

REF-A-READ



Volume 1

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WEBSITE UNDERWAY HAVE YOU PAID A VISIT

BY STEVE BROWN (ILLAWARRA)

In recognition of the difficulty encountered in maintaining an effective communication system among the seventy associations affiliated with the Australian Rugby League Referees' Association (ARLRA), the Board has initiated the development of an Association world wide web site as a medium to improve those communications.

The web site can be located at www.arlra.org.au and whilst still under construction at this time is starting to take shape with information that will assist in the strengthening of the refereeing fraternity. A visit to the site will find:-

- A brief history of the Association
- The Association structure
- The Objects and Rules of the Association
- Association Policy documents
- Details of our Logo
- The Board structure and a profile of the Board members
- Links to other Association sites
- A Marketing Survey
- A Notice Board
- A visitors' book
- Access to the Association through the CEO

A number of referees from all over Australia (as well as some from overseas) have already visited our site and have left messages in our Visitor's Book. We welcome all of our members to do the same and would appreciate feedback on what you think of our latest innovation.

NATIONAL SCHOOLBOYS' CHAMPIONSHIPS

Details of the Australian Secondary Schools Rugby League Council Inc. program for 2001 is as follows:

18 Year Championship 8th July – 13th July in PERTH. The referees convenor for these championships is Martin Weekes (mobile 0419 954 110).

15 Year Championship 1st July – 6th July in SYDNEY (Hammondville Oval, Moorebank) The referees convenor for these championships is to be advised.

Affiliate Associations should nominate referees to their state Association. State Associations nominating referees for the respective championships should ensure they are suitably qualified for the level of the game. Written nominations accompanied by a brief profile should be sent to:

Mr. Bob Styles, CEO, Australian Rugby League Referees' Association Inc. 8 Copeland Road, ENGADINE. NSW 2233, before the 30th April 2001.

THE CEO WRITES

Welcome to the first edition of **Ref-A-Read**, the official newsletter of the Australian Rugby League Referees' Association Inc.

The title **Ref-A-Read** was selected from 38 entries received in the contest conducted during the March Conference 2000. The winning entry was submitted by **Debbie McGrath**, a member of the Gold Coast District Junior Referees Association. For her efforts she received a prize of an overnight stay for two at any Parkroyal Hotel of her choice in any Australian Capital City. This prize was provided by courtesy of Parkroyal Hotels. A belated **congratulations to Debbie** for her effort.

Communication with as many individual members of affiliated Associations as possible still remains a major priority of this Association and definitely the most difficult, due to the widespread nature of our membership. In addition to the website and now the distribution of this Newsletter I am keen in **establishing a contact within each Association** who can assist with distribution of various items of correspondence and generally inform fellow members, at meetings etc., of the "goings on" of this Association.

This person **could be your delegate or any other interested member**. Could **Association Secretaries** please assist by supplying me with the **name and address** of the person willing to be your "**ARLRA Correspondent**"

Whilst it would be preferable that the nominated person has an email address it is not absolutely necessary. You can contact me by mail or on my email address –

bobstyles@bigpond.com

POLICY COMMITTEES 2000 – 2001

The following Policy Committees are currently operating –

PARTICIPATION

	Nick Euclid (Chairman)
Bruce Chapman	NSW Country
Bryan Gilchrist	Cronulla-Sutherland
Bob Johnson	NSW Country
Richard Johnston	QRL Referees Board
Adrian Steele	Ipswich
Michael Stone	Western Suburbs

UNIFORMS & LOGOS

Darren Winningham (Chairman)

Uniform Design and Production

Jason Robinson	Penrith (Coordinator)
Chris Nightingale	Canberra
Glen Jeffcoat	Canterbury-Bankstown
Alan Farlow	Parramatta
Mick Dupille	Illawarra
Ron Pearce	Cronulla – Sutherland

Policy Development

Mark Langlands	Sunshine Coast (coordinator)
Luke Bugden	Balmain
Derek Stubbins	Brisbane
Peter Watkins	Western Australia
Stan Watson	North Sydney

CONFERENCES

Kevin Riolo (Chairman)	Western Suburbs
Sid Hyatt	NSW Country
Frank Kitcher	Illawarra
Mick Dupille	

PROMOTIONS

Martin Weekes (Chairman)	Balmain
Luke Bugden	Penrith
Andrew Farrell	Sunshine Coast
Craig Walker	Gold Coast
David Buchanan	Canterbury-Bankstown
David Turvey	Gold Coast
Marc Sauvage	Western Australia
Peter Watkins	Townsville
Tony Doulis	Independent
Bernie Coen	

MERCHANDISING

Conference 2000 green polo shirts and hats are still available at a cost of \$25 and \$11 respectively. These items can be purchased from –

Gold Coast Embroidery
Unit 3/7 Hinde Street
SOUTHPORT QLD. 4215

Phone 0755328465
Fax 0755310193
Speak to Peter or **Sean**

It is anticipated that during the 2001 season the release of the first ARLRA tie will occur. Availability and ordering details will be made available to Associations upon release.

AUDITOR APPOINTED

The ARLRA Board has appointed Corey Richardson of Carlisle Accountants CPA to the position of Honorary Auditor to the Association. Corey is also a member of the Gold Coast Referees Association.

QRL REFEREES BOARD MEETING

The Queensland Referees Board met on the 9th December in Brisbane.

Nick Euclid was elected State Director for the 12th successive year. Tim Bliss, in his seventh year on the Board was elected as the Alternate Director for his second successive year.

The entire Board was returned after Divisional elections to elect the following Supervisors; Len Clegg (Northern), Wayne McFarlane (Central), Bill Logan (Wide Bay), Jim McLeod (South East), Tim Bliss (South West) and Adrian Steele (Southern).

Darren Winningham remains the Secretary/Treasurer of the Board for his third season.

Richard Johnston, employed by the QRL remains Coaching and Development Manager for his ninth successive year.

Recent workshops in Queensland held for Bundy Gold Cup Officials and Emerging Squad referees have proved very successful with a range of presentations and lectures for all.

ARLRA POLICY DOCUMENT SYSTEM

A structured Policy Document System has been implemented to provide members with easy reference data to items of policy that effect the A.R.L.R.A. and refereeing in general. As items of policy are developed by the various Policy Committees and approved by the Board, a pro forma Policy Document is produced by the CEO. These documents are fully indexed and classified under the eight major policy areas-

- Participation
- Uniforms and Logos
- Promotion(Marketing)
- Laws
- Welfare
- Conferences
- Administrative Services
- Operations – (ARA)

The documents produced so far, including an index, are available for ready reference by members on the Association Website or requesting a printed copy from the CEO. Policy documents are continually being added to the system.

APPRECIATION CERTIFICATES

The Australian Rugby League Referees, Association is keen to recognise individuals and organisations that make an exceptional contribution towards the Association achieving its stated objectives. The Board has initiated an award scheme to recognise these people. Details as to the procedure associated with nominating people for this award are outlined in the Policy Document **Certificates of Appreciation**, which can be viewed on the website. A hard copy can be obtained by contacting the CEO.

ARLRA PLANNING DOCUMENTS

The Board is at present in the final stages of developing a Business Plan for this year and a Strategic Plan that will project our operations and projects to the end of 2003. When finalised, details of these plans will be made available to all associations and their members.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP OF THE ARLRA

Rules 10, 11 and 12 of the 'Objects and Rules' make provision for the award of Life Membership of the ARLRA.

Nominated persons must be a Life Member of the nominating Association and must have had a minimum of twenty (20) years service to rugby League refereeing as a life member of that Association.

Life Members of the ARLRA are elected at the AGM following a recommendation from the Board

Nominations will close on the 31st of December each year.

Nominations should be forwarded to Bob Styles (CEO) by this date and be accompanied by a detailed history of the nominee.

For further information consult the Objects and Rules and/or the Life Membership Policy Document (see website) and/or a Board Director.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING CHANGED

The venue and date of the ARLRA Annual General Meeting has been changed from that previously announced. At this point of time the Association has no indication of the funding it will receive for 2001 and as a consequence cannot commit itself to the costs associated with holding the AGM in Darwin.

The AGM will be held in the NSW LEAGUES CLUB, Phillip St. SYDNEY on SATURDAY 28th APRIL 2001, commencing at 11.00am.

The Board has decided that, funds permitting, the attendance costs of the delegate representing each of the State Associations will be met by the ARLRA.

Members are reminded that this year there will only be the AGM and that the next Conference/AGM will be in 2002. Plans for this event are well under way.

UNIFORMS AND LOGOS COMMITTEE REPORTS ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL REFEREES UNIFORMS

BY DARREN WINNINGHAM [ARLRA DIRECTOR]

In our attempt to strategically develop a national uniform we are conducting a survey of all Associations nationwide to see what each State and Affiliated Association may require for their own individual needs.

In an effort to do this properly a mail out will be conducted to all Associations. However the uniform and the survey are available for viewing and completion on the Associations website at www.arlra.org.au.

The Uniforms and Logos Committee is also currently embarked on designing a tie for the ARLRA. These designs should also be available for perusal on the website. The Board will make the final decision in regards to the style and format of the tie but if anyone has suggestions or designs they are quite welcome to submit them for discussion and review. It is anticipated that by late 2001 we will have a preferred supplier and design/s along with costs available to every Associations throughout Australia.

I must thank the members of the Committee (see page 2 of this newsletter) for the hard and relentless work they have contributed so far. This is an extraordinary effort as they have their own local and personal commitments but yet find the time to contribute in such a resourceful manner to this Committee.

PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE NEWS

The Participation Committee, under the Chairmanship of Director Nick Euclid at its meeting in November adopted an Operational Plan for the development of national policy in its designated area. As a consequence members of the Committee are currently drafting policy statements on:-

- ◆ creating a proactive culture within an Association
- ◆ increasing Association membership.
- ◆ upgrading the level of expertise of referees and touch judges
- ◆ upgrading the level of fitness of referees
- ◆ effective monitoring of referees performance
- ◆ circulating document dealing with –
 - referee coaching and assessments
 - role of match officials coach
 - factors in refereeing & touch judging
 - enhancing reviewer awareness skills

NATIONAL ACCREDITATION COURSE FOR COACHES/ASSESSORS OF REFEREES

The Australian Rugby League Foundation Board has provided the ARLRA with a grant to develop and implement an accreditation course for coaches and assessors of referees.

The perceived need for the course is contained in the following extract from the ARLRA application for the grant.

Each of the seventy one Referees Associations in Australia has at least one person responsible for the coaching and assessment of its active referees. Any person with refereeing experience and/or a qualification can coach and assess referees. No formal training program exists at any level of the game. The little that takes place is uncoordinated, ad hoc and lacks uniformity. As a consequence:- people without accreditation are 'accrediting' other persons, the coaching and development programs for referees suffer, the safety of players and referees are placed at risk, referees, their coaches and their associations are exposed to litigation. The development of such a course should overcome these anomalies.

The ARLRA's Participation Committee has the responsibility for the development of the course which must receive ARL endorsement prior to its implementation.

It is hoped that by the commencement of season 2002-there will be high quality, standardised and ARL endorsed Referees Coaches/Assessors course available to all persons involved at every level of the game. Furthermore, each Referees Association in Australia has at least one accredited referees coach/assessor and each Division has at least one accredited person qualified to accredit others.

POLICY DOCUMENTS NOW AVAILABLE

The following Policy Documents have been produced and can be observed and/or downloaded from the website or by requesting a copy from the CEO at his office or email address (ceo@arlra.org.au).

Appointment of referees to the National Schoolboys Age Championships
Association Logo
Association Logo Use.
Association Logo Reproduction (General)/(Stationery)/(Non Coloured)
Board of Directors
Certificates of Appreciation
Communication Protocol
Election of Directors Representing Emerging States
Life Membership
Management of Funds
On Field (Referee Attire)/ (Ancillary Equipment)
Off Field (Attire)/ (Ancillary Equipment)
Petty Cash
Travel Expenses for Board Members

LINKING TO ARLRA WEBSITE

If your Association would like to link to the ARLRA website contact Steve Brown email ldrlrefs@learth.net The following Associations currently are linked.

Brisbane
Central Coast
Gold Coast
Group 2 (NSWCRLRA)
Illawarra

NSW Country
Penrith
South Australia
Townsville
Victoria

MARKETING SURVEY

Director Martin Weekes reports that the response to the 'Marketing Survey' has been an outstanding success. The **closing date** has been extended until the **30th April 2001** in an attempt to obtain a wider cross-section of respondents. He would like more particularly from the Sydney region.

Return completed hard copies of the survey form to the CEO or complete the form available on the ARLRA website.

ALTERATION OF OBJECTS & RULES

Members are reminded that the objects and Rules of the Association can only be altered by a special resolution (Rule 86).

State and Affiliated Associations must be given 21 days notice, in writing, of a special resolution to be proposed at a general meeting (Rule 74a).

Special resolutions for consideration at the next general meeting must be given to the CEO on or before the **30th March 2001**.

ARLRA LOGO

State and affiliated Associations can use the ARLRA Logo on various items of their own Association's gear if they wish provided the approved design is used.

A disk with this design is available on a 'loan and return' basis from the CEO, for use by your Association's selected embroiderer.

WANTED

- ❖ Committee members
- ❖ Proposals for national projects.
- ❖ Associations to provide **Here's How We Do It** items
- ❖ News about special achievers and events in your Association.
- ❖ What can/should the ARLRA do for you/your Association.
- ❖ Association Publications

Send items/ideas etc. to the CEO