



# SUTTON COLDFIELD AND DISTRICT REFEREES' ASSOCIATION

## MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING ON 13<sup>th</sup> October 2008.

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Tom Hughes, Neil Underwood, Andy Dickson, Mark Chester, Phil Edwards.

### **NEW MEMBERS**

Nil

### **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Accepted

### **MATTERS ARISING**

None

### **SECRETARY**

The secretary reported to the group about Shenstone Pathfinder, where local residents have been objecting to football being played on their playing fields. This is mainly due to a spectators' shelter, that they say is a magnet for anti-social behaviour. We, as referees, can do our bit by clamping down on the foul and abusive language from the players on the pitch.

### **TREASURE**

The Treasurer informed the group of the amounts in the general and benevolent accounts.  
We have 31 members.

### **LOCAL LEAGUES**

Sutton Sunday League – Nil

Birmingham AFA – Nil.

Midland Football Combination – Nil.

Lichfield & District – All teams will now be disciplined for late confirmation.

### **PROBLEM CORNER**

A question was asked whether supporters remonstrating on the pitch with the referee has become worse.... the subject was heavily debated.

### **MICKEY PARR**

Mickey relayed the following information from the Birmingham and Warwicks RA meeting....

Sendings off are down 159 on last season to 440. Cautions are down 810 to 2677. Abandonment stayed at 7. Misconduct by club officials is down by 15 to 25 and the has "only" been 1 assault against a match official. If a club helps a referee in removing a player, or helping out, during a sending off or other misconduct event, the club will not be disciplined. That shall remain with the offending player.

## **GUEST SPEAKER – CHRIS DURNO**

Something different this month! Nothing to do with football!

Chris Durno, Licensed National Speedway Referee, came to our meeting and gave us a somewhat spellbinding talk on the differences and similarities between refereeing on a short shale track and on grass.

Chris told us that there are 27 referees on the national circuit, who, after only two years of referee introduction, become licensed to referee televised meetings.

Very much like TV football pundits, TV promotes disputes with speedway referees. However, with speedway it is instant.... the dispute takes place DURING the questioned incident. So, in effect, Chris gets abused by TV as well as riders.

His meetings can take place anywhere in the UK, Plymouth, Poole, Edinburgh, Birmingham, but he does get paid £176.00 per evening. And out of his £176.00 fee, he must cover travelling expenses, lost of earning from his day to day job, the fact that he has to be at the meeting two hours before the tapes go up, and is normally the last man out of the stadium... it is hardly the high life we may have first imagined. There was, however, one evening that he wasn't the last man out of the stadium... he received a police escort away from his commentary box and away from the stadium during a Glasgow V Edinburgh local derby.

Chris has officiated at a number of international meetings, and is hoping to be one of the only 3 allowable international referees to represent the UK.

There are 33,000 words in the speedway rule book.... at least we only have 17 Laws.... with 33,000 interpretations.

The meeting was closed with a show of gratitude to Chris.

