

So Close

Society member Karl Evans certainly has been biting his nails lately. This past Monday Karl had his interview for his promotion to Level 1 which would result in Karl being a Football League Referee for next season if his interview is successful.

Now the wait is on for Karl as he is anxiously waiting for a letter to see whether he has been promoted. This promotion would cap off a perfect year for Karl who just recently was 5th Official for the Johnstone's Paint Trophy Final at Cardiff's Millennium Stadium.

One final point to make is that we should all tune in to Sky Sports on Friday as Karl is Assistant Referee for the game between Derby County vs Luton Town.



WELCOME

This month, it gives me great pleasure to welcome Ex-Premiership Referee Eddie Wolstenholme to our Society as Guest Speaker for the evening.

Eddie spent many years officiating in the Football League and Refereed the 1998 Division One Play-Off Final between Charlton and Sunderland.

As most of us know, Eddie's most notable moment with the whistle was the proclaimed 'Battle of Bramall Lane' between Sheffield United and West Bromwich Albion in which he was forced to abandoned the game as United only had six players left on the field of play for a variety of reasons.



In addition, Eddie proved to us all that it is never too late in Refereeing as he was called up to referee in the Premiership at the age of 47. He was apart of the 'original' group of officials that were made Professional Full-Time officials. After two years on the Premiership, Eddie retired due to his age.

After his retirement from the Premier League in 2003, Eddie took the role of Referee's Officer at the Lancashire FA. In addition to this Eddie has worked closely with the FA and Premier League in developing the standards of officials. In his four years of working with the Lancashire FA, Eddie has developed the referee's academy and has notably increased the refereeing standards around the county.

Once again it gives me great pleasure to welcome Eddie Wolstenholme to the society and we are all looking forward to hearing Eddie's current thoughts and feelings about the game.

Editor – Alan Bennett

Editors Views

This month has been a busy month for us all, as all the leagues we officiate on, are playing 'catch up' with fixtures that were postponed earlier in the season.

Also April saw the start of the Atherton Charity Cup and in my view it has been a big success. Twenty-eight entered the competition and we are currently heading for the quarter finals.

It is very encouraging to see the amount of society members that have officiated in the competition because without us, games may have not taken place. It is also pleasing to see that we have had three officials on each game.

Credit must go to Paul Haworth for taking the role of referee's appointment officer for the competition. And in my opinion he has done a fair job giving everybody a fair share of refereeing and assistant refereeing.

Another point I would like to talk about is the recent incident that involved Graham Poll and Charlton manager Alan Pardew.

The match I'm highlighting is the Charlton Vs Reading match which took place last week. Charlton's Alexandre Song was cautioned in the first-half, and at half-time Pardew asked Poll would he signal to Pardew if Song was close to being dismissed from the field of play.

Pardew revealed that he received a signal from Poll at some point in the second-half. Subsequently Pardew substituted Song before he was dismissed.

The point I would like to make on this is why can we not introduce a sin-bin to football?

A few years ago when I played football for Hindley Youth we played in a tournament in Holland. And in their rules it was possible for you to be sin-binned for 5 minutes if you committed any of the cautionable offences. I had the joy of being sin-binned and I felt that this worked. Even talking to some of my teammates that were sin-binned, they agreed that it worked.

If the rule was introduced at youth level then brought through at professional level I feel it could be a big success and that Graham Poll could have sin-binned Song rather than have him substituted.

Members In Action



Alan Bennett & his team of John Bolton & Paul Haworth in the first match of the Atherton Charity Cup 2007



Ronnie Drake with his team of Gary Halliwell & Gary Finch ahead of the game at Atherton Town.



Karl Evans leading the team of Nigel D'Arcy & Alan Bennett at Ashton Town.



Alan Bennett & his team of Graham Ogden & Nigel D'Arcy at Leigh Athletic.



Reg with his team of Norman Lea & Nigel D'Arcy at Hindsford.



Reg leading his team of John Bolton & Paul Haworth at Leigh R.M.I. vs Highfield.

Match Appointments

Fixture	Referee	Assistant Referee
20th April - Championship - Derby County vs Luton Town		Karl Evans
21st April – L.A.L. Hindley Juniors vs Little Lever SC Old Blackburnians ‘A’ vs Prairie United Res Spotland Methodist ‘B’ vs Spotland Methodist ‘A’	Gary Finch Alan Bennett	Keith Swindells
23rd April – Lancashire FA Senior Cup Semi-Final – Oldham Athletic vs Blackburn Rovers	Karl Evans	Alan Bennett Nigel D’Arcy
24th April – L.A.L. Ashtonians vs Howe Bridge Mills	Alan Bennett	
28th April – L.A.L. Rossendale Amateurs Res Vs Failsworth Dynamos Thornleigh ‘A’ vs Old Mancunians ‘A’	Gary Finch Keith Swindells	

Referee World

WHEELING HIS WAY TO THE TOP

Brave Southampton football fan Lee Steege is on a roll – after becoming Britain’s first wheelchair-bound referee.

The 17-year-old from Southampton, who has cerebral palsy, wants to test his skills from the sidelines at five-a-side games after completing the nine-week course.

Steege said: “I see everything. I’ve proved anyone can be a ref.”

WHAT A SAVE KEEPER

A GOALIE made his best ever save – by giving a ref the kiss of life.

Peter Forsdick had a suspected heart attack 15 minutes into a Sunday league match between Holbrook Swan and Northgate Old Ipswichians in Ipswich, Suffolk.

But the Northgate keeper leapt into action and resuscitated Peter. Paramedics took him to hospital where he is in a stable condition.

MOMENT OF FAME UP IN SMOKE

Eccles RA member Steve Edmonds surprise when he was undertaking his appointment as 4th official at the recent Manchester FA Senior Cup tie between Man Utd vs Oldham Athletic.

At a substitution Steve diligently entered the numbers into the electronic board and approached the line with replacement.

As he lifted the board up it set on fire! Blowing on it profusely, Steve heard someone shout ‘Drop it before it electrocutes you.’