

Berkshire Rugby Union Referees Ltd
(Operating as Berkshire Society of RFU Referees)



Founded 1948

GRADING CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – MAY 2022

This has been a season of further change and challenges for all as we came out of Lockdown. However, with the continued efforts of all concerned we have been able to make progress for those with aspirations at whatever level they seek.

Many thanks to the grading committee, Simon Bourne, Richard Flower and Peter Kruger who make such valuable contributions to identifying the potential of individual referees. Unfortunately, John Ford was unable to contribute to the deliberations because of health problems.

The mid - season meeting helped evaluate and consolidate the progress of individual referees. The end of season grading meeting will be held this month on a date to be fixed before the 28th May and the results will be circulated immediately thereafter. We will consider reports for over 33 active referees.

Thanks to the following advisers: Richard Flower, Mike Curtin, Nick Curtin, Peter Kruger, Ron Staker, as well Crispin Davis and Russ Clark who have been able to assist by fitting advising in with their refereeing duties. Perhaps other experienced MOs may wish to consider offering their help?

I would also like to thanks to our band of coaches, Roger Naish, Mike Muston, and especially Steve Wood for giving their time and experience in helping both new and experienced referees to develop their skills and awareness.

Also great thanks to Julian Rainford and Dan White for their support in recruitment of new referees as well as Julian and Crispin for organising the monthly Training meetings.

A further challenge this season for MO Developers has been the introduction of RFU Forms 1 & 2 on WTR which has not been used by all, as the reporting platform, to date. However, the aim is that all Match Observers will be both proficient and content over the use of the system before the start of the new season. It is intended that a training and coherence exercise will be held, at a date to be arranged before the start of next season, to assist in that regard.

I will be in touch with all those concerned over the next two to three weeks and hope this will be an interesting and stimulating event.

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We still need more coaches and advisors to support the development of referees to enable our guys to progress onto Federation and beyond if that is their wish, so I would invite anyone interested to contact me as soon as possible.

We have had the benefit of a number of new members join the Society in the last season or so including two YMO's, Ruben and Drew as well as Alex Stephenson, Meg Mason, Charlie St. Aubyn and Jack Kingman, and a returning member in Matt Hunt, all of whom were included in the mid - season Grading exercise of December 2021 which reflected some 31 active referees. Of course, any new members who have joined since January 2022 will be included in the forthcoming Grading exercise.

Simon Long will hopefully continue with the Federation squad at Level 6 and further nominations to the Federation Development Squad have been made on behalf of the Society.

I feel I should end on a sad note reflecting the demise of Peel Holroyd, who passed away earlier this year, as a mark of respect for his unstinting support of new referees as an advisor over many, many years. He is greatly missed.

David Levy

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