

REPORT OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ASSOCIATION

1st January – 31st December 2010

MEMBERSHIP

The number of Clubs affiliated is as follows:-

Open Age	951
Junior	<u>336</u>
	<u>1287</u>

Note: The number of teams operated by the above clubs totalled 3,883

Figures quoted do not include small-sided clubs who are affiliated through a 'slot' system agreed between The Football Association and the small-sided football providers.

COUNCIL

During the course of the year we welcomed two new members to Council – Mr D Baldwin (Bradford City) and Mr N Wordsworth (Huddersfield FA).

Mr J Dolamore (Leeds FA) was elected as a Life Vice-President of the Association in recognition of his 21 years service to the County FA and messrs J Holmes (Keighley FA) and G L Platt (Huddersfield FA) became Vice-Presidents.

Messrs E Beedham (Barkston Ash FA), D Hargreaves (Wakefield FA) and J Holmes were re-elected as Directors of the Company.

Mr J McMahon (Leeds FA) was amongst a number of recipients of the FA 50 year service to football award.

County FA long service awards were made to over 60 nominees who had served the game in a voluntary capacity for in excess of 20 years.

It is always sad to record the passing of colleagues who have given so much of their time and efforts to the game.

In the year, we lost Mr C L Ross (Life Vice-President – Bradford FA), Mr J Holmes (Vice-President – Keighley FA) and our former Secretary, Mr R M Robin.

Amongst others, we had to record Mr J Westmoreland (Wakefield FA), Mr J B Walls (Harrogate/Claro Leagues), Mr A Parker (Robin Hood Athletic FC), Mr C Guest (Manston Hotel FC), Mr W Langdale (Harrogate Town FC), Mr A Ashworth (Barnoldswick Town FC), Mr H Feldman (Leeds Maccabi FC/Leeds Referees Association), Mrs B Eli (West Yorkshire League), Mr M Stevens (South Pontefract FC) and Mr D P Baines (Referee, formerly from Bradford).

Our condolences go to their families and friends and to all those who have lost loved ones during the course of the year.

ASSOCIATION CUP WINNERS

<u>Competition</u>	<u>Winners</u>	<u>Runners Up</u>
County Cup	Garforth Town	Barnoldswick Town
Challenge Cup	Knaresborough Town	Albion Sports
Challenge Trophy	Thornhill	Beeston St Anthony's Res
Sunday Cup	West Bowling	HT Sports
Sunday Trophy	Sandy Lane	Bradford Phoenix
Womens Cup	Leeds City Vixens	Leeds Carnegie Ladies
Minor Cup	Leeds FA	Harrogate FA
Junior Cup	Harrogate Railway Jnrs	Stanningley Albion Jnrs
Junior Trophy	Rothwell Ath Jnrs	Whitkirk Wanderers Jnrs
Junior Shield	Pannal Sports Juniors	Selby Town Jnrs
Girls Junior Cup	Bradford City Girls	Batley Girls
Girls Junior Trophy	Idle Girls	Silsden Girls

We offer our congratulations to all the above and to those clubs who reached the semi-finals of the competitions. We trust they all enjoyed the experience of playing at the County FAs Fleet Lane headquarters and look forward to seeing them all again in the future.

The attendances at the various matches again enabled the respective Committee to distribute part of the nett gate receipts to the participating teams.

Entries for the 2010/11 season were again at an encouraging level which showed the strong support for the County FA competitions.

We were delighted to announce that we had received sponsorship for the County Cup Competition from The Co-Operative with one of the spin-offs being that the Competition Final Tie may be played on the ground of one of our senior clubs.

During the latter part of the year, we instigated a new County FA Veterans Competition. Matches were played on a league format at Marley Stadium, Keighley and it was planned for the final to be staged at the County FA headquarters.

We were pleased to report clubs which had been successful in various competitions :

- Leeds United Ladies – winners, Womens Premier League Cup
- Yorkshire Old Boys League – semi-finalists, FA National League-Systems Cup
- Leeds United – promoted to Football League Championship
- Guiseley – promoted to Football Conference North
- FC Halifax Town – promoted to Unibond Premier

Our congratulations went to those and to all clubs who won their various leagues / competitions or who were promoted.

Commiserations go to those who were not as successful and it is hoped they experience better fortune in the future.

REPRESENTATIVE FOOTBALL

The Association continued to support four representative squads.

The under 18s took part in the Association of Northern Counties maintaining their position in Division One of the competition at the end of the 2009/10 season. Early season form in 2010/11 was encouraging in the league but progress in the FA County Youth Cup was halted following a narrow defeat to Sheffield & Hallamshire.

The under 16s continued to play in the Midland Youth Competition. Results were mixed in the league games for 2009/10 which saw us finish in mid-table. We were unable to make progress in the league cup competition following defeat by the eventual winners, Leicestershire & Rutland. The 2010/11 season started promisingly with a win against Staffordshire but a heavy defeat in Birmingham was a huge blow to the team. Progress in the league cup was dependant on a positive result against Derbyshire which was due to be played by the end of the year but, in line with all football, had been postponed due to the inclement weather.

The Ladies squad improved as the 2009/10 season progressed in the Ridings Ladies League giving more hope for the future. Results in 2010/11 showed that the expectation had been met following victories in the first two games. The new management team, installed at the beginning of the season, were looking for further success in the new year which would see us win the league for the first time in four years.

Our representatives in the Northern Counties Senior Competition, Ovenden West Riding FC, failed to reach the Final after defeat against a strong side from Cheshire CFA who went on to win the competition. It was hoped that Knaresborough Town FC would experience better fortune in 2010/11 as they represented the Association as winners of the Challenge Cup.

REFEREES

The number of registered referees at the end of the year end totalled 1,071, an encouraging increase of 3% on the previous year.

We continued to encourage more persons to become referees through our recruiting efforts with courses being held at the County FA headquarters and in the various District FA areas. We are indebted to the instructors, mentors etc who give of their time to assist with recruitment and training.

Our continued success in attracting new referees will go towards achieving the FA target of an additional 8,000 by 2012 which is one of the aims of the National Game Strategy.

In addition to recruiting, our Referees Department also arranges courses, assessments etc designed to improve the performance of referees who are fully supported as they seek to reach a higher level. Our thanks go to the instructors and assessors who assist in this vital work.

We congratulate those referees who achieved prestigious appointments at both County and National level. Special mention must be made of Andrew Madley (Heavy Woollen FA) and Jane Simms (Halifax FA) who were appointed as Assistant Referees for the FA Sunday Cup and FA Womens Cup Finals respectively.

DISCIPLINE

Members of the Disciplinary Committee continued to sit on Commissions to deal with the cases emanating from reports from referees and others.

The total number of cases showed little change from the previous year which was disappointing in view of the work carried out to continue with the FA Respect programme. Of particular concern is the number of referee assaults and games which have been abandoned following reported misconduct by participants (players, team officials etc).

We continue to support the FA Respect programme and are encouraged by the number of leagues which show a positive interest in the programme.

The West Riding County Amateur League was again chosen as one of the pilot leagues for operating the match-based suspension system. It is envisaged that the results of the co-operation with the FA will lead to match-based suspensions (as opposed to time-based) being introduced in open-age football in the near future.

DEVELOPMENT

The West Riding CFA can again highlight many areas of successful performance during 2010 against National Game Strategy targets. With regards to Growth & Retention the West Riding CFA have again significantly exceeded year end targets against the number of mini soccer teams (a 6% increase), youth male 11 a side teams (a 13% increase), adult female 11 a side teams (a 19% increase) and male disability teams (an increase from having no affiliated provision to having 52 affiliated teams). The CFA has also seen an increase of 3% of affiliated adult male 11 a side football, addressing the decline in this format of the game.

For an extra large county, West Riding CFA remain extremely proud of the successful work with the implementation and development of The FA Charter Standard programme. The West Riding CFA's Charter Standard coverage for youth teams in 2010 was 85% (against a target of 78% and already above the national target of 75% by 2012), with 31 Charter Standard Community Clubs (more than any other CFA) and 6 Leagues achieving the Charter Standard League award.

The West Riding CFA's stakeholder research, via the online questionnaires, has again shown an increase from 65% in 2009 to 70% in 2010 in the way in which the County FA is

rated as running and developing the game in a good to excellent standard. In 2010 the CFA also embarked on a series of 'Roadshows' with all Leagues and District FA's to build better working relationships, open communication channels and improve knowledge and understanding of support that they can receive from the County FA.

Workforce Development has again proved to be a huge success. The Coach Education programme has gone from strength to strength, supported by the re-launch of the CFA Coaches Association, Female Mentoring Scheme and Charter Standard In-Service training programmes. The County FA was also rewarded by the FA with the deployment of an FA Skills Team, focussing on programmes for children aged 5-11 and with the appointment of 2 full-time Get into Football Officers to concentrate on the development of adult football within the Local Authority boundaries of Bradford and Leeds.

In 2010, West Riding County FA also became one of the first two CFA's to achieve the Foundation Level of Equality Standards.

THANKS

Our thanks go to all those involved in the game of football in the West Riding area. Many of these are the 'unsung heroes' who give of their time and resources to manage districts, leagues, clubs etc. Without these volunteers, football could not continue. Their efforts cannot be under-estimated and should not be overlooked by all those who take part in the game.

The contribution from the press and media continues to be appreciated particularly when they concentrate on the more positive aspects.

CONCLUSION

The role of the County FA is to govern and develop the game in the West Riding area. We will continue to carry out those duties and will look to further the aims of the National Game Strategy which has been designed to increase and improve participation in England's most popular game.

G R Carter JP
Chief Executive