

The official publication of  
The Referees' Association

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# The Voice of The RA

*Supporting Referees  
since 1908*



May/June 2016

## BREAKING NEWS

### Members-only Portal now open

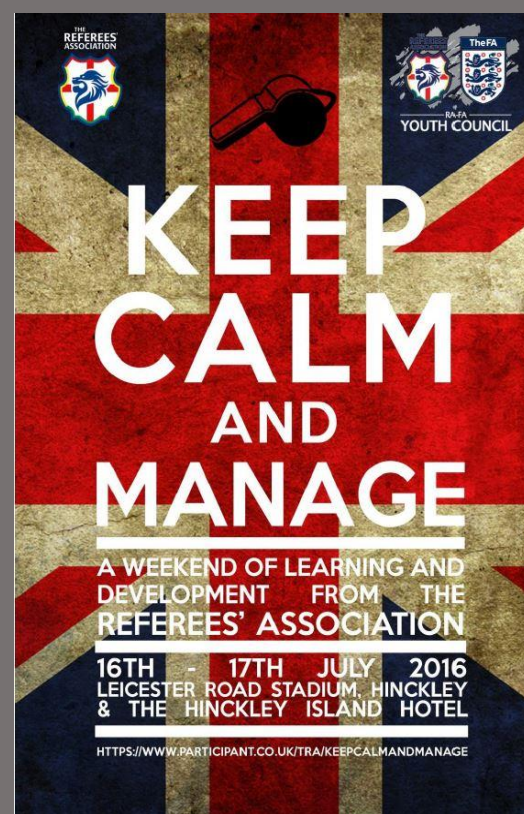
### Providing every Member with training and resources - 24/7

The resource promised in January 2016 has been delivered, under budget and delivered early. We are in a prime position to move forward. The first batch of training material has been delivered to LRAs via wetransfer, and going forward you will be able to download via our Members-only area which is significantly more efficient. Full details inside...

### The RA benefit package is better than ever!

Interestingly, since **The RA** increased its benefit package which includes insurance, a few County FAs have needed to increase their additional insurance to £6.20 ... **The RA remains at £4.** You will also notice discounts from leading retailers and health care providers, plus specific insurance offers.

Weekend of  
Development and  
Learning from  
The Referees' Association  
and  
The RA-FA Youth Council.



**The Referees' Association**

is run by **Referees** for the **Benefit of Referees**

# Operation Sutcliffe ...

Education, Entertainment, Encouragement

*To improve as far as possible the standard of Refereeing and to assist all existing Referees' Associations in their educational and general work.*

*Thursday 5th March 1908*

*Charles Sutcliffe - RA Chairman*

- Training has been prepared by FA Tutors and validated by RDOs in membership.
- **BUT** we need grass roots footage/clips - the portal itself is not an issue, however the resource is a concern.
- Site is now **Https://** and complies to the "Cookies" regulations.

# IT'S WORKING

<https://www.the-ra.org>

Go to

[www.the-ra.org](http://www.the-ra.org)

On the home page go to Members Area

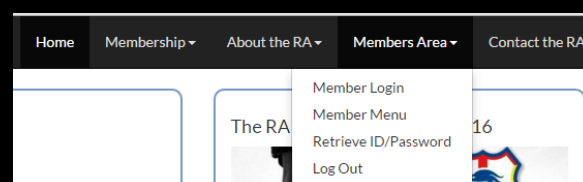
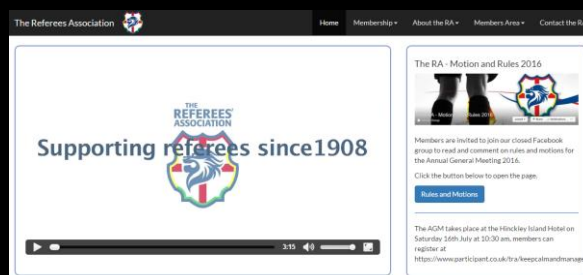
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Login

|

Complete the basic check details

We will send you an email with your membership number and a password – assuming your LRA has loaded your email correctly!



Retrieve Membership Number

Please enter the following details to get your membership number and temporary password.  
Please ensure that you have access to the email address you provide below, a temporary password will be sent to this address.

|                       |  |           |                      |
|-----------------------|--|-----------|----------------------|
| First Name            | <input type="text"/>                           | Surname   | <input type="text"/> |
| Date of Birth         | <input type="text" value="Format dd/mm/yyyy"/> | Post Code | <input type="text"/> |
| Current Email Address | <input type="text"/>                           |           |                      |

## Member Options

|   |   |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="button" value="Update Details"/>   | <input type="button" value="Change Password"/>  | <input type="button" value="Online Training"/> | <input type="button" value="Kit &amp; Equipment"/> |
| <input type="button" value="Renew Membership"/> | <input type="button" value="Member Documents"/> | <input type="button" value="Resources"/>       | <input type="button" value="Ask a Question"/>      |

## CRA Options

|   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="button" value="Update CRA Details"/> | <input type="button" value="View Members"/> | <input type="button" value="Update Members"/> | <input type="button" value="Apply for Speaker"/> |
|---|---|---|--|

## LRA Options

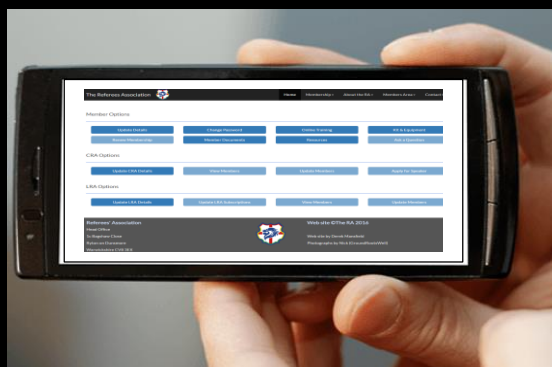
|   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| <input type="button" value="Update LRA Details"/> | <input type="button" value="Update LRA Subscriptions"/> | <input type="button" value="View Members"/> | <input type="button" value="Update Members"/> |
|---|---|---|---|

# IT'S WORKING

<https://www.the-ra.org>

| Publication Date | Document Title  | Summary                 | Author              |
|------------------|---|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Jan 2015         | <a href="#">Club Marks: Living by the Sword?</a>                      | <a href="#">Details</a> | Mike Gardiner       |
| May 2014         | <a href="#">Controlling the Controllables</a>                         | <a href="#">Details</a> | Liam Slack          |
| May 2015         | <a href="#">Coping with Pressure from Players on the Field</a>        | <a href="#">Details</a> | Michael Oliver      |
| May 2015         | <a href="#">Dealing with Difficult Players</a>                        | <a href="#">Details</a> | Jon Moss            |
| May 2014         | <a href="#">Developing Your Mental Strength</a>                       | <a href="#">Details</a> | Gemma Gale          |
| Oct 2015         | <a href="#">DOGSO or SPA</a>  | <a href="#">Details</a> | Daniel Meeson       |
| Apr 2016         | <a href="#">FA Concussion Advice</a>                                  | <a href="#">Details</a> | The FA              |
| Apr 2016         | <a href="#">FA Inclusion and Anti-Discrimination Document</a>         | <a href="#">Details</a> | The FA              |
| May 2014         | <a href="#">Focus and Concentration in Refereeing</a>                 | <a href="#">Details</a> | Ian Blanchard       |
| Sep 2014         | <a href="#">Getting It Spot On</a>                                    | <a href="#">Details</a> | Adam Watts          |
| Apr 2016         | <a href="#">Good Practice Booklet</a>                                 | <a href="#">Details</a> | RA-FA Youth Council |
| May 2015         | <a href="#">Grace Under Pressure</a>                                  | <a href="#">Details</a> |                     |
| Sep 2014         | <a href="#">High Intensity Aerobic Training Sessions</a>              | <a href="#">Details</a> | Simon Breivik       |
| Jan 2015         | <a href="#">Inspecting the field of play during the winter months</a> | <a href="#">Details</a> | Roger Vaughan       |
| Jan 2015         | <a href="#">Officiating in Cold Weather</a>                           | <a href="#">Details</a> | Simon Breivik       |
| Jan 2015         | <a href="#">Tips for Keeping Warm as an Assistant Referee</a>         | <a href="#">Details</a> | Adam Gale-Watts     |
| May 2014         | <a href="#">Training for Mental Concentration</a>                     | <a href="#">Details</a> | Simon Breivik       |
| Apr 2016         | <a href="#">Use of Social Media</a>                                   | <a href="#">Details</a> | The FA              |

The RA now has an easy-to-navigate resource and reference library, delivering training and providing members with materials 24/7 in line with the annual increase in tablets and 4G streaming – learning whilst on the move.







## Secure On Line Booking

[www.participant.co.uk/tra/keepcalmandmanage](http://www.participant.co.uk/tra/keepcalmandmanage)

The Referees' Association



[Home](#)

[Membership](#)

[About the RA](#)

Making Good Referees Great

### Keep Calm and Manage

16th - 17th July 2016

Join us for a weekend of training and development, where we will be looking at managing a football match and how as match officials we can contribute to the beautiful game. There are a huge range of highlights, including The Referees' Association Conference. With all new elements, a great range of guests and something for everyone, 2016 is the year to be involved!

#### HIGHLIGHTS:

- \*Practical Training Sessions\*
- \*All New Quiz With New Format\*
- \*Referee Awards With Dinner\*
- \*High Profile Tutors And Speakers\*
- \*Level Relevant Workshops\*

### Online Booking Form

First name

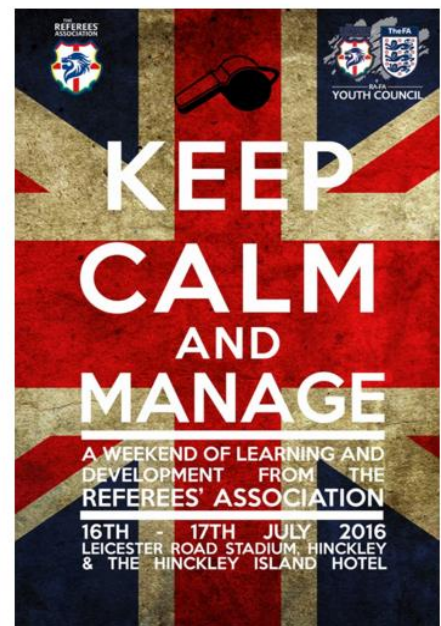
Last name

Are you a member of the Referees' Association?

Current Referee Level

Select Category

☒ Registration



### Dates & Times

Start Date: 16/07/2016 10:30 AM  
End Date: 17/07/2016 5:00 PM  
Register by: 08/07/2016 11:59 PM  
[Add to calendar](#)

### Venue detail

Hinckley Island Hotel  
Watling Street  
Hinckley  
LE10 3JA

# The-RAshop.org

During the next few weeks the RA shop is changing to [www.the-rashop.org](http://www.the-rashop.org)

This change will enable us to provide all **MEMBERS and LRAs** with special offers and discounts. We have launched a bespoke website (all linked) so the user functionality will be the same. We also now have the ability to email all customers directly as we seek a more direct marketing approach to increase our market share away from competitor retail operations.

LRA sales are around 5% of the referee equipment supply chain. This needs to increase, and by giving **Enhanced bulk discounts to LRAs** it gives them additional tools to engage with local referees and also make a small return.

The retail landscape has changed away from bricks to **clicks**, and now is **brand driven and internet based**. By the end of March the RAshop had gained the ability to take membership and offer immediate discount on equipment. The general pricing strategy will remain market-leading as we respond to all retailer threats...

## [www.the-rashop.org](http://www.the-rashop.org)

Take a look at our **BRAND NEW** website for great offers.

**Your one stop shop for:**

- Match Kit
- Whistles
- Cards
- Watches
- Flag Sets
- Training wear
- Match Record Pads
- Much much more



[www.the-rashop.org](http://www.the-rashop.org)

Call now: 024 7635 1490



# Insurance highlights

## Member Benefits Comparison Table



| BENEFIT                       | 2015 / 16                                   |  | 2016 / 17                                 |
|-------------------------------|---|--|---|
| Physiotherapy                 | Cover only provided following a valid claim |  | Cover now includes Injuries*              |
| Personal Effects              | £200  |  | £350*                                     |
| Referees Kit                  | £200  |  | £350*                                     |
| Hospitalisation               | No Cover                                    |  | £25 Per Day Up to 30 Days*                |
| Broken Bones                  | No Cover                                    |  | £100*                                     |
| Dental<br>(Following Assault) | £200  |  | £250*                                     |
| Accident Assistance           | Standard Motor Accident Assistance          |  | £3.00 - option to upgrade to legal policy |
| Young Driver Cover            | No Benefit                                  |  | Full Quote and Buy System                 |
| Gadget Cover                  | No Benefit                                  |  | From £49.00*                              |
| Hometyre                      | No Benefit                                  |  | Exclusive Discount for Members*           |
| Health Cashplans              | No Benefit                                  |  | Access for all Members*                   |
| Private Medical / Life Cover  | No Benefit                                  |  | Bespoke/Tailored Service - all Members*   |

\* Member benefits are subject to Terms & Conditions

**Spencer Hayes** | Insurance

# Appeal for articles and video footage

Do you have any training articles or interesting news items? 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, and videos as MP4 (or something similar) to:

[contact@the-ra.org](mailto:contact@the-ra.org)

## Technical Working Groups

**The RA** is setting up three Technical Working Groups (TWGs) with the aim of providing the very best practice and advice to the Board and the membership – all groups will have a Board Member involved.

**Welfare** – This will be a group aimed at providing a resource for the rare occurrence when a referee has a poor experience. We are therefore looking for high-calibre individuals from education, police, welfare support (Victim Support), legal and government.

*We have started this work with a highly positive engagement with The FA. We seek to push the police to take an interest and the government to increase sentences.*

**Technical** – The RA have “head hunted” for this TWG, which will be led by RA Board Member Vince Penfold. On board will be Professor David Hutchinson and Trevor Massey, plus a number of highly respected experts from the general football family and RDOs.

*The first training has been very well received and the second batch is about to be launched, giving quality training to everyone. We will very soon be providing high quality material regarding sports science.*

**Representation** – Occasionally referees get charged by the football authorities, so for this TWG we have approached a recently retired disciplinary manager and others.

*The Board have recently given advice to a small (but significant) number of Referees regarding use of social media, swearing at a player, and so on.*

If you are interested in joining any of these Technical Working Groups, please apply with your detailed CV and a covering letter outlining your vision to: [contact@the-RA.org](mailto:contact@the-RA.org)

# The 132<sup>nd</sup> Varsity Football Match

## Cambridge University vs Oxford University

Played at: Craven Cottage, "The Home of Fulham Football Club"

Lloyd Wood, Essex FA; Giovanni Marasca, Cambridgeshire FA;

John Okole Oxfordshire FA;

Martin Atkinson, West Riding FA and FIFA referee.

From the moment I got the appointment on 7<sup>th</sup> March until match day everything was rose tinted and positive. Then driving into London and suddenly your heart skips a beat, you're taking a right on to Fulham Palace Road, another right and you are on Stevenage Road and Craven Cottage, the Home of Fulham Football Club, emerges from behind plush London suburbia. A setting that even Martin Atkinson thinks is special. Of course the Match Referee had been in touch in the build up to the game and it was he who would make or break the day for us.



We all arrived before him – which was great. You wouldn't want to keep a FIFA referee waiting. In the hospitality lounge, "Coffee at the Cottage", Lloyd took the lead. Lloyd was ready. Fourth man had it all under control: spare kit for anyone who needed it, the lot. Swapping football stories the team spirit was coming along nicely.

And then Martin arrived and I realized FIFA/Premier League is another level. Smart, took his time, and then made us all feel welcome. Relaxed – that was the word that came to sum up the day. It was all so cool: the facilities, the people, and the man. Refereeing is easy. Don't you know?

In the pre-match there was nothing complicated. To be fair, there was no time. First there had been the brief from Chris Rochford, Fulham's liaison officer for the game, and then the Chief Steward had completed a safety briefing – 'code red' being the alert for a sniper. At this point, I was trying to remember what 'code yellow' meant. I didn't want anyone confusing our yellow kit for target practice. But it didn't matter, rest assured Martin and Lloyd would have it covered.

So we're all miked-up on Premier League comms, all looking smart, time for a quick photo, and the next thing, we're walking out to BBC cameras, a crowd of about 2,000 and we're all relaxed because Martin is.

The pitch is immaculate. Meet the dignitaries, check the nets, witness the toss and left fullbacks for 45 minutes that you'll never forget. Fifteen minutes in and Oxford had scored. What else could I ask for?

Ten minutes later, I'd just given my second offside and I can hear Martin in my ear: "Smart, very smart. It's like being out with Childy." He's referring to Stephen Child, Premier League and FIFA assistant referee... You would take that, wouldn't you, being compared to his mates, way up there?

It was always positive. The communication you get from Martin on the headsets just adds to the occasion. The ball goes forward and you hear him saying: "Now!"

You are switched on to the offside anyway but the extra level of intensity brings the game that more to life. And then there's the banter: Martin's asking one of the players whether he used to be a bouncer, the way he's putting himself about... On the sideline, someone tells Lloyd that he's talking to our future Prime Minister. But Lloyd's not having it and wants them warming up behind Giovanni, and the craic is just unbelievable.

The atmosphere was electric on my side, they're ducking out of the driving rain and back out with the sunshine, and then they're chanting: "John Okole give us a wave..." A quick thumbs up to the crowd and Martin's back in your ear: "I've got an angle", he says. "I've got the ball. Now!" And you're buzzing! Flag up. Offside!

Second half, and Oxford scored again. Game over. Winning goal was at my end and I nearly ran on the pitch ☺ Hahaha... ☺

For me, the absolute best day in football – For Martin Atkinson, it was probably just another normal day in the office, but he made sure it was special for us.

Listening to him on the comms, the freedom it gave to my game to be miked-up, connected and thinking together as a team, it was an inspiration. Can't help but make me a better referee. Thank you Oxfordshire FA. Thank you God. Of all days, Easter Sunday marks a new beginning and the sun came out and we were happy.

By John Okole – Level 4 Referee, Oxfordshire FA



# Camaraderie

## *Friendship, Comradeship, Fellowship and Togetherness*

### News from Sunderland Referees Society

Sunderland referees society welcomed former Sunderland AFC player, team captain and caretaker manager Kevin Ball along to the April general meeting as guest speaker. Kevin who has served the football club for a period in excess of 20 years had no hesitation in accepting the invitation to attend when asked by the Secretary Colin Burnikell. In an entertaining night, Kevin answered questions from the members for well over an hour and in his conclusion, Kevin praised the work that referees do and emphasised that 'football wouldn't be football without the referee'.

April has been a good month for the Sunderland Branch as it maintained its position as the largest branch membership in county Durham and the third highest branch membership in England. What was more pleasing was the fact that Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> April saw the branch get its 100<sup>th</sup> member for the current season; this was followed very shortly the same day with the 101<sup>st</sup> member.

Within the Sunderland Referees Society there is a wealth of experience and the Chairman Geoff Eltringham is the first Sunderland born member to officiate on the Football League as a referee for nearly 20 years; the previous one was George Tyson who is currently Vice President of the branch. In addition to that there are also six others who are assistant referees on the Football League who are also members of the Sunderland Referees Society. There are also two female members who are both on the Select Group Assistant Referees List (Women's) and one of whom is on the FIFA Referees List (Women's). Sunderland Referees Society is without doubt a most vibrant and thriving branch of the Referees Association.

Secretary Colin Burnikell along with the Chairman work continually to recruit members and it is pleasing to say that to date within the membership of 101 there are 26 youth members and 27 'new/first time/youth' members. It is hoped that the recruitment progress can be maintained into the 2016-2017 season and beyond. As the saying goes, it's 'Happy Days' for Sunderland Referees Society.

Colin Burnikell. Hon. Secretary.



### **Reg Pullen - 50 year membership of the RA**

He started his refereeing career in Salisbury, Wiltshire passing out as a referee in November 1965.

His first match was played at Netheravon on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> Dec after which he joined the South Wilts Referees Society, which used to meet in the Church House, Crane Street, Salisbury. He felt overawed at the first meeting with the old and bold sat at the back throwing in red herrings to questions raised until the Chairman corrected everything. At that time the Chairman was Reg Pritchard, a first division, football league referee (now premiership) who had also taught him the laws of the game in his dining room. The exam took place in the front room of someone else's home.

Reg refereed in the Salisbury and District League and became involved on the committee of South Wilts before taking over as the Society's Treasurer for some 8 years before moving to Bedfordshire with his job. He continued to referee in and around the Luton area, joining the Luton Society first and then the Leighton & Linslade during his 10 years in the area. In 1990 he moved with his work to Alton.



After watching Richard Munday referee in Four Marks, he decided to take up the whistle in Hampshire and to join the Alton RA. After a few years he was asked to verify the accounts, go on the committee and to become a tutor, which was then part of the RA even though controlled by the FA. He progressed to become the Society's Training Officer, and Vice Chairman before becoming Chairman; a post he still holds to this day. Reg tried to join the RA Board but failed to gain enough votes over 3 consecutive years, but when there was a change in the Chairman of the RA and Honorary Officers were required he was invited to assist with the accounts. When the elected Treasurer resigned in July/August 2015 he was asked to become the RA Treasurer and was duly elected by the Board to carry out this function, which to date he has enjoyed.

As you can see, Reg has been a committed member of the RA throughout his career as a referee and now as a Supply League Assessor.



# *There is strength to help from the RA Benevolent Fund*

*Just been made redundant?*

*Young family, washing machine broken down?*

*Unexpected illness and need help?*

*Very sick child needs life-saving surgery in a hospital hundreds of miles away from home, and you have to take time off work unpaid?*

The RA Benevolent Fund is much more than just a title. This Fund was set-up in 1914 at the outbreak of the 1<sup>st</sup> World War, when referees each gave a match fee to start it off. It has helped thousands of Referees over the years, and all you have to be is a Full Member.

To manage expectations, there is a document process (which is a legal requirement). And, yes, you will have to demonstrate a need, but many people have been aided by this support from the RA family.

*Tom aged 25 (Midlands) has a young family, works on a zero hours contract, and hasn't had many hours this month. Now the washing machine has broken down, but a grant from the RA Fund of £250 has allowed Tom to purchase a washing machine and has relieved that family pressure.*

*Wayne aged 34 has just been made redundant and has a sick child in a London hospital. As the cost to visit from their home in Yorkshire is considerable, a grant of £3000 was agreed.*

*Sid (age 55), from the north west, had a serious illness and needed our help to purchase a stair-lift for his disabled wife. A grant of £2000 was made to him.*

The RA Benevolent Fund is open to all RA Full Members, and is managed by a panel of experienced Trustees who evaluate applications in total confidence and with a great deal of sensitivity and empathy.

