



Berkshire RFU Referees

2022/23 Season AGM – Summary Report for Membership & Recruitment

This report brings together Membership, CRefC development work, RFU Training within Berkshire, and Society Safeguarding.

This season has seen a lot of interest in refereeing from all quarters of the game, including Age Grade from Schools and Clubs, parents supporting Age Grade children and from ex-players. These have predominantly come through the RFU's 'Introduction to Refereeing' course, though some have been so inspired that they have progressed onto the RFU's 'English Rugby Refereeing Award' and have then chosen to join the Society.

The CRefC side of things has benefited greatly from these courses and the clubs are, for the most part, able to meet their 'internal' needs from the numbers coming through. We're confident that all of our clubs are looking after the club refs and ensuring that they get the necessary feedback on their performance after the game. Match Official Abuse continues to be an issue, but the majority of the clubs are actively addressing any instances that arise in a positive fashion. We have had several catch-ups and the CRefC WhatsApp group is used regularly by CRefCs to 'share' club refs when a club has a shortfall. However, out of county teams frequently apply pressure to ensure that an independent or Society referee is assigned to their games, so there is still a need for clubs to help populate that pipeline of new Society refs. I'd like to thank all the CRefCs for their continued support, however, the work that Colin Stonehouse is doing in Reading, along with Alan Davies in Windsor and Billy McLean in Maidenhead, supports the whole group.

I've recently taken-on the Society Safeguarding Officer role, and have completed the necessary training and I'm now looking forward to working with the clubs in this space. The renewal of many members' DBSs is coming up – so please check yours and let Dan White or me, know if yours needs renewing.

Pre-season training will commence on the first Thursday in June (June 1st, during half-term) and we'd like to encourage all members to take advantage of this excellent opportunity to keep fit and socialise with the other refs during the off-season.

Russ Clark