



The bulletin for all referees - February 2011

# RA News Digest

## NEW RA TIE ON THE WAY

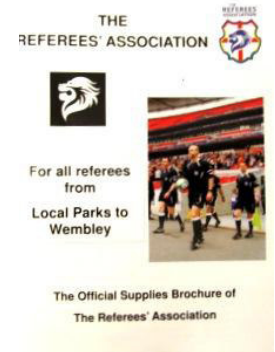


After considering several designs and with reference to a large number of members, the Board have approved a new tie.

We are now finalising details with a manufacturer and it is anticipated that ties should be available for purchase at a cost of around £10-£12 in about 4 weeks. This should be in time for those receiving local cup final appointments to give a good impression by wearing it on their big day.

Please look out for further ordering information at [www.rashop.co.uk](http://www.rashop.co.uk).

A new Supplies brochure (right) has now been produced and copies are available from Head Office. We are always seeking new products, especially where the new motif can be displayed, so keep looking at the website which is where they will appear first.



### ANDREW STICKLEY – SUPPLIES OFFICER

The Board are pleased to inform you that Andrew Stickley, a level 4 referee and member of Coventry RA commenced work in the Supplies Department at Head Office towards the end of November and no doubt all members would like to wish Andrew every success in his new role.

The Board would also like to place on record their grateful thanks to Linda & Karen for working full time since the end of September and for assisting Arthur with the heavy work load in the supplies department.

A number of new systems have been implemented which will benefit the supplies department. The staff have now caught up on their own work and are back to normal. Thank you all for your patience and understanding during this difficult period.



Andrew seen at work despatching some supplies and also modelling one of the new polo shirts.

### EDITOR'S NOTE

I would like to thank County RDOs and others at the FA for their assistance in forwarding the Digest to referees who are not yet Full members of the RA, and also to candidates on basic courses in order to assist with recruitment. This may result in some receiving the Digest by e-mail twice but a quick 'delete' will resolve that. I have as a result received requests for back issues which I will be happy to provide.

The Board are still very much dependant on ABS Secretaries to distribute the Digest to their members and it was disappointing to learn through the recent County RA Liaison Meetings that some were not doing this. The Digest is the main form of communication to members and some are being denied access to this benefit. **Secretaries:** It is your responsibility to pass this information on, please do not let your colleagues down.

As always I welcome items of news about members at all levels, local social activities, recruitment initiatives and anything that might be of interest to other members, preferably accompanied with photographs.

*Colin Harris*

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The next Digest will be published in early April.

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

The number of Full members as at the end of January was 10,418. It is disappointing to note that this is still 237 (2.27%) less than a year ago and 444 (4.26%) short of the figure at the end of the last membership year.

Whilst there is still nearly two months to increase membership this year, we should all now be concentrating our plans and efforts on the new membership year which starts on 1 April 2011. There are three groups of referees who we need to sell the benefits of FULL membership of the RA to:-

1. Newly-qualified referees who are already associate members.
2. Refereeing colleagues (including tutors, assessors etc) who are associate members by virtue of being registered with the FA and may not be aware of the benefits of FULL membership.
3. Our existing 10,000 plus members, whose early subscription renewal must not be overlooked.

A number of ABSs and CRAs made significant increases in their membership during 2010/11 so it is hoped that others will follow suit. It should be borne in mind that all registered referees are now associate members of the RA; we now need to sell the benefits of being a FULL member. There are two significant additional factors for us to ensure that referees are made aware of, more details of which are given below:-

- The new Optional Physiotherapy Scheme.
- The RA-FA Incentive Scheme which is now available only to full members of the RA.

It is known that some ABSs make no attempt to collect subscriptions from members until the football season starts in August. This is totally unacceptable. The membership year starts on 1 April and it is imperative that subscriptions are collected and paid over to Head Office as soon as possible after that date to ensure cover under the Personal Accident insurance. All secretaries are now in possession of the required documentation that needs to be submitted to Head Office, so this task can commence **NOW**.



### Optional Physiotherapy Scheme – An Overview

To give Full members of the RA a scheme which provides them with access to physiotherapy and rehabilitation if they suffer a musculoskeletal disorder (MSD) preventing them from being able to perform their duties as a referee.

#### Description

The incident/Injury which results in the MSD must be incurred whilst the member is travelling directly to and from a game, during a game, training or whilst on recognised refereeing business.

To qualify, the MSD must prevent the member from being able to perform their duties as a referee for at least five consecutive days. An injury Rehab website will be available during the intervening period, so that initial care which should be administered by the patient immediately following the injury can be treated, e.g. icing, elevation etc

Once a claim has been registered, an IPRS Personal Care Advisor will contact the member by phone within 2 working days, to carry out a triage call to assess the extent of the member's injuries and whether IPRS intervention is appropriate. If so, IPRS will arrange a physical assessment and **up to a maximum of four treatment sessions**, as clinically appropriate. Treatment will be arranged at the nearest practice to either the member's home or work, whichever is selected by the patient on the application form.

Each member can claim for up to **4 separate**, non-related MSD's during the annual Agreement Period.

All treatment will be **arranged by IPRS** only, and referred into their network of Associate Practices. Treatment will not be provided for an MSD:-

- which did not specifically occur within the Agreement Period,
- where, in the opinion of IPRS, it is neither reasonable nor appropriate to do so,
- which occurred within 7 days of the commencement of the Agreement.
- for which the Official has previously received treatment under this Agreement.



#### Cost

£5 p.a., including VAT at 20%, to be collected with annual membership subscription due on 1 April via an affiliated ABS. Members joining after 31 December will pay £2.50 for that part year.

**Details of the procedure to be used by members, including telephone numbers and website address will be provided on request.**

### RA-FA Incentive Scheme

Consideration is currently being given to which items will be available in the future. However, it should be noted that only FULL members of the RA will now be eligible for the scheme

## EVE OF CUP FINAL RALLY

**Date:** Friday 13 May  
**Time:** 6.15 for 6.45p.m. (Ends around 9.00p.m.)  
**Venue:** Hotel Russell, Russell Square, London WC1B 5BE

We are pleased to announce that the Guest Speaker for this year's rally will be David Dein.



David is a well-known figure. He was Vice-Chairman of Arsenal Football Club for 14 years, overseeing the appointment of Arsene Wenger and the move from Highbury to the Emirates Stadium. At the same time he was President of the very successful Arsenal Ladies F.C. David was Vice-Chairman of the Football Association and represented the Premier League on the FA Board, having been one of the key figures developing and creating the Premier League which started in 1992. He was the President of the G-14 group of European football clubs between October 2006 and May 2007 and has sat on various committees within FIFA and UEFA including UEFA's Club Competition Committee, which created and developed the Champions' League. More recently, he was the International President of England's 2018 World Cup bid.



Although the identity of the officials will not be known until late April after the semi-finals have been played, they will be in attendance at the Rally, as will a number of officials from past FA Cup Finals. This is the opportunity to listen to the referee appointed to the most prestigious club match in the world, to talk to him and his colleagues and have photos taken. An enjoyable evening is assured in the company of many other referees.

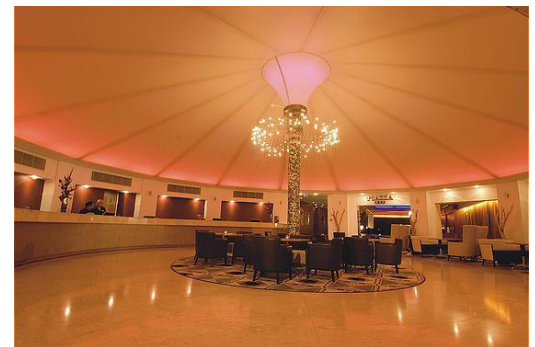
2010 FA Cup Final referee Chris Foy (left) had this to say about the Eve-of-Final Rally: **"It is a piece of refereeing tradition and should remain so. I loved every minute of it and thoroughly enjoyed meeting colleagues I had previously never met, especially former FA Cup final officials. My wife loved it too."**

Bookings for this event can be made shortly, via the website [www.footballreferee.org](http://www.footballreferee.org), or through your ABS Secretary.

## RA CONFERENCE

The Board's Conference Committee is meeting later this month to finalise plans for the Conference, following which bookings can be made with ABS Secretaries and via the RA Website. The following details are already in place:-

**Date:** Weekend of 15-17 July  
**Venue:** Barceló Hinckley Island Hotel  
**Theme:** Effective Officiating



One of the keynote presentations at the Saturday Conference will be **Howard Webb, Mike Mullarkey and Darren Cann** talking about their World Cup and UEFA Champions' League final experiences. Darren and Mike will also present one of the workshops. Other workshops will be led by top FIFA referees (**Martin Atkinson, Mike Dean, Mark Clattenburg and Stuart Attwell**), as well as other top presenters such as PL referee **Chris Foy** and PGMOL Training Manager **Ray Olivier**.

Nowhere else can anyone hear and learn from so many top referees in one place. **Saturday 16 July** promises to be a most fulfilling day, with something for everyone and a must for members at all levels. It is hoped that ABSs, CRAs and Academies will get together to ensure that assistance is available for travel from around the Country. The venue is centrally located with easy motorway access from all directions.

The RA AGM will take place on the afternoon of Friday 15<sup>th</sup> and, as a new innovation the final of the RA Quiz will be held on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup>. It is hoped that many people who stay overnight after the festivities of the Conference dinner will then be able to spend a relaxing morning watching the quiz.

## BOARD MEMBERS

In accordance with the RA Constitution, each Board member shall retire three years after taking office and shall be eligible for re-election. Of those who were elected three years ago, Ray Mallery had already indicated that he would not be seeking re-election to the Board. The other two current Board members retiring this year, Nigel Genner (Stourbridge) and Colin Harris (Bristol), have been nominated for re-election, together with the following members:-

Albert Astbury (Eastleigh)  
David Jones (Cramlington)  
John Wilson (Driffield)

Accordingly there will now be an election for three places on the Board. Voting papers, along with personal details and an election statement from each of the five candidates are being issued to ABS Secretaries. This is an opportunity to get some new blood on the Board to represent members' interests at this exciting time for the Association and all members are urged to ensure that they cast their votes.

ABS Secretaries are reminded that voting forms must be returned by post to Head Office in the envelope provided to arrive no later than 14 April and that only members as at 31 March 2010 are entitled to vote.

In addition to the annual election, John Harden has tendered his resignation from the Board with effect from 1 February due to business commitments. At the Board meeting held at Head Office on Sunday 6 February, the Chairman Alan Poulain announced that he will be retiring from the Board after the AGM which takes place on 15 July. At the next Board meeting on 8 May, by when the result of the above election will be known, the Board will consider the co-option of members to fill the vacancies to replace John Harden and Alan Poulain.

The opportunity will be taken in the August issue of the RA Digest to pay tribute to the departing members of the Board and to provide more information regarding the new Board.



**JOHN MAXSON**

Grateful thanks go to Peter Maxson (Oldham RA) for this cutting from the Sunday Mirror of 3 October 1981.

Standing 2nd left in the photo is Peter's father, RA Life Member John, whose recent death was reported in the December issue of the RA Digest.

John was linesman (AR) for the match at Anfield between Liverpool and Swansea City a few days after the death of the legendary Bill Shankly. To John's right is Swansea manager John Toshack, who just prior to the minute's silence before kick-off, removed his track-suit top to reveal a red Liverpool no. 10 shirt in tribute to his former boss.

## RA QUIZ 2011

Quiz contests are now taking place around the Country for County RAs to determine their representatives at the regional qualifying contests which will take place in March as follows:-

<u>Venue</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Board Contact</u>
Marine FC, Liverpool	Sunday 13 March	Eddie McGrath eddie.mcgrath1@blueyonder.co.uk
Leatherhead FC, Surrey	Sunday 20 March	Ray Mallery raymond.mallery@talk21.com
Almondsbury S&S Club, Bristol	Sunday 20 March	Colin Harris colin_c_harris@hotmail.co.uk

You are reminded that each County RA is eligible to enter two teams in the regional contests, which can be representative of an individual ABS, or composite teams made up from other branches; this will be of particular interest to members of smaller ABSs who may not be able to raise their own team. Please ensure that your entry is submitted to one of the contacts listed above well in advance of the date given.

The National Quiz Final, involving the winning and second placed teams from each of the regional qualifiers, will take place at the Barcelo Hinckley Island Hotel on Sunday 17 July, the morning after the RA Conference. As usual the RA of Wales and RA of Northern Ireland will each be invited to send a team to participate in the final.

At each level (County, Regional and National), the Quiz is regarded as an important social event, with the opportunity to meet old friends, make new acquaintances and share ideas in all aspects of refereeing and the RA.

## STABILITY & RECRUITMENT – 2010 COUNTY LIAISON MEETINGS

The bad weather in early December meant that the four regional meetings were spread either side of Christmas. However, this did not prevent a good turnout at each venue with nearly all Counties represented.



*Attentive delegates at the Stoke –on-Trent meeting.*

The theme of the meetings this time was 'Stability & Recruitment' and as usual, in order to ensure that a consistent message was delivered across the country, each contained a powerpoint presentation compiled by Board Member Nigel Genner.

Delegates were given post-it pads to enable them to note down questions, of which there were plenty for Board members in attendance to consider and respond to as the day progressed.

The presentation opened with some scenes of the new Head Office in Coventry, followed by an update on items such as the RA Shop and supplies, the forthcoming Board election and the RA Draw, for which tickets were collected at the meetings by delegates. Then there was a look forward to 2011, including the two main annual events - the Eve of Cup Final Rally and Conference weekend, which will incorporate the Quiz final. All of these events are covered elsewhere in this Digest.

The presentation and thus the focus of the meetings then turned to the main issue of the day – **Recruitment**: What can we offer referees in order for them to become Full members of the Association and how to work together to achieve our target of 15,000 members? Details were given of the new Physiotherapy Scheme.

An update on the RA-FA partnership was given where the support provided by the FA was stressed, as was the need for us all to play a part in this, in order to attain **Stability** for our Association.

There were positive exchanges of views regarding the role that County RAs are expected to perform, especially in the recruitment process, and these will be taken forward for further consideration.



*Networking during the lunch break in London*

It is important that delegates feed the information gathered and actions required back through their ABSs so that we can all continue to work together. A more detailed summary of the points discussed at the meetings will be circulated to all CRA and ABS Secretaries.

## BASIC SPORTS FIRST AID

"Referees have a duty of care to the players and should not underestimate their responsibility in safeguarding and protecting them from injury whilst they are playing football. Firmly embedded within 'The Laws of the Game' is the acknowledgement of this injury prevention principle. A referee's pre-game confirmation that the playing conditions, the playing area, the ball and the players' equipment all comply with 'the laws', and are not likely to be a source of player injury, are testimony to this fact."

This is the introductory paragraph to an article 'Medical Considerations for Referees' written by Mike Healy, the Head of Medical Education at the FA and published by UEFA, which contains a lot of valuable information and advice to referees on how to deal with injuries on the field of play.

Mike has also devised a 1-day Basic Sports First Aid Course Programme. Over 350 coaches have completed the course, which could be modified further for referees, who would get a first aid award for completing the programme. Mike is willing to deliver this programme to ABSs or through County RAs.

The full article and course programme are available on the RA website, or can be obtained along with further information regarding staging the courses from Mike Healy at [Mike.Healy@TheFA.com](mailto:Mike.Healy@TheFA.com).

## ROYAL HONOURS FOR THREE MEMBERS

Most people will have heard about the MBE granted to Howard Webb in the New Year Honours list, marking the end of a momentous year for him. However, less publicised were similar honours granted to Terry Farley and Lou Jones.



Terry Farley (*left*) became a referee in 1952 and enjoyed 15 years as a top-flight official, refereeing at some of Europe's top stadiums.

In 1962, he was appointed Secretary of Bishop Auckland RA, a position he still holds today. He was made a Life Member of the RA in 1999. Terry is still very active in coaching and assessing referees and also looks after the match day officials at Darlington F.C.

Terry will be attending Buckingham Palace on 1 March to receive his award and has promised to provide a photo of the occasion for the next issue of the Digest.

Terence (Lou) Jones (*right*) is President of Burton RA, having served for four decades as a referee. His award was also to recognise his fund-raising locally for the British Heart Foundation, the Air Ambulance and the Burton Caribbean Association.



All three are clearly proud to have received their award and spoke of shock when hearing the news. Our congratulations go to them all, together with best wishes for an enjoyable day to look forward to at Buckingham Palace.

*Photographs reproduced courtesy of Darlington F.C (above) and Burton Mail (right).*

## ASIAN REFEREES VISIT HEAD OFFICE

Three Asian referees - Fu Ming from China, Ahmed Al Kaaf from Oman and Ahmad A'Qashah from Singapore - recently visited RA HQ. They are part of Project Future Referees; a major referee development programme organised by the Asian Football Confederation and they were in England for a week as guests of PGMOL.

Referees under the age of 25 are selected for Project Future, a 2-year course which will take them to referee in different parts of Asia and receive instruction and advice from the top AFC referee instructors. The first group graduated in 2009 and already 10 have been appointed to the FIFA List of referees. The aim of the project is to create the next generation of top Asian referees and already some have shown great potential.



*From left: Ahmed Al Kaaf, Fu Ming, Ahmad A'Qashah, Arthur Smith and George Cumming.*

Manager of AFC Project Future Referees, former FIFA Head of Refereeing, George Cumming from Scotland, said he was optimistic for the future of refereeing in Asia. "We have some exceptional talent in the project and I am sure some will go on to referee at the highest levels in world football. "Fu Ming, now refereeing in the Chinese Super League was enthusiastic. "We have been given a great chance by AFC to develop our skills as referees and it is a wonderful opportunity to come and taste so many aspects of football in England."

During their stay at Warwick University, they had sessions with the Select Group referees, watched the Premier League derby between Birmingham City and Aston Villa and also attended the Birmingham RA meeting when the guest speaker was Mark Halsey.

## OBITUARIES

It is with regret that we report the passing of the following members:

Duncan Underhill - North East Devon, Allan Shaw - Worthing, John Hall - Nottingham, David Horlick (Senior) - Liverpool, Charlie Elsworth - Bridgwater, Jack Whitmore - Croydon, Fred Barr - East Riding, Geoff Alliband - Stourbridge, Terry Branston - Rugby, Matias Domingues Perez - Crewe, Harold Feldman - Leeds, Jack Wilkinson - Nottingham, Bill Wright - Norwich, Neil Elliot - Eccles.

Our sympathies go to their families in their sad loss.

## REFEREES' GOLF DAY: WEDNESDAY 1 JUNE – STAVERTON PARK GOLF CLUB

This competition is open to all golfers who are registered referees, employees, tutors or assessors with the PGMOL, FA, RA or County FA.

Entry costs £35 per head, which includes coffee on arrival, 18 holes of golf, a buffet meal and over £250 of prizes.

The Day will be a Stableford format and all Competition rules will be issued in advance of the Golf Day. The maximum number of places is 80 across twenty tee times starting at 9:30 – 11:30; booking is strictly first come first served. An official CONGU handicap is very much preferred but not essential. Please do not reserve a place if your personal golf ability is likely to embarrass you, PGMOL, refereeing or the Course management.

If you wish to participate a cheque deposit of £15 is required immediately to reserve your place. Cheques payable to: Andrew Newell, 1 Chaffinch Close, Thornton Cleveleys, Lancashire FY5 2UR. Please advise your "Official CONGU Handicap" when you pay your Deposit. No deposit – No reservation.

There will be a Raffle on the Day for the benefit of Bob Hamer's Aid International Charity and prize donations will be gratefully received. For further information contact Andrew on 07971 955380 or e-mail [acnewell@btinternet.com](mailto:acnewell@btinternet.com)



## RA DRAW

	<input type="text"/>
<b>THE REFEREES' ASSOCIATION</b>	<input type="text"/>
Name:	<input type="text"/>
Address:	<input type="text"/>
Postcode:	<input type="text"/>
<small>All Cash and Sold. Contents should be returned to The Promoter, A. W. S. Smith, Unit 12 Ensign Business Centre, Westwood Way, Westwood Heath, Coventry CV4 8JA. Registered under the Lotteries and Amusements Act, 2005.</small>	
<b>THE REFEREES' ASSOCIATION</b> Promoter: A. W. S. Smith Unit 12 Ensign Business Centre, Westwood Way, Westwood Business Park, Westwood Heath, Coventry CV4 8JA Registered under the Lotteries and Amusements Act, 2005	
<b>GRAND PRIZE DRAW 2011</b>	
1st Prize <b>Citroen C1 1.0 VTR+ 3dr</b>	
2nd Prize £1,000 - 3rd Prize £500	
4th Prize £250 - 5th Prize £100	
and 50 Prizes of £50	
Drawn on Saturday, 16th July, 2011 at the Hinckley Island Hotel	
Profit from the Draw will be used to fund R.A. Projects	

ABSs should now be in possession of tickets for the 2011 Draw.

The 1<sup>st</sup> prize is a Citroen C1 VTR+ 3 door car supplied by PrestonSkirrow (see left).

Members are urged to sell tickets to relatives, friends and colleagues to raise money for the RA and in particular for their own ABS who receive 50% of the proceeds from all tickets sold by members.

Any ABS without tickets, or if more tickets are required, please contact Head Office.



The RA have a sponsorship scheme with PrestonSkirrow for cars supplied by Keith Price Volvo Ltd. See more details at [www.prestonskirrow.co.uk](http://www.prestonskirrow.co.uk) or contact Dave Skirrow at [dave.skirrow@prestonskirrow.co.uk](mailto:dave.skirrow@prestonskirrow.co.uk), or telephone 02920 657530.

## SOCIAL NETWORKING & E-BULLYING

The dangers of social networking are fairly well documented, however issues around football have recently been highlighted by comments made by a player towards Howard Webb.

Referees should be aware of the dangers of comments made by players and match officials alike towards each other. Some of those which have been experienced are given below as examples of what is unacceptable:-

- Level 7 referee making comments about his RDO and a goal line decision made in a televised game.
- Level 5 referee asking a level 1 for betting tips in a game he was refereeing.
- A club saying the referee on Sunday morning was a cheat.
- Referees moaning collectively about supply league fixtures.
- Referees asking about the team's attitude

The FA will take strong action and (when notified) are changing teams, players and match officials for comments made on social networking – you have been warned!



## FOOTBALL LEAGUE CUP FINAL

Congratulations to our members who have been appointed to officiate at the final of the Football League Cup, Arsenal v Birmingham City at Wembley on Sunday 27 February, k.o. 4.00p.m.



Referee is Mike Dean (Wirral); Assistant Referees are Ron Ganfield (Weston-super-Mare) and Mike Mullarkey (East Devon), with Kevin Friend (Leicester) as 4<sup>th</sup> Official and Scott Ledger (Rotherham) as Reserve AR.

## LONG & MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD



General Secretary, Arthur Smith has been out making a number of presentations recently.

Pictured left, he is presenting the LMSA to Derek Allen, Chairman of Walsall RA, who is accompanied by his wife Linda.

## 50 YEAR SERVICE AWARDS - below

Below left: Arthur presents the 50 year Membership award to Wally Harvey, Chairman of Redditch.

Below centre: A similar award is presented to Peter West, President of Hereford.

Below right: Board Member John Starkey is shown presenting 50 Year Membership awards to Birmingham RA members Alan Stevens (left) and Bill Gravenor (right).



## REPRESENTATION OF MEMBERS

This is one of the benefits of being a full member of the RA which, like insurance, is hopefully not needed but invaluable when it is. However, it can only be utilised at the right time. Unfortunately, there have been recent cases where RA representation has only been sought when an appeal is made, which is too late.

If you require support or advice regarding any matter relating to refereeing, it is vitally important to contact your ABS Secretary, or a County RA Officer, as early as possible, in order that the matter can be referred to Head Office and/or the Board. This is particularly important if you have been charged by your County FA and/or the FA. It is important not to reply to any Solicitor's letters you may receive concerning player v player etc. Please send any communication of this nature to your CFA and request they deal with it on your behalf and also contact the RA HQ for advice.

## 2011 DIARY DATES

- March 31: Last date for proposed amendments to proposed rule changes or NOM's to reach HO
- April 1: New Membership year commences
- April 14: Board Election voting closes
- May 8: RA Board Meeting
- May 13: Eve-of-Final Rally
- May 14: FA Cup Final
- May 31: Deadline for returning Grand Draw tickets and counterfoils
- July 15: AGM
- July 16: Conference
- July 17: Quiz Final



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