

Promotion & dizzy heights

What can we say about colleagues who have achieved promotion through their considered efforts over the last season. We can commend all our new colleagues who consolidated their standing within the society through continued improvement and showing potential on the field of play.

Special mention to Nigel D'Arcy who had achieved level five status and only narrowly missed out on being selected for level four (shame on the governing body in London). Not only has Nigel excelled in his own standing but has given so much in watching, mentoring and assisting our young up and coming referees.

Alan Bennett has gone the further step by not only achieving level five but managed to progress himself to level four and will now operate at level four on one of Lancashire's three supply leagues. In addition he is also likely to be selected as an assistant referee on the national contributory list. Again he has represented the society and himself with confidence and ability great to see in one so young.

Finally and without doubt the best news this society has had in over thirty years Karl Evans has achieved football league referee status level one. What can we say? Only hearty congratulations and well done to Karl and just reward for all his personal effort and all he has forgone to achieve his goal. Karl started at the society when he was sixteen, I can recall the first time he arrived accompanied by his father and sister all three originally passing their intake examination under the old system. Having recently watched him officiate at such varied places as Altrincham, Ashton Town, Stalybridge and at the shrine to some Anfield. One could see the absolute professionalism, ability and all round capability, I like others think Karl can consolidate his standing and achieve even more.

Let's hope, encourage and support all our members in the hope that others will follow in Karl's footsteps and perhaps emulate his great personal achievements.

Duncan Tighe – Society Training Officer

Editors Views

Well May has brought us to the end of a very successful season for the society. Most notably Karl Evans achieving a well deserved promotion to level one.

Also May was full of hope for English football, but once again we failed to fulfil this potential. The first FA Cup Final at the new Wembley was arguably the worst ever FA Cup Final in history. And our friends down the East Lancs Road – Liverpool failed to bring home the Champions League Trophy.

One team that did shine though and the only time that they did shine this season was Wigan Athletic, who once again produced sheer drama for the millions watching around the world as they narrowly escaped relegation on the last day of the season by one goal. I'm sorry I had to mention it.

In addition this week we said farewell to arguably one of England's best referees for the last decade in Graham Poll. However everyone will only remember Poll for one incident and I don't think I even need to tell you that.

May has also seen good appointments and performances of the three youngest society members in Lewis Clarkson, Gary Molyneaux and Daniel Simms.

All three members have appeared in local league cup appointments and have shined in these matches. In my view they shown potential to go on and achieve bigger and better things, but only if they continue to listen and learn from their fellow colleagues.

We also saw the end of the Atherton Charity Cup which has been a great success this season. It ended up an all Ashton Derby as Ashton Town played Ashton Athletic with Athletic running out 1-0 winners.

A big thank you once again must go to Paul Haworth for arranging referees for all matches in the competition and to get three officials on each match is a great achievement.

Finally I would like to congratulate all society members on being rewarded with Cup appointments from local leagues and the Lancashire FA:

Daniel Simms
Paul Haworth
Nigel D'Arcy
Frank Mort
Ronnie Drake
Gray Molyneaux
Lewis Clarkson
Neil Smith
Karl Evans
Gary Halliwell
Gary Finch
Duncan Tighe
Graham Ogden
Gary Knowles
Norman Lea
Dave 'Reg' Renshaw

Well done to you all!!!!
See you next season – A Bennett

Members In Action



“Quiet words” exchanged, first of all Graham at Ashton and Gary at Brightmet



Ronnie Drake & his team of
Graham Ogden & Frank Mort
at Ashton Town.



Gary Knowles in action at
Brightmet.



Nigel D'Arcy & his team of Ronnie Drake & Gary Knowles at Brightmet.



Graham Ogden & his team of Mike Ramsden & Gary Finch at Atherton Colls.



The Atherton Charity Cup Final Team of (left to right) Nigel D'Arcy, Paul Haworth, Ronnie Drake, Frank Mort and John Bolton.



Neil Thompson Memorial Cup Final Team of (left to right) John Bolton, Paul Haworth, Daniel Simms, & Mike Ramsden.

What else you going to do on a Sunday?

Sunday 6th May 2007 is once again an historic day for The Society and member Karl Evans, as he was appointed by the FA to referee the Carlsberg Sunday Cup Final at Anfield.

The Final was contested between Coundon Conservative of Darlington and Lebeq Tavern Courage of Bristol. Coundon ran out 5-0 winners in front of a crowd of 1,289 at Liverpool's Anfield Ground.

Karl had to be on his toes throughout as within the first two minutes Coundon broke the dead lock. One notable decision of Karl's in the first-half was to award a free-kick right on the edge of the area which was a superb decision as some may have given a penalty.

In the second-half Karl brought his favourite colour card out by issuing a Red Card to a Lebeq player after he had earned a second caution. With minutes remaining of the game a very serious injury happened to a Lebeq player very much to his own cause as he recklessly fouled an opposition player to only get injured himself. The game was held up for several minutes and a stretcher was required to take the player off the field of play. However Karl showed no sympathy despite player's protests as he cautioned the injured player whilst he was on the stretcher leaving the field of play.

All in all Karl had once again shown us all why the FA were right in promoting him to Level 1 for next season and why there is a strong possibility of Karl refereeing at Liverpool in front of a full house in the very near future.

Alan Bennett - Editor

Referee World

BOARDLESS

Back in March, Rochdale played Accrington Stanley in League Two. Three points for either team would mean a lot in the fight for survival. Rochdale ran out 4-2 winners. However that day society member Karl Evans was 4th official.

It was only at half-time when the officials went back into the changing rooms did Karl realise that he had forgotten to take the substitutions board out for the first-half.

Karl jokingly admitted

"It's a good job the assessor didn't notice, and it was a good job Accrington didn't make that substitute they where going to make."

WHAT A WAY TO FINISH YOUR CAREER

Retiring Sunday league referee Teddy Milton, 61, handed out eight yellow cards, sent off three players and then broke his leg in his final game in Heathfield, Sussex.

NEVER COUNT YOUR CHICKENS BEFORE THEY HATCH

Sorry all you Liverpool fans but below is a picture of the open top bus Liverpool had planned to use if they had of won the Champions League. Never mind.

