

REPORT OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ASSOCIATION

1st January – 31st December 2006

MEMBERSHIP

The number of Clubs affiliated is as follows:-

Open Age	1083
Junior	<u>385</u>
	<u>1468</u>

Note: Figures quoted do not include small-sided clubs who are now dealt with through the 'slot' system agreed between The Football Association and the small-sided football providers.

COUNCIL

Much of last year's report referred to the resignation of our former President and FA representative, Colin Taylor, and the acknowledgement of the debt of gratitude the West Riding County FA owed to him for his contribution and commitment to this Association. It was, therefore, with deep regret that we learned of his passing away in June following a short illness. Mr Taylor's esteem in the world of football was highlighted by the number of people who attended his funeral in Kippax where a packed church paid their final respects. Our condolences go to his widow, Molly, and to the remainder of his family.

We were also saddened by the deaths during the year of St. John Ellis who was a player with Britt FC who collapsed in January following a training session with Doncaster Dragons RLFC of which he was the first team coach, E Armitage of Leeds & District FA and N Copeland of Bradford & District FA/Oakenshaw FC.

Our thoughts were with the families at this time and our best wishes go to all those who have lost loved ones who were involved with football in our area.

We welcomed three new members to Council with the election of Mr T H Robinson representing Goole & Thorne District FA, Mr F Holleran from the West Riding Referees Association and Mr T Walton from the West Yorkshire Schools FA.

One new Director, Mr J Dolamore, was appointed during the year whilst messrs B G Chaplin and D Fuller were re-elected as Directors for a further period of three years.

We were delighted to hear that Mr S Parkinson had been awarded an MBE in the Queens New Years Honours list for his services to grassroots football, particularly in the Craven FA area. Our President, Mr P Marsden also made a 50 year service to football award to Mr J Holmes of Keighley & District FA. Our congratulations go to both these gentlemen on their fine achievement and to all those who have also been rewarded for the services.

ASSOCIATION CUP WINNERS

<u>Competition</u>	<u>Winners</u>	<u>Runners Up</u>
County Cup	Farsley Celtic	Harrogate Town
Challenge Cup	Sherburn White Rose	-
Challenge Trophy	Brighouse Town Res	Golden Lion Halifax
Sunday Cup	Walkers Arms	Silsden (Sunday)
Sunday Trophy	Carleton Hotel	Hambleton
Womens Cup	Bradford City	Huddersfield Town
Minor Cup	Keighley FA	Heavy Woollen FA
Junior Cup	Ossett Town Jnrs	Bingley Jnrs
Junior Trophy	Whitkirk Wanderers Jnrs	ShIPLEY Jnrs
Junior Shield	Howden Clough Jnrs	Farsley Celtic Jnrs
Charity Shield	Walkers Arms	Sherburn White Rose

Note: Bay Athletic had won the Challenge Cup but were dismissed from the competition after fielding an ineligible player.

We congratulate those who reached the finals of the above competitions and trust that they, and the losing semi-finalists, enjoyed the experience of playing at the County FA headquarters.

The entries for season 2006/2007 continue to increase on those for previous years as did the attendances at the various semi-finals and finals staged at the County FA headquarters. This increase, once again, enabled the Cup and Youth Committees to distribute the appropriate nett gate receipts to the teams taking part.

The two Committees continued their policy of inviting clubs and their leagues to be involved with the making of the draws for the latter stages of the various competitions and they were encouraged by the response.

CONGRATULATIONS

Our congratulations go to all those clubs who were successful during the year by winning various championships and cup competitions organised by leagues or districts and to those clubs whose performances merited promotion to a higher level.

We were pleased to see the progress of Farsley Celtic as they gained promotion to the Conference North in May and followed this with a tremendous achievement in reaching the First Round Proper of the FA Cup before bowing out to MK Dons in a replay. Halifax Town also looked to reach the higher echelons of the Football League only to fall at the final hurdle in the Play-Offs. Leeds United went all the way to Cardiff to attempt to make their way back into the FA Premiership but suffered a defeat to Watford which saw them again playing Championship football at the beginning of August.

Huddersfield Town looked like they had made their way to the League One Play-Off Final but were thwarted by a home defeat to Barnsley who went on to be promoted.

Leeds United Ladies made it to the Final of the FA Womens Cup but were well beaten by Arsenal Ladies at Millwall.

REPRESENTATIVE FOOTBALL

Our Ladies team took pride of place by retaining the Ridings Ladies League title for the third consecutive time before starting out on the new campaign with an encouraging start following a win and a draw against North Riding and East Riding respectively.

The under 18s had a disappointing finish to the 2005/2006 season finishing bottom of Division One and being relegated. The signs for 2006/2007 were far more encouraging with the team maintaining a 100% record in the league and reaching the quarter final of the FA County Youth Cup.

The under 16s finished in mid-table in the Midland Youth Championships at the conclusion of the 2005/2006 season but the introduction of a new management team at the beginning of the new season has seen an up-turn in fortunes as the squad made excellent progress in both the league and the cup competition.

Sherburn White Rose represented us in the Northern Counties Senior Competition and were disappointed to lose out to the representatives from East Riding CFA in the first game.

REFEREES

The number of referees registered at the end of the year stood at 1,129 which showed a small increase on the total at the end of 2005. This is a testament to the tremendous work carried out by District FAs who recruit and train new candidates and to the team of instructors, examiners and assessors etc who contribute so much of their time and energies to the refereeing course.

We continued to uphold the FA policy on referees having CRB (Criminal Records Bureau) checks and Child Protection training and are grateful to those involved in this aspect of the game eg tutors, verifiers etc.

A number of referees gained promotion to higher levels at the beginning of the 2006/2007 season and our congratulations go to those concerned. Some of our referees also found themselves in new territory as they were allocated by the Football Association to various Supply Leagues as part of the new procedure adopted by The FA.

DISCIPLINE

Members of the Disciplinary Committee continue to act on Disciplinary Commissions dealing with the misconduct in our game. It gives no pleasure to record that the numbers of cases continue to rise, in particular with those who are not playing in the game ie team officials and spectators.

Commissions will continue to use whatever measures are required to reduce the misconduct in our game which, in the new season, has included the suspension of club affiliations for periods which has resulted in the loss of points and/or dismissal from cup competitions for failure to fulfil fixtures. This may seem to be an extreme measure but it is hoped that clubs involved will see the error of their ways and other clubs will take due notice.

DEVELOPMENT

The Development section continues to promote the various initiatives of The FA which encompasses all aspects of football eg enhancement of clubs and their facilities, promotion of coach development, women and girls football, disability football etc.

We were pleased to welcome Jo de Tute as our new Women and Girls Development Officer who took over the role following the departure of Julie Grundy.

We are grateful for the work the Development team carry out and for the support they give to clubs, leagues and others as they seek to improve the quality of the game.

We again supported the FA Fair Play Award scheme and were delighted to make presentations to Beacon Rangers and Pontefract Sports & Social Club who received their trophies, commemorative medals and cheque from The FA in the Male Youth and Female Youth categories respectively.

GROUND AND HEADQUARTERS

The year saw the major re-development of the County FA headquarters which included an extension to the function room with the addition of a new purpose-built kitchen, the change of use of the existing changing rooms to new offices and the construction of a new changing room block. The extensions were opened on 1st September by the Chairman of The FA, Geoff Thompson, and the proceedings included the re-naming of the function room as the Colin Taylor Suite in honour of our former President in a ceremony conducted by his widow, Molly.

Our appreciation goes to those members of the Ground Development Sub-Committee who spent many hours in overseeing the £1/2m project to a conclusion which now gives us some of the best County FA facilities in the country.

THANKS

Our thanks go to all those who are involved in the administration of the game from members of our Council to those who work in District FAs, Leagues and Clubs without whose dedication the game at grassroots could not survive.

We also appreciate the continued interest shown by the press and media.

CONCLUSION

The work of the County FA continues to expand as we implement the initiatives and procedures of The FA.

These involve us in many facets of the game which were unknown or ignored in the past but we are certain that we now have the experience and expertise to tackle these tasks and to meet the various challenges placed before us.

We believe that we continue to be at the forefront in maintaining standards and developing this game of ours to ensure that it will continue to be enjoyed by all those who take part.

G R Carter JP
Co. Secretary