first-team matches to the first 150 referees to re-register for the season 2009/10.

I'm pleased to say that several of our members were in the first 150 referees to registers.

Lewis Clarkson, James Waterfall, Martin Smith, David Fox, Nigel D'Arcy, and Paul Haworth were all successful in receiving a pair of tickets to watch a professional club in the local area.



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Golf Day

Back in June the first society golf day was held at Haigh Hall and was hailed a huge success.

Twelve society members attended and it has now been proposed that this is an annual event to be held every year.

For those who missed out have a look at the pictures in this magazine or on the society website.

Referee World

Rob Styles Quits

Rob Styles confirmed that he has stopped refereeing and will be reverting to working with his Hampshire-based business interests, largely because he just does not enjoy being the man in the middle any more.

The sheer effort now involved in being a full-time referee, along with the travel, both domestic and international, that it entails, has reduced the job satisfaction he used to feel.

With that gone, Styles feels that he cannot maintain the high standard expected, and has decided to quit.

"I have completely retired from refereeing and will never do it again," he told *The Portsmouth News*.

"I have made the decision to call time on my footballing career. The time, effort, energy, the whole package involved in being a full-time domestic and international referee was not returning what I was giving.

"And I cannot carry on without that buzz, commitment and job satisfaction. It seems very callous but in a 280-day 40-week football season I spend 110 days of those away from home.

"That's down to travelling, refereeing, attending bi-weekly training camps, those kind of things. Given that kind of commitment, it has to give you back and it had stopped doing that for me.

"There is no way I wanted to carry on but lose motivation and commitment, that wouldn't have been fair."

And Styles felt that he could look back on his career in the game with a fair degree of satisfaction, despite the fact that his enthusiasm for the job has now waned.

Select Group Ref lands Cricket Job

Premier League football referee Steve Bennett is to switch sports to take up a new role with the England and Wales Cricket Board.

The 48-year-old, who took charge of the 2007 FA Cup final, will become director of the ECB's new Association of Cricket Officials (ACO).

Bennett will work on developing umpires and off-field officials.

"I understand the importance of officials' role and the satisfaction to be gained from officiating," he said.

"I would like more people to get involved and experience the benefits. Officials are vital players in all sports."

Members Appointments

Competition	Fixture	Referee	Assistant Referee	4 th Official	Date
LFL	Southport Res v AFC Fylde Res	Alan Bennett	James Waterfall		20/8
LAL Prem Div	Bolton Wyresdale v Rochdale St Clements	Gary Finch			22/8
LAL Prem Div	CMB v Old Blackburnians	Nigel D'Arcy			22/8
LAL Div 1	Tyldesley Utd v Ainsworth	Martin Smith			22/8
NWC Prem Div	Squires Gate v Congleton Town		Alan Bennett		22/8
LAL Div 1	Lymm v Broughton Amateurs	Nigel D'Arcy			25/8
LFL	Bamber Bridge Res v Woodley Sports Res		Carl Berry & Danny Sims		25/8
Premier League Reserves	Wigan Athletic Res v Sunderland Res			Alan Bennett	25/8
LAL Div 1	Castle Hill v Thornleigh	Nigel D'Arcy			29/8
LAL Div 4	Accrington Amateurs Res v Prairie Utd Res	Gary Finch			29/8
Conference North	Fleetwood Town v Workington		Alan Bennett		31/8

Golf Day



Society Meetings

For the upcoming season it has been agreed that the society will have a theme to each meeting to interest members and increase their refereeing knowledge and performance. Below is a provisional programme for this season:

- 20th August – How to Win Friends and Influence People
- 17th September – Dealing with an Assessor
- 15th October – Natalie Walker – Women's FIFA Assistant Referee
- 19th November – Speaker TBC
- 17th December – Quiz
- 15th January – Dealing with Dugouts
- 18th February – Jack Boardman TBC
- 18th March – Speaker TBC
- 15th April – Disciplinary Hearing
- 27th May - AGM