




CORNWALL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL REPORT



June 2011



Season 2010-2011 has brought about its usual number of challenges for the Association as we continue to keep up with numerous changes within the game brought about by a FA initiatives, coupled with our own aim of providing improved customer service to all our stakeholders and progressing our aim to be an efficient small to medium sized business.

Having completed one financial year at our new County Headquarters in Bodmin, the Association is now aware of its annual running costs and the Directors have been involved in taking steps to stabilise our financial position. However, there are number of important financial challenges that we face, conscious of the economic climate and government cutbacks that we expect to start to significantly impinge on stakeholders and the Association during next season. For this reason we have thought long and hard about adjustments

to various fees that affect clubs whilst at the same time ensuring any increases are affordable to stakeholders and will contribute to the financial stability of the Association.

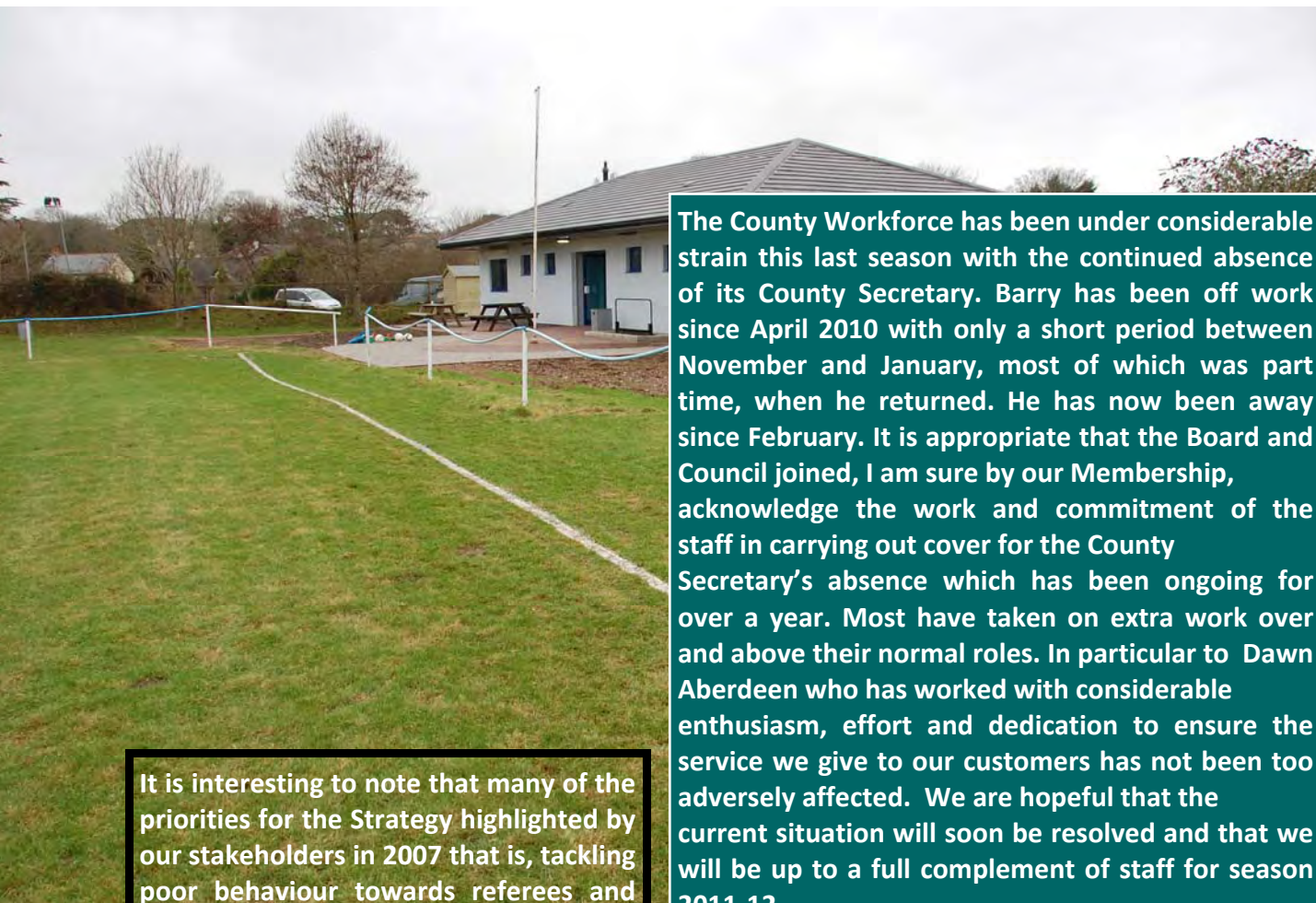
As reported last year, the Association was involved in a "Quality Assurance Review" of its operations in September 2010, carried out by an independent company on behalf of The FA. This was an opportunity to have an "outsider" look at our ways of operating and to suggest, where it was felt necessary, that we could improve as well as retain those areas where we were performing well.

We are using the information in the report to write a County Improvement Plan to take us through to 2015 in line with the new National Game Strategy.

Again, as last year, we have also been carrying out a review of the structure of our Council and its Committees. This has been carried out to ensure that Council is representative of football in the County today. The working group has involved a number of well respected non-Council members drawn from a range of different types of stakeholders. There will be a presentation to Membership prior to this year's AGM. We hope that many of you will attend and contribute to a debate on this topic. Any changes will come into force at the beginning of season 2012-2013 as the final proposals will need to be ratified by Membership at a Special AGM as this will in all probability involve changes to our Articles of the Association.

The FA are currently involved in preparations for a new National Game Strategy to run from July 2012-June 2015. Planning for a new National Game Strategy will involve a review of our structure and there are indications that we shall be given a little more flexibility on how

we organise our workforce and allow for the opportunity to place extra funding into areas we believe are perhaps requiring more focus. As a member of the FA National Game Board, I supported this approach, as I believe all Counties are different and may have slightly different priorities. It is important to report that no extra funding will be available to spend as FA budgets remain tight.



It is interesting to note that many of the priorities for the Strategy highlighted by our stakeholders in 2007 that is, tackling poor behaviour towards referees and

young players, a qualified referee at every game and having a qualified coach with every youth team are still at the top of the agenda for the people in Cornwall in 2011. This information was gained by the FA from the 2011 online Stakeholder Survey that was completed in March by 194 stakeholders (up from 134 in 2010) of the game in Cornwall.

I was pleased to see from the results that the view of Cornwall FA our stakeholders have in this survey suggested that 67% of respondents believed we are performing well, e.g. they answered excellent, very good or good, this compared with 59% last year. This is in line with the National Average (68%) with most areas of performance up on last year. Although there is still much more to do to provide a good service to our stakeholders, the encouraging upward trend in those results for us to build on.

The County Workforce has been under considerable strain this last season with the continued absence of its County Secretary. Barry has been off work since April 2010 with only a short period between November and January, most of which was part time, when he returned. He has now been away since February. It is appropriate that the Board and Council joined, I am sure by our Membership, acknowledge the work and commitment of the staff in carrying out cover for the County Secretary's absence which has been ongoing for over a year. Most have taken on extra work over and above their normal roles. In particular to Dawn Aberdeen who has worked with considerable enthusiasm, effort and dedication to ensure the service we give to our customers has not been too adversely affected. We are hopeful that the current situation will soon be resolved and that we will be up to a full complement of staff for season 2011-12.

A number of new initiatives will be introduced next season in the hope of reducing the administrative burden within the office which we hope will free up more time for the staff to support our stakeholders. We have responded with the overwhelming wish from our stakeholders of wanting to dispense with cup replays and we will not be asking clubs to register separately from league registrations this year for county cup competitions which will lighten the load of club secretaries.

The association welcomed 2 new members of Council during the season. Phil Dingle became the representative for the St Austell area while recently David James was elected to cover the area around Redruth and Camborne. Terry Richards joined the Cornwall FA Board. It is fitting to use this report to thank all Council members and those who are members of the Board for their continued work and dedication to football in Cornwall throughout the year.

The work of various aspects of the business e.g. Development, Youth and Referees are reported on later in these papers.

On the domestic front we congratulate Bodmin Town FC for winning the Easter Monday Senior Cup Final and Torpoint Athletic for winning the Junior Cup Final both held at Hayle Football Club. Also congratulations to Callington Town FC for winning the Charity Cup, kindly hosted by Saltash FC; to Newquay for winning the Women's Cup held at St Blazey and to Truro GWRSA for winning the Sunday Cup at Perranporth. We used the Charity Cup Final to make a presentation of £500 to "Saltash Live at Home Scheme" from the Charity Cup Fund. At this time I would like to offer my sincere thanks to all the clubs who provided venues for our County matches, Semi-Finals and Finals of County Cup Competitions and to the hundreds of club volunteers who helped us and made it all possible in the staging of these matches around the county.

Your help and assistance is of course crucial to the success of these events.



Our congratulations must also go to the Nalders West Cornwall Sunday League on winning the FA Grassroots Adult Respect and Fair Play Award. The league, has for a number of years, implemented their own version of 'Respect' policy that has proved highly successful in reducing poor behaviour towards match officials. They received their award at the FA Cup Final from the Prime Minister and the Chairman of the FA, but sadly league secretary Bill Lamin who was the instigator of the scheme was unable to attend due to ill health.

I anticipate that the next year will again bring with it more significant challenges for the County FA. Whilst we accept that we can always improve our service to our stakeholders and are prepared to accept criticism when it is due, we have been pleased by the increased number of positive comments we have received this year about a wide range of our work areas including our desire to consult with our stakeholders and gain their views on footballing matters when it is appropriate. Our ultimate aim is to provide a prompt and efficient service to our customers and hope that you agree with me that we are making steps in this direction.

Geoff Lee
County Chairman

Football Development

This season has seen the completion of year 3 of the FA's National Game Strategy. The continued funding from the Football Association provides significant investment into the game in Cornwall which this year has been augmented by funding from the Football Foundation and the Cornwall Sports Partnership's 'sportivate' programme.

From June Cornwall FA will be looking at formulating a new development strategy to start from the beginning of next season which will take us to the end of the 2014-15 season.



Growth & Retention

The total number of teams competing in Cornwall has shown a slight decline this season with 297 male teams (316 for season 09/10), 25 female teams (26), 257 youth teams (276). There have been increases in the number of disability teams to 12 (7) and youth female teams to 42 (33). The focus for the development programme remains targeting those children who are not part of any formal club structure and providing access for them to a mini soccer centre locally and to help sustain clubs who are struggling for numbers. This continues to be a success through the club link programme as well as the 'Sportivate' initiative which has been delivered through clubs with funding provided through the Cornwall Sports Partnership.

Cornwall FA County Cups for Girls Under-12, 14 and 16 and Boys Under-13, 14 & 15 have also proved popular again with record entries. There is now a competition for all age groups to augment League programmes and the Finals held at Newquay FC and Bodmin FC were well attended.

The disability programme is due to enter the final season of funding from the Football Foundation next year on the back of significant work in schools and colleges this season which has seen the extension of the league programme.

A significant issue for future seasons has been the demise of the Sports College network and associated school sports partnerships through a change in Government priorities. This network allowed us to make inroads into schools which would have been very time consuming and it will affect the work we are able to do going forward.

Raising Standards

One of the original aims of the Cornwall FA strategy to develop football was to see all youth football played in Charter Standard Clubs by the end of the 2011/12 season. At the end of this season the figure is up to 74% so we are hopeful that this significant achievement will be met. Work is also ongoing to support the proactive Leagues in the county who are looking to achieve the Charter Standard. For some this is proving a significant hurdle but it remains a priority to help Leagues to achieve this status.

Better Players and Coaches

A very disappointing outcome this year was the removal by The FA of Cornwall FA girls Centre of Excellence licence in March. This came as a consequence of failing to fulfil a number of administrative issues rather than the technical programme which was being delivered. The inevitable disappointment for the players and parents was mitigated to some degree by opening up a 'player development centre' but it remains a hard decision to take.

Coach Education has proved a challenge this year mainly due to the removal of the funding arrangement with Cornwall College. This has inevitably meant that the costs of the courses have had to rise as we seek to cover the course costs. But, we remain on target to qualify over 600 Level 1 coaches in the four years of the strategy.

Welfare

Bespoke child welfare support for clubs has been provided by Mandy Kimmins. All clubs who include youth players are now required to have a nominated and trained Welfare Officer and courses have been provided to achieve this.

Facilities

The number of schemes progressing applications for funding through the Football Foundation has significantly reduced over the last year. A major issue is the lack of significant partnership funding. The demand on the resources of the Football Foundation continues and they are keen to meet their funding target of providing 50% of the cost. We do now have a network of modern training facilities which service the needs of a number of clubs. St Ives FC have opened their new clubhouse this year and the new artificial surface at Mounts Bay School should be ready in time for winter training next season.



County Youth Season 2010-2011



The County Youth U18s were defeated in Round 1 of the national FA County Youth Knockout Cup competition by Northamptonshire. In the South and South West Counties Youth Championship a mixed bag of results, one win, one drawn and two losses meant that Cornwall did not qualify for the play-off final and so relinquished the title they had held for the past two seasons.

Congratulations to Ben Hurst and Ryan Barnes who were both awarded their County Caps for achieving ten appearances over the past two seasons. And to James Ward who was the recipient of the Robin Rivers 'Player of the Season' award.



The county Under-18 girls played three matches in the South and South West Championship winning one and losing two. A change of management during the season saw Martin Hatfield and Rob Brandreth take charge and hopefully their experience will pay dividends next season.

The County Under-16 Knockout Cup, 'A.H. Luke Trophy' was won by Truro City Youth who defeated St. Cleer Youth on penalties.

In the Under-18 knock-out cup the 'Rathbone Trophy' winners were Illogan RBL Youth with victory over Launceston Youth.

However Launceston gained the County League Under 18 'P.M Bartlett Trophy' when they turned the tables on Illogan RBL by winning the trophy on a penalty shootout.

Thanks to Bodmin Town FC for hosting the 'Luke Trophy' final and to Newquay FC for hosting both U18 finals.



Special mention also to the officers of the Kernow Youth League who administered the County Under 18 League through their website.

David Bray
Youth Secretary.



REFEREES 2010-11

Referees

Level 3 to 8	222 (219 Male & 3 Female)
Level 9	27 (Trainee Referees not yet completed 6 games)
Associate	18 (Referees "parented" to another County but referee in Cornwall)
Total	267 (at the end of marking season – 28 th February 2011)

Promotion of Referees

Level 7 to 6.

Jon Barnicoat (Hayle), Darren Cartwright (Illogan), Steve Garner (Helston – RNFA), Ben Judd (St Ives), Simon MacKernan (Dobwalls), Lee Mitchell (Falmouth), Alan Shaw (Callington) & Scott Willis (Camborne)

Level 6 to 5

Mark Ashley (Penwithick), Paul Butler (Hayle) & Wynroe Heath (Camborne)

Level 4

Justin Moses (Falmouth)



Assessor & Mentor

Promotion Assessments carried out for the 2010/11 season, ending 28th February 2011.

Level 7 to 6 Completed	10 Applicants – 31 Assessments
Level 6 to 5 Completed	3 Applicants – 9 Assessments
Level 5 to 4 Completed	9 Applicants – 32 Assessments

84 Mentoring / Coaching Appointments were carried out during the season.

4 New Assessors qualified during the season. Cornwall also got its first 2 Futsal Assessors in 2011.

Assessors: 1 Contributory League, 6 Supply League, 33 Registered & 7 County totalling 47 plus 21 Mentors.

Level 7 to 6 Completed	11 Applicants – 15 Assessments
Level 6 to 5 Completed	7 Applicants – 15 Assessments
Level 5 to 4 Completed	8 Applicants – 13 Assessments

Continuation Training

FAMOA Development Day was held jointly with Devon FA at Plymouth Argyle FC, Home Park, Plymouth on Sunday 18th July. 69 people attended a day which featured:

Keynote Presentation "Keep it Simple, Keep it Safe" was presented by FIFA Referee, Lee Probert.

National Update presented by FA Level 4 Tutor, Craig Cox

Prevention of Injuries & Nutrition - Claire Taylor

Safety First Refereeing & the use of Advantage – presented by Martin Cassidy, FA Level 3 Referee Coach

Benefits of "Keeping it Simple, Keeping it Safe" by Lee Probert

Dealing with Injuries – led by Claire Taylor

An excellent day concluded with an Open Forum featuring all the speakers & hosted by the Referee Development Officers.

The Day was well organised: thanks are extended to Lee Probert, Craig Cox, Claire Taylor, Martin Cassidy & Plymouth Argyle FC. Further thanks to our support staff for arranging the refreshments, Paul Minns & John Reid.

Premier League Referee, Mark Halsey & Premier League Assistant Referee, Trevor Massey attended an evening hosted by the Truro City Independent Supporters Association in April.

PGMOL Assistant Referee Manager (former FIFA & Premier League Assistant Referee) Paul Rejer was the principal guest for Cornwall Referees Association 2011 Annual Dinner- Dance at the Cliff Head Hotel, Carlyon Bay.

Mike Riley, General Manager, PGMOL (and former FIFA & Premier League Referee) has confirmed his attendance as principal speaker for the 2012 event to be held at the Sandy Lodge Hotel, Newquay on Saturday 7th April.

Referee Development Group

The group have worked hard at Corporate Funded Tournaments & fundraising events to earn the money required to attend the USA "Schwann" Cup 2011. No tour was undertaken in 2010 as the group focused on a 2 year project (2009-2011) to attend the USA.

The USA "Schwann" Cup is the largest & most prestigious youth tournament held on an annual basis. The Referee Development Group earned a personal invitation after a key member of the USA Cup watched them work in consecutive Denmark Soccer Festivals.

The USA Cup organisers are to provide "home stay" accommodation to keep the costs down. The group will undertake both the qualifying tournament & the main event. They will stay in the USA for 14 days.

The Tour Party will be: Ray Brown (Referee Development Officer / Tour Manager), Gary Cornish (Coach / Referee), Rigas Gatzianidis (Coach / Referee), Samantha Congdon, James Gallagher, Ben Judd, Liam Mankee, Craig Simpson, Luke Wilkes, Scott Willis, Jon Harris (Team Medic / Referee) & Sam Hamilton (Team Administrator / Photographer).

Unfortunately Luke Maslen (Graduation), Josh Hadrill (Family Commitments) & James Strout are unable to attend the tour.

The Group have had a successful season with a number of promotions & prestigious appointments. The Referee Development Officer accepted the opportunity for 3 young referees to attend the Nike Cup – UK Finals 2011 at Warwick University. The Nike Cup is Under 15 Academy Football featuring teams from the Premiership & Championship clubs. This year the 20 club event also included Glasgow Rangers. All games are officiated by Premier League Referees, the Cornwall Development Group members acting as Assistant Referees. Ben Judd, Liam Mankee & Luke Maslen each received 4 appointments: The Development Group wish to acknowledge Livery Dole for their generous sponsorship of new tracksuits & polo shirts.

Administration & Appointments

Tony Steed has just completed his first full season in the full time post. Tony does a good job in some times difficult circumstances. We thank the many leagues & clubs who have taken the time to acknowledge the work that Tony has done throughout the season. We express our thanks to all the leagues for their assistance & support as members of the funding partnership of the Appointment Secretary post.

Cornwall FA Service Awards were made to:

Chris Coombes (Bissoe) – 25 years
Graham Emmett (Redruth) – 25 years

Andrew Collins (Pensilva) – 20 years
Neil Harvey (Penzance) – 20 years

Kevin Knowles (Falmouth) – 10 years
Francis Matuelwicz (St Tudy) – 10 years
Paul Roberts (Mount Hawke) – 10 years

Darryn Bragg (Penwithick) – 5 years.
Michael Coates (Helston) – 5 years
Jon Harris (Nanpean) – 5 years
David Lobb (Par) – 5 years
Mike Mills (Launceston) – 5 years
Craig Simpson (Bude) – 5 years
Graham Strout (Port Isaac) – 5 years
James Strout (Port Isaac) – 5 years

The Graham Cutler Trophy for "The Most Promising Young Referee of the Year" was awarded to Ben Judd (St Ives)

The Peter Walters Memorial Trophy for "Outstanding Services to Refereeing" was awarded to Steve Lawrence (Penryn)

Obituaries

3 former referees passed away during May. Simon Parish (Par) former Level 3 Referee died suddenly on the 4th May at the age of 42. John Gall (Penzance) former Class 1 Referee died after a long illness on the 17th May. John Pope former South Western League Referee & Cornwall FA Council Member passed away on the 24th May. We offer our condolences to the family & friends of our colleagues.

Ray Brown
Referee Development Officer

Brian Harris
Referees Secretary





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