

REPORT OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ASSOCIATION

1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2002

MEMBERSHIP

The number of clubs affiliated is as follows: -

Open Age	2,419
Junior	362
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	2,781
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COUNCIL

We were much saddened during the year by the passing away of two of our most experienced and valued members of Council – Mr W Keyworth and Mr W Secker.

Wilfred (Wilf) Keyworth joined the County F.A. in 1971 as a representative of the West Riding Referees Association, a position he held until he became a Life Vice-President of the Association in 1989. During that time he was also secretary of the West Yorkshire Association Football League.

William (Bill) Secker was the longest serving member of Council having been first elected in 1946. In 1974, he was appointed as our representative to the Football Association, a position he held until 1988. Mr Secker was also chosen to be the President of the West Riding County F.A. in 1977 and remained in that position for 12 years. In spite of the workload he had in both these offices, he gave great service as secretary of the Heavy Woollen District Football Association. To acknowledge his service to the West Riding County F.A. and football in general, a special commemorative seat was unveiled by his widow, Millicent, at the County F.A. headquarters.

Our condolences go to their families and to all those who have suffered a loss of loved ones who have been involved with football in our area.

During the year, Mr P Eastwood and Mr P Pamment became Life Vice-Presidents of the Association having served on Council for 21 years. Mr R.I. Allwood and Mr A. Hayes were elected as Vice-Presidents being replaced as District F.A. representatives by Mr M.H. Glover and Mr J. McMahon respectively.

The President, Chairman and Secretary, accompanied by their wives, attended a special dinner to celebrate the centenary of our neighbours, the East Riding County Football Association. The former also attended at the centenary dinner for Old Modernians FC whilst we were also represented at special functions staged by the Wharfedale Sunday League and the Huddersfield Junior Football League.

ASSOCIATION CUP WINNERS

<u>Competition</u>	<u>Winners</u>	<u>Runners Up</u>
Senior Cup	NO COMPETITION	
County Cup	Harrogate Town	Farsley Celtic
Challenge Cup	Silsden	Campion
Challenge Trophy	Steeton	Hunsworth (WR)
Sunday Cup	East Bowling Unity	Stanley Road
Sunday Trophy	Beech Celtic	Poplar
Womens Cup	Doncaster Belles	Leeds United Ladies
Minor Cup	Leeds F.A.	Harrogate F.A.
Junior Cup	Thornes Juniors	Knaresborough Rangers
Junior Trophy	Rothwell Juniors	Brighouse Juniors
Junior Shield	Farsley Celtic Jnrs	Gildersome Spurs Jnrs
Charity Shield	Silsden	East Bowling Unity

We congratulate all the above clubs for reaching the finals of the various County F.A. competitions, in particular Doncaster Belles F.C. for winning the Womens County Cup for the third successive year and Farsley Celtic Juniors who were victorious in the inaugural Junior Shield competition (under 12) which was kindly sponsored by W.T. Knowles & Co Ltd of Elland.

It was pleasing to note that the entries for the 2002/2003 season showed an increase on previous years as clubs expressed an interest in taking part in the senior competitions in the County F.A. area.

The County Cup Committee continued its policy of inviting clubs and leagues to attend the draws for the latter stages of the competitions which were again broadcast live on local radio. Our thanks go to those who attended and made the evenings a special occasion.

CONGRATULATIONS

Our congratulations go to those clubs who were successful in the various cup competitions and to those who won championships or were promoted to a higher division.

Our commiserations are extended to the clubs who were not as successful including those who found themselves relegated at the end of season 2001/2002. These included Halifax Town F.C. who lost their Football League status and Huddersfield Town F.C. who lost out in the play-offs for promotion from Division Two.

REPRESENTATIVE FOOTBALL

It is pleasing to report that the County Youth team was successful in winning the Association of Northern Counties Youth Cup for season 2001/2002 beating North Riding F.A. in the final by 2 goals to nil. Our congratulations go to all the players who represented the County F.A. and to the management team. Progress in the current campaign has not been as promising with defeat by East Riding County F.A. in the national competition whilst a loss and a draw against Liverpool and Manchester had left us struggling to qualify for the latter stages of the Northern Counties Cup. A victory over Westmorland gave us some hope but a substantial win against the favourites, Northumberland, would still be required in the last league game. Our failure to beat teams from East Riding F.A. manifested itself further when our representatives in the Senior

competition, Silsden, lost by the odd goal in three and our womens team were defeated on penalties after sharing six goals at the end of extra time.

To assist with the development of our under 18 representative squad, it was decided to invite players to attend selection trials for a new under 16 team. Having chosen a squad it was hoped that friendly matches could be arranged towards the end of the 2002/2003 season with a view to entering a recognised competition in subsequent years.

REFEREES

The number of referees registered with the Association stood at 1,197. The total still gives cause for concern as many games in the County area are being played without the services of a qualified official. Much work is being carried out in recruiting new referees and in assisting those who are already registered with the Association who wish to make further progress. Our Head of Referee Development is continuing to stage courses for new candidates and further in-service training for existing referees. We would wish to place on record our appreciation to Mr R.D. Faley and his team for their efforts throughout the year.

We were extremely pleased to receive news of the appointment of referees R.D. Furnandiz, A. Kaye and M.A. Riley to officiate in the finals of the LDV Trophy, F.A. Vase and F.A. Cup respectively. Our congratulations go to those named and to all other referees who were appointed to the various finals of competitions.

We also congratulate those who were promoted to the higher levels of the game and wish them all the best for the future.

GROUND AND HEADQUARTERS

Our location is still considered to be ideal for use by the Football Association and we have continued to stage various courses and seminars organised by the F.A. and others.

The highlight of the year, however, had to be the visit of the full England squad who used our facilities for training purposes prior to the friendly game against Italy at Leeds United's Elland Road ground in March. The opportunity to see the top players in action was one which will remain with many for years to come.

We were also chosen as the base for other England squads during the year including the Under 16 team prior to their Victory Shield international against Scotland at the McAlpine Stadium, Huddersfield at the end of November.

Much work has taken place at the County F.A. ground including the installation of a new drainage system for the pitch which it is hoped will keep the playing surface in the kind of condition expected by those who come to play and train at the County F.A. headquarters.

DISCIPLINE

Disciplinary Commissions have continued to deal with the more unpleasant tasks associated with the game. Concerns have been expressed at the increase in misconduct by all participants and, in particular, by officials and spectators of clubs who are continually being reported by match officials. Commissions have expressed a desire to deal more stringently with offenders where cases have been proved and consideration of more severe penalties is currently taking place. These could include the suspension of a club's affiliation and/or a deduction of points in the most serious of cases.

We wish to place on record our thanks to all the members of the Disciplinary Committee who serve on Commissions throughout the year.

DEVELOPMENT

Much of the Association's time and resources are being used in enhancing the quality of club and player development by progressing the various initiatives of the Football Association. Our Football Development Officers are continuing to work on Charter Standard, Charter Standard Development and Community Club status with junior clubs, on working closely with schools through the TOPS courses, increasing coaching qualifications, as well as developing football for the disabled and disadvantaged etc. Our work in this field was recognised by the Football Association when we received an award for club development projects at a Football Development Conference held in Nottingham in November.

We have also continued to organise many Child Protection courses through our designated Child Protection Officer Mrs C Dent and Approved Workshop Organiser Mr A.E. Dent. In addition, this year we arranged a number of Drug Awareness Seminars which were attended by over 300 persons who were given a valuable insight into this most important subject. Our thanks go to members of the police authority and Mr J. McAulay for their assistance in staging these seminars.

During the year, the County F.A. was instrumental in setting up a new West Riding Girls League which was officially launched in October by England players Karen Walker and Sue Smith, assisted by officials from the Football Association. It is hoped that the league will expand in the future and provide opportunities for girls to continue to play football in the County F.A. area.

The F.A. Fair Play Award was again supported by the Association with Oakwood JFC of the Leeds Junior/Minor League being chosen to receive England training tops and the Kenneth Senior Memorial Trophy from the County F.A. Kirk Deighton Rangers Juniors F.C. also received a full England-style playing kit for their record of playing the game in the correct spirit. Presentation of these awards were made at the England v Scotland international at Huddersfield Town F.C. in November by Mr M. Armstrong, chairman of the F.A. Youth Committee.

THANKS

Our thanks go to those members of Council who continue to devote their time and energies to ensure that the work of the Association can continue. There has been a significant increase and change in the role of the County F.A. over the last few years and we are continually calling on the services of numerous personnel who continue to use their expertise in various ways.

We offer our thanks to members of District Associations who have again given of their time to ensure that the necessary work connected with football in their area is carried out on behalf of the County F.A.

We also express our gratitude to the press and media for their continued coverage and the interest shown in our activities.

CONCLUSION

The work of the County F.A. is continually changing with much time and resources being expended on developing the game at all levels. We will continue to work closely with the Football Association to improve pitches, facilities and opportunities for all participants who wish to take part in the greatest game in the world.

G R Carter JP
Co. Secretary