

# HASSRA in 2020 & 2021

Formed in 1935, HASSRA has been providing sports and leisure opportunities to staff in DWP and DHSC for 85 years.

In 2020 HASSRA's contribution to members' morale, health and wellbeing was never more needed. Helping to build a strong sense of community and social connectivity at a time of crisis, it played a vital role in supporting Government and Departmental aims for a healthy, safe and inclusive environment in which their staff's wellbeing and talents could flourish.

This summary highlights some key achievements in 2020 and looks ahead to 2021.

## Who We Are & What We Do

HASSRA is a national organisation with 60,000 members, a significant number by any measure. But its foundations are in its office-based communities, organised in 12 regions and 340 local clubs. Operating on this scale means HASSRA has a formidable delivery capability unrivalled amongst public sector staff associations.

Our aim is to help members achieve a happy and healthy work-life balance; to help them be at their best at work; and to provide access to leisure and recreational opportunities at home, with something for everybody.

In 2020 that included:

- expenditure on members of £4m and reserves of £3.5m.
- HASSRA Lottery paying out £660k and free draws and competitions worth £225k
- membership benefits, discounts and offers delivering savings to members worth £5m
- thousands of office activities ranging from quizzes to charity fundraising (an astonishing £120k notwithstanding the constraints of lockdown)
- national and regional sports and fitness activities
- arts, crafts and cultural events and activities
- a Development Fund to help members achieve their potential.

## Supporting Members & Offices during the Covid-19 Lockdown

Covid-19 affected all our lives profoundly. For HASSRA, that meant a rapid re-think to find workable alternatives to some of our most popular offers - sports, office trips, leisure tickets - which were curtailed by lockdown.

We are immensely proud that HASSRA volunteers and officials pulled together, determined to support our workplaces, members and their families through the upheaval of Lockdown. Members and business sponsors will recall some novel and valuable alternatives in our Lockdown Programme, including:

- 800 grants worth £170k for local office initiatives to keep everyone engaged and connected, whether in the office, working from home or shielding.
- 46 weekly prize puzzles; 12 on-line quizzes live on YouTube; nine free prize draws; £85k of prizes to celebrate HASSRA's 85th Anniversary; and a £50k Xmas prize draw.
- over 800 members shared their Lockdown stories and photos, uniting our HASSRA Family with creativity and care, and were rewarded with over £16k in gift vouchers.
- art, photography and creative writing competitions attracted almost 1,000 entries with winners sharing £4.5k in prizes.
- cycling, running, yoga and other fitness challenges with over 2,300 entries and winners sharing £3k in prizes.

In all, there were over **170,000 participations** in HASSRA's national Lockdown activities, with members sharing **£350k in prizes and grants**.

# Looking Ahead to 2021

As lockdown restrictions begin to ease, we look forward to 2021 with optimism and a renewed commitment to delivering the broad and attractive programme our members want. That will include many of the activities paused in 2020, as well as a raft of new initiatives which were tried and tested during lockdown. We will also continue to strengthen the foundations of our association to ensure its long-term viability and relevance. That will include:

**Building Membership** HASSRA is nothing without members: and the more members we have, the more we can do. As DWP and DHSC continue to recruit new staff, we need to redouble our efforts to bring them into HASSRA. So we ask members to take a moment to tell new colleagues about the wonderful benefits of membership. We will also be working with business sponsors to ensure new recruits are encouraged to find out more.

**Delivering for Members** As we look forward to the easing of lockdown restrictions, HASSRA will continue to adapt its offer. Discounts on restaurants and days out - and possibly even holidays! - will be at the top of many of our lists. Members can be assured HASSRA will continue to provide special Lockdown activities while the world slowly returns to normality. We are grateful to HASSRA Regions for £100k in additional funding to support that commitment.



**Diversity and Inclusion** HASSRA has always been a welcoming and inclusive association. In 2021 we are putting that longstanding commitment on a formal footing by adopting policies and practices to ensure diversity is embraced, celebrated and invested in everything we do. We know members will welcome and support this positive step forward.

## And Finally... Thank You!

To members and volunteers, for your commitment to HASSRA. You have made an invaluable contribution to the wellbeing of colleagues and their families in difficult circumstances.

To sponsor departments and local managers, for allowing us to play our part in building morale and team spirit as DHSC and DWP supported the country through the pandemic.

You can find out more about HASSRA 2020 – 2021 [here](#).