

# livelife

The magazine for HASSRA members



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**HASSRA**  
Living Life 



## GET AWAY WITH HASSRA'S £10K HOLIDAY COMPETITION

The new year is traditionally the time to start planning your holidays. With a top prize of £1,000, HASSRA is giving you the chance to win one of 33 fantastic holiday vouchers worth a total of £10,000.

All you have to do is answer the easy holiday-related question to be in with a chance of winning.

Originally released in 1983, who sang the popular hit, Holiday?

- Cyndi Lauper
- Whitney Houston
- Madonna

**WIN  
UP TO  
£1,000**



**Just visit HASSRA's £10k Holiday Competition and submit your answer now!**

All correct entries received by the closing date of 27th February 2022 will go into the draw and the first 33 selected at random will win the prizes.

**So have a go and good luck!**

**You must be signed in to your HASSRA Live account to take part.**



**Xpert Travel**

**Xpert Travel is an Independent Travel Agency with a difference. Along with access to some of the best deals on offer, we also provide our customers with that special personal touch.**

Our staff have a combined total of over 90 years of experience with a wealth of knowledge that we just love to share with our customers. As our only corporate partner, HASSRA members will have exclusive access to benefits on many of our products, including discounted or complimentary extras, such as lounge passes and airport parking.

In these uncertain times, we are also able to offer advice and guidance with all the regulations surrounding travel to make the whole experience as stress-free as possible.

You can trust the experts at Xpert Travel to book your next holiday. Don't delay contact us today and remember to tell us you are a HASSRA member!

Visit [www.hassra.org.uk/xpert-travel](http://www.hassra.org.uk/xpert-travel) for great offers!



# Welcome to the first livelife edition of 2022

Is it too late to wish you a Happy New Year? I will anyway. I sincerely hope you and your families enjoyed a festive break, taking time reflect on another unsettled year and look forward to a new, more recognisable one.

2021 did return to some semblance of normality for HASSRA with the welcome return of a September Festival and, albeit later than usual, the National Awards dinner where we celebrated the achievements of our wonderful volunteers. If one thing has become even more evident over the last couple of years, it is the importance of HASSRA's volunteers. They are the beating heart of the Association. Their selfless commitment to friends and colleagues across the country is what keeps HASSRA ticking. Please remember, club activities and regional events only happen because of volunteers and there's never been a more important time to ask yourself what you can do to help. HASSRA needs you! Check out page 11 to see how Volunteer of the Year, Karen Sinden, got involved and what she gets out of her role.

As 2022 hopefully brings with it more Covid easements, many of us will be booking a long-awaited and much-missed holiday. HASSRA is giving you the chance to lessen the financial burden with the £10k Holiday Voucher competition. Details on page 2.

With a newly enhanced prize structure, including a £15,000 jackpot, and more chances to win than ever before, the HASSRA Lottery also gives members a realistic chance of winning big prizes. And unlike other lotteries, 120 cash prizes are GUARANTEED every month in the HASSRA Lottery. See on page 8 how one member took a chance and won big!

HASSRA has something for everyone and more members means bigger and better offers for us all. So get involved and get as many others on board as possible. You might even win one of 200 prizes worth £50. Check out the HASSRA Buddy Draw on page 14.



In the meantime,  
please continue to  
keep you and your  
loved ones safe.

*Robbie Miller*  
Editor

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## In partnership with:



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# Celebrating the Best of HASSRA

HASSRA presents its Annual Awards to its volunteers, clubs, regions and business sponsors who have worked tirelessly throughout the year. The usual glitz and glamour of an Awards Dinner returned to The University of Warwick in November, with a double celebration for all our winners from 2019 and 2020. It was a truly wonderful evening, attended by DWP Permanent Secretary, Peter Schofield along with lots of fantastic members from every region around the country. Congratulations go to all our amazing winners and highly commended entries.



**AWARD OF MERIT**  
Lee South  
HASSRA Yorkshire & The Humber



**PRESIDENT'S CUP**  
Best Association  
HASSRA SOUTH EAST



**SIR LEIGH LEWIS TROPHY**  
Best Arts & Crafts Contributor  
Annie White  
HASSRA West Midlands



**SIR MICHAEL PARTRIDGE AWARD**  
Best Small Club  
Ilkeston HASSRA  
HASSRA East Midlands



**FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT'S CUP**  
Best Large Club  
Dearne Valley HASSRA  
HASSRA Yorkshire & The Humber



**LESLEY STRATHIE TROPHY**  
Best Business Sponsor  
Duncan Wardle  
HASSRA South West

You can view all the images from the event on our **HASSRA Awards Dinner Flickr page**.



# HASSRA SEPTEMBER FESTIVAL 2021 - RESULTS

The HASSRA Festival returned last September where over 650 competitors and volunteers enjoyed an action-packed day at Warwick University, followed by a presentation dinner to dress up and celebrate the successes of the day.

The 2022 Festivals will take place on:

- Friday 8th to Sunday 10th July
- Friday 9th to Sunday 11th September

Please keep an eye out on **HASSRA Live** for the line-up of events coming soon.



EVENT	CATEGORY	WINNER(S)	REGION
Badminton	Ladies' Pairs	Helen Bamber Nicola Bibby	North East North East
	Men's Pairs	Paul Lyon Mark Bingham	Scotland Scotland
	Mixed Pairs	Mel Smith Mark Bingham	Y & H Scotland
	Ladies' Plate	Norma Lewis Julie Adderley	London London
	Men's Plate	Derek Brown Nigel Williams	Wales Wales
	Mixed Plate	David Parker Nicola Bibby	North East North East
		Chess	Rafe Martin
Coarse Angling	Singles Winner	Steve Doherty	London
	Team Winners		Y & H
Cycling	Ladies' Winner	Hayley Flewitt	West Mids
	Mens Winner	David Mckale	North East

EVENT	CATEGORY	WINNER(S)	REGION
Darts	Ladies' Winner	Laura Patton	North East
	Men's Winner	Stuart Monaghan	Y & H
	Team Winners		North East
Football	Winners		Wales
GK Quiz	Winners		Wales
Golf	Ladies' Scratch	Shirley Back	Scotland
	Ladies' Handicap	Angela Hughes	Scotland
	Men's Scratch	Barry Knaption	Fylde
	Men's Handicap	Simon Taylor	South West
Netball	Winners		West Mids
Rounders'	Winners		Wales
Sports Quiz	Winners		Fylde
Squash	Ladies' Winner	Stephanie Wiggett	West Mids
	Men's Winner	Paul Atkinson	Wales



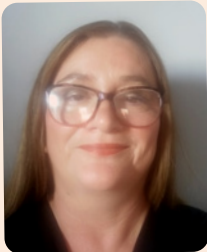
# The HASSRA Lottery - your best bet just got better!

Now with 120 guaranteed winners sharing £63,000 every month, including a massive jackpot of £15,000 and a second prize of £10,000, the HASSRA Lottery gives you the very best chance of winning big.

It costs just £1 to enter the draw, and you can buy up to 20 entries each month to increase your chances of a win. Compare this with most major UK lotteries, where you have to guess a sequence of numbers, often resulting in no overall winners for weeks on end, or having to share your win with others.

## The odds speak for themselves:

LOTTERY	COST	CHANCE OF JACKPOT WIN	GUARANTEED WINNER
	£1 per month	1 in 86,000	✓
	£10 per month	1 in 135,000	✓
	£4 four-weekly	1 in 1,000,000	✗
	£2 per week	1 in 45,100,000	✗
	£2.50 per week	1 in 139,800,000	✗



Recent jackpot winner, Mandy Baccino from HASSRA North West tells us,

"I have been a member of the HASSRA Lottery for over 26 years now and I purchase two tickets per month.

On the day in question, I had taken my daughter to a job interview and I was sat in my car waiting and was looking at my phone (as you do) when a voicemail came through.

"Hello, this is a call for Amanda Baccino, I am calling from the HASSRA Lottery, you have won a prize and I've emailed you the details. Could you please read the email, and claim your prize please?"

To my surprise and amazement, the email told me I had won £12,500.00. I kept looking at the amount, asking myself if it was just £1,250.00. I was also checking around the car park, waiting for Jeremy Beadle to jump out and giggling to myself.

My daughter got back into the car and I said to her, look at this email, "how much does it say I have won?" She was like, 'OMG Mum, twelve and half thousand pounds!'

We looked at each other and starting to jump up and down in our seats in the car, it was like the scene from Only Fools and Horses, when Del and Rodney find out how much their picture sold for at auction.

**"Winning the jackpot has made a such a big difference to our lives."**

We've booked a 2022 holiday, we got a whole new bathroom and are also in the process of getting a new kitchen also, plus I gave my two children a few quid. So it's all gone but it was money we never had before and we've got a lot to show for it.

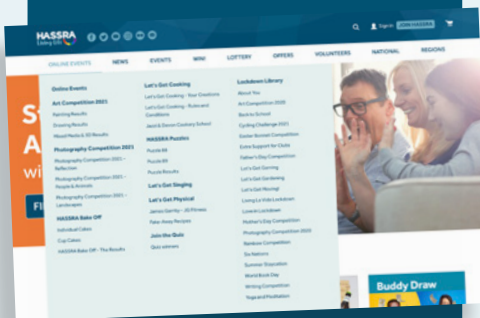
This is my first win with HASSRA, but who knows what's round the corner!"

**Could you be the next Mandy?**

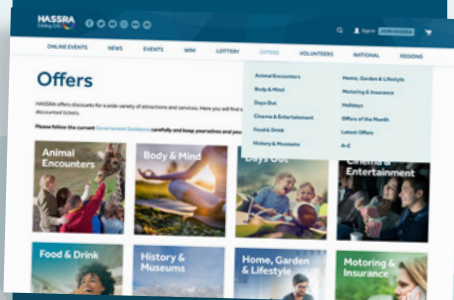
Find out more and get your tickets at HASSRA Lottery.

## HASSRA Live gets a makeover

Have you noticed that HASSRA Live has a new look? It's not just the rainbow on the logo! We've added new, clear mega-menus to find what you're looking for much quicker and easier than ever before. Once logged in, you can easily manage your account, enter competitions, take advantage of fantastic offers and events, claim expenses, track orders and enter the HASSRA Lottery. You can even access your region's social media pages with a single click.



The OFFERS section now has all of HASSRA's shop products and online discounts in one convenient place, making it so much easier to find out what's on offer.



Soon to be introduced is a really useful search function with a detailed map giving you the opportunity to find what's available wherever you are in the country.

Check out HASSRA Live now and see what's new for you.

## IT'S A CRACKER

The 2021 HASSRA Christmas Cracker was the biggest so far with £55,000 of cash and electronics won by 200 lucky members – all delivered in time for Christmas.



£5k jackpot winner, Scotland's Fiona Collinson, tells us, "After getting the call, it took a second or two to sink in - then I began to squeal with excitement. I was also lucky enough to have a £250 HASSRA Lottery win in November but this was genuinely the best bit of news I'd had all year after having to deal with illness, bereavement and, of course, the ongoing Covid restrictions. I plan to spend the cash on home improvements and weekends away."

SEE CHRISTMAS CRACKER 2021 RESULTS FOR ALL THE WINNERS.

## SUMMER Savings

The 2021 Summer Promotion proved to be another huge success, with thousands of our members taking advantage of the huge discounts offered on the normal gate prices at some of the nation's most popular attractions and theme parks.

Members saved a massive £500,000 during the promotion. The most popular offer was Flamingoland with 4,600 tickets sold, closely followed by Blackpool Pleasure Beach (4,300) and Edinburgh Zoo (3,000).

Don't forget to check out the great deals available for 2022.



## Important news for members

From January 2022 HASSRA subscriptions will rise from £2.30 to £2.45 per month. This modest increase will ensure members continue to enjoy a first-class membership package, including:

- **Big savings** on cinema and home-streaming products
- **Exclusive access** to the HASSRA Lottery paying out **£756,000 in cash prizes** annually
- **Lots of online events** on HASSRA Live with the chance to **win prizes**
- **Savings** on theme park and attraction tickets
- **Half-price tickets** on family days out during the HASSRA Summer Promotion
- **Free competitions** and giveaways with **prizes** throughout the year
- **Discounted FULL membership** for English Heritage and Cadw
- **A massive programme** of national and regional sports and leisure activities
- **Discounts** on UK and European family holidays, including airport parking
- **A network** of local office and activity clubs



# HASSRA Members get creative

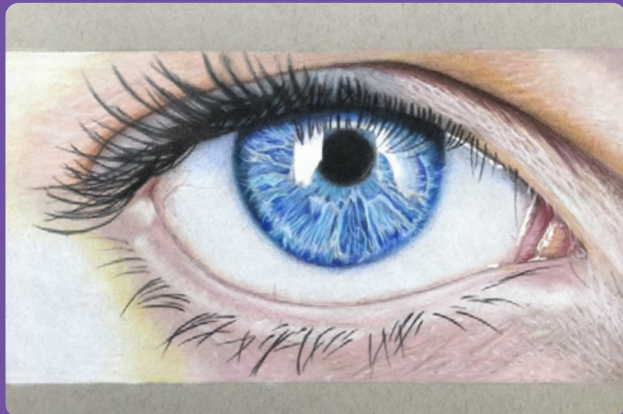
Due to the success of our first virtual National Photography and Art Competitions in 2020, members were once again invited to submit their creative efforts online in 2021.



Photographers were given three categories – People & Animals, Landscapes and Reflection - and the response was quite remarkable with over 750 entries. The standard was extremely high, making the judging process particularly difficult.

**The overall winner was Emma Lissenden from HASSRA South West.**

The judges said, "Technically, a difficult image to capture, with both the sunset and person being visible, yet blending into one another. We were struck by the dual interpretation and presentation of 'reflection'. An excellent, mysterious and thought-provoking image."



Artists were also given three categories – Drawing, Painting and Mixed Media & 3D. There were over 80 entries and, again, the standard was fantastic. Judge and acclaimed British artist, Lizzie Thurman, said:

"Thank you HASSRA for inviting me to judge the works produced by your talented members. Having been

through all the works submitted and thoroughly enjoyed the experience, although judging is no easy task!!"

**The overall winner was Matt Honey from HASSRA South West.**

Lizzie said, "This intense and meticulous, study of an eye, has addressed the title of "Reflection" through a number of interpretations. This penetrating image produced an immediate response of inquiry and I found myself captivated while asking what reflective state, is the mind of this artist in as they perfect such a realistic image?"

I was lured into this drawing, delighting in a pool of memories and had to haul myself back, for fear of where I may find myself! If this was the intention, then this artist has successfully achieved the challenge. A brilliantly observed drawing – congratulations."

Category winners each received **£100**, runner up prizes were **£50** and highly commended members each received **£30**. Overall winners received an additional **£50**. Congratulations go to all our prize winners.

The vast array of HASSRA's creative talent can be seen in their full glory on our **Flickr pages** and on the **Online Events pages** of HASSRA Live.



# Volunteer of the Year

**HASSRA membership doesn't have to just be about the benefits, discounts and activities that you can take advantage of. Being a HASSRA member also provides the opportunity to volunteer in many different ways throughout the Association. Without our fantastic volunteers, many of your local and regional events and activities throughout the year simply wouldn't happen. Karen Sinden, HASSRA Yorkshire & The Humber is our recently crowned Volunteer of the Year. Here she tells us what she does, and why.**

"I joined HASSRA when I started in the department in 2004. You weren't cool if you weren't part of HASSRA! I originally joined more for the Lottery at the time and after only six months I won a whopping £5k.

I would join in any local office events but it wasn't until I moved to Doncaster JCP that I joined the committee and really started to get more involved. At the time, most activities had been undertaken in the same way for what seemed like forever. However, when I attended the regional awards, I discovered that there was so much more that I could do for our members. Doncaster wasn't mentioned once in the nominations, so this motivated me to get ideas from other clubs and introduce them with my own.

## "I'm extremely passionate about diversity and inclusion at all levels"

I began to build funds in order to provide more activities for members, arranging dress-down days with a £1 donation, thus funding tickets for local events. I totally overhauled our local offering to members and, with help from the committee, revamped the Christmas party. We changed venues, opened it up to partners, offered more prizes and games on the night, plus a bigger prize fund for the Christmas raffle. Doncaster's activities soon gained recognition and I (jointly) won Regional Volunteer of the Year.

In 2020, we had gathered momentum but then Covid hit! I quickly realised that we mustn't lose engagement, especially

with staff who had to work from home. I introduced virtual online competitions, such as a Grand National Sweepstake – a 'pretend' Euro's Sweepstake (as it was postponed), bingo, photo competitions and more dress down days where members would email photos in. I began to share Doncaster's ideas through the department's wellbeing network which led to other sites then doing similar things and sharing their stories. This really helped with morale and people fed back to say they still felt included. Later in 2020, I changed job roles, temporarily moving to Sheffield to on board new staff in the service centre. I made it my mission to get as many new staff signed up to HASSRA as possible. In order to do this – I visited Quarry House to raid their Y&H merchandise cupboard. Every new member got a goody bag and went into a new member cash draw. I also joined virtual tours of other new service centres, selling the benefits of joining HASSRA. Over the year as a Y&H board member, I also suggested events we could do virtually for the region. All of this led to me being nominated again for Regional Volunteer of the Year. On the day of the awards, which were held virtually, I received the most beautiful bunch of flowers and was told that I had won and would go forward to the National Awards which would be held in November 2021.

I went to the Annual Awards at Warwick University intent on having a good night whether or not I won.

When my name was called out as the 2020 National Volunteer of the year I was absolutely thrilled. I felt so proud of my achievements over what was a really tough year for all. All my hard work had been rewarded and I was over the moon.

I am also extremely passionate about diversity and inclusion at all levels, and I have been working with the HASSRA National Team implementing a new D&I policy and creating a more diverse programme. It's great to see the rainbow smile on the HASSRA logo which was added in support of Pride is now there as a permanent reminder.

HASSRA is the reason I still work in DWP. I was successful in two promotion exercises in 2020 and had to choose between the Home Office and DWP. A really nice position but HASSRA was the clincher as I feel I can still give so much more as a committee and board member, so watch this space!



**SPEAK TO YOUR LOCAL HASSRA CLUB TO SEE HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE.**



# HASSRA DEVELOPMENT FUND

The HASSRA Development Fund (HDF) is here to help you achieve your best in your chosen activity and has funds to help you overcome financial barriers to accessing your activity and making progress.

The fund is available to assist individual HASSRA members with a wide range of activities.

Nearly 1,500 members have applied for funding so far, achieving success at all levels and demonstrating HASSRA's commitment to both non-disabled and disabled members throughout the Association.

Rachel from HASSRA South East tells us, Sport has always been my thing but I've never really excelled, always just been average. Following a rough period in my life where I fell from disaster to disaster, I discovered running. I joined my local club and the welcome, the confidence building and the general feel of belonging had me hooked. I started achieving my goals, increasing my distances, making the top three in local races, ticking off club milestones, the London Marathon came and went, so what was next?

My club had the idea of a Couch to Sprint Tri programme. So off I trotted to sign up. The training was a shock, who on earth gets up at 5am to train for fun? Well, apparently that was now me. Eating, sleeping and breathing SWIM, BIKE, RUN. I came third in my first triathlon. My confidence and self-belief grew but I needed more. I recall a conversation with a coach and I told him how much of an honour it would be to represent

my country. He offered me his card and some words of wisdom, and off he went. Never did I expect to bump into him again.

At the next qualification race, my training partner and I started to get a bit twitchy. Top notch bikes and super fit athletes in GB kit compared to our novice road bikes and bargain online purchases. We had only entered the UK Sprint Championship! Nerves aside and kind words from other athletes, I gave it my all and resolved that not coming last was an achievement! Did I qualify? I'd have to wait and see but was not holding my breath!

In 2019, I opened an email and my jaw hit the floor. "Congratulations, you have qualified for the 2021 Sprint Triathlon Championships in Sweden". My jaw hit the floor again when I saw the email was from the man I previously spoke to, the TEAM MANAGER! His words to me at that point, "I told you you'd make it".

On with the training, I had such a purpose. Then Covid hit, our race was deferred and all the wind was taken from my sails. I took advantage of carless roads for the best part of a year and it definitely paid off. Lockdown lifted but disaster struck again (literally) in the form of a car. I was very lucky to get off with minor injuries but my confidence was shaken and my credit card creaking from repair costs!

Lockdown passed and the new date and location was

announced. Valencia 2021. I honestly cannot describe the feeling of being around such phenomenal athletes. Excitement paired with intimidation, yet they were all so welcoming and friendly. Possibly my favourite thing about the sport. I remember the feeling of sheer panic standing on the edge of the water waiting to start my race...what had I gotten myself into? The cheers from supporters and the encouragement from athletes on my team was amazing - despite competing, we were all in this together. The finish line arrived, the overwhelming feeling of achievement and pride at my best performance to date, all whilst wearing a GB suit. My goal was to qualify and to have fun, both achieved. But to be told I finished in the top ten (8th) was so unexpected.

Although my sights are now set on to the Munich Championships in 2023, I cannot help but think back to the start of this journey. The support and encouragement from friends, colleagues and other athletes. The trust of my coach and the tolerance of my partner. But also, HASSRA whose generous support meant I could afford to get to the start line. Bikes, kit, travel, accommodation, training, nutrition, entry fees - the costs were endless but HASSRA's donation made a substantial difference for which I will be forever grateful. This has not only helped me to achieve my goal. It has also opened up a whole new world to me.

***I encourage anyone to give it a go.***





# FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM THE CHARITY FOR CIVIL SERVANTS

Taking control of your finances at the start of the new year is a great way to get on top of potential debts, or even start saving towards a long-awaited dream holiday.

The Charity for Civil Servants' virtual money adviser, **JaneBot**, can take you through some simple questions and makes suggestions for your next steps based on your answers. You can download a personalised plan to keep and refer to. You'll also have access to information, advice and tools to help you make the most of your money.

**HASSRA member, Jean, tells her story: You think there's nobody there for you, but there always is.**

In 2013, I split up with my husband - he left me in a dire financial situation. I didn't know what to do. I eventually broke down in tears in the office and my manager suggested contacting the Charity. The Charity gave me and my two children financial support which helped us pay for general bills. To finally be able to pay things off and get rid of the letters at my door was immense. I was close to a mental breakdown before that point.

The Charity helped me a second time. I was working part time, looking

after my child and had got myself into financial difficulty. I still had the same bills to pay with a lower income so I just kept getting myself into more debt to clear debt. Things completely spiralled out of control. I asked for help a second time and the Charity helped me pay my bankruptcy fees. I'm so thankful.

When you're in that tunnel, it can be so dark. I don't honestly know what I would have done without the Charity's help. I had to go on antidepressants just before Christmas last year and now I'm being weaned off them because I'm in a much better place. Everyone has seen the change in me. I don't know where I'd be now without the help of the Charity.

To find out more about the many ways people have been helped by the Charity, visit their stories page.

The Charity for Civil Servants supports all current, former and retired civil servants throughout their lives, listening without judgement and offering practical, financial and emotional support.

If you are struggling with your finances or find yourself with unexpected costs and need help, get in touch with the Charity by completing their **application form**,

or call **0800 056 2424** to speak to one of the Charity's trained advisors.

The Charity for Civil Servants

We're here for you 

## Get on board with HASSRA

At the Inter Departmental Offshore Regatta (IDOR), HASSRA\* crew members of all abilities take part racing from Cowes on the Isle of Wight, with yachts chartered from Fairview Sailing at Port Hamble Marina, near Southampton.

IDOR 2022 will take place between Monday 23rd to Friday 27th May 2022. It's a week-long programme of inshore and offshore races, providing a fantastic opportunity to enjoy some exciting sailing and competitive racing.

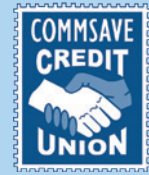
2021 was another good year for both HASSRA boats with the mix of experienced, novice and first timers really working well together. Check out our report from the event, and remember it could be you taking part in the future!

First-time applications are particularly welcomed and any novices who are selected will receive instruction and guidance from the more experienced crew members. It's always a wonderful week, by all reports, as well as an amazing experience. Visit the **HASSRA Sailing page** for full details. Applications are required ASAP, but no later than 11th March 2022.

\*You must be a member of both HASSRA and CSSC to take part in this event



## Commsave is your financial friend!



Commsave offers safe savings and affordable loan services. Anyone working for the home civil service can join, and DWP employees can save and borrow direct from pay.

More than 3,500 civil servants are already enjoying the benefits of Commsave membership, including:

- Earn a regular dividend to help your savings grow (1.5% return paid for 2020/21)!
- Borrow up to £25,000 with interest rates starting at just 6.2% APR!
- Bereavement Fund cover at no cost to you.



**26%** of Commsave members said they saved regularly before joining  
**71%** say they do now

### Fancy a little bonus?

Join Commsave before the end of February and get a £25 sign-up bonus to kick-start your savings!

Join online today by clicking [here](#).



Authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority (213407).

 [hello@commsave.co.uk](mailto:hello@commsave.co.uk)  0303 0402 660  [commsave.co.uk](http://commsave.co.uk)

The easy way to save, the better way to borrow

# HASSRA BUDDY DRAW

**HASSRA is once again offering all new and existing members the opportunity to win cash prizes. By recruiting a colleague who isn't already a HASSRA member, both the current and the new member will be entered into a cash prize draw.**

Recruiting new members has never been more attractive or more important. That's why we have 200 prizes of £50 up for grabs, 100 for new members with a matching prize for the member who recruited them.

Existing members will receive an entry for each new member they refer - with no limit on the number of entries. So, the more members you recruit, the more chances you have of winning! One lucky member won £450 in the first prize draw which included nine of his new recruits, showing that hard work is just as important as luck!

The next draw will be based on new member applications received up to 31st March 2022. So get recruiting as many members as possible and maybe you will be just as lucky!

Find out more at  
**HASSRA**  
Buddy Draw