

### WELCOME

Hello and welcome to the January edition of the Norfolk County FA Referees' Bulletin and a very Happy New Year to you all.

### REFEREE PROMOTION

Naturally the New Year heralds thoughts of targets for the 12 months ahead and usually at this frosty time of the year I'm encouraging you to consider applying for promotion to make your way up the refereeing ladder.

It therefore seems an appropriate time to remind you that we are working on an extended promotion season for existing candidates at the moment. The promotion season is being aligned with the playing season and therefore the current promotion season will run through until 30<sup>th</sup> April.

The next promotion season will run from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020 to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2021 and the application window will be opened in our April bulletin.

In the meantime, we offer our huge congratulations to Shaun Catchpole, Gary Chaplin and George Sewell who have been promoted to Level 6 last month and will now embark on a 6 to 5 campaign in their second half of the current promotion season.

### FEMALE REFEREES' DEVELOPMENT

I am delighted to be able to confirm the date, time and venue for the Women's Grassroots Refereeing Development Event in early 2020.

The details are as follows:

**Event:** Women's Grassroots Refereeing Development

**Where:** St. Georges Park, DE13 9RN

**When:** Sunday 1st March 2020

**Time:** 9:30am-4:30pm

**Who:** Female Grassroots Referees (levels T, Y-6 or YW-3W)

For this year's event, I am able to nominate three female Referees operating in the Grassroots game. Initially, if you could express your interest by posting on the Norfolk FA Female Referees' Group Facebook page by 4th January 2020.

### THE MONTHLY QUESTION < LINK >

We are always keen to get your feedback which constantly improves our service to you. This year, in a new regular feature, we will be asking you to answer a quickfire question each month.

Our first question relates to that very important matter of Match Fees, so please click on the link in the header of this paragraph to share your thoughts. It'll literally take you less than a minute to reply!

### THE REFEREES' BUSINESS DIRECTORY < LINK >

With nearly 500 people involved in our wonderful Norfolk Refereeing Community, it occurred to me that many of you are involved in offering goods and services to people in your employment or as part of your own businesses. By setting up a work directory we can enable your refereeing colleagues to contact you if they wish to be your potential customers.

If you'd like to be listed in this directory to promote your business or offer the services of the company you work for, simply fill in the details on the form via the link in the header above and we'll start to create our guide and make it available to all Referees later in the year. Hopefully it will build into our very own 'Trust a Trader' directory!

### NEW REFEREES' COURSES < LINK >

We now head into our peak period for training new Referees. We are looking for at least 49 to take up the whistle to reach our recruitment target for the season.

We have courses at Alive Lynnsport in King's Lynn starting on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January with the next one at the FDC in Bowthorpe, Norwich on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January. Once these are completed on Sundays and Wednesdays throughout January and February, we'll then move onto a 'two day' course at Caister Academy on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> of March.

We have League bursaries, discounts for adults and female candidates plus a special incentive of a prize draw for a watch and whistle for anyone who completes their course in King's Lynn or Norwich, so if you know of anyone interested, please ask them to get in touch. Full details are available by clicking on the link in the header of this paragraph.

### PITCHSIDE REFS



Don't forget to keep your Pitchside Refs calendars up to date with any Closed Dates that you have, preferably up to four weeks in advance.

### NORFOLK FA REFEREES' SHOP

For the exclusive use of registered Norfolk officials for new kit and accessories.



Remember to use the "RESPECT" discount code. Click on the logo to access the shop.

**David Robinson**  
Referee Development Officer