



R.A. BOARD VOICEOVER

“Conference 2015 Special”

Referees' Association Announcement

At meeting of the RA Board on Sunday 5th July 2015 the following were elected:

Chairman: Paul Field Vice Chairman: Ian Campbell Treasurer: Eddie McGrath

Further announcements will follow during the coming weeks as we continue to structure the RA Board.

THE THOUGHTS OF CHAIRMAN PAUL



(Paul Field)

I have been a member of the R.A. Board for 5 years during which time I have seen seven different Chairman, a Board of Inquiry regarding the general management of the RA, and we had an office facility which was not fit-for-purpose, The RA has now started to move forward and this is now history but let's remember one quote which typifies the organisation: Henry Ford said – **“If you always do what you've always done, you will always get what you've always got”**. In the case of The R.A., a poor product which is not relevant to majority of the Refereeing family, declining membership and often people being in office for far too long.

In my view, The R.A. now has to move forward and there are sound building blocks for the future which are positive steps. We need to remember that our main reason for existence is to provide a platform for on-going training, development, mentoring and mutual support. The thriving LRAs are the ones that concentrate on this, have lively debates, a good social side and little business transacted at meetings. As a collective (individually and LRA's) we are all responsible!

There is an urgent need to change people's perception of the RA and the quality of the membership experience. I aim to bring stability over the next 12 months and acknowledge that, ultimately, I will be judged on results.

The blocks which are available to all:

- 1) QUEST (Quality)
- 2) 3-year plan (Vision)
- 3) RA-FA Youth Council (Engagement)
- 4) RA-FA Working group (Representation)
- 5) 4 x CPD events for LRAs provided by the FA (Added Value)

During the coming weeks/months I will be engaging with our stakeholders to build a structure which upskills the Board and the Association, brings diversity and becomes more representative of the refereeing work-force as a whole.

All I ask is an open mind – change is difficult, there will be frustration, “red-tape blockages” and LRAs that can't/won't change/adapt – but the failure to change will ultimately end with the Referees' Association becoming history, so grab the opportunity and come with me on our journey to revitalise The Referees' Association.

Conference 2015 was on the whole, an outstanding success. While we are disappointed in the critical mass of numbers attending, the overall quality was greatly enhanced with the workshops being more manageable and therefore the learning experience and tutor interaction improved accordingly. The enjoyment of the delegates attending who completed the feedback forms gave overall good to very good. There is some valuable feedback which the Board will seriously consider and as we plan for next year.

Overall ratings: Very good 46% Good 37% Low 17% (AGM, Saturday lunch arrangements)

Dates and location for Conference 2016 will be confirmed shortly. Currently the Board have received no alternative venue suggestions.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

(45 LRA's were represented)



Delegates stand for a minute of silence in memory of our murdered colleague Joel Richards

L.M.S.A Presentation



(Paul Salisbury (right) from Rugby R.A. receives his award from Acting Chairman Ian Campbell)

Notice of Awards

There were no Life Membership Awards this year. There were three LMSA Awards. Bill Carter of Sedgfield LRA and Graham Rosam from Gloucester LRA were not able to be present. Paul Salisbury from the Rugby LRA was present and received his award from the Chairman.



Paul Field presents Treasurers Report and Accounts



Delegates listen intently and make their notes

PARTICIPANT

“Participant” is the replacement membership management system which will replace the much maligned RAMMS. Tim Wilson presented a more than useful insight into the system which will hopefully go “live” on 20th July 2015.

REFEREES' ASSOCIATION BENEVOLENT FUND

The Trustees gratefully acknowledge those LRA's who have made donations to the RA Benevolent Fund during 2014-15

Banbury, Bath, Burton, Carlisle, Chiltern District, Croydon, Dover (Closure) Durham City, Ealing (Closure) Harlow, Heavy Woollen, High Wycombe, Kings Norton, Maidstone, Mexborough, Nuneaton, Romford, Southend on Sea, Spalding, St Helens, Stockton, Sutton Coldfield, York.

In addition

Individual Members

Trevor Boulding Life Member, Steve Crossman, R D Heads (Leicester) Peter Molyneux (Life Member)

Obituaries

The deaths of 11 members had been notified during the past year. Particular reference was made of Joel Richards from the West Bromwich LRA who was killed in the Tunisian Terrorist Attack on 26 June 2015.

The delegates stood as a mark of respect to their late colleagues:

George Cook (Cramlington Life Member), Graham Boothman (Burnley Life Member), Gareth Dixon (Bootle), Peter Stacey (Croydon), Roger Dunning (Croydon), Pat Gwynn (Leamington), Gerald Whitfield (Cambridge), Keith Ellmes (Lincoln), Kenneth Cartwright (Nuneaton), Ron Edwards (Southend), Roy Holdridge (Doncaster), and Joel Richards (West Bromwich)

R.A.-F.A. Youth Council

"Making Your Refereeing Mission Possible"

(By Will Finnie – Chairman R.A.-F.A. Youth Council)

This is the task many referees across the country, of all ages and experiences, face in the challenge to reach our ultimate goals and achievements. On Friday 3rd July, The RA-FA Youth Council hosted two exciting and vibrant development events for Referees to receive high quality education from the country's top tutors and officials.

The day started with 90 referees descending upon QPR's Training Ground near Heathrow to take part in 3 tough, but educational, sessions that challenged and up skilled those in attendance. Ian Blanchard, Keith Stroud, Dan Meeson, Roger Vaughan, Adam Gale-Watts and Ray Olivier all facilitated the sessions, with Simon Breivik putting the officials through their paces in a fitness exercise. Some of the country's top officials offered their experience and expertise, including Craig Pawson, Lee Mason, Jon Moss, Stuart Burt, Darren England, Harry Lennard and John Brooks. The officials were left with new skills and ideas from the day and ready to take on their mission when the new season starts.



Y.C. Referees Assemble



Adam Gale-Watts on Assisting



Lee Mason Up-skills Y.C. Referees

On the Friday evening, the RA-FA Youth Council hosted a development evening and dinner which again offered further training and development sessions, as well as the opportunity to meet colleagues. Will Finnie, RA-FA Youth Council Chairman and Tom Bowkett, Vice Chairman, delivered a session on 'Selling Decisions', with Ian Blanchard delivering a session on 'Getting to the Top'. Who knows, in the room we could have a future FA Cup Final referee?



Y.C. Dinner & Development



Ian Blanchard "Getting to the Top"

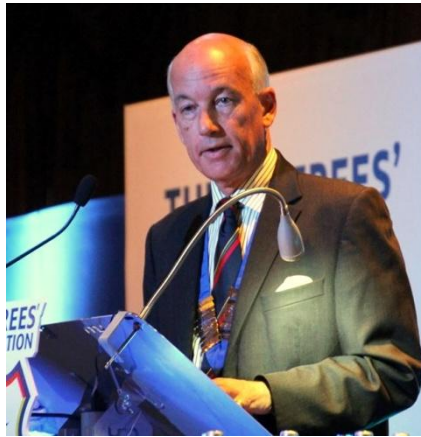


"Pirate" Jon Moss Buying Decisions

The RA-FA Youth Council are proud to deliver these events and are grateful for the continued support of all those who attend, as well as the R.A., The F.A., and PGMOL for their continued support. The 2015 events saw the RA-FA Youth Council engage over 150 Referees in interactive and practical delivery, and look forward to continuing to offer opportunities to Referees across the country.

Should you wish to receive any further information about RA-FA Youth Council events, please email events@rafayc.co.uk

CONFERENCE SATURDAY



Referees' Association President David Elleray Officially Opens Conference 2015



F.A. Cup Final Referee 2015 Jon Moss

For the second Conference in succession Jon Moss was the morning keynote speaker, and he did not disappoint. His free flowing style and care-free delivery had the audience in raptures. However, there was an important message to be gleaned from his presentation, basically if you want to progress in Refereeing sacrifices are necessary.

WORKSHOPS

Managing the technical area - Neale Barry, Simon Bennett & John Moss

Promising attack or DOGSO – Dan Meeson, Jake Collin & Jane Simms



When to play "Advantage" presenters Kevin Friend, Lee Mason & Ian Blanchard



How to recognise simulation presenters Roger Vaughan, Howard Webb & Andre Marriner

Keeping the lid on things – Craig Pawson, Darren England & Stuart Burt

How to plan your fitness training – Simon Brevik (PGMOL Sports Scientist)

Assisting or insisting? – John Brooks, Harry Lennard & Adam Watts

The workshops were an outstanding success. Four of the workshops received 100% approval from attendees with the remainder in the high 90's. Strangely enough, the reduced numbers appeared to make the individual workshops more manageable and enhanced the enjoyment and learning experience for the attendees. This is something the Board will consider when planning for the future.

QUEST AWARD



Lee Marwick (left) receives the award from Ian Campbell with Board Member John Key looking on

R.A. Board Member John Key spoke about the R.A. QUEST award scheme. He gave basic details of the awards and went on to demonstrate how the QUEST standards had been a real driving force in moving his own local association forward with such a huge benefit for its members. Following on from this, the R.A. Chairman, Ian Campbell, presented the “New” QUEST Silver award to Lee Markwick of Thurrock LRA and presented John Key with a “New” QUEST award to him as the Secretary to Barkston Ash LRA to add to the certificate that was originally presented to the LRA by Neale Barry.

Closure of Conference 2015

In his closing remarks to Conference, and at the Saturday evening dinner, David Elleray, made mention of the current global problems in football and drew parallels with the state of football immediately before the first world war. David paid tribute to the number of footballers who had given their life for their country in the First World War. The President invited all to reconvene in 2016 at a date and venue to be notified.

?QUIZ FINAL 2015?

(Ian Campbell Reports)

All teams competed in the true spirit required, with a special mention for Mid-Sussex, who didn't realise the implications of them winning their County RA Quiz until a few days beforehand, struggled to find a team, but somehow managed to field a full squad on the day.

Congratulations to the Winners (Gravesend) who retained their Trophy from last year, and commiserations to the other teams, particularly to the Runners-Up (Chiltern District).

Ian Miles of Gravesend retained his 2014 title of Highest Individual Scorer, although several other competitors were hot on his heels - at this rate, Gravesend RA will have to increase their annual subs to pay for all the Trophy engravings!

Once again, we must all be hugely appreciative of the many hours and tremendous effort put in by our returning Quizmaster Colin Morris in order to deliver a contest of such high professional quality in both content and presentation - and if that doesn't get him to volunteer again for 2016, nothing will !

A grateful mention too for my R.A. Board colleague Eddie McGrath who acted as Timekeeper, and also to Brian Richards of Berks & Bucks for his unofficial but vital role of double-check scorer!

The small number of spectators and supporters present, low in quantity but high in quality, added to the good general atmosphere throughout.

Result

- 1st = Gravesend / 99 points (max 128)
- 2nd = Chiltern District / 86 points
- 3rd = Doncaster / 79 points
- 4th = Knights (London) / 60 points
- 5th = Mid-Sussex / 48 points



The victorious Gravesend team receive the trophy from Ian Campbell



Ian Miles trophy presentation



Runners-up Chiltern District with Board member Ian Campbell

Highest Individual Scorer

- 1st: Ian Miles (Gravesend) / 27 points (max 32)
- =2nd: Ian Mitchell (Gravesend) / 26 points
- =2nd: Simon Parbery (Chiltern District) / 26 points
- 4th: Pat Carey (Gravesend) / 25 points
- 5th: Michael Leneghan (Doncaster) / 24 points

And Finally



POSITIVELY ABSOLUTELY FABULOUS DARLING!



What THEY Said.....

"Fabulous venue, the service was excellent and the food was much better than last year"
(regular Conference attendee)

"Really enjoyed the seminars. I chose the correct three and know my game will improve next season. Thank the Board for organising the event. I will bring some more mates next year"
(promotion candidate 7 to 6)

"Last nights dinner was the best food we have ever had. Why not book an entertainer next year, not a disco, possibly a comedian"
(regular at Conference)

"The Fitness session was best. I am going to follow Simon's advice. His was the best session"
(newly promoted Level 5)

"Where can we get details of this Quest Award as yesterday was the first time I have heard about it"
(Level 7 referee newly elected to LRA Committee)

"Jane Sims has given me a goal to aim for"
(young female Referee)

"These top referees are just ordinary people and you learn a lot from them"
(young Level 6 Referee)

"I have taken away a number of sessions that I can put into the in-service training that I deliver"
(Level 2 Tutor)

"Can you provide us with a lunch next year please"
(Level 10 Tutor and Assessor)

Well Done the R.A. we will be bringing our development group again next year they really enjoyed themselves, and I think they learnt something"
(RDO and level 3 referee)

And Finally Finally.....



This is a photograph of a smiling, happy Joel Richards who, like many of us over the years, travelled abroad for a relaxing beach holiday after a long hard season. We are all aware of the events at Sousse. It is hard to comprehend that such a barbarous act of terrorism could result in the untimely death of a member of our Refereeing Family.

The sum of £500.00 was raised over the Conference weekend. At the last look at the website £12,560 is the latest figure. If you wish to add to this go to:

<http://www.gofundme.com/Joelrichards>