



**SPRING CONFERENCE, ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & EXHIBITION  
THURSDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2011 AT BARCELO HOTEL, DAVENTRY**

**AGM**

**1 Adoption of Minutes of the AGM held on 4 March 2010**

The minutes were adopted as a true record

**2 Chairman's Welcome**

Acting Chairman Sharon Cicco welcomed all members to the AGM, she thanked John Rutherford, the previous Chairman, who had stood down and wished him well at this time following the death of his brother, whose funeral was being held today hence John's non attendance. Both John Handley and Roger Buckley (West and East Midlands Regional Chairmen) had stood down and were thanked for their contribution to the FSOA over a number of years. She welcomed to the NEC Mark Miles and Paul Lewis (West and East Midlands Regional Chairmen) to the NEC and finally thanked the NEC and the General Secretary for their contribution and hard work over the previous twelve months.

**3 Treasurers Report and Adoption of Accounts**

The accounts had been previously circulated and the Honorary Treasurer, Peter Houghton, outlined the main differences on the income/expenditure between 2009 and 2010. The organisation would have to be prudent in the current economic climate, he outlined £4k less in expenditure in 2010 than 2009 and overall the year showed a slight loss of £1687 in 2010. The instances of unpaid fees were highlighted with £4754 outstanding, which was a major improvement on 2009 (£13,562). Peter answered questions from members to the satisfaction of the meeting. The accounts were adopted.

**4 Secretary's Report**

Chris Patzelt gave a breakdown of some of the main items in 2010,

- a) Promo membership of 18 months for 12 months fee, this had attracted 15-20 new members.
- b) Effort to attract new members from the Football Conference and some in Leagues 1 and 2
- c) Website still being improved
- d) Republic of Ireland Safety Officers now eligible for membership
- e) Completion of match reports has improved following some work by the NEC regionally
- f) Documents Section is still in need of overhaul and is being addressed
- g) Both conferences in 2010 had been sponsored
- h) Commercial interests are important to the organisation
- i) Thanks to the NEC and previous Chairman John Rutherford

## 5 Election of Officers

Chairman: John Newsham - Blackburn Rovers  
Proposer: Ray Johnston – Wigan Athletic; Seconder: Alan Sumner – Wigan Athletic

Vice Chairman: Sharon Cicco - Arsenal  
Proposer: Tony Ashley – Brentford; Seconder: David Jobson – Southend United

Honorary Treasurer: Peter Houghton - Manchester City  
Proposer: Stuart Caley – Blackburn Rovers; Seconder: Alex Wood - Burnley

Assistant Treasurer: Les Blake – Fulham  
Proposer: Stephen Copp – Brentford; Seconder: Tony Ashley - Brentford

All were elected unopposed.

At this point the newly elected Chairman gave an insight on how he saw the FSOA moving forward. He thanked John Rutherford for his stewardship over the past two years and then looked back over the years of the FSOA.

Principles of the Association	Time for reflection
Safer Stadia?	Yes but no room for complacency
Stewarding Standards	Greatly improved, but still need for continual development
Developed Safety Officers	Yes FSOA course and NVQ4
Enhanced Role of Association	No, need to improve financial income and if appropriate obtain Institute status.

Lobby of football authorities for financial support, this had started with a meeting on the 18th March when the Premier League had agreed a one off donation of £15K but dialogue will continue.

Gordon Taylor had agreed to become Patron of the FSOA to assist in raising the profile of the FSOA and a letter from Gordon was read to the meeting.

The FSOA has come a long way since 1992, we have much to be proud of but we cannot stand still, the challenge is to make sure the organisation reflects the needs of its members. There are many challenges and changes ahead for the Association.

## 6 Honorarium

It was agreed that Peter Houghton would receive an Honorarium of £2.5k to reflect his work on behalf of the Association.

## 7 Amendments to Constitution

There were amendments proposed

## 8 Motions to Conference

There were no motions

## 9 Any other business

There was no further business and the AGM was closed

**NB full transcripts of presentations by the Acting Chair, Treasurer, Secretary and new Chair are reproduced elsewhere in this section.**

## CONFERENCE

Following the completion of the AGM business, the meeting continued with various speakers and topics.

### 1 Ruth Shaw Chief Executive FLA

Ruth gave a resume of her background in the Civil Service on her way to the FLA. She stated that the FLA would merge with another body as yet undecided although it could possibly be the HSE /Sports Body or maybe an expanded role in conjunction with other sports, after the 2012 Olympic Games.

Two FLA Inspectors are at present seconded to the Olympics.

The profile of the FLA needs to be raised and that is something that will be ongoing.

The issue of safe/persistent standing had been discussed at a recent meeting hosted by Don Foster a Liberal Democrat MP and it was considered that any movement to re-introduce standing areas was remote. All the football authorities had been present including the FSOA, FSF, ACPO and Sports Minister. A lively debate ensued and it was agreed that this could form a topic at the Autumn Conference.

### 2 Open Forum

**Members Pack** The members pack had been distributed at the meeting today; it was a live document and would be updated via the website. Bob Sherwood (Staines Town) asked if things could be made a little more relevant to the non league scene, with possibly a non league members section. Roger Buckley stated that the East Midlands Region now have a cycle of day/evening meetings, to encourage non league members who may have additional employment during the day, to attend. Chris Baker (Leyton Orient) stated that clubs in the south east region do actively assist non league clubs and this appeared to be the case in most regions. Ruth Shaw mentioned the safety management document which was a little more generic.

Alan Bexon (Nottingham Forest) highlighted the importance of post match checks following the discovery of a body in the toilet at Grantham Town FC, three days after the person was reported missing having attended a game.

Dave Stent (Peterborough United) reiterated the importance of completing match reports especially in Leagues 1 and 2 as this is an important tool in relation to policing numbers. Without accurate information it makes it difficult to challenge police intelligence. Richard Stanford (Wycombe Wanderers) asked if it was a possible to generate an email reminder to clubs or a name and shame policy. Jim Chalmers said that progress had been made, especially in the West Midlands Region, which now has a 100% completion rate.

Mike Warden (Ipswich Town) spoke on the doubling of police charges for next season by Suffolk Police and the difference in numbers of officers when matches are categorised.

Steve Sutton (Wolverhampton Wanderers) had been informed of a proposed reduction in capacity by the SAG if the persistent standing problem was not resolved.

### 3 NaCTSO

Jim Myetta updated the members on the current terrorist threat assessment, the main threat was still AQ but dissident Irish Republican Groups were also on the radar. He stressed the need for continuing vigilance and advised members of the VSAT website

### 4 Highways Agency

Frank Bird gave a very comprehensive presentation on the work of the Highways Agency including the Traffic Officers Service. The HA had work alongside WBA to improve the access to the stadium from the M5 following long tail backs when Manchester United visited the Hawthorns, with supporters walking along the hard shoulder. The measures implemented had prevented a similar occurrence for the visit of Arsenal and other teams. It was pointed out that the road network has knock on effect following matches e.g., Manchester United games have a effect on the M6 around Birmingham some two hours after the end of play. It was possible for clubs that are close to the Motorway network to have access to traffic cameras with almost real time info as to traffic flow, via the HANET camera system. Clubs should contact their respective Highways Agency area to obtain details.

## **5 Flares**

Alan McEntire, Risk Reduction Manager, Staffordshire Fire Service gave a very informative talk on flares, building on the recent FLA document on the subject. He outlined that some flares can burn at 2000 degrees and cause full depth burn injuries. They can discharge within 3 seconds or as long as 2 minutes. Ready availability of a metal bucket of sand, welder's type gloves, eye protection and a litter picking type device would be the most appropriate way of dealing with a flare. It should be also borne in mind that a flare can remain hot for a considerable length of time.

*Note: Copies of the presentations can be found by clicking the 'Presentations' section in the left-hand menu bar.*