



The Referees' Association of England

News Digest

August 2007

Important announcement regarding the RA Group Personal Accident Insurance Policy

Following negotiations with our insurers DTE, additional benefits have been added to this policy at **no** additional charge

1. The benefit for temporary total disablement has increased from £100 per week to £125 per week
2. A new benefit of Victim support/Counselling cover, following a valid claim resulting from Accidental bodily injury.
3. A new Funeral expenses cover following a valid claim.

Full details of the Insurance policy are available from your ABS Secretary.

Laws of Association

Football

The law changes approved by the International Board were explained to delegates attending RA Conference by Ian Blanchard. No major changes to the grass root game this year, but some affecting the higher level of our game should be noted. Law amendments are available from the FA or your County FA, the new LOAF booklet is also available from RA supplies.



Membership figures

There were 7,253 members registered at Head Office on 31st July 2007 which compares with 6,412 on 31st July 2006 and 11,829 on 31st March 2007.

41 out of 280 ABSs have not yet registered any members.

Details of membership numbers supplied from Head Office and a report on membership trends compiled by the Treasurer are available from your County RA Secretary.

RA Centenary Conference

This will be held on Saturday 5th July 2008 at the Renaissance Hotel, Solihull.

The key note speakers and workshop session leaders are yet to be confirmed but we can confirm that Geoff Thompson, Chairman of the FA will be with us for the weekend and that Pierluigi Collina will be joining us for our Gala Dinner.



RAE AGM

This was held on Friday 8th June at the Warwick Hilton Hotel when various rule amendments and notices of motion were discussed. A new version of the Constitution which incorporates the changes agreed at the AGM has been sent to your ABS Secretary and can be viewed on the RA website.

RA Conference

This was held on Saturday 9th June at the Warwick Hilton Hotel and it was encouraging to see a large number of members

participating in the workshop sessions which were led by our senior Refereeing colleagues.

Questionnaires

Delegates attending RAE AGM and RA Conference were requested to complete and return a short questionnaire for each event. The responses have been collated for consideration by the Board and have been sent to your County RA Secretary.

RA Representative on FA Council

It was reported in the June edition that the FA shareholders had approved the Burns report which concluded the Structural Review at the FA.

The Board were invited to nominate someone to represent not just the members of this Association, but Referees throughout England on the new council of the Football Association.

The members of the Board are pleased to advise members that Arthur Smith, a member of Bromsgrove Society and RA Head of Operations has been nominated and assumed his new responsibilities following the FA Summer meeting.

This Association has been campaigning for full representation on FA Council for many years and following this restructuring at the FA, we have achieved that goal.



We wish Arthur every success in his new role and are confident that he will carry out his duties in his usual calm and efficient manner.

RA Website

We are trying to keep the website interesting and informative, news items and items of general interest are being regularly updated by the members of the website editorial team.

**Surf to
www.footballreferee.org**

We are keen to hear from members who are interested in helping with managing the site or if you have any suggestions to make about the operation of the website, please contact Head Office.

The website contains a number of information sheets and forms that can be downloaded from a secure area.

Every ABS is listed on the "Find your local RA" feature on the website and Secretaries are requested to ensure that the details for your society are kept up to date.

If your ABS Secretary is unable to check your society's details, can you help by offering to undertake this?

Every ABS Secretary has been supplied with a user name and a password to enable ABS details to be amended and to ensure that information can be downloaded for members.

If you wish to gain access to the secure area please contact your ABS Secretary for a username and password.

RA Supplies

The new RA Kit, launched at Conference is now available for 2007 season. It features a great fabric new style and it is available at the same excellent value for money price as the old kit.



For a copy of our current brochure including details of our new kit for 2007 contact our supplies department, which is based at RA Head Office in Coventry, on 0800 328 9474 or by logging on to our dedicated website:

www.RAshop.co.uk

Members can purchase products post-free from us or through ABSs to who discounts for bulk order are offered.

We offer preferential rates to ABSs for large orders and can supply 'special orders' that are not illustrated in our giftware catalogue so please give us a ring to discuss your requirements.



Nominations for RAE Awards

County RA's will shortly be considering nominations for RAE awards. Do you know of a member who deserves the Long & Meritorious Service Award, the Life Membership award or the 50 year membership award?

If so please ask your ABS Officers to complete a nomination form which can be downloaded from the RA website and which are also available from your CRA Secretary.

Restructuring

South Bedfordshire Society proposed a Notice of Motion at the RAE AGM requiring the Board to expedite replacing the present organisational structure, which received 89.13% of the votes cast. A meeting was held on 8th July to consider how to progress this motion and plans are now in hand.

RA Grand Draw 2007

The winning tickets were drawn at the Gala dinner during Conference weekend in June. A Result sheet has been sent to every ABS Secretary and can be viewed on the RA website.

A total of £30,404 worth of tickets was sold and £14,775 will be returned to ABS funds through the 50% cash back scheme, with Bolton, who sold the most tickets, receiving £510 for society funds.

ABSs are requested to order tickets for the 2008 draw from your County RA Secretary now.

Recruitment

The term Recruitment, in the context of the RAE, relates to the recruitment of non members into membership, not the recruitment of Referees into the game which is the responsibility of The Football Association and County FAs.

ABSs are best placed to be responsible for the recruitment of

new members and for the retention of existing members because they are in direct contact with existing members and are able to contact non members within their locality. National RA and County RA support is vital.

In its simplest form, the recruitment of members is undertaken by contacting non members, either face to face, by phone or by written communication and encouraging them to join.

In its simplest form, the retention of existing members is undertaken by attempting, by whatever means possible, to ensure that all members rejoin their ABS.

Finance & General Purpose (F&GP) monitor membership trends and have sought observations and suggestions from various County RA's over the past year. A report on Recruitment & Retention was discussed at their meeting earlier this month and will be considered further at next months Board meeting.

Suggestions and observations on the recruitment of Referees into the RAE and the retention of existing members are always welcome and should be sent to Head Office



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