

MILTON KEYNES REFEREES ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER
“Keyne Whistler”

April 2004

Thoughts of the editor.....

Welcome everyone to the April edition of Keyne Whistler.

We are coming to the part of the season now where hopefully your hard work is rewarded with a “glamour” appointment to a cup semi-final or final. Well done to all of those who have been given appointments in the latter stages of any cup competition this year, it is solely due to your hard work, dedication, not to mention ability throughout the season. You deserve your big day, so enjoy it. At the time of going to press, I only have some of the appointments to hand, but I know quite a few MKRA members have been appointed to youth league cup finals, and I’m sure we are well represented in the respective North Bucks, UCL and South Midlands competitions as well. However, we must say a particularly special well done and congratulations to, in descending weight order, Jon Bradshaw, Ernie Jennings and Nick Thomas who have all been given appointments on County Cup finals this season. I’m sure everyone joins me in wishing them all the best for their respective finals.

It’s also this time of year when we find out the results of our promotion candidates. I have to offer my apologies at this stage as I don’t know the names of everyone who has applied. If you were successful, well done. If you weren’t, make sure you re-apply next year and take note of the points raised in your various assessments, as in the long run they will make you a better referee and give you a better chance of succeeding next season. You will find a bit more about promotion with Jonathan a bit further down.

On a personal note it’s been a bit of a strange season, on checking my records I have dismissed five players this season, and only realised the other day that four of them are from the same club! Although it is a mixture of first team and reserves. I won’t name the club for fear of prejudicing anyone against them, as they already think I have a grudge against them!

Interesting to note that, as anyone on the UCL will know, we received a communication from the league over the past couple of weeks suggesting that the much publicised child protection certificate will not actually be compulsory to have for the beginning of next season. After discussion at the recent committee meeting, I must reiterate it is still our understanding that it IS compulsory to have this in place prior to the start of next season in order to register as a referee. We will be seeking further clarification on this over the next few weeks.

Happy Refereeing!

Gareth

Fancy a trip.....

The Referees Association conference for 2005 will take place in Southport this year on June 17th and 18th. The line-up of guest speakers this year is most impressive, and it includes Mike Riley, Steve Bennett, David Elleray, John Baker and Ken Ridden. There are various accommodation options available, please see John Fenner at the next branch meeting for full details.

Have you seen.....

If you haven't yet seen it then shame on you! I'm talking about the all singing, all dancing MKRA website superbly designed by our technical supreme Brad Billson. On there, you will find information on the laws of the game, previous newsletters, Jonathan's articles in "Referee's corner" from the MK Citizen, and many many more features. There are also links to numerous other sites including the youth league, Berks & Bucks, and the FA. If you haven't yet been on, then make sure you do in the near future. Brad would welcome any suggestions as to anything else we can include on it. You will find it at www.mkra.org.uk

Just in case.....

Our Chairman Dave Richardson will be unavailable to contact from April 27th all the way through to 29th May. We can neither confirm nor deny that he has been selected for the next series of Big Brother. If you need to speak to someone during this period about something you would normally contact Dave for, then please contact another member of the committee. You will find my contact details at the end of the newsletter. This is particularly important if you have agreed to do an MK Dons academy game but for some reason cannot fulfill the fixture, as we need to find a replacement as soon as possible.

Next time around.....

The next meeting of the Milton Keynes Referees Association will take place at Shenley Leisure Centre in the Annexe behind the bar. Not literally behind the bar, obviously. The date for your diary is Thursday 14th April and the kick off time is 7.30pm. Our guest speaker for this month was scheduled to be MK Dons Chairman and all round good bloke Pete Winkelman, who was due to show us his spectacular demonstration of their new stadium. Unfortunately, Pete has had something come up at the last minute and will be unable to be with us, but he will however be joining us for our meeting in May. In his place, Dave has promised us an entertaining evening nonetheless, although exact details are not available at present. Please do try and attend if you can.

Contact Points.....

If anyone wants to contact me for whatever reason then I would heartily recommend that you use one of the following methods.

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