



Berkshire RFU Referees 2022/23 Season AGM – Summary Report from the Appointments Team

Re-appointments – Richard Flower

The appointments team would like to welcome Dave Elliott onto the team.

The appointments team set up a re-appointment email and a WhatsApp group to ease communication for clubs and the Society.

This season as per last season, the appointments team made a decision to only appoint to fixtures that have been entered into GMS. GMS then populates WTR.

We are still sending out a mail to our clubs and schools at the start off the week to inform them of the fixture we are aware of.

Again, 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 Saturdays and Sundays, especially for matches graded at level 8 and above, mainly due to unavailability.

Thanks must go to 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.

This includes East Mids, Eastern Counties, Hertfordshire, Somerset and Bristol for senior exchanges and Buckinghamshire for junior exchanges.

Hampshire and London Premier offered one-way exchanges when we were short.

With the help of these 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.

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 slightly busier year, we had 118 requests for Referees this year, a 10 % increase on the previous season; of those 118, we were able to provide a Referee for 69 games (58%), of the remaining 49, 23 (19%) were cancelled for various reasons and we were short of Referees for the remaining 26 (22%).



I would like to say big thank you 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

The first season under the new RFU League structures, with ‘false’ promotions from last Season, was always bound to give some very one-sided leagues and a shorter League season, and so it proved. However, the Appointments were still able to cover just over 450 games, through our own resources, supported by those Counties, which Richard has already referred to.

Dave Elliott was brought in to assist Richard with the re-appointments and the introduction of an Appointments team WhatsApp group, has certainly helped with improved lines of communication.

There were a few weekends where the weather intervened, but overall the League season ran smoothly. The Season ended with the new ‘Papa Johns’ Community competitions, which gave us some very short notice appointments. Unfortunately, there wasn’t much joy for those of our Clubs that chose to participate, but we hope for more success next time.

As with last season, there were still some glitches with fixtures not arriving onto WTR from the GMS site but, in general, this was an improvement on last year.

My thanks as always to Richard and Robert, now ably assisted by Dave. Also, thanks to David Levy for his guidance and input with appointments of the Advisers and Referee Coaches.

As always, thank-you all for your support and I hope you enjoy the off-season.

Simon Bourne
BSRFUR Appointments Director
16th May 2023