



The Referees' Association of England

News Digest February 2008

RA Centenary commemorative coin

To commemorate the Centenary of the Referees' Association, which was formed in May 1908, the RA Board has commissioned a coin which will be sent to ABSs for distribution to every member joining during our Centenary year commencing 1st April 2008.



Membership subscriptions

Subscriptions for the membership year commencing 1st April 2008, including the Group Personal Accident Insurance Premium will be £15 per full member (upto the age of 75).

Members are reminded that subscription must be received at RA Head Office by 31st May; otherwise RA group personal accident Insurance scheme cover cannot be continued until subscriptions have been received at Head Office.

Membership figures

There were 11,081 members recorded at Head Office on 31st January 2008.

- 94.852% of (or 602 less than) the recorded membership of 11,683 on 31st January 2007
- 93.68% of (or 748 less than) the recorded membership of 11,829 on 31st March 2007
- Approximately 45% of the number of Referees registered with The FA.

Eve of the Final Rally

Booking forms for the 2008 rally on Friday 16th May at the New Connaught Rooms, Covent Garden, London, will be available soon. The guest speaker will be the former Arsenal goalkeeper, Bob Wilson.

Congratulations to ...

Howard Webb, Darren Cann and Mike Mullarkey on being selected as England's team to officiate during the UEFA EURO 2008 tournament in Austria & Switzerland.

FIFA Appointments 2008

The following English Officials have been appointed to the FIFA list of Match Officials 2008:

Referees - Male

- Martin Atkinson
- Mark Clattenburg
- Michael Dean
- Michael Riley
- Robert Styles
- Stephen Tanner
- Howard Webb

– Female

- Sasa Ithringova
- Amy Rayner

– Futsal – Male

- Marc Birkett

Assistant Referees – Male

- Darren Cann
- Peter Kirkup
- Muhammed Matadar
- Michael Mullarkey
- David Richardson
- Philip Sharp
- Jeremy Simpson
- Glenn Turner
- Adam Watts
- Richard West

– Female

- Alison Chapman
- Emma Everson
- Natalie Walker

We wish all of our senior colleagues a successful and enjoyable year

Recruitment & Retention

The recruitment of new members into the Association and the retention of existing members is vital for the future of this Association.

ABSs are in direct contact with existing members and are able to contact non members within their locality and are therefore best placed to undertake this task.

It is acknowledged that National RA and County RA support is vital and the RAE Board have agreed to commence a two part recruitment campaign to assist ABS initiatives.

A copy of the new recruitment leaflet will be distributed with referee re-registration packs by as many County FAs as will agree to do this for us.

All newly qualified Referees who join the Association will receive (during our Centenary year) a voucher redeemable against RA supplies. New members paying £11 + Insurance premium will receive a £10 voucher. The value of the voucher will be dependant upon the type of membership (full / youth and whether part year / full year).

Members are requested to encourage anyone who you feel may be interested in Refereeing, to join a training course and to join their local ABS.

RAE & RA Board meetings

Both Boards met on the weekend of 2nd / 3rd February and elected their officers for the year who are

RAE Board

- | | |
|---------------|------------------|
| Chairman | Alan Poulain |
| Vice Chairman | John Harden |
| Treasurer | Richard Blackman |

Representatives on the RA Board

- Alan Poulain
- Richard Blackman
- Ian Davies
- Nigel Genner
- Ray Mallery

RA Board

- | | |
|---------------|------------------|
| Chairman | Richard Blackman |
| Vice Chairman | Nigel Genner |
| Treasurer | Alan Poulain |

Minutes of both meetings can be viewed on the RA website.

RA Centenary Conference

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

Geoff Thompson, former Chairman of the FA and a Vice President of UEFA and FIFA will be with us as Guest of honour, **David Taylor**, General Secretary of UEFA, **Jose Maria Garcia Aranda**, Head of Refereeing at FIFA and a number of other distinguished guests will also be joining us for the weekend.

Pierluigi Collina will speak at our Gala dinner, (subject to UEFA / Italian Football Federation (FIGC) commitments)

Booking forms and a programme for the weekend has been sent to ABS Secretaries. The seating capacity for the Gala dinner is limited to 500 and we recommend that you book your place as soon as possible to avoid disappointment due to the anticipated demand.

RA Quiz

Regional qualifying competitions will be held during March and the final will be held on Sunday 27th April 2008 at the Stonebridge Manor Hotel, Coventry.

Board Elections

The term of Office of three Board members will finish on 31st December 2008 and an election for members to fill the three vacancies will be held later this year.

Nomination papers have been issued to ABSs and can be downloaded from the RA Website.

Members are encouraged to seek election to the Board.

Assistance required

Board members give freely of their time but acknowledge that their expertise is limited.

Within our Association there are many members with business and organisational expertise that the members of the Board do not possess.

Members who are willing and able to assist either the RA Board or the RAE Board and their committees are invited to contact Head Office.

RA Website

Information is being constantly updated by our editorial team and the password secure area, where minutes and forms can be downloaded appears to be working well.

For the latest news Surf to

www.footballreferee.org

Manual of Guidance

The Board issued a Manual of guidance in June 2005 which was distributed to all CRA & ABS Secretaries.

The manual contains useful information such as

- Child Protection
- guidance to members following an assault
- guidance to members who are asked to attend a Disciplinary commission.

Updated pages have been issued and the entire manual can be accessed within the secure area of the RA website.

Following requests from members' additional guidance is being prepared for inclusion on such topics as

- What to do when charged by County FA or by The FA
- What to do when charged under FA Child Protection regulations
- What to do when contacted by the Police
- What to do when called to attend Court

There is a vast amount of experience within our membership and members with suggestions for content of existing items or suggestions for additional items are requested to contact Head Office.

RA Grand draw 2008

Tickets, priced at £1 each in books of 5 were distributed to County RAs in December; further supplies of tickets are available from Head Office.

There are 55 cash prizes varying from £5,000 to £50 on offer and members are requested to participate in this fund raising activity by selling tickets to family and friends.

The winning tickets will be drawn at the Gala dinner during Conference weekend in July.

If every member could sell 1 book of tickets the retained profit will increase to almost £20,000 which would enable the Board to

- fund special projects
- consider increasing the prize fund
- help to keep subscriptions at the current level.

The Board is committed to the 50% cash back scheme which assists ABSs to raise their own funds. Cheques totalling £14,775.20 were sent to ABSs following the 2007 draw; one society received £510.

RA Supplies

Members can purchase items from our extensive range of competitively priced, superior quality products either

1. directly from our supplies department at RA Head Office in Coventry, on 0800 328 9474
2. by logging on to our dedicated website www.RAshop.co.uk
3. or from their ABS who can purchase goods at discounted rates for bulk orders which are supplied Post free.

A new sales brochure will be available shortly

Please support your Association and help your Association to help you.

CRA & ABS Newsletters

A number of County RAs and ABSs produce a magazine or newsletter, some as hard copy and some in an electronic version (which can also be produced as a hard copy) like this news digest.

A periodical publication which focuses on local issues & people helps to keep members informed of what is going on, maintains communications with members, can help to minimise the business section of meetings and can be used to assist recruitment.

The editors of this newsletter will be pleased to assist County RAs and ABSs to develop your own newsletter.



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