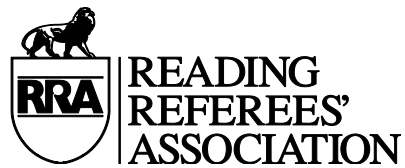


# The Reading Referee





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READING  
REFEREES'  
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# The Reading Referee

Magazine of the Reading Referees' Association August/September 2012 Vol 55 No 1

## EDITORIAL

### **Kicking Off the season at our new venue**

Over thirty five members attended our first meeting of the season at our new venue, The Earley Home Guard Club, no doubt if not drawn at least encouraged by the offer of a free drink and nibbles to celebrate the occasion. What they found was that although it doesn't have the cachet of the Madejski Stadium, it provides a comfortable and spacious room with its own bar, ideal for our meetings. It is of course a little 'out of town' for those members who live the other side of Reading but it is easily accessible, so it is hoped that those members who didn't make it to the first meeting will find their way there before the season is too old. But don't expect the free drink and nibbles, that was a one off.

### **Guest Speakers to make the trip worth while**

One good reason for making it to Earley is the high quality of speakers who Stephen Green has arranged for the season. We have been well served with top speakers over past years but the restrictions on Premier League referees has made this more difficult but it is certain that this year's speakers will keep us entertained and educated. Take September when we have the recently decorated Lorraine Deschamps paying us a return visit. Do you remember when on the last occasion she had some of our Level 3 referees parading whilst blindfolded? And then there is Phil Sharp in October who was recognised as probably the best assistant referee in the world with his lining as the World Cup and Olympic Cup Finals. Two of the top men responsible for referee development in this country follow in November and January - Dean Mohareb, the FA's National Referees Development Manager and Ray Olivier Training and Development Manager for the Premier League Referees. Anyone who has seen Ray before either at a previous visit or at the RA Conference will know he is always innovative. And we mustn't forget Jeff Pettit who's coming in February, often known as the Renegade Ref for his original thinking about the game. A season of great promise so make sure you benefit from it.

### **Refereeing accessories on sale**

It is planned to have refereeing accessories on sale at meetings (not September) as a service to members. No need to search around for such items as a new whistle, a wrist lanyard to fix it to, record cards and holders, sock ties and many other necessities.

### **Follow the Football League**

You may have seen in the newspapers that the Football League chairmen have agreed to discourage their managers, coaches and players from activities that bring the game into disrepute. As part of this they have asked referees to clamp down on two very elementary infringements. Our old friend Jim de Rennes, in the page two article in this issue, says why he thinks we should all follow their lead at local level.

**Dick Sawdon Smith**