



Berkshire RFU Referees 2024/25 Season AGM – Appointments Team Report

Midweeks – Dave Elliott

Disappointingly there was a big drop in requests for mid-week fixtures. Out of the 69 requests, 51 (74%) were appointed. Of the 9 lost opportunities 3 were u15 Cup matches. The biggest drop was from the University, with only three 2nd team fixtures, four 3rd team and no 4th team this year. Reading Blue Coat had little success in cup runs, unlike previous years and even last year when the u15 won.

This is always a hard area for appointments to cover, and Dave would like to thank those who regularly put themselves available for these fixtures.

	Appointed	Cancelled	Missed Opportunity
2024/25	51	9	9
2023/24	88	22	16
2022/23	69	23	26

Exchanges – Dave Elliott

This success must be attributed to Dave Elliott. Traditionally exchanges are L6 & L7, with a few “junior exchanges” at L8 if other societies are willing. With the birth of the development squad and lack of L6 teams, Dave was challenged to find exchanges every week at L7, L8 & L9. He surpassed this by conjuring up a L11 exchange and a few L6’s.

2024/25	L6	L7	L8	L9	L10	L11	Total
Incoming	10	13	17	10	1	0	51
Outgoing	5	18	11	7	0	1	42

Why did Berks give more away than receive? At L6 we had to turn 4 fixtures over to Federation. Berkshire had no referee representation on Federation in 2024/25 season. There were 3 exchanges that were cancelled due weather up north, but ours were unaffected. The final 2 games were exchanged as they were Crowthorne who withdrew from the league and had re-arranged late friendlies that Berkshire couldn’t cover.

Looking forward to 2025/26 season, it is clear referees seem less willing to travel such long distances and, as a result, Appointments have taken the decision to not exchange with Eastern Counties and North Mids going forward. To replace these, discussions will be held with Hampshire and Dorset & Wilts, being closer neighbours, who we already exchange with but may do on a more regular basis. Exchanges haven’t been ruled out with London Society,



but this is difficult due to the way things are structured within London (which is effectively a standalone Federation).

Our thanks go to all the Referees Societies we exchanged with, this includes East Midlands, Eastern Counties, Hertfordshire, Somerset, Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and especially Hampshire at the end of the season, who were willing to exchange L6 fixtures. Although appointments can be arranged, we realise it is the referee that travels and puts the effort in, so thank you for all the travelling that you have done.

Appointments Summary – Andrew Green

Covering a massive 529 games (vs 470 in 23/24, +13% yr-on-yr) Is a huge accomplishment. For the first time in many seasons, we have seen an overall increase in fixtures. The total number is still up despite the loss of midweek fixtures, which makes it even more incredible. The support from the referees to cover so many fixtures has been outstanding. The three main areas of extra fixtures were 11 Maidenhead Colts fixtures, Reading 13 fixtures across all sides and Reading Blue Coat 10 extra fixtures as we covered more Saturday mornings. All the other clubs made up the difference with a couple of extra fixtures each.

2024/25		Appointed	Cancelled	Missed Opportunity
Midweeks		51	9	9
Saturday		316	48	21
Sunday		162	55	33
Total		529	112	63

The challenges for the Appointments Team still remain:

1. Lack of L10 fixtures
2. Lack of L9 fixtures on Saturdays
3. Availability of referees on Sundays – still the biggest area of missed opportunity.

Most of the hard work has been done by Dave Elliott; without his tireless effort on WhatsApp groups and making phone calls, none of the above would have been possible. The society is very lucky to have him as a member. Thank you Dave.

Andy Green
BRR Appointments Lead