



Berkshire Rugby Union Referees Ltd

(operating as Berkshire Society of RFU Referees)
c/o Reading RFC, Holme Park, Sonning Lane, Reading, RG4 6ST

Summary Minutes of ExCom Meeting held on 1st August 2023 at 8pm via ZOOM

Present: PL, DL, SB, RC, KP, NC

ACTION

1. Apologies

n/a

2. C/fwd actions

(Feb'23) MOD Consistency 'Event'

O/S Action: DL to arrange Zoom session with MODs for 'admin' elements (forms, timelines, etc) – Feb'23 update: details promised by DL within 7 days (by 14/02)

DL

(Sept'22) Referee Feedback Forms on WTR *(completed by clubs, post-match)*

On RFU 'WTR roadshow' call (25/10), Mark Brown (WTR owner) confirmed availability of existing templates on WTR, as used by several other RefSocs for some time - MB took action to share details Aug update: NC has chased-up, repeatedly, via RFU MODO team – to date, nothing circulated – NC still chasing

NC

Resources/Succession Planning

Ongoing action for ExCom to consider succession planning & resourcing

ExCom

Engagement with Reading Uni

Chrissy Nazif (Reading Uni Sports admin) is channelling all rugby-related matters through Seb Reynolds (Rams DoR, Our 1st XV coach)

(Aug'23) 50/100 game 'awards' (KP)

DE/AG now coordinating collation of up-to-date stats on member appointments completed (not just 'games reffed', as applies to both MOs & MODs)

Whilst continuing with the 50-game bag (via online shop), KP suggested a revision to the 100-game award

Action: ExCom agreed, in principle – KP to update with 'final' recommendation and assoc'd costings

KP

3. Tackle Height DLV – update

NC confirmed that several briefing sessions have been run:

- one by CD/NC for Berks Refs
- one face-to-face session by NC/DW, at Henley RFC, for all coaches/players
- four other online sessions for Clubs (CRefCs, coaches, senior players)

CD is also to run a 'practical session at RRFC, with their players, on Thursday 3rd Aug – open invite for Berks refs, club refs, etc to attend & observe

General feedback: some centres of keen interest (Henley, Abbey & Maidenhead age-grade coaches), but minimal engagement from most senior sides/teams – some 'practical' training sessions scheduled (Aldermaston, Crowthorne, Reading, Tadley), but far less than

anticipated/hoped-for, given level of disquiet at DLV's introduction from those same clubs.

4. Aug'23 Training Meeting

CD to give 'refresher' on Tackle Height DLV

CP/DL to deliver session on process/admin/timelines associated with a Sending-Off, including examples of best practice (all anonymised!)

CD
CP,DL

5. Compliance 'workload' for volunteer membership

PL raised the issue of the number of 'boxes to be ticked' by our volunteer refs this year:

- DBS clearance (with bow-wave of 3-yearly renewals, following RFU's mandate in 2020)
- RFU Headcase
- WR Laws test
- Fitness testing (voluntary for most, but recommended for all)

Action: given the changes/education already required with the T-H DLV (not included in WR Laws test), plus DBS admin (in a process agreed as 'broken', due to RFU's poor admin/automation), ExCom agreed the following changes:

- WR Laws – revision to biannual cycle (in line with validity of WR Laws certificate), so Refs now only need to provide DE with a copy of a valid completion certificate
- DBS – should ease, after this cycle, as RFU has confirmed it is shifting to a 'rolling' basis

6. Finances

KP confirmed that we made a surplus in the 2022/23 season (similar to the prior year)

Discussions are ongoing with HMRC, re: Corp.Tax status (previously it had been agreed that, as a voluntary non-profitmaking body, we were not subject to CT, however this is being periodically reviewed)

Agreement: running a consistent surplus is not desired, so we need to consider suitable investments/expenditure/other means of reducing or negating any surplus

7. BSRFUR – 'image' & accessibility

NC raised the issue of our image/branding being not the most 'user-friendly' (eg. Memorable/easy to remember website address; connotations of 'Society' linked to 20th Century institutions filled with old white men), when speaking to potential new refs/clubs/coaches/others about how to access 'us' or stuff on our website.

Having 'sidestepped' this issue when incorporating, by not including 'Society' in our company name, it was agreed that perhaps now is the time to consider a more general 'update' from 'Berkshire Society of RFU Referees' (or BSRFUR) to 'Berkshire Rugby Referees' (Berks Rugby Refs or BRR)

Actions taken:

- Dave Elliott has set up a new website domain: "berkshirerugbyrefs.co.uk", which (for the time being) can operate in tandem with the current website, (but will facilitate access and re-direct queries to all the same people, in the background) This also better-aligns with our social media profiles on Twitter (@berkshirerugbyrefs), Instagram (berkshire_rugby_refs), and FB (Berks Rugby Refs), so making things a bit more cohesive

Future actions/considerations:

- NC to put some words together to share on 'name change'

NC

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All ExCom/FullCom members to plan for adoption of new website and also 'new' email contacts (eg. 'chair@berkshirerugbyrefs.co.uk' rather than 'chairman@bsrfur.co.uk') - NC/Andy Green to contact Gilbert to change the embroidery on our official kit, (in conjunction with follow-up on female-fit kit) - Issue of 'stash' to (i) make use of previously noted surplus and (ii) promote visibility of the new 'name' – ExCom all to consider options possible for this, given the (widely) differing requirements/desires for kit amongst the membership | <p>ExCom/Full
Com
NC,AG</p> <p>ExCom</p> |
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8. AOB

Admin – ExCom availability/absence in coming weeks was noted

<p>NC to send out minutes for review, publish summary minutes on website and agree agenda for next meeting. There being no other business, the meeting closed at 20:50</p>	<p>NC</p>
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<p>The next ExCom meeting is scheduled for Tues 5th September 2023 – NC to circulate Agenda in advance, point members to previous Summary Minutes on website, etc.</p>	<p>NC</p>
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