

BSRFUR Appointments Team Report – Season 2021-22

Re-appointments – Richard Flower

As per the last season, the cancellation of fixtures on Saturdays in the Zoo League, BBO leagues and TVIL caused issues, along with Sunday match cancellations for Colts and Ladies matches.

This season we struggled for referees at the required levels to cover the fixtures mainly on Sundays, especially for Colts matches graded at level 8, mainly due to unavailability.

Clubs have started to go directly to referees, although they think they are being helpful, this did cause the appointments team issues.

Thanks must go to Hertfordshire, Hampshire and London Premier to cover fixtures that we at Berkshire couldn't cover due to a lack of referees, mainly at levels 6 to 8 on Saturdays.

Without this help matches couldn't be played.

Finally, thank-you for all the support you have given to the Society and the Appointments team. Your understanding and volunteering for matches at the last minute has been very much appreciated.

Exchanges – Richard Flower

My thanks go to all the Societies we exchanged with for being helpful and amenable with their appointments.

With the help of other counties we were able to mitigate most issues in receiving quality games for our referees.

This hopefully will enable the Society to offer a better spread of fixtures for our referees.

Statistics have been omitted due to COVID and appointment rearrangements.

Finally, thank-you for all the travelling that you have made, I hope you enjoyed the experience of refereeing different clubs.

Re-appointments – Robert Reilly

A very challenging year, we had 102 requests for Referee's this year at least 30% down on the previous season, of those 102 we were able to provide a Referee for 60 games of the remaining 42, 13 were cancelled for various reasons and we were short of Referees for the remaining 29.

I would like to say big thankyou to all those Referees who made the effort to be available for midweek games I know it can be hard with all the other commitments people have during the week with Work etc, but please know that the all the schools and Reading Uni really appreciate your efforts.

So once again Thank you.

Appointments Summary – Simon Bourne

It became clear very early in the Season that the Society was going to struggle to cover games this Season. The loss of recruitment combined with retirement of Referees during the previous COVID destroyed Season, meant our numbers were at a level that could not withstand the amount of games going. A decision was therefore made to prioritise adult league games on both Saturdays and Sunday, prioritising those which contained 1st XV sides and then to ensure Clubs didn't have more than one home game unappointed.

The fixture lists were also now coming into WTR through the GMS database, which the Clubs are responsible for maintaining. This too caused issues throughout the Season as Clubs often struggled to get games through, meaning there were occasions when we couldn't actually appoint. As the Season moved on, Clubs were becoming more used to this new system.

Overall we managed to appoint to around 480 games, which includes exchanges both in and out. As Richard has mentioned, enormous thanks go to Hampshire, Bucks and London West who were able to pick-up a raft of games that we simply could not cover ourselves.

Through the fantastic efforts of Dan White, we were able to bring on a number of new Referees this Season and for the most part, these new recruits have performed really well. This bodes well for the Seasons ahead, with some already showing huge potential.

My thanks as always to Richard and Robert for their assistance and appointing skills.

Next Season with its new structure should prove an interesting new challenge but I know with your continued support as active personnel, this is something we can rise to.

Simon Bourne

BSRFUR Appointments Director

17th May 2022