



Berkshire Rugby Referees

2023/24 Season AGM – Summary Report from Membership & Recruitment Lead

Membership & Recruitment Report

The society has seen a steady growth in membership this year, with the addition of 6 new members, and a lot of interest shown by club referees.

Our members range from newly qualified referees to those with decades of experience, reflecting the diversity and depth of our society.

Safeguarding

A key responsibility of the Membership Lead is to ensure that all our referees are compliant with the necessary Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks.

This year, we have successfully processed DBS checks for 20 referees. However, we recognize the need to expedite this process to cover our growing membership base.

One of the main challenges we faced was the delay in processing DBS checks due to the increased volume of applications - we are actively working with the relevant authorities to improve the turnaround time.

Goals for the 2024/25 season

1. **Continue to Increase Membership:** We have increased our number modestly this year, with a lot of the referees who joined in recent years getting more opportunities to referee and progress. Working closely with Andy Green, Dave Elliott and Colin Stonehouse, new and younger referees are able to get earlier and more supported opportunities to referee. Initially, this is through the CRefC network but Andy, Dave and Colin have really made the difference and will continue to do so next season.
2. **DBS Processing:** We have a team of three members able to handle DBS applications (Russ, Laura, Dan). This will be a priority to ensure all our referees meet the compliance requirements promptly. September and January were especially slow times with a lot of people being processed throughout the RFU
3. **Pre-Season Training:** We successfully ran preseason training sessions with Ben Clayton our qualified PT from June to September last year. We aim to repeat this in the next few months. Starting in June at Cantley Park and continuing from July at Reading RFC.

In conclusion

The upcoming year presents an opportunity for us to build on our successes and address the challenges head-on. With a focus on membership growth and enhanced support for our referees, we are confident in the continued prosperity of our society.

Russell Clark

BRR Membership & Recruitment Lead

9th May 2024