

Scotland and Northern Ireland Area

Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2009

1. DIARY DATES

2009

Feb 11	Scotland & Northern Ireland Area Council Meeting, Edinburgh
Feb 18	Scotland Southern Region Meeting, Glasgow
Mar 7/8	Northern Ireland Regional AGM & Reunion Weekend, Bangor
Mar 21/22	Scotland & Northern Ireland Area Conference, Perth
May 15/17	National Conference, Bournemouth
June 27	Armed Forces Day

2. MEMBERSHIP

A comparison between the end of year membership figures for 2007 and 2008 reveals a 2.84% loss in 2008. The New Annual and Lapsed figures for 2008 include full associates, but not included in 2007 figures.

2007

Annual	Life	Ass	Total	New Ann	Lapsed	Losses
2312	2057	1019	5388	140	178	162

2008

Annual	Life	Ass	Total	New Ann	Lapsed	Losses
2283	1962	990	5235	361	283	212

Thank you to those who have renewed their subscriptions for 2009. Branches are reminded to forward to Area HQ subs for those Members who pay by standing order to the Branch. All renewals actioned to the RAFA Database before 31 March 2009 will ensure that time is not wasted lapsing members who have already paid but have not been recorded.

3. SCOTLAND & NORTHERN IRELAND AREA CONFERENCE 2009

Conference Venue: Queens Hotel, Perth

Accommodation: Queens Hotel, Leonard Street, Perth and Lovat Hotel, Glasgow Road, Perth.

Date: 21/22 March 2009

An invitation is extended to all members to attend. If you are unable to come for the whole weekend, why not come for the day. The Conference is on the Saturday afternoon from 1.30pm to 4.30pm with the dinner dance in the evening (when the Area Draw is made) and the Sunday service is at 11am at St Leonards-in-the-Fields Church, Marshall Place, Perth. Accommodation forms have been sent to Branch Secretaries.

For further information contact Area Headquarters on tel no. 0131 225 5221.

4. **NORTHERN IRELAND REGIONAL GENERAL MEETING & REUNION WEEKEND**

Venue: Marine Court Hotel, Bangor

Accommodation: Marine Court Hotel, Bangor

Date: 7/8 March 2009

Further information available from the Northern Ireland Regional Office tel no. 028 9032 5718.

5. **BRANCH & BRANCH CLUB ACCOUNTS YEAR END 31 DECEMBER 2008**

Branches are reminded that in accordance with Standard Regulation 32, Accounts as at 31 December 2008 are required to be at Area Headquarters as soon as possible following the AGMs and by 31 March 2009 at the latest.

6. **FORMS 1056 AND 1056A**

Please ensure that completed Forms 1056 and 1056a are sent to Area Headquarters as soon as the Branch or Club AGM has been held.

7. **BRANCH RE-OPENING AND CLOSURES**

The RAFA Beccles, Southwold and District Branch following a closure in 2006 has now re-opened on 16 January 2009.

Sadly the following Branch closures are announced.

Durham as of 4 Nov 08, Newport as of 3 Dec 08, Winchester as of 31 Dec 08.

8. **AREA AND NATIONAL TROPHIES**

Branches holding Area or National Trophies have received a request from Area Headquarters to return the trophies to AHQ. Please get them to me by **Friday 20 February 2009**. Please let me know if this causes any difficulty. We can discuss and make any necessary arrangements.

9. **FUNDING – WELFARE PROJECTS**

The Welfare programme for 2009 lists a number of projects for Storybook Wings, Richard Peck House, Rothbury House, Flowerdown House. Branches interested in funding projects for any of the above please contact the Area Director or Liz Fredericks (Trust Fundraiser) at RAFA 117 ½ Loughborough Road, Leicester, LE4 5ND. Tel: 0116 268 8766 or email: liz.fredericks@rafa.org.uk before making any commitment. This will ensure donations are targeted where required.

10. **LIFT-OFF LOTTO – BRANCH INCENTIVE SCHEME**

The Association lottery, Lift-Off Lotto, has to date received an excellent response from the Membership. Branch Secretaries will recently have received an information pack containing details of a scheme which gives incentive to Branches to recruit players for the Lotto. For every player a Branch recruits including neighbours, friends, relatives, etc – not necessarily Members of RAFA, the Branch will receive 10% commission. The more people recruited, the larger the commission. Commission will be accrued throughout the year with an annual payout in November. This is an active way of increasing Branch funds and supporting the Association.

11. ANNUAL SERVICE – ST CLEMENT DANES – 29 MARCH 2009

The Annual Service to commemorate the formation of the Royal Air Force will be held at St Clement Danes Church, The Strand, London on 29 March 2009. Royal Air Forces Association Standard Bearers have been invited to attend the Service. The format is the same as last year with the Standard Bearers marching from Lincoln's Inn Field to St Clement Danes Church headed by the RAF Halton Pipe Band. The Service will commence 1100hrs. Ticket allocation for the Service as in previous years is on a first come first served basis but unfortunately only invited guests will be allowed to attend the reception after the Service. Any member wishing to obtain tickets for the Service should contact Pete Stockdale, South East Manager on 020 8286 6667 **no later than 6 March 2009.**

12. ARMED FORCES DAY – 27 JUNE 2009

The Veterans Minister, Kevan Jones, has recently launched Armed Forces Day (27 June). This is developed from Veterans Day. The title has been chosen to reflect the wider Armed Forces family of Serving Personnel (regular and reserve). The Armed Forces Day will continue to recognise Veterans who have served their country. Branches may wish to mark this day with an event of their own. As previously, there is funding available from MOD to assist in staging or attending a special occasion to mark the Day. A website has been set up to give ideas and guidance on holding events and how to apply for funds from MOD. Details at www.armedforcesday.org.uk. It should be noted that MOD funds will not support any form of fundraising. MOD funds may be available to help with social events, hire charges for coaches, etc. Please ensure the careful wording of applications to allow requests to be considered.

13. SCOTLAND & NORTHERN IRELAND AREA 250 CLUB

The winner for January is Mr K Cresswell, Inverness (Share No. 22).

14. CONCLUSION OF AREA 250 CLUB

The final draw for the Scotland & Northern Ireland Area 250 Club is included in this Newsletter and marks the end of the Club. Members are reminded to cancel any standing order payments being made to this Club. All Members of the Club were advised by letter in July 2008.



David Hamer
Director–Scotland & Northern Ireland Area