

Joel Richards

We were shocked and saddened to hear the tragic news of Joel Richards passing in the tragedy of the recent Tunisian hotel terrorist attack. Joel had been a valued referee with the Birmingham Football League and is a sad loss to us all.

Hon Referees Secretary Mike Parr gave his memories of Joel:

I have known Joel as a referee since season 2010/11 when he joined the Birmingham & District AFA as an assistant referee at 16 years old. Within 2 seasons he had progressed to refereeing on the league and his progression continued so rapidly that he refereed the Youth Cup Final at the end of season 2013/14. He has continued this rapid progression by gaining promotion to level 4 which allowed him to referee on such leagues as the Midland Football League .He obviously had high expectations of reaching a high level in refereeing and to be taken from us in such a despicable way has angered and upset everyone who knew him.

He also regularly attended West Bromwich Referees Association along with his uncle Pat, who unfortunately was killed at the same time and was also Chairman of the Youth Council of the Birmingham County FA.

To lose such a well-liked and respected individual has come as a severe shock to all those that knew him and he will be sadly missed.

We send our condolences to all the family from all his friends and colleagues at the Birmingham & District Football League (formally the Birmingham & District Amateur Football Association).

Mike Parr

Hon Referees Secretary

Birmingham & District Football League