

**REPORT OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ASSOCIATION**  
**1<sup>st</sup> January – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2000**

**MEMBERSHIP**

The number of Clubs affiliated is as follows:-

Open Age	2107
Junior	<u>366</u>
	<u>2473</u>

**COUNCIL**

The Year 2000 celebrations throughout the world heralded a new dawn and led to great expectations for a fresh start and anticipation of a brighter future.

For the County FA the new year brought with it a major change in the Association's structure following its incorporation into a Company limited by guarantee. The election of a new Board of Directors was a major step in the incorporation process and has resulted in many initiatives being introduced, both for the immediate and long term benefit of the game as a whole.

Throughout the year, the County FA became more involved in aspects of the development of the game, much of which goes unnoticed by the general public and the media whose main concept of County Football Associations throughout the country is one of a negative and reactive body which deals only with the indiscipline within the game.

The Football Association, however, has recognised the importance of County Football Associations and of the vital role they have to play in developing grass-roots football. The launch of the Football Foundation in July, the concept of Charter Standard for clubs which was to be introduced early in 2001, the development of mini-soccer for players under 10 years of age and the continued growth of girls and womens football were all major new initiatives being introduced and progressed through the County FA structure.

In addition, this Association was working closely with partners to develop a procedure for dealing with anti-racist behaviour and a launch of a new agreement was held at the McAlpine Stadium in Huddersfield in September.

The appointment of a new Women/Girls Football Development Officer (with an additional Football Development Officer appointment expected in 2001) and of a Child Protection Officer showed the commitment of the Association to deal positively with these aspects of the game.

The above were all included in the County FA Development Plan which was required by the Football Association and submitted to that body during the year. A constant monitoring of the contents and a continual up-dating by members of Council who serve on the various committees will ensure that clubs and organisations in the West Riding area will receive the support they require and deserve.

With regards to personnel we were saddened by the loss of Mr A D Marshall, a Life Vice-President of the Association and a former Chairman of the Finance Committee, and Mr J A Pickering who represented Leeds & District Football Association for a period in the 80s.

We were also saddened by the death of Mrs G Stephenson, wife of one of our Life Vice-Presidents.

Our condolences go to their families and to others who have suffered similar losses of loved ones who have been connected with football in our area.

We welcomed new representatives to our Council with the elections of messrs D Hargreaves (Wakefield FA), S Jarvis (Goole & Thorne FA) and I S Kerrison (Bradford FA). Mr D Tait also joined the Council as a new representative for Halifax Town FC. We were delighted to also welcome Mr D Camm and Mr P Ridsdale (Chairman, Leeds United FC and FA Council Member) as co-opted members.

Mr D Hodgson was elected as a Life Vice-President of the Association following 21 years service as a member.

### **ASSOCIATION CUP WINNERS**

<u>Competition</u>	<u>Winners</u>	<u>Runners Up</u>
Senior Cup	No Competition	
County Cup	Garforth Town	Eccleshill United
Challenge Cup	Storthes Hall	Carlton Athletic
Challenge Trophy	Storthes Hall Res	Carlton Athletic Res
Sunday Cup	Albion Sports	Hounds
Sunday Trophy	Wyke Wanderers	Linthwaite Sunday
Minor Cup	Leeds FA	Heavy Woollen FA
Junior Cup	Pontefract Colls Jnrs	Churwell Lions Jnrs
Junior Trophy	Thornes Jnrs	Yorkshire Amateurs Jnrs
Womens Cup	Doncaster Belles	Leeds City Vixens
Charity Shield	Albion Sports	Storthes Hall

Our congratulations go to Storthes Hall FC who became the first club for 60 years to achieve a hat-trick of victories in the Challenge Cup and to Doncaster Belles FC who became the first holders of the newly-instigated Womens County Cup.

The annual Charity Shield game between the winners of the Challenge and Sunday Cups raised monies which were distributed to the respective mayoral appeals.

### **CONGRATULATIONS**

Our congratulations go to all those who won various league and cup competitions at the end of the 1999/2000 season with particular mention being made of Albion Sports and Doncaster Belles who reached the finals of the FA Sunday Cup and FA Womens Cup respectively. Ferrybridge Progressive WMC were also successful in reaching the semi-finals of the Carlsberg Pub Cup which were held at Liverpool's Anfield ground.

We congratulate Leeds United on qualifying to play in the European Champions League and on their progress in the competition to the end of the year. Bradford City also deserve special praise for being able to maintain their status in the FA Carling Premiership with some last-gasp results which surprised many so-called experts who had them relegated before a ball had been kicked.

## **REPRESENTATIVE FOOTBALL**

The County FA youth squad had made splendid progress in the FA County Youth Cup but came unstuck in the quarter-final tie at King's Lynn against Norfolk losing by the only goal of the game. Two similar results in the Northern Counties competition against North Riding and Cheshire also ended our interest for season 1999/2000. This was a disappointing finish to a campaign which had started so promisingly. It also signalled the end for our youth team manager, David Camm, who announced that he was stepping down from the position after thirteen years in charge. Throughout his tenure, the West Riding had gone from strength to strength becoming one of the most respected and feared teams in both competitions and our thanks go to David for his efforts and enthusiasm over the years. It was pleasing to note that we were not to lose his experience and expertise altogether when he accepted an invitation to remain as a co-opted member of Council.

A new management team of John Riordan, David Pettifor and Bob Bradshaw took over the reins at the beginning of the new season. Although results did not go as they would have wished, starting with odd-goal defeats in the Northern Counties and an early exit in the national competition having lost to Durham, it is early days and it will take time for the ideas of the new management team to settle.

Storches Hall again represented us in the Northern Counties Senior Competition and for the third year running lost by the odd goal in three, this time away against Milnthorpe Corinthians representing Westmorland.

Leeds City Vixens were our representatives in the Ladies Competition. After four abortive attempts to complete the competition, we were determined that there should be a finish to the competition at the end of 1999/2000. Our determination was justified when Vixens became the first-ever holders of the cup after defeating Lancashire in the final. As runners-up in the Womens County Cup they accepted an invitation to defend the Northern Counties Trophy in Season 2000/1.

## **YOUTH FOOTBALL**

Our work on the establishment and growth of mini-soccer continued at a terrific rate through the efforts of Laurie Platt who worked tirelessly in processing and supporting applications for funding for goal-posts etc. We were also instrumental in assisting clubs to acquire kit and equipment through grants from the Football Association.

We also instigated a working party whose role will be to assist and advise Clubs wishing to seek Charter Standard when the scheme is launched early in 2001.

The appointment of a Child Protection Officer showed our commitment to address issues and to stage seminars/courses on this most important aspect of the junior game.

The FA Fair Play Award Scheme was again supported by the Association with Thornes Juniors of the Charles Rice Junior League receiving a brand new England-style kit and the Kenneth Senior Memorial Trophy as a recognition of their efforts.

## **REFEREES**

The number of referees registering with the County FA remains at a constant level. Whilst this is encouraging it is also of concern that the number of new recruits is constantly matched by those leaving the game. Clearly there is a need not only to recruit but also to

retain referees in order that as many matches as possible are staffed by qualified personnel. With that in mind we have, through our Referees Committee, adopted various policies and appointed officers who will address issues relating to improving the numbers and standard of refereeing in our area. These include a School of Excellence for young officials who will be given help and guidance on developing their skills and a timetable of courses/seminars for referees of all grades.

The assessment scheme for Supply League referees continued to produce positive results with seven of our officials being promoted at the end of the 99/00 season. Our thanks go to all those who have assisted with the scheme since its inception two years ago.

## **DISCIPLINE**

It would be pleasant to report that the reduction in the income from fines was due to better discipline on and off the field of play. It is, however, more realistic to state that the almost unprecedented inclement weather in the autumn/winter of the latter part of the year had a more significant impact. Members of Disciplinary Boards and Commissions continued to deal with the unsavoury aspects of the game and are as determined as ever to remove the offenders and the clubs who continue to breach the laws.

## **GROUND AND HEADQUARTERS**

Our facilities at Fleet Lane continue to be held in the highest esteem and have constantly been used by the Football Association for seminars and courses. Our ground has also been the magnet for clubs/organisations who see the facilities and our location as an ideal venue for training purposes. We have once again welcomed the England U21 squad as well as teams from home and abroad prior to matches in the area.

## **THANKS**

The Association's thanks go to our President, Chairman, Committee Chairmen and members of Council for their assistance throughout the year. With the further development of the game, more and more is being asked of our members who are always willing to devote their time and energies to helping with the work of the County FA. Particular thanks go to those who assist with staging our various semi-final and final matches which are held at Fleet Lane, their presence does not go un-noticed even by those who attend these game on an ad hoc basis.

We also appreciate the work carried out by District Associations without whom we would not be in a position to function as we do. The help given by those who serve on the District Associations in organising football in their area should also not go without mention.

Our thanks also go to the press and media for their continued interest in our work.

In conclusion, to re-iterate what was said at the beginning, the role of the County FA is changing. Whilst we shall continue to deal with the day-to-day business of being the administrative body for football, more of our time and resources will be devoted to developing the game at all levels. In conjunction with other parties we shall be looking to instigate new initiatives which will have a beneficial effect in both the short and long term and which will improve facilities/opportunities for all.

G R Carter JP  
Co. Secretary