

ASSOCIATION OF SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS FOOTBALL LEAGUE MATCH OFFICIALS



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MONDAY 10 MAY 2010

HELD AT COLNEY HEATH FOOTBALL CLUB

Meeting commencement	The meeting began at 7:55 PM. 79 members were in attendance, in addition to Mr Ian Blanchard, Mr Ian Couzens, Mrs Anita Couzens and Miss Nicola Couzens.
Chairman's welcome	Mike Taylor welcomed all present to the 3 rd and final meeting of the 2009-10 season.
Apologies for absence	Those received have been recorded.
Guest speaker	Mike Taylor introduced our guest speaker Mr Ian Blanchard of The Football Association to the meeting. Mr Blanchard gave a presentation on 'Refereeing with Courage' using clips of incidents from a recent Football League match. The floor were given an opportunity to ask questions. Andy Aylott gave a vote of thanks which was endorsed by all present.

REPORTS FROM OFFICERS

Chairman	Mike Taylor offered his congratulations on behalf of the Association to all those who had been appointed to the league's cup finals. In addition, Mike reported he had written to Andy Aylott, Ben Furneaux and Lee Marshallsay congratulating them on their promotion to Level 3. Mike then offered his congratulations to all those who had received promotion during the season and to Jake Hillier on his appointment to The FA County Youth Cup Final as an assistant referee.
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Mike reported on the Association committee meetings that had taken place since the last meeting. The following points were discussed / arose:

- Nominations for Association awards
- Fees and expenses for the 2010/11 season
- Assessments
- Membership total – now at record levels
- The website and how it can be put to more effect

In addition, it was noted that both Gary Wilson and Dave Carman had tendered their resignation from the committee. Mike placed on records his own personal thanks and that of the Association for the work both Gary and Dave had done over time. Mike said that he would be writing to Dave to formally thank him for his efforts as Association Secretary.

Correspondence had been sent to Frank Woodward at Langford FC wishing him well following his ill health. The latest was that there were signs of improvement in Frank's condition. Correspondence had also been sent to Jim Basterville at Totternhoe FC congratulating him on 50 years service to the club.

There had also been correspondence between the Association and both the league and clubs regarding inappropriate comments about match officials being placed on club websites. Mike urged members to get in touch with the Association if they found comments on websites which they felt were not

acceptable. At this point, Mick Ewen added that he had also been in touch with clubs and County FA disciplinary departments in some instances on this subject.

Mike then expressed his own thanks to the following:

- Barry Firmin in his role as Association President
- All the committee members for their help and support
- Jake Hillier for his work on the website
- Eric Harrison and Tony Weight for their help and support
- Dave Carman for his work as Association Secretary
- League officers and especially Chairman Pat Burns for their continued support for the Association
- Mick Ewen for his support of the league's referees
- Bill Hamilton for his hard work in raising the membership
- All of the Association members for their continued show of appreciation for the committee's work on their behalf

Minutes of the previous AGM

Mike Taylor asked members to view copies of the minutes of the previous AGM which were displayed on the tables. It was asked if there were any queries regarding them and none were received. Mike then asked that the minutes be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

Proposer Barry Firmin
Seconded Bill French

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

Website

Jake Hillier thanked members for their contributions over the season and asked that items continued to be sent in.

Assessors representative

Tony Weight thanked all referees for their participation in the assessing scheme. Tony reported that during the assessing season (to 28 February 2010):

- There were 241 Level 4 assessments, with most Level 4s receiving six assessments from different assessors
- Standard of assistant refereeing was very high, with an average mark of above 75

Tony also thanked all the premier division clubs for their hospitality towards assessors and to all of the Level 4s for their continued support of the assessing scheme.

Treasurer / Membership

Bill Hamilton presented a report on the Association's membership levels and finances in the usual manner. Bill reported that membership currently stood at 214 compared to 75 when the Association formed 24 years ago.

Bill ran through the audited accounts explaining items of expenditure and differences between the current and previous year. Bill expressed his opinion that the annual membership subscription should remain at £6.

Proposer Bill Henderson
Seconded Andy Aylott

The annual subscription was set at £6.

Mike Taylor asked for any questions on the accounts to be put to Bill. None were received. Bill ended with a story on Bill French's missing subscription for last year.

Election of officers

Mike Taylor proposed that Barry Firmin be re-elected as President.

Proposer	Mike Taylor
Seconded	Tony Weight
Vote	Unanimous – proposal accepted

Barry Firmin then took the chair. He thanked Mike Taylor and the committee for their work over the season. Barry informed the meeting that with the exception of Gary Wilson, Matty McLaughlin and Dave Carman, all of the members would be willing to stand for re-election as follows:

Chairman	Mike Taylor
Secretary	Vacant
Treasurer	Bill Hamilton
Membership	Bill Hamilton
Website	Jake Hillier
Assessor Rep	Tony Weight
League Rep	Eric Harrison

Proposer	Barry Firmin
Seconded	Bill French
Vote	Unanimous – proposal accepted

Mike Taylor resumed the position of Chairman.

Mike asked for any nominations for the position of secretary to be made to him, as well as those for any volunteers.

REPORTS FROM LEAGUE OFFICERS

Chairman (Pat Burns)

Pat Burns passed on the following information to be relayed in his absence:

- There was no clarity as yet on the 2010-11 constitution due to uncertainty with certain Contributory League clubs. The league will issue an update when there is any new information.

Fixtures (Eric Harrison)

Eric Harrison made a proposal that Liam Walshe be adopted on to the Association Committee.

Proposer	Eric Harrison
Seconded	Steve Conway
Vote	Unanimous – proposal accepted

Liam Walshe was accepted on to the Association Committee.

Referees Secretary (Mick Ewen)

Mick opened his report making wild claims about Portsmouth's chances in FA Cup Final. Mick offered his congratulations to all the referee's that had been promoted, advising there had been 10 promotions to Level 4 and a number of promotions to Level 5 and 6.

Mick then covered the following points:

- 2010-11 application forms had been sent out and these must be returned by 15 June – failure to do so will result in removal from the list of officials.
- There will be four fitness tests, all on Sundays starting at 10:00 at Stockwood Park, Luton: 4 & 18 July, 1 & 15 August. To be eligible for Division 1 middles, referees must cover a minimum of 2400 metres in 12 minutes and complete two 50 metre sprints in under 7.5 seconds.

- Closed dates were good up until May 2010 (as the season was extended).
- Result pads were available and a new pad should be requested before the old one runs out.
- Referees must check that the green form has come out clearly from the carbon copies above.
- Assessments – there will be no requirement for assessor to make pre-match contact with referees from next season.
- The fees & expenses for 2010-11 that will be proposed at the league AGM are:

Premier Division	Referee £30	Up £5
Division One	Referee £28	Up £4
Division Two	Referee £25	Up £2
Reserve Section	Referee £25	Up £5
All divisions	Assistant Referee £25	Up £5
Travel Expenses	30 pence per mile	Up 2ppm
- The season will begin on Saturday 7 August 2010

Mick then made a presentation to Paul Swanell to recognise his retirement from active refereeing 37 years of service to the league.

AWARDS

- Best New Referee** Made to a new official on the league who has shown good improvement and a willingness to learn, as well as performed to a high standard on the field. Peter Panayiotou presented the award to **James Keane**.
- Assistant Referee** The award is based on assessor marks awarded during the season, over a minimum number of assessed matches. The 3rd and 2nd highest average marked assistants receive a certificate, with the winner receiving a souvenir trophy. The following received their awards from Tony Weight:
- 3rd **Adrian Waters**
 2nd **Jimmy Hey**
 Winner **Mike Taylor**
- Bill Jones Award** This is awarded to a member who has shown great dedication to the Association and the league as a whole and has made a valuable contribution over the season. The award was presented by Bill Hamilton to **Jake Hillier**.
- Carl Couzens Award** Bill Hamilton first paid tribute to Carl and the work he did for the Association and refereeing as a whole. Mike Taylor then made a speech about the recipient of the award and why it was felt he was a worthy recipient. Mike then invited Carl's sister Nicola to present the memorial jug to **Liam Walshe**.
- Any other business** It was asked if an up to date directory of match officials and clubs could be emailed out with the appointments each month, as happens on the contributory leagues. Mick Ewen advised that the up to date bulletin was available from Jim Bean on request, but this would be looked into.
- Raffle** The raffle was then drawn with some excellent prizes offered.
- Close** Mike Taylor thanked all those present and advised the next meeting would be in September 2010. The meeting closed at 11:10 PM.