

The Society's Night At The Dogs

After months of planning, the society's 'night at the dogs' finally took place.

The most successful punters of the night were young Alan Bennett and Paul Howarth. Everybody else failed miserably.

Dave 'Reg' Renshaw came close on one occasion as he correctly guessed the order of the first two dogs, but the cashier refused to accept the bet as all bets were closed for that race.

However there was a rare moment in society history as our treasurer Dave Harrop finally opened his wallet to place a bet, but was shocked to realise that they wouldn't take his 10p bet. All in all a very enjoyable night which we all thank Nigel D'Arcy for organising and Paul Haworth for driving.



Alan finally realises how difficult it is to try and get money out of our treasurer.



Reg looks on, as Duncan coppers up to reach minimum bet.



The winning dogs have passed by; we're still waiting for Trap 4 in the first race to pass the winning post.



Paul Haworth, Dave Harrop, Duncan Tighe, Alan Bennett, Nigel D'Arcy, Dave 'Reg' Renshaw, Norman Lea, show off the wads of losing tickets that they accumulated over the evening.

Society Member Profile

Name – Paul Howarth

Age – 51

Years With Society – 6

Years Refereeing – 8

Current Level - 5

Career Highlight – Refereeing a young England side which included Peter Crouch & Shaun Wright-Phillips against Bolton Wanderers U19's at their Euxton training ground.

Sporting Idols – John Byrom & Farouq Engineer

Refereeing Idol – Roger Kirkpatrick

Aim for the season – To average less than 3 cards per game

Aim for the future – To stop wishing I had started younger

Best Stadium officiated at – Reebok

Funniest Refereeing Moment – Cautioning a player for removing HER shirt.

Favourite Team – Bolton

Favourite Holiday Destination – Monterey



REFS CRISIS

- 8,000 matches each week have no officials
- 7,000 referees quit the game every year

I'm a regular reader of The Non-League Paper, and week after week there are very interesting articles published. The one which I'm going to share with you shows us the facts and figures of the referee crisis in our country.

More than 8,000 Non-League and grass-roots games each week are without qualified officials because of a shortage of referees.

And 7,000 refs quit the game each year because of increasing abuse – sometimes physical – from players, managers and fans.

The FA last night confirmed both the 8,000 shortfall across football, and the rate of wastage among officials at all levels.

And some referees are warning that some local league will fold because of lack of officials, and the problem will get worse. Senior officials have no doubt about the cause of the crisis – the antics of the Premiership players who dispute decisions and undermine officials.

'There's so much football on TV now you can lip read everything the players are saying, and it has filtered down.' Said Northern League Referees secretary Alan Powles.

'It's not just the players in senior football. At junior levels you get officials of 15 or 16 being verbally abused by adults.'

'Sometimes players come at you with so much anger in their faces, it can be very frightening.'

'Lower level referees do it for the enjoyment, but get abused every time they step on the pitch.'

'There are some major problems. Due to the lack of numbers local leagues are folding, and if that continues who knows where we'll be in ten years time.'

Sussex's Gerry O'Hare said continual abuse was fast becoming a major deterrent to recruitment of new refs.

'We are always looking for reasons as to why numbers are declining and abuse is an obvious reason.' He said.

'If everyone is shouting at you there comes a point when you think 'I don't need or want this hassle anymore.' We struggle to keep hold of referees and you wonder if it will ever improve.'

Article courtesy of The Non-League Paper.

Ref Ian aims to break the mould



Ian Richardson performing his managerial duties for Notts County.

Article courtesy of The Non-League Paper.

Yesterday's fairly anonymous Central Midlands League man-in-the-middle could be tomorrow's history-maker.

For former Notts County defender and boss Ian Richardson, who was refereeing the Radford game against Bottesford, wants to blow the whistle on one of football's longest-running no-go areas.

The 36-year old is on course to be the first ex-league manager to make it to the same level as a ref – and his new life may begin by the age of 40.

The FA would like ex-players fast-tracked into the middle to cut refereeing controversies.

Richardson started the hard way – at Sunday morning level, and he stated that there is 'no hiding place at this level.' Richardson currently referees on the Central Midlands League and runs the line on the Unibond Premier.

Richardson plans to be an assistant on the football league by 38 and in the middle by 40.

Two are barred after refs attacked

THREE players have been barred for attacks or threats to referees in the same league.

A head butt on the referee at the Mexborough Sunday League Mick Riley Trophy game between Denaby Rovers and The Castle is being investigated by the police.

The game was abandoned after ten minutes as a result of the incident. The same day a 68-year-old referee with 30 years experience was left shaken after

a Cottage FC player took a swing at him after the game against Grove Social.

A third referee was threatened at the Westville against Plough game when he objected to abusive spectators drinking at the side of the pitch.

All incidents are being investigated by the police.

Article courtesy of The Non-League Paper.

What a way to end & start the year

Cast your mind back six years ago to when England beat Germany 5-1 in that memorable World Cup Qualifier. When England's Michael Owen completed his hat-trick, commentator John Motson said 'ohhh this is getting better and better and better'. This is certainly the case for society member Karl Evans at the moment.

While we have been eating turkey, drinking beer and watching TV. Karl Evans is once again making a big name for himself.

On Boxing Day Evans was referee for the Nationwide Conference match between Altrincham v Northwich Victoria. It was a very interesting clash to watch and Altrincham ran out 3-0 winners. The crowd of 2330 was the biggest that Altrincham had since May 1991.

As always there was drama. Just 14 seconds into the game Evans stamped his authority by issuing a caution to the Altrincham right-back for kicking the ball away.

On 20 minutes there was more drama as Evans issued a red card to Altrincham player Colin Little. Little had won a free-kick but then decided to retaliate and grabbed the offender by the throat. However according to the Altrincham website it was a harsh sending-off and only a push.

In other words good decision Karl Evans.

Shortly after this Altrincham took the lead. The second half was a much slower tempo and you always felt the next goal was to be the key. And on 80 minutes Altrincham were awarded a penalty which they converted. Just two minutes later and Altrincham added a third to pick up the three points.

After all the drama of Altrincham, it was off to Deepdale for Evans as he was assistant referee for the New Years Day Championship mouth-watering tie between Preston v Derby.

Preston were defending a 30 home match unbeaten run, and this was current Derby manger Billy Davis first return to the club he was in charge of last season.

To no surprise the game was end to end and very eventful. Derby took a 2-0 lead in the second-half, one of which was a penalty. Preston grabbed a consolation in the 79 minute through David Nugent. However Derby held their nerve and won 2-1.

After the match Preston manager Paul Simpson was interviewed and I will give you all one guess who he blamed. Simpson said,
"From what people are telling me it's a shocking decision by a referee who has been very very weak.

"I don't think he knew what he was doing. There were some really clever time wasting tactics used and you hope the ref is strong enough to notice it.

"But we are judged on the result and its rubbish for us because of two moments of madness in the second half."