



# The Referees' Association of England

## News Digest October 2007

### Restructuring

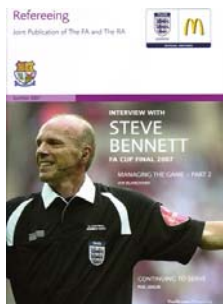
Following the approval of the South Bedfordshire Notice of Motion at the RAE AGM in June, the Board has corresponded with NIRA & RAW to seek their opinions of further administrative changes. Following their responses a sub committee has been formed to investigate the feasibility and implications of various options.

It is understood that the current structure of three independent autonomous National Associations and a separate administrative organisation which is responsible for the matters of common interest to the National Associations appears to be confusing to many members and it is hoped that any further administrative changes will maintain the heritage of this Association and the operational ties between the three National Associations.

### "Refereeing" magazine

It is a little over a year since the joint RA/FA magazine was first produced by an editorial team including members of the RA and FA.

The latest issue has just been despatched from the printer.



The publication is funded entirely by the FA and is distributed directly to every Registered Referee in England, whether they are a member of the RAE or not.

A magazine for those members who are not FA Registered Referees will be supplied to their ABS upon request to Head Office.

Copies are sent to ABSs in Wales and Northern Ireland for distribution to their members.

Editions include articles detailing the benefits of membership which it is hoped will assist ABSs to recruit new members.

### RA Centenary Conference

This will be held on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2008 at the Renaissance Hotel, Solihull. Please put the date in your diaries NOW.

The programme for the weekend will be sent to all ABS Secretaries early in the New Year when the key note speakers and workshop session leaders have been confirmed.

Geoff Thompson, Chairman of the FA and a Vice President of UEFA and FIFA will be Guest of honour and will be with us for the weekend.

Pierluigi Collina has been invited to join us for our Gala Dinner. Due to his work commitments he has not yet been able to confirm whether or not he will be able to attend.

The cost to hold our Centenary Conference will be higher than usual and we need to identify potential sponsors for elements of the Conference.

**Members with any suggestions for a potential sponsor are requested to contact Head Office.**

Sponsors will be acknowledged in the Centenary Conference Brochure.

### Board Elections

The following 4 members have put their names forward for election to the Board for the period 1<sup>st</sup> January 2008 – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2010.

Nigel Genner (Stourbridge)

Colin Harris (Bristol)

Eddie McGrath (Bootle)

Ray Mallery (Croydon)

Voting papers have been sent to ABS Secretaries. They should be completed and returned to RA Head Office by Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> November.

### RA Centenary

The RA Board is considering commissioning a Commemorative cover to mark this special occasion.

**We would ask members with special knowledge of this area of collectables and who are willing to assist the Board to please contact Head Office.**

### RA Supplies

Our new kit, illustrated in the previous edition, is selling extremely well and we are receiving very positive feedback on the style, quality and price.

Members can purchase items from our extensive range of products post-free either directly from our supplies department at RA Head Office in Coventry, on 0800 328 9474 or by logging on to our dedicated website:



Alternatively members can obtain our products from their ABS who can purchase goods at discounted rates for bulk orders.

The profit from our supplies operation is retained within the Association to help fund our operating costs which helps to keep membership subscriptions as low as possible.

It is known that some ABSs encourage their members to purchase kit and supplies from our competitors who make a donation to their Society funds.

Like every business we are keen to maximise our sales and request those Societies with such an arrangement to contact us.

**Please support your Association and help the Board to help you.**

### Head Office

In 1989 the Association purchased the leasehold of the land at Head Office which has been developed and improved over the past 18 years.



Due to the expansion of our Supplies operation and current employment legislation, the building no longer suits our needs so the Board are currently investigating the feasibility of relocating to new premises.

## Membership figures

The Membership year is from 1<sup>st</sup> April in any year to 31<sup>st</sup> March the following year and membership subscriptions are due for renewal on 1<sup>st</sup> April every year.

Half way through the membership year, there were 9,430 members recorded at Head Office on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2007, 69 less than on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2006 and just less than 80% of the 11,829 recorded on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2007.

Where are the other 20%? Have they stopped Refereeing or just not yet renewed their membership??

If you haven't renewed your membership you aren't covered by the RA Group Personal Accident Insurance Policy.

Details of membership numbers supplied from Head Office show that 13 out of 281 ABSs have not yet registered any members.

A report on membership trends compiled by the Treasurer is available from your County RA Secretary.

## Referee Recruitment

The Football Association and County FAs are responsible for the recruitment of Referees into the game. It is of course in our interest to do whatever we can to assist with the recruitment of Referees by encouraging ex players and others interested in the game to take up the whistle.

## FA Referee numbers

As Referees, we are required to register annually with our Parent County Football Association and it has been reported that Referee numbers recorded in County handbooks has declined this year by an average of about 25%, possibly as a result of the FA CRB initiative. It is therefore encouraging to note that our own membership has declined by just 69 from this time last year

The FA's expressed aim is that every match of football should be controlled by a Registered Referee, this currently looks a long way off but it is in everyone's interest to help to attain that goal.

## 100% Membership

This has been a goal for many years and is something that the Board is striving to achieve by working with the FA to try to encourage non members to join their local ABS.

It is known that there is 100% membership in Northern Ireland

where Referees pay their FA, Divisional FA, Society, National RA and RA Subscriptions all to their ABS Treasurers who distributes subscriptions appropriately.

If we can achieve such a position, the Board will be able to **reduce** subscriptions.

## Assaults on Match Officials

None of us think that we will ever be assaulted but records show that regrettably this problem persists within our game.

The FA maintains records supplied to them by County FAs but the Board has minimal information on the extent of the problem as far as it affects our members.

When an assault has occurred, the individual will feel isolated and the best way to overcome this is to talk through the incident with a senior member of the local society such as a society mentor who can offer immediate and ongoing assistance, counselling, support and advice.

The Board has developed a form which can be downloaded from the RA website for members to report such incidents to their ABS Secretary, to their County RA Secretary and to Head Office.

By completing and forwarding the forms, the County RA will be able to monitor the situation and Head Office and the Board will be able to collate information on assaults on members which can then be discussed with the FA.

A reportable assault is any form of unwanted and unwarranted physical contact upon a victim by an assailant. Technically, highly aggressive, non-contact violent conduct towards a victim may also constitute an assault. At its mildest, it may just be a 'poke in the chest' with a pointed finger. More serious assaults go as far as inflicting grievous bodily harm or worse.

## RA Website

We are pleased to advise that following serious issues with our host company, we are now back on line and have moved to a new host company.

For the latest news on metal cup hooks and much more Surf to

[www.footballreferee.org](http://www.footballreferee.org)

## CRA Liaison Meetings

A series of four meetings in various locations around the Country has been arranged for early December.

County RAs have been invited to send a representative to attend their nearest venue where Board

members will be available to discuss RA & RAE matters.

## Publications

The original quantity of the "Don't stand alone leaflet" has almost been exhausted and will shortly be revised.

A recruitment poster for the use of ABSs and CRAs will be developed.

**Members with specific design expertise and who are willing to assist the Board are asked to contact Head Office.**

A Manual of Guidance was issued to every County RA and Society Secretary following Conference 2005 and the pages are being updated periodically. Members can access and download the pages of the Manual of Guidance from the RA website.

## Strategic Plans

The current versions can be viewed on the RA website. Ask your secretaries for information

## RAE Board meeting

The Board met on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> September and the minutes of the meeting can be viewed on the RA website.

## RA Board meetings

An EGM was held on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> September and a Board meeting was held on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> September minutes of both meetings can be viewed on the RA website.



## Head Office team

**Arthur Smith**  
Head of Operations

**Linda Saunders and  
Josephine Clarke**  
Administration Officers

**Duncan Macaulay**  
Supplies Officer

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This newsletter is edited by Alan Poulain & Richard Blackman.