



# The Referees' Association of England

## News Digest

## April 2008

### Eve of Final Rally

The 2008 Rally will be held on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May at  
The New Connaught Rooms, Great Queen Street, Covent Garden, London WC2B 5DA.

It is held to give members the opportunity to congratulate the FA Challenge Cup final Referee and his team on being appointed to the ultimate match in English domestic football.

This year's FA Challenge Cup Final officials: **Mike Dean** (Referee), **Trevor Massey** and **Martin Yerby** (Assistants), **Chris Foy** (4<sup>th</sup> Official) & **Peter Kirkup** (Reserve Assistant)

Our guest speaker for the evening will be Bob Wilson, the former Arsenal and Scotland goalkeeper who is currently a sports commentator.

**Entrance is by ticket only, priced at £12.50 each and available from Head Office.**



### Membership

There were 11,266 members recorded at Head Office on 31st March 2008 which is 95.24% of (or 563 fewer than) the recorded membership of 11,829 last year.

Despite this decline in membership nationally, membership numbers have increased in 14 Counties.

Membership of this Association is voluntary and referees can choose whether to join or not. By joining their local ABS members (45.2 % of referees registered with The FA are RAE members) have shown that they understand and appreciate the benefits of membership.

We need to focus our efforts on promoting our Association to those new and currently registered referees who, for whatever reason, have not yet chosen to join us.

Local societies are well placed to undertake the task of recruiting new members and retaining existing members because they are in direct contact with existing members and are able to contact non members and newly qualified Referees within their locality. ABSs and County RAs are encouraged to appoint recruitment and retention Officers to collate and to disseminate methods of best practice by sharing ideas.

There is a shortage of referees in the game so it is vital for the game as a whole that those that are, are retained within the game.

There are many reasons why referees leave the game but it is known that non-members can feel isolated and are often unable to obtain assistance and support when they need it most. A member of an ABS however is able to access the support services supplied by their local society, County RA and of the National RA and is therefore likely to remain within the game longer than a referee who is not a member.

CRA Secretaries are requested to check final membership numbers of ABSs in their County, which are used as the basis of voting entitlement at the AGM and for the Board election, and to advise Head Office of any discrepancy.

### Recruitment Voucher

The Board is continuing to pursue initiatives to help ABSs to recruit new members.

All newly qualified referees joining the Association for the first time during our Centenary year will receive a voucher which can be redeemed against the cost of RA supplies. The value of the voucher will be dependant upon the type of membership (full or youth and whether part or full year) a newly qualified referee, joining as a full member, for example and paying £11 + Insurance premium to Head Office will receive a £10 voucher.

A flyer has been distributed to all ABSs who are asked to ensure that they are given to every member of referee training courses

### RA Centenary Conference

Our Centenary Conference, to be held on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2008 at the St. Johns Hotel, Solihull is now **almost fully booked.**

If you would like to attend this historic event please submit your booking form as soon as possible

**Geoff Thompson**, former Chairman of the FA and a Vice President of UEFA and FIFA will be our 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 (subject to UEFA and Italian FA commitments) speak at our gala Dinner.

### Annual General Meeting

The Board wish to encourage ABSs and CRAs to be represented at the AGM which will be held at The St Johns Hotel, Solihull, on Friday 4th July 2008, commencing at 2.30 pm.

### Subscriptions 2008-2009

Subscriptions for the new membership year became due for payment to Head Office on 1<sup>st</sup> April.

Members are reminded that anyone, whose membership subscription has not been received at Head Office by 31st May, will **NOT** be covered by the RA Group Personal Accident Insurance Policy and cover will only be resumed when payment arrives at the office.

Those who have not yet renewed their membership are requested to forward their subscriptions to their ABS Treasurer as soon as possible so that they can be forwarded to RA Head Office in Coventry to ensure the continuation of the benefits of membership.

**Every member joining during this, our Centenary year will be supplied with a commemorative coin, via their ABS.**



A growing number of ABS' submit members' registration details electronically using a standard Excel spreadsheet which is available from Head Office.

**ABSs not currently using this system are requested to consider doing so because it saves time, money and eliminates the possibility of mistakes.**

## RA Group Personal Accident Insurance Policy

It is impossible to prevent accidents happening but the potential financial impact of an injury whilst participating in an organised activity is reduced by this scheme.

The policy was and is designed to provide assistance to those members who sustain an injury whilst refereeing.

With the willing cooperation of our Insurers, a number of additional benefits have been included on the policy and some members seem to incorrectly think that these additional benefits are the core of the policy.

Members are reminded that this is a "Personal Accident", not an "All Risks" policy.

Details of the policy benefits can be downloaded from the RA website.

The standard policy covers members up to the age of 75. Members aged 75 or over on 1<sup>st</sup> April can apply for inclusion in the policy by payment of a small additional premium to Head Office.

## RA Grand draw 2008

The winning tickets will be drawn at the Gala Dinner during Conference Weekend in July.

Members are requested to participate in this fund raising activity by selling tickets, priced at £1 each in books of 5 to family and friends. There are 55 cash prizes varying from £5,000 to £50

50% of the value of ABS sales is returned to their own funds and the profit enables the Board to

- fund special projects
- keep subscriptions low

## Commemorative Cover

To mark our Centenary, the RA Board has arranged for a Commemorative Postage Cover, which will be postmarked Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2008, to be produced. These will be available for purchase from our supplies department.

## Board Elections

The term of Office of Richard Blackman, Bart O'Toole and Alan Poulain finishes 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, additional copies can be downloaded from the RA Website and should be returned to Head Office by 1<sup>st</sup> September 2008.

Members are encouraged to seek election to serve on the Board.

## Constitutional Review

The committee has met together twice, has met with representatives of the South Bedfordshire Society to clarify their proposal and is corresponding with RAW & NIRA to consider how best to proceed.

The committee is reporting to the RAE Board and updates are contained within Board minutes.

A report will be made to delegates at the 2008 AGM.

## RA Supplies

A new brochure, containing details of our extensive range of competitively priced, superior quality products is now available.



Products can be purchased either:

1. by post, from our supplies department at RA Head Office in Coventry
2. by telephoning our supplies department on 0800 328 9474
3. by logging on to our dedicated website [www.RAshop.co.uk](http://www.RAshop.co.uk)
4. or from your ABS who can purchase goods at discounted rates for bulk orders which are supplied Post free.

The profit is retained within the Association to help fund our operating costs and 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. The Board is keen to maximise sales and requests those Societies with such an arrangement, to consider promoting our products and contact us to discuss how we can help.

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

## Nominations for 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 either downloaded from the RA website or obtained from your CRA Secretary.

## RA Benevolent Fund

The Benevolent Fund continues to be a lifeline to those members and to their families who find themselves in unfortunate and distressing circumstances.

There is a healthy balance in the fund but there is a continuing need for donations to maintain the fund.

The support of individual and ABS donations is greatly appreciated and there will be a collection during the RA Centenary Conference.

## Communications

Good communications are a vital element in any organisation to ensure efficient management.

Members of the Board and Head Office have sought to improve our internal communications and invest a great deal of time producing various items of correspondence.

Officers are requested to deal with correspondence received as promptly as possible to ensure that the administration of the Association operates as efficiently as possible. If you receive a letter, an email or a telephone call, please respond to it. If you receive a set of minutes please read them and report the relevant items to members and to colleagues.

A delay responding to or failing to reply to correspondence, or failing to report the contents of correspondence leads to frustration and misunderstandings which can cause unnecessary problems.

Please remember that the author of correspondence writes it for a reason, **please do not ignore it.**



## Head Office team

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