**RNA NWS – Notes for Applicants.**

The New Writers Scheme is open to unpublished writers of romantic fiction in all genres. Members are able to submit one manuscript of an unpublished novel for critique each year. The Scheme opens in January each year and can accept only 300 members.

Places are assigned on a first come, first served basis. No writing samples are required.

All books entered into the scheme must fall within a broad definition of Romantic Fiction: that is to say an exploration of romantic love must form an important element of the plot, or a major sub-plot of the story. All genres of fiction with strong romantic elements are welcome. Readers may choose not to comment on non-romantic novels.

Members may submit a partial or completed MS. The maximum length for a submitted MS is 120,000 words. The same manuscript may be submitted more than once, but only once per membership year.

Manuscript submissions will be via the RNA’s online system between dates specified each year by the organiser. These dates (usually February-August) are fixed and no exceptions will be made**.** There is no reimbursement of the reading fee if a manuscript is not submitted by the closing date. Applicants will receive details of the submission process and dates once their membership has been confirmed.

All readers will be full or independent members of the RNA. Readers will be assigned at the discretion of the NWS Organiser. The identity of the reader of a MS will remain anonymous and all communications between reader and writer will be via the scheme organiser.

Further details of the operation of the scheme and the submission dates will be given to successful applicants.

All communications should be to [janetgover@romanticnovelistsassociation.org](mailto:janetgover@romanticnovelistsassociation.org)

NWS Members who are accepted for publication you should let both the NWS Organiser ([janetgover@romanticnovelistsassocation.org](mailto:janetgover@romanticnovelistsassocation.org) ) and the Hon Membership Secretary ([info@romanticnovelistsassociation.org](mailto:info@romanticnovelistsassociation.org) ) know as soon as possible, as your membership status will change and you may be eligible for the Joan Hessayon Award.