



## **Berkshire RFU Referees 2022/23 Season AGM – Summary Report from the Chair of Grading**

There have been a number of further challenges for all of us, over the last season, due to the continued impact of the pandemic and following the restructure of the Leagues. We also found a reduction of games for some teams, with the inability of some Clubs to field adult sides below 1st and 2nd team level. This unfortunately meant that fixtures were often cancelled at short notice. However, with the continued efforts of all concerned, we were able to appoint Match Observers to cover as many games at all levels as best we could.

Many thanks again to the Appointments Team, (Simon Bourne, Richard Flower, Dave Elliott & Rob Reilly), for their sterling work, and to the Grading Committee, (Simon, Richard and Peter Kruger) who make such valuable contributions in, helping us to identify the potential of referees.

The mid-season meeting in December 2022 enabled us to further evaluate and consolidate the progress of individual referees, enabling us to consider the grades of 39 active referees, following which we have at least two new members join us.

The end of season grading meeting will be held later 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 well over 33 active referees.

Thanks to the following MO Developers: Richard Flower, Mike Curtin, Nick Curtin, Peter Kruger & Chris Parker; as well as Crispin Davis and Russ Clark, who have been able to assist by fitting advising in, alongside their refereeing duties. We have also been blessed with the addition to our ranks of the returning Dave Marsh and other experienced MOs including Dave Watkins, Dan White and Donald Coppen, who offering their valuable help in watching and supporting referees.

I would also like to thank our senior coaches, Roger Naish and Mike Muston, for their support for both mature and new referees, in developing their skills and awareness.

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

I would also like to report that, at last, our longstanding member Dean Richards of RFU Panel fame, and current TMO and RFU AP XVs MO Manager, has finally succumbed to pressure and kindly started his active coaching and mentoring role with the Society by providing a valuable Coaching report on Laura Lewis a couple of weeks ago. Thank you, Dean.

We have had the benefit of a number of new members joining the Society in the last few months including Laura, Dean Crossley (transferring over from Hampshire), George Batty, Arnaud Cottey, and Billy Bailey. Of course, any new members who have joined since January



2022 will be included in the forthcoming Grading exercise and will potentially swell our ranks to up to nearly 40 active referees!

Simon Long has made excellent progress with the Southern Federation squad at level 6, and the new Region 1 SW LMOT at level 5 and has already successfully completed several level 5 Matches. In addition, Jack Kingman has made good progress with the Federation, at level 7.

Sadly, on a more sombre note, we lost a wonderful coach and adviser with the passing of Steve Wood, earlier this season. Steve was an inspiration to us all, in his commitment and support for the game and all referees, and continued to participate for as long as he physically could, despite his illness. He is greatly missed.

**David Levy**

**Hon Grading Chairman**