

# WHERE WE ARE

Geoff Thompson, a FIFA and UEFA Vice-President, opened the new headquarters of Cornwall Football Association. The new premises are in Bodmin's Callywith Gate and accommodate 11 staff with plenty of space for meetings, courses and events.

Former FA Chairman Geoff Thompson was delighted to be invited. He said: "It's a great honour to come back to Cornwall to open the new county offices. Having been involved in the assistance from The FA in acquiring the old offices in St Austell, I find it uplifting to see how Cornwall FA, in a comparatively short period of time, has not only controlled the game in this area, but has promoted the game - that is, the men's game, the women's game and the small-sided game - and particularly encouraged youngsters to play by providing qualified coaches to encourage good practice from a very early age."

Cornwall FA Chairman Geoff Lee said: "We were delighted that, within a very busy schedule, Geoff Thompson agreed to be the guest of honour. The new premises are not just for the administration staff. There are rooms for meetings, courses and events and we hope that the building will be used by all those involved in football in the County."

Geoff Thompson was presented with a hamper of Cornish produce and his wife, Anne, with a bouquet.

The building is a modern design and construction and is part of an extension to the existing Callywith Gate industrial estate. The offices have up-to-date energy-saving features, and there is a lift for those unable to manage stairs or who use wheelchairs.

The building is arranged on two floors. The ground floor has a flexible meeting space with kitchen and toilet facilities. There are easily moveable dividing walls so that the area can be one big room or a series of small meeting rooms. The latest projecting equipment for presentations is in this space too.



L-R Geoff Thompson and Geoff Lee at the Opening

Also on the ground floor is a storeroom and garage, where the kit and equipment used by the staff for training sessions and matches is kept.

The plaques of the Association are featured on the walls of the light and airy staircase. The offices for the staff are on the first floor. Immediately on entering the room, visitors see the main reception desk. There is also a sofa for guests there. Behind the reception desk, the area is divided into five spaces.

The main space has desks for staff in an open-plan arrangement. There are separate offices around this area and a small meeting room. Modern kitchen and toilet facilities are on this floor too.

The views from the first floor stretch across Bodmin and to the landscape beyond. There is plenty of parking available at the front of the building for staff and visitors.

Now the new office is open, it seems a good time to publish some basic facts about the Association and outline what areas of work the members of staff cover.

Cornwall County FA was formed at a meeting at the Royal Hotel in Truro on Wednesday, 18 September, 1889. Representatives attended from Porthcurnow, Penzance, Truro, Probus School, Liskeard, Dunheved College (Launceston), Torpoint and Millbrook.

Now the Association governs some 400 clubs covering football for boys and girls, men and women from five-year-olds to veterans. There are about 25 leagues and more than 200 referees under the Cornwall FA umbrella.

Photographs of the staff, along with their titles, can be found on the introduction page in this magazine, but here is what each member of staff does in more detail. We hope it helps to identify the correct person for you to contact.