



Members Newsletter

September 2006

www.fifereferes.co.uk

Charity Match requires a Referee

A Challenge Match between residents from Freuchie and those from Auchtermuchty is taking place on Sunday 24th September 2006 at 2pm in Auchtermuchty. This is in aid of the Anthony Nolan Trust. Robert Duff is the organiser and he can be contacted on H 01592 758276 / M 07775 964804.

Dinner Dance

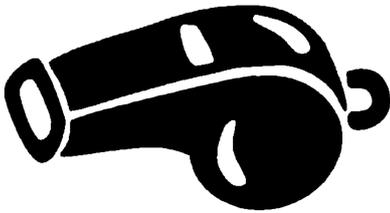
One of the highlights of the social calendar, this year's dinner dance is to be held at the Dean Park Hotel in Kirkcaldy on Saturday 4th November. The Dinner Dance is always an enjoyable night so why not come along with your partners, friends and family. Tickets are available at a cost of only £21 per head from the Social Convenor Douglas Potter (07843 422247) or any other member of the social committee whose contact details can be found in the Handbook.



Referee Training

Training continues at Fife Institute in Glenrothes from 7pm - 9pm every Tuesday. All Referees are welcome. Those referees in the Referee Categories for Senior Football are reminded as part of their contract as a listed official their attendance at the weekly training is expected. Additional training is also available on a Thursday night. Contact Colin Brown (07766 558480) for details.

Trainee Classes



A new trainee class is due to commence shortly starting on Monday 18th September in Glenrothes for 10 weeks (all Monday evenings). The course will run approximately from 7-9pm and the cost is £20. (Discounts may be available for certain categories e.g. unemployed).

Trainees must be at least 16 years of age at the time the Course commences. Applications are welcome from both males and females.

If you know of anyone who wishes to attend then please put them in touch with the Association Secretary Kevin Martin. Likewise if you are aware of suitable venues to put up posters please contact Kevin.

For the practical element of the entrance exam the association requires referees to volunteer to undertake the observing of Trainees during the 2 matches. You can decide how often you can perform this duty, but Steve Crichton, Referee Support Scheme Co-ordinator, will also try to ensure that the load is spread fairly. No written report is required, just the ability to guide new Referees through their first few games. Anyone interested should contact Kevin in the first instance. Generally we are looking for those Referees graded Category 5 and above (or Senior Associates who have relevant experience); however please discuss your situation with us if you feel you have something to offer. We do have a responsibility to ensure that the guidance trainees receive is of good quality and reflects current practice. Even if you do not quite have the experience as yet, we can bear you in mind for the future.

Monthly Meeting

The September monthly meeting will take place on Thursday 14th in Committee Room 2 of Fife House, Glenrothes with a 7pm start.

Postage

Would all members kindly ensure that the correct postage is used when submitting reports to Leagues. The Association of Fife Youth Football Clubs have highlighted that Secretaries are regularly having to travel to Royal Mail Depots and pay a surcharge of £1.58 where the contents of an envelope exceed the weight allowed for standard 1st or 2nd Class items. Your co-operation is appreciated.



Challenge Match Permits

Members are reminded that for ALL challenge matches played under the auspices of the SYFA, and Association of Fife Youth Football Clubs a permit must be obtained prior to kick-off. If NO PERMIT is received before the game, the game MUST NOT proceed.

Fife Youth Football Association U-17

All members refereeing in this League are advised that 5 substitutes may be named and these can be used on a rolling basis i.e. a substituted player can re-enter the field of play to replace another player. Other than this the normal substitution procedure should be observed.



Specsavers Sponsorship

In August, Specsavers Opticians announced a three year extension to its exclusive sponsorship of the Scottish FA referees, ploughing a further £600,000 into the coaching and development of the men in black and, with the SFA, unveiled a new initiative designed to enhance the game in Scotland.

From Saturday 12th August, Scotland's football referees will be using new, improved radio communication equipment. Refs, their assistants and the fourth official will wear a moulded earpiece, microphone and small power pack to allow them to speak to one another directly during a game, enabling them to make quicker and more informed decisions. The earpieces have been moulded for each of the referees by Specsavers' hearing aid company, Specsavers Hearcare Group Ltd. Scotland's football referees were the first to utilise this type of communication and now other countries, along with FIFA and UEFA, are realising its merits.

The 23rd Man

In keeping with this year's conference theme of earning respect the SFA have introduced the '23rd man' campaign aimed at highlighting the integral part we play in every game. All senior officials now have the number 23 displayed on their shirt and a website www.23rdman.co.uk has been set up which further explains the concept as well as featuring interactive video clips allowing football fans the chance to test their refereeing expertise in real time.

Fife Child Protection Policy

This has been amended to incorporate The Protection of Children in (Scotland) Act 2003. A copy is available on the Association website or on request from the Secretary. Child Protection is an important area for Referees and you are urged to make yourself familiar with the Policy. The new Act provides for the creation of a List of those thought unsuitable to work with Children. It places obligations on employers and other bodies to comply with the Act.

Bobby Orr Smoker

Following the premature death of Bobby Orr, which both shocked and saddened the referee family, the Renfrewshire Referee's Association are hosting the "Bobby Orr" Smoker on Saturday 25 November 2006 at the Glynhill Hotel, Renfrew to celebrate Bobby's life. The entertainment will be provided by main speakers, Eric Davidson and Joe Cammy. The host for the evening will be Willie Young. The evening will start at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £30 and tables of 10 can be reserved for groups attending which are available from Des Roache on 07703001738 or at des.roache@ntlworld.com. All proceeds from the night will be donated to St Vincent's Hospice where Bobby was cared for during the final few weeks of his illness.

Eastvale A.F.C. Annual Sporting Dinner

Eastvale AFC will be holding their annual dinner on Saturday 28 October 2006 at Buckhaven Community Centre. Tickets are priced at £25 and are available from the club secretary Douglas Briggs who can be contacted at dbriggs@hwca.com. The speakers on the night are John McGovern a European cup winning captain, comedian Micky Gunn from Hartlepool and the event will be chaired by John McKelvie.

Annual Association Golf Outing

This year the association will be holding their annual golf meeting at Kirkcaldy golf club. A tee-off time is booked for 2pm and the cost of the event is £17. This price includes a high tea afterwards.

Setanta Sports

As a promotional offer, Setanta TV has reduced the first three months rates for their new season package. The offer is only available to those with an existing SKY package and is based on £7.50 for the first 3 months and £15 thereafter.

Should you wish to take advantage of this offer then please phone 08700 50 69 34 and quote "promo code Referee". This offer is open to referees, friends and families.

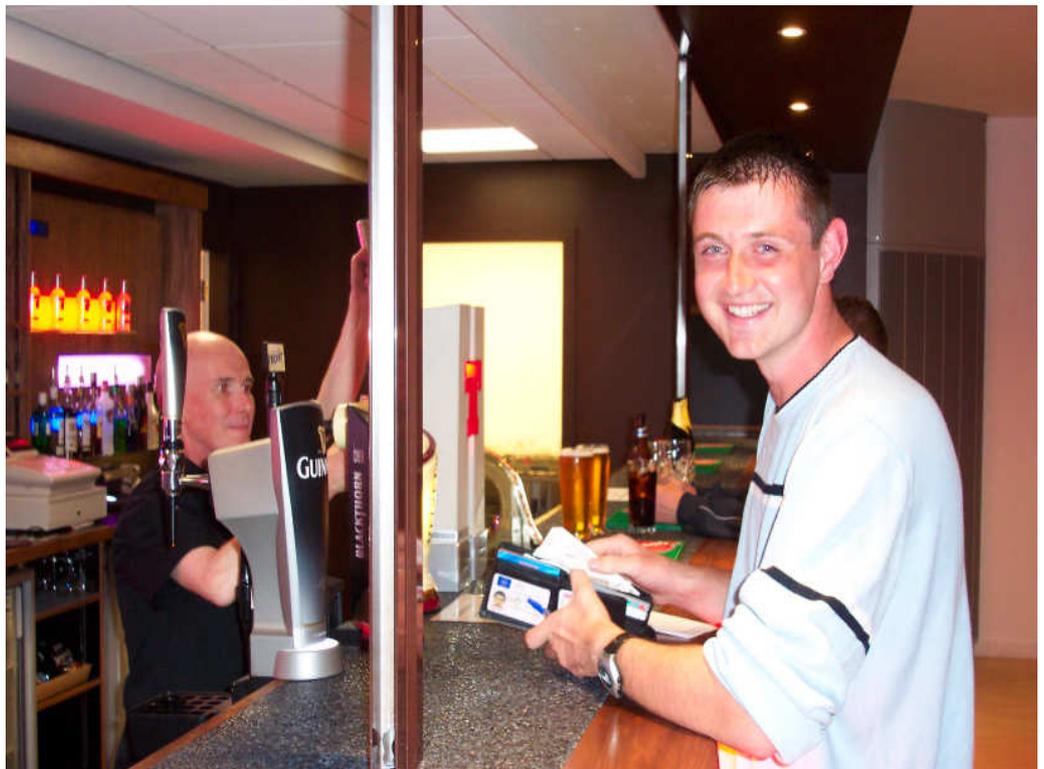
Appointments

Congratulations to Lorraine Clark for her appointment as Fourth Official to the UEFA Women's Cup mini-tournament played at Livingston. Congratulations also to Steven Crichton (referee), Andrew Hunter (Asst Referee) and Neil Marshalsey (Asst Referee) on their appointment Edinburgh City v Civil Service Strollers in the Tennent's Scottish Qualifying Cup South-preliminary round match on 28th August.

Caption Competition

Following a long spell of absence the Fife Referee's caption competition is now back. This month's photo comes from the St Andrews International Football Festival where it appears that David McGeachie is buying a round of drinks at the bar.

The winner will be announced in next month's newsletter and a prize will be awarded for the best caption, however rumours that it will be a drink paid for by David have been strongly refuted. Submit your caption entries by e-mail to either the newsletter editor at



d_mcgeachie@hotmail.com or webmaster at george.macdonald@fifereferees.co.uk.

Meal After Training

This has always been a very successful event but it was raised at a Council Meeting recently whether we should look at the timing of this (should it be earlier in the evening if possible), the venue etc. Is there a case for doing something slightly different with the April/May one. Your ideas are sought. Please contact me or the Social Convenor, Douglas Potter, if you have any thoughts.



August 2006

Dear Referee,

Following the recent extension of Specsavers Opticians successful sponsorship of the SFA referees, we are once again taking this opportunity to remind you of the eyecare offer available to you.

Specsavers Opticians is continuing to offer you the chance to benefit from the group's Premium Club, an eyecare package that gives you exclusive deals on eyewear. Through the club, you are entitled to a £20 discount voucher, which can be redeemed on any specs from Specsavers' £99 ranges or above at your local store (see overleaf). You can also combine this saving with many of our in-store offers, including two-for-one. In addition, if you are willing to support the store with future publicity or events, you could be offered the chance to benefit from free specs or lenses.

Your family can also benefit as every referee who receives a Premium Club voucher can be given an additional voucher for use by members of their family. All they have to do is present a voucher at one of our stores to be eligible for the same great discount. For more information please contact Marie Dunsmuir or Debbie Hughes on 01324 602550 or email marie.dunsmuir@beattiegroupp.com or debbie.hughes@beattiegroupp.com.

Sponsorship money continues to be used for the benefit of referees at all levels, including:

- Radio communication equipment for use in the top leagues and for coaching at lower levels
- Presentation equipment for each local referee association
- Physical training equipment for local training areas
- Hi-tech video editing equipment for production of coaching material
- Sponsorship of the Annual Conference
- Sponsorship of The Academy to produce the top referees of the future
- Launch of the '23rd Man' campaign to encourage greater support for referees

We hope that this partnership will result in many more positive opportunities for the SFA referees over the coming years.

Yours sincerely,

Marie Dunsmuir
On behalf of Specsavers Opticians