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## RA DRAW - UPDATE

6th December 2013

At the RA Board Meeting held in Coventry last weekend, a long and intensive discussion was held on the future of the annual RA Grand Draw, at the end of which it was decided with regret that this venture is no longer viable, in the interests of not putting our members' (i.e. your) money at risk.

This unanimous conclusion by all the Board Members in attendance was only reached with great reluctance, but in the light of overwhelming financial considerations which we share with you now:

- out of our 250 or so LRAs in membership, only 163 (less than two-thirds) participated at all;
- from those 163 LRAs who did take part, only 76 (less than half) sold more than 20 books;
- the RA's overall gross profit from the 2013 Draw was just £931, down from £2506 in 2012;
- this large decrease continued the decidedly downward trend witnessed in recent years;
- if the cost of postage, etc., is taken into account, the true profit for the RA was around £350;
- this was despite the printing costs of the tickets being reduced by £835, plus other savings;
- total income from 2013 ticket sales was down by more than 25% from the figure in 2012;
- we were fortunate that this year's winner chose the cash prize instead of the car on offer;
- if the car had been claimed, the Draw would have sustained a loss in excess of £1000;
- several LRAs who have regularly supported the RA Grand Draw over the years have already notified us that they will not be participating in 2014 for a variety of reasons.

In light of the above evidence, we felt that to continue the Draw for 2014 and onwards would almost certainly entail large losses going forward, and that such losses would not prove acceptable to our general membership - it would, after all, be their money and funds that we were putting at risk.

We trust therefore that you will fully appreciate the reasoning behind this sad decision, but all the Board Members present were unanimous in the view that this was a risk we were not prepared to take, and hence the inevitable decision to make the 2013 RA Grand Draw the last of the series.

The brilliant support of so many LRAs across the years has been greatly appreciated, and we know how important the "50% cashback" has been to many of your annual finances. We hope that, by giving you this early and detailed update, those LRAs will be able to make alternative arrangements to boost their annual income and thus keep subscriptions as low as possible for their members.

If you have any comments, please feed them to your County RA, so that these can be raised at the special County RA Meeting planned for Sun.05/01/14, full details of which will be circulated shortly.

Alternatively, send your e-mail feedback via Karen at Head Office ([karen@footballreferee.org.uk](mailto:karen@footballreferee.org.uk)) who will ensure that they are conveyed on to the Board in general and me in particular.

As a supporter and participant in the RA Draws for as long as I can remember, you will understand my personal sadness at having to convey this news. We hope that, by sharing with you the full and open reasoning behind our decision last weekend, you will appreciate that there really was no alternative.

With Best Regards

*Ian.*

**Ian Campbell - RA Board Member**  
**Chair of Internal Communications Committee**  
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