



## MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER

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### Another Goal Achieved

Over 3 years work toward the establishment of a football worker in SCORE has culminated in the appointment of Matt Baker as Pastoral Support Director in English Football. The 2 year contract has been made possible by the provision of funding through a partnership between the Professional Footballers Association, the Football League Trust, and the Premier League.

Matt brings to the post over 10 years of experience as a football chaplain with Charlton Athletic, as well as knowledge of the overall work of SCORE through his service as a Trustee.

Chosen from a field of 4 strong candidates, Matt expressed his delight at being offered the job, but also acknowledged the challenge ahead. "Having just 2 years to establish this role is a daunting prospect," he said, "and it will need the prayers & support of all involved with SCORE."

"Whilst we give thanks as we see yet another goal achieved," commented Gwyn Lewis, Chair of SCORE, "we are all conscious that this is merely the beginning"

### Racing Ahead

But it's not just in football that the value of SCORE's work is being recognised. Within Horse Racing the solid foundation built by Graham Locking is causing some to consider the possibility of further funding for a second chaplain within the sport. This would allow coverage of a greater area of the UK.

"There is nothing definite as yet," said Graham, "but we are receiving positive noises from some quarters. We would value people's prayers for sensitivity as we continue to pursue the idea."

### Berlin Bound

SCORE's involvements in athletics is steadily developing, and will be advanced this month when two of our chaplains, Mary Vickers & Nigel Stone, head for Berlin as part of the chaplaincy team for the World Athletics Championships (15<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> August). As well as Nigel's chaplaincy at Herne Hill Harriers, both he and Mary have a long term involvement in the sport both as athletes and as officials.

"To play a role in the World Championships is a real honour," commented Mary. "It not only builds on SCORE's developing relationship with track & field, but also continues our link with major event chaplaincy."

### 2012 Gets Closer

Talk of major events is a reminder that 2012 is getting much closer. And the preparations for the churches' engagement with the Olympics now are getting in gear through "More Than Gold" and the recent conference at Wembley.

SCORE's main interest is in chaplaincy provision, which the organising committee will be considering in about another year. "Talks are going on in the background about chaplaincy to the Olympics & Paralympics," said John Boyers SCORE's National Director, "and we remain hopeful that SCORE will play a significant part in that aspect of the games."

### **SCORE Conference 09 (6<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> October)**

The programme for this year's conference at Lilleshall is looking as varied and exciting as ever. Speakers include Henrietta Bowden-Jones, specialist in gambling addictions with the Sporting Chance Clinic, Tony Spreadbury, a leading international Rugby Union referee, and Duncan Green, the Anglican Olympic supremo and member of the Organising Committee of the 2012 Olympics.

There will be the usual opportunities for chaplains to share ideas and to consider the work of SCORE at the AGM on Wednesday afternoon (before the North v South football match). Booking forms have been sent out and will soon be available on the website. Some have already been returned and the closing date is 18<sup>th</sup> September.

### **Main Events**

SCORE's 2009 fund raising events kicked off in style with the dinner at Everton FC in May. The main speaker was David Moyes, the Everton manager, and the MC was broadcaster and Swansea City chaplain Kevin Johns. In addition to being an entertaining evening, the dinner also raised around £5,000 for SCORE.

More fundraising events are being planned for the autumn including a dinner at Old Trafford and an evening in London with Ian McGeechan, Head Coach of the recent British & Irish Lions Rugby Union tour to South Africa.

The first 6 months of 2009 were positive financially, but there is still a need to maintain our funding levels for the rest of the year. Your support and prayer for these events would be appreciated. Details will appear on the website ([www.scorechaplaincy.org.uk](http://www.scorechaplaincy.org.uk)) in due course.

### **Chaplains Together**

Conference isn't the only time in the year when SCORE chaplains get together. In several areas there are also twice yearly Regional Meetings. Many value these opportunities to meet up with fellow chaplains, consider topics of common interest, share ideas, and pray for each other.

At the recent round of meetings topics considered ranged from working with a club's community department, to finding the balance between church & chaplaincy commitments, and what advice might be given to new chaplains. These gatherings are a means of increasing fellowship within SCORE and enabling chaplains' professional development.

This is just a snap shot of the many and varied activities of SCORE. We value your support in all this, and are grateful to God for his provision for the work and the favour we are experiencing within sport. These are exciting times in sports chaplaincy, and we look forward to all God has in store for us over the next few months.