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6th February 2021

To: Kieran O'Connor, Phil Thomas.

RE: FAW Referees registration fees for 2021/22 season

Dear Kieran, Phil

The recent letter sent out by 'The Comet Support team' regarding update on 'FAW Board information on return to play status', indicates that the referee's fees for 2021/22 season will have some discount from the fees paid in 2020/21 season even though very little opportunities has been available to officiate in any games during 2020/21.

The letter informs that the FAW paid £400,000 a year for an Insurance policy to cover players, club officials etc which is also given to match officials. The letter continues to say that £50,000 in claims has been paid out in the previous 18 months, which directly involves the cost of the premium for 2021/22 season and therefore the cost of ALL player and referee's registration.

Can you please advise if any of the £50,000 paid out came from any claims made by any registered match official?

As you are aware the current FAW Insurance, given to match officials, falls short of their needs as the policy is mainly built on the needs of players. The policy has an age limit with all benefits reducing dramatically once this limit is reached. Most players reaching this age have finished playing, while match officials continue.

It seems unfair that referees' fees should be partly based on an Insurance policy that it not fit for their purpose along with claims being made by players etc.

As you are both aware The Referees Association of Wales will be giving free membership in 2021/22 to ALL its 2020/21 registered members. This is due to the COVID-19 issues seen over the past season. Membership for 2021/22 season will **include** the RAW Insurance with the policy built on the needs of referees not only for match day activity but also for other football needs, such as meetings etc.

We feel extremely disappointed that the FAW do not seem to be considering the need to give free registration to match officials for the forthcoming season due to the issues seen over 2020/21 season. We also feel that this may have a detrimental affect on the number of Officials registering for next season.

Could you please arrange discussion of this letter at your next FAW Committee meeting and update us of any thoughts or decisions.

Yours Sincerely

Robert Rosen

RAW Secretary.