



# R.A. BOARD VOICEOVER

Issue 3 August 2015

## EDDIE-TORIAL

The big kick-off is only days away. Local leagues will follow shortly afterwards. The anticipation is in the air. Clubs are busily preparing and seeking to add numbers to their squad, via social media in many cases. As Referees we should already have preparation well in hand, but bear in mind that we too need to add similarly to our Local Referees' Association and the Referees' Association in general. How shall we go about this? Later in this edition is some advice from a successful L.R.A. In addition to the usual news and updates there is advice on how subscriptions can be paid with minimum effort.

Contributions and items of interest are always welcome – and **don't forget the photographs.**

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### THE NEW BOARD

- Chairman** – Paul Field (Redditch)
- Vice Chairman** – Ian Campbell (Bedford)
- Treasurer** – Eddie McGrath (Bootle)
- External Affairs & Facilities** – Albert Astbury (Eastleigh)
- Internal Affairs** – John Wilson (Driffield & Bridlington)
- QUEST** – John Key (Barkston Ash)
- RA-FA Youth Council** – Will Finnie (Bedford) (Co-opted for 12 months)
- RA-FA Youth Council** – Tom Bowkett (Solihull) (Co-opted for 12 months)

*In addition the following members were invited to become Honorary Officers because of their expertise in specific roles:*

- John Harvey** – Constitution + General Support (West Somerset)
- Reg Pullen** – Accounts and Sustainability planning (Alton)
- Arran Williams** - Social Media, Young Referee Champion including RA certificate of achievement (Halifax)
- Derek Mansfield** - IT and General Support (Worthing)
- Vince Penfold** - Business Support and LRA Officers Manual (Woking)

### Board Resignation - Bill Darby

It is with regret that Bill Darby has tendered his resignation from the Board for health reasons. The Board would like to pass on their very best wishes to Bill and sincere thanks for his support during the last 12 months. Bill had a procedure in hospital just prior to Conference and he made a tremendous effort in attending to fulfill his role as a Board member.

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### Dates for Your Diary

**Eve of Final Rally  
Friday 20 May 2016**

**Annual General Meeting  
And CRA Meeting  
Saturday 4 June 2016**

**Conference Weekend  
Saturday 16 & Sunday 17 July 2016**

Discussions are well in hand regarding possible venues. **D-Day** has been set as Wednesday 12 August. Members will be informed shortly afterwards and in the September 2015 edition of "VOICEOVER."

### GOLF DAY

It has been suggested that a members Golf Day be organised. Please send expressions of interest to the Editor.





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### Participant Suspended!

Due to the unforeseen circumstances that have caused L.R.A.'s to have difficulty logging in and registering members for the 2015/16 membership year the Board have decided to suspend Participant until we can be assured that it is working correctly and satisfactorily.

For the 2015/16 membership year RAMMS has been reset in order to allow L.R.A.'s to register their members as from the 1 August 2015 in the same manner as previously.

Any L.R.A. who will be paying their membership fees either by BACS or similar bank transfer, please use the following R.A. bank details:

**Bank of  
Scotland Sort  
Code 12-13-55  
Account Number 06037412**

As an incentive for new members to join we will offer them Insurance cover from the day that their payment is received even though they are not in full membership until the 30<sup>th</sup> September.

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### THE EASY WAY TO PAY!

Cheques are on their way out! L.R.A.'s will have to find an alternative. Becoming more efficient has to be a major aim in all aspects, especially banking and here is a suggested solution. This will reduce the volunteer Secretary/Treasurer workload making the R.A. more efficient. It is a free and secure on-line banking and has on-line signatories for good governance.

General Guidelines can be found here:

<http://www.resourcecentre.org.uk/information/bank-accounts-for-community-and-voluntary-organisations/>

Examples are given below:

Bank of Scotland – Club, Charity, and Society account

<http://www.bankofscotlandbusiness.co.uk/accounts/club-charity-and-society/> HSBC Community account

<http://www.business.hsbc.co.uk/1/2/business-banking/business-bank-accounts/community-account> Lloyds Bank

<http://www.lloydsbank.com/business/retail-business/current-accounts/treasurers-account.asp>

Santander

<http://www.santander.co.uk/uk/business/clubs-charities-accounts/treasurers-current-account>

The RA board is **NOT** recommending any particular bank. This is merely showing that there is free banking available to aid the process of efficiency and becoming a modern organisation.

**OTHER HIGH STREET BANKS ARE AVAILABLE!**



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## QUEST

**John Key is the man in charge and he offers some basic guidelines:**

Initially you should consider whether you meet the requirements of Bronze which is about the basic running of your L.R.A: rules; communication; finance; minutes. You need to have your accounts independently verified by an auditor usually prior to your AGM.

The key to a successful application is providing the necessary evidence in electronic form. It is not sufficient to say you do something - you must evidence it, e.g. for Bronze 1 you might supply your rules, a screenshot of an email that shows you have sent your rules to members, AGM minutes showing election of officers.

Application and Information pack is available from Head Office.

## “GIZ A JOB”

Volunteers are required from amongst the membership to perform the following important tasks:

1. Scrutinise Board expenses annually
2. Stock taking of supplies

**Do you have time to spare? Do you have the necessary experience?**

**Applications to reach Head Office (electronically will suffice) by 30 September 2015.**

## HOW DO YOU DO IT?

**Phil Reade (Wolverhampton L.R.A.) built up membership and is now the fastest growing L.R.A. in the country. Here's how:**

1. Request a copy from local County F.A. of all registered Referees for season 2015-2016
2. Look up **ALL** named referees in your city, town, and area.
3. Telephone each one that is NOT listed on your database; all R.A's should have one.
4. Explain to them what an R.A.is and how it can benefit each member, the cost, what the insurance plan covers etc.
5. Ask all local Referee Secretaries of the Leagues to attach an R.A. flyer to their next email to the Referees requesting that they become members of the local R.A.
6. Attend all seminars that County FA's are hosting for newly qualified referees who have just passed the course and present yourself to them with a background of who you are etc.

This worked for Wolverhampton. Yes it's time consuming but if you care for your members and you want it badly enough then the Secretary/Chairman/Treasurer of each R.A. must **“GO FOR IT.”**

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## BENEVOLENT FUND

**At the recent Benevolent Fund A.G.M. Arthur Smith was appointed as Clerk to the Trustees. Allcorrespondence and Benevolent Fund Claim Forms which should be marked **“PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL”** must be sent to him at the following address:**

**63 Hazel Road  
Rubery  
BIRMINGHAM  
B45 9DY**



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## WHAT'S HAPPENING?



Back row: Ian Hotchkies Conor Ledgeway Andy Luff John Ledgeway  
Front row: Joe Ballantyne Paul Ballantyne Brandon Bishop.

Members of York L.R.A. competed in the Yorkshire Cancer Research Run in aid of Prostate Cancer and in memory of Lol Cussons a stalwart member who passed away a few years ago. Sponsorship money is still being counted but should be well in excess of £500.00.

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## WHAT ABOUT US....TO THE LETTER?

Dear Eddie

Thank-you so much for writing this, you made me laugh out loud. I'm of the generation who didn't have the chance to play football at school, most definitely considered a 'boys thing' (didn't stop me hating netball). Found rowing and loved it, and rowed for many years competitively at a high level. Upon 'retiring' from the 6 times a week, twice a day training that this involved (on top of a full time job), I needed something else to bridge the gap a little. Have always loved football, was too old to learn to play and so chose the Refereeing option.

However, I have never sought promotion as I have to work some weekends as part of my job, and have a season ticket at Chelsea, and I'm not giving that up! Anyway, I enjoy youth football so spend most of my time in youth leagues. The point is I'm one of those people with limited access to training. I'm 'too old' to

be wanted to develop by the F.A. , don't wish to become over-active in adult football (to be quite frank I'd rather go training in a rowing boat than referee some unfit bloke who just puts his fag out before kick-off on a Sunday morning).

So where do we get advice from? I've always found the Referees Association more than helpful in this respect.

Anyway, the thing that really made me laugh was 'the defensive free kick in the penalty area' bit. I made a team re-take it at an end of season tournament, and I was the only person in the ground who thought I'd got that decision right. If only you'd been there...

**A.M. (Lady Referee)**

**Great to receive positive feedback and thank you for taking the time to write. (Ed)**



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## UPDATE FROM THE RA REPRESENTATIVE ON THE F.A. COUNCIL

(David Crick Reports)

- Cooling off period at Steps 3 & 4 – Northern Premier League has signed up for a 1-year trial - more may yet do so
- Access for The R.A. to referee training courses to promote the Association – if this is being denied, then I need to be told immediately
- Waiver wording for County F.A.'s to be added to any application to become a Referee – “I have no objection to The Referees’ Association being given my contact details” – delete if not applicable

The FA has decided to combine Group Legal and the Professional Game departments with Football Governance and Regulation, to be led by Darren Bailey. These changes will see Jonathan Hall, Roger Maslin and Alistair Maclean leaving The FA Group.

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### AND FINALLY.....

Recently, Virgin was supposed to take delivery of and launch the new super airliner supplied by Boeing. It was found to be not of the standard required by Virgin Executives and the launch and associated publicity was postponed.

Also recently the R.A. was to take delivery of and launch the new membership portal “Participant.” It was found not to be of the standard required by the R.A. Board and so the launch and associated publicity was postponed.

Can somebody please explain why the R.A. was expected to accept a sub-standard product when a company the size of Virgin would not?

Virgin Executives and the R.A. Board both made brave decisions in delaying the implementation having taken everything into consideration and with their “customers” in mind.

Luckily the R.A. has RAMMS to fall back on. Virgin is using their old aircraft too!

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Right, let’s do it. The new RA Treasurer needs some money to count! Subscriptions for 2015/16 can be paid via RAMMS from 1 August 2015. Any problems contact John Wilson who is the expert.

Apparently there is a new “hobby” going viral. People are visiting public houses to watch others drink and are then making ill-informed comments on the quality and quantity of what is on offer without first considering the ramifications. Ring any bells by comparison?

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Recruitment and Retention is a “collective responsibility” and ALL should play their part. If you do not want the Referees’ Association to survive just say so. We can then join together and recite:

*“Memento etiam Domine, famulorum famularumque tuarum Referees Association. qui nos praccsserunt cum signo fidei et dormiunt in sommo pacis. Ipsi, Domine, et omnibus in Christo quiescentibus, locum refrigerii, lucis et pacis, et indilgeas, deprecamur. Per eundem Christum Dominum nostrum.*

*Amen.”*