

The official publication of
The Referees' Association

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The Voice of The RA

*Supporting Referees since
1908*



December
2015

The Year of Energy Givers

As we are about to enter 2016, the forthcoming year really needs to be the Year of the "Energy Givers". The RA membership needs to stop being so pessimistic and start to believe that we can turn this organisation around - we need to re-boot!

We have a number of threats to our very existence that we need to urgently address. Recently we have written to almost 1000 ex-members, and we have had some encouragement in that people are prepared to join or re-join directly, albeit only in small numbers.

Reading the history books, it is clearly shown that the RA has often been an organisation which has listened to the few, but to the detriment of the many.

The last six months has seen an up-grading of the RA Website, the ability to join directly, the first CRA gaining a QUEST Award, and a constant stream of QUEST applications. During the last few months we were delighted that RA members Michael Oliver, Stuart Burt and Gary Beswick were chosen as the match officials for the FIFA u-17 World Cup final in Chile. They followed the 2015 FA Cup Final match officials in all being RA members - there is a common theme here!

The 2016 County RA Liaison Meeting being held in January will be uplifting and motivational. Our next Board Meeting in December will be in accordance with Schedule 7 for the few who are interested, namely with a single topic agenda: how to refresh our offer and provide what the majority of our members desperately want. This includes education, development and CPDs, with some ex-members wanting more, and in some cases even advising us of being offered more outside the RA.

There will always be a few who feel that we should totally rely on the Football Association to provide everything, but research has revealed the overwhelming feedback to be that we need as a collective to reverse this perception and answer the frequent question: **Just what can the RA do for me?**

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We close on 23rd December &
Re-open on 4th January 2016

What's inside?

Energy Givers, Announcements, QUEST, Back in the day, Events, Out & about

Announcements

Email addresses for the RA will be changing. The RA has suffered from a lack of brand identity, as neither “The Referees’ Association” nor “The RA” has been part of our email address. Effective business controls avoid emails going to private email addresses. Our thanks must go to Derek Mansfield for his assistance in this process.

These changes will greatly aid the automation and efficiency of the RA support centre.

Going forward the following email address will be live:

contact@the-ra.org - all day-to-day communication will be processed via this address

membership@the-ra.org - for all membership enquiries of any kind

quest@the-ra.org - all applications/evidences/etc. for Quest to go via this address

Finance@the-ra.org - suppliers and vendors will be using this address



Urgent help needed

QUEST has seen a real growth in interest over recent months, and we are extremely grateful to our current Audit Team of Bob Gahan, Sharon Smith and Nick Taplin. We do however need to lighten their workload and thereby aid the overall process. We are therefore seeking additional suitable auditors, who should ideally be qualified to internationally recognised standards, i.e.: ISO9000/ISO14001/ISO18001 or SMETA. If you are at all interested, please email Lynn Harris at Head Office via contact@the-ra.org in the first instance.

QUEST Award by John Key



We are delighted to announce that following LRAs have been awarded

QUEST Bronze:

Gravesend Referees' Association

Barking and Dagenham Referees' Society

Back in the day!

Friday 13th November 1908 – Northern section of the RA at Crosby Hotel in Manchester

The Chairman of the Referees Union, Mr Sutcliffe, explained that the meeting had been called to consider the question of Referees Societies in the north.

The following Societies had already been formed:

Manchester - Bolton - Blackburn - York

The following Societies had promised to form:

**Northern Society, Bradford, Oldham, West Riding, Leeds, Liverpool,
Darlington, Blackpool, Preston, Furness, Carlisle and Wigan**

The RA Secretary was to write to Leeds Referees with a view to the Society being addressed and its formation date being established. Liverpool Referees Society had asked for a speaker for their meeting on 20th November. Mr W Elkspeel offered to go to Liverpool. Furness referees had not yet decided to form, due to a certain league where Union referees would not be welcome - this matter would be taken up by the Union. There was no news regarding Bury Referees Society, and the Union would write to them to ensure that they addressed their formation to the Union. It was promised by Blackpool and Preston that Societies would be formed very soon, but no firm dates could be given.

The next meeting would be held in Birmingham, and the Chairman would be addressing meetings in Sheffield and Crewe. The Committee expressed satisfaction, and tendered best thanks for the good work of the Union.

Charles Sutcliffe (Chairman)

November 1965

At the annual dinner of the Catterick Branch, the picture (right) shows W/O A L Morris handing over a cheque for twenty pounds {£362.42 in today's money} for the RA Benevolent Fund to Mr Peter Baldwin (North Riding).

Investigation into lost time

It was reported by the Football League that on average 30 minutes of play was lost during each game, a good proportion of which was caused by gamesmanship, i.e. deliberate wasting of time.

	No.	Time/mins
Free-kicks	31	9
Offsides	8	3
Throw-ins	63	10
Goal-kicks	11	6
Corners	6	2
Goals	1	1
Injuries	3	6

The FL in 1965 questioned why the lack of urgency in restarting play. Referees should be careful to add the actual time lost through injury, but often forget the prescribed two minutes. They also fail to caution players who deliberately waste time – surely this comes under the heading of ungentlemanly conduct.



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Flag Sticks for above, 18" long, cork handle 7/9

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[23]

Website



Every LRA can now update their own page. We just need a recognised officer from that LRA to contact itsupport@the-ra.org to request a login. You will then receive login details along with short instructions on the update procedures. Maintaining your details through the site will help us in ensuring that we have up-to-date circulation details for all our LRAs.

We welcome news from LRAs and CRAs, plus any suggestions you have about other items for inclusion.

Twitter



Facebook



Appeal for articles

Do you have any training or interesting news articles? If so, then let us spread the word that the Referees' Association is open for business. Let others know how you are leading the way in the development of your own LRA and in enhancing the performance of your members.

Please send your articles in word/images as jpegs to:

contact@the-ra.org

County Liaison Meeting 2016

The next County Liaison Meeting will be held at the Abbey Hotel in Redditch on **Sunday 10th January 2016**. It will be a forward-thinking event where CRAs will be requested to bring along at least one delegate **under-25**.

There will be focused Workshops to develop this organisation, and every CRA will be asked to bring a least **one positive and deliverable idea**, to show that CRAs have a fundamental role to play in the RA's turn-around.

These events are all about building a united association with a common aim, the development of membership in terms of numbers, friendship at all levels, plus achieving an organisation which is relevant for all referees.



Agenda – Raising our Game

10am - Introduction

Workshop 1 - Risk to the RA (Energy vampires)

Workshop 2 - Elimination of Risk

Lunch

Process for guest speakers

Workshop 3 - Development Fund/QUEST

Raising our Game (Energy givers)

Close - 3pm

HOW TO DEAL WITH **ENERGY VAMPIRES**

1. **Ground yourself**
(So you don't get swayed by the negativity)
2. **Shield yourself**
(Create an energy bubble that protects you from them)
3. Hang out in **groups of 3 or more**
(This way, the interaction will not be as draining)
4. Provide a **listening ear**
(Sometimes what they need is a listening ear)
5. Extend a **helping hand**
(Their negativity may well be a silent cry for help)
6. Stick to **light topics**
(New movies; Daily occurrences; Common friends; Latest trends)
7. **Reduce contact**
(If the above doesn't work)
8. Cut them **away from your life**
(As last resort - if nothing improves. You deserve better.)

Eve-of-Final Rally

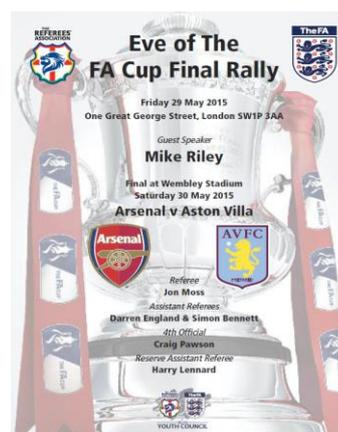
Meet the FA Cup Final Match Officials:

Friday 20th May 2016

One Great George Street

Central London

(1 minute from Westminster)



The RA Conference 2016

Hinckley Island Hotel, Hinckley, Leicestershire

Saturday 16th & Sunday 17th July 2016



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Out and About

News from Peterborough by Robert Wildle

The 7th Young Referees Day organised by Peterborough Referees Association was a huge success, with Premiership referee Kevin Friend visiting 4 academies, meeting over 400 pupils, and addressing a packed record audience at the Fleet Complex in the city.

The day started at Fulbridge Road Academy with 26 girls and boys playing mini-soccer but also having a go at being a match official, plus the opportunity to put questions to a top referee.

Nene Park Academy was the next venue as 32 pupils again had a go to see if they had what it takes to be a referee.

A car journey across the city saw stop three at Newark Hill Academy where, after another series

of matches, a 300-strong assembly posed a further batch of very relevant questions to their top-flight guest.

The last school stop was at Stanground Academy where the hosts had organised a 5-a-side tournament for year-7 pupils in which local young referees could show Kevin Friend their talents.

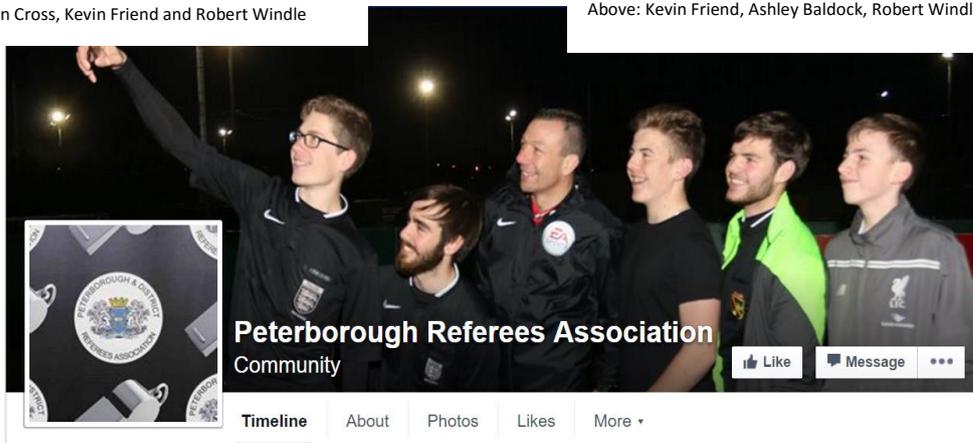
The final section of the day was at The Fleet, where 175 young referees and their parents were treated to fun games, workshops, even a parents workshop, a motivational talk, plus various Award presentations which included: Young Referee of the Season: Ashley Baldock Smith; Referee of the Season: Sarah Grundy; and finally Service to Football: John Cross, a former FA Assessor and Treasurer of Peterborough RA .



Above: John Cross, Kevin Friend and Robert Windle



Above: Kevin Friend, Ashley Baldock, Robert Windle and Sarah Grundy



News from Cornwall, by Iain Tucker

On Sunday 15th November a RA-FA Day was organised by Cornwall RDO and RA Vice-President Ray Brown at the Cornwall FA Headquarters. After an introduction by Ray, the main topic was how to look after a collapsed person. The leaders were excellent and led 37 referees through their paces from start to finish, allowing all of them to participate in CPR on the dummies and then on to the use of portable defibrillators.

How the time flew! All those assembled were engrossed, and received Certificates on completion of the session. Our own training staff then had a very short session left in which they dealt with kit and the management of play issues.

A very good training session, the only disappointment being the relatively small attendance of about 15 of the referees in the County.

Iain Tucker



Geoff Stanborough reports from Kent...

The Ashford & Weald Referees Branch held its Annual Dinner Dance and Cabaret on Saturday 14th November at Sandycroft Sports and Social Club in Ashford. National RA Life Member John Fenning (right), who is also President of both the Kent Referees Association and the Ashford & Weald Referees Branch, is seen presenting the RA 50-Year Membership Award to Don Amos in recognition of his outstanding life-long service to refereeing in Kent. A truly magnificent achievement.

Cambridge & District RS

Presentation of RA 50-year Membership Award to John Coxall of Cambridge & District RS (on right).

Made by Ian Campbell (RA Board Vice-Chairman) at the HQ of Cambridgeshire FA on Mon.23/11/15.

