

# REPORT OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ASSOCIATION

1<sup>st</sup> January – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2001

## **MEMBERSHIP**

The number of Clubs affiliated is as follows:-

Open Age	2321
Junior	<u>346</u>
	<u>2667</u>

## **COUNCIL**

The year 2001 will be remember mainly for the tremendous problems encountered by all those associated with the game due to postponement of fixtures following one of the wettest winters on record and by the foot and mouth epidemic in the early part of the year. We acknowledge the tremendous work carried out by administrators who, faced with these problems, ensured that matches were completed by the end of the season.

During the year we welcomed new representatives to our Council with the elections of Mr F Beaumont (Huddersfield), Mrs C Dent and Mr A Roantree (Bradford) following a change to the Rules of the Association agreed at last year's Annual General Meeting and the election of Mr A E Dent as a Vice-President of the Association. Mr G Richmond (Bradford City) accepted an invitation to join the Council as a co-opted member following his appointment to the Football Association.

We were saddened during the year to learn of the death of Mr Alec Freeman who had given much service to this Association and to other organisations particularly in relation to refereeing matters. Our condolences go to his family and to others who have suffered a similar loss of loved ones who have been connected with football in our area.

Boroughbridge FC celebrated their centenary commemorating the occasion with a special dinner attended by our President and Secretary accompanied by their wives.

The continued emphasis on the development of football in the West Riding saw the introduction of a new Development Committee whose task is to oversee the various initiatives being introduced by the Football Association. We also formed a Local Football Partnership, members of which are drawn from the County FA, Local Authorities, Sport England, Schools etc and who will be responsible for processing applications for grants which are made to the Football Foundation.

## **ASSOCIATION CUP WINNERS**

<u>Competition</u>	<u>Winners</u>	<u>Runners Up</u>
Senior Cup	No Competition	
County Cup	Farsley Celtic	Ossett Town
Challenge Cup	Golcar United	Marsden
Challenge Trophy	Carlton Ath. Reserves	Boroughbridge Res.
Sunday Cup	East Bowling Unity	Hounds
Sunday Trophy	Blue Bell	Linthwaite Sunday
Minor Cup	Heavy Woollen FA	Castleford FA
Junior Cup	Yorkshire Amateurs Jnrs	Farsley Celtic Jnrs
Junior Trophy	Beeston Juniors	Kirk Deighton Jnrs
Womens Cup	Doncaster Belles	Huddersfield Town Ladies
Charity Shield	Golcar United	East Bowling Unity

The annual Charity Shield game between the winners of the Challenge and Sunday Cup competitions raised monies for the respective mayoral appeals of Kirklees and Bradford.

The Youth Committee decided to introduce a new shield competition for players at under 12 and we were delighted with the response from the clubs. We were also indebted to W.T. Knowles & Co. Ltd of Elland who agreed to sponsor the new competition.

The County Cup Committee decided to invite clubs and leagues to witness the draws for the quarter finals and semi-finals of the various competitions and we were impressed with the response which made the evenings a great success. We are indebted to messrs M A Riley and G Atkins who carried out the draw for the semi-finals for the 2000/2001 season and who gave an insight into refereeing in the Premiership. Our thanks also go to R Furnandiz and M Atkinson who performed a similar duty in December for the last sixteen of the 2001/2002 season. The success of introducing these open draws brought about a response from local radio who were to broadcast the draws live in the new year.

## **CONGRATULATIONS**

Our congratulations go to all those who won the various county cup competitions and to those who were successful in their respective district or league competitions.

We congratulate Leeds United on their excellent progress in the European Champions League and on qualifying to again play in Europe during the current season.

Our commiserations go to Bradford City on losing their Premiership status and to Huddersfield Town who were relegated to Division Two of the Nationwide League on the last day of the season.

## **REPRESENTATIVE FOOTBALL**

The County FA youth squad was unable to overcome a bad start to the 2000/2001 campaign and, in spite a victory against Westmorland and a creditable draw away to Northumberland, failed to qualify for the final of the Association of Northern Counties Youth Cup. Progress in the current season was more positive following excellent victories away to Liverpool and at home to Manchester which left us in good heart for the remaining matches against Westmorland and Northumberland. We were disappointed to go out of the FA County Youth Cup following a defeat by Lancashire.

Golcar United represented us in the Senior competition but were beaten by a strong Lancashire side.

In a break from our past procedure it was decided to field a representative team in the Womens Competition which would allow more players to play County football. Although losing to a superior North Riding team (who were represented by the previous year's winners, Middlesbrough Ladies) the players all enjoyed the game and the experience and are to be congratulated on their efforts.

## **DEVELOPMENT**

The employment of a new Football Development Officer to work with the Women and Girls FDO has allowed the Association to progress the initiatives of the Football Association.

This has now become a major part of the Association's activities with an increasing commitment being shown to developing FA Charter Standard for junior clubs, TOPS courses for schools, Active Sports for women/girls football along with work on initiatives on Disability football, Social Inclusion and Coaching. The number and variety of courses being run by the Association will continue to increase as we seek to improve the quality of the clubs in our area and those who are connected with them.

The FAs policy on Child Protection is being strongly upheld by the County FA and we are indebted to Mrs C Dent (Child Protection Officer) and Mr A E Dent (Approved Workshop Organiser) who have devoted much time and effort to ensure that the appropriate courses are being staged.

Our work on the development of mini-soccer continued and we are indebted to Laurie Platt who processed the applications for goalposts and equipment on behalf of clubs and schools.

The FA Fair Play Award was again supported by the Association and Farnley Rangers of the Leeds Junior/Minor League received their commemorative plaque from England U21 manager David Platt who was with the squad at the County FA headquarters in August. The Club was presented with their brand new England style kit at a later ceremony at Elland Road and with the Kenneth Senior Memorial Trophy which is awarded by the County FA.

## **REFEREES**

The number of referees registered with the Association showed a distinct reduction of almost 10% from the previous year, this is a worrying statistic which is prevalent throughout the country and is one of the problems facing both the County FA and the new Regional Manager (Referees) appointed by the Football Association in September. Recruitment and Retention is one of the main priorities for both parties who will continue to strive to ensure that there are sufficient match officials to staff all games.

The County FA continues to provide a service to registered referees by way of specific courses of instruction and by assessment schemes. We are indebted to Bob Faley for his efforts and to the teams of instructors, assessors and examiners who freely give of their time to ensure that we maintain and improve the quality of all referees.

## **DISCIPLINE**

The increase in fines shown in the Annual Accounts is mainly brought about by the tremendous amount of football played at the beginning of the year resulting from the many postponements at the latter end of 2000.

There is an increasing trend for violent acts on and off the field of play and for abuse to match officials by both players and spectators.

Disciplinary Commission members will not shirk their duties to try and rid games of this conduct and will do everything in their power to ensure that all participants can enjoy their leisure activity.

## **GROUND AND HEADQUARTERS**

We continue to host various courses and seminars being run by the Football Association and others. We are also one of the leading venues for clubs and representative teams who wish to use the excellent pitch and facilities for training purposes. We were delighted to welcome the England U21, U19, U16 and U15 squads along with the European and domestic teams who are playing games at grounds in our area.

## **THANKS**

The increased workload during the year has put an extra liability on our Council members and staff and we are indebted to them for their efforts. Particular thanks go to our President, Chairman and Committee Chairman without whose dedication we would not be able to function. We are also grateful to members who staff the various cup semi-finals and finals etc at our ground.

We offer our thanks to members of District Associations who again give of their time to ensure that the necessary work connected with football in their area is carried out.

We also express our gratitude to the press and the media for the coverage they give to us and for the interest shown in our activities.

In conclusion, there is no doubt that the work of the County FA is changing dramatically. Whilst we are still charged with the responsibility for the administration of the game we are now given the important task of developing all football at grass roots level. We will continue to strive to improve pitches, facilities and opportunities for all participants who wish to take part in this great game of ours.

G R Carter JP  
Co. Secretary