

Berkshire Rugby Union Referees Ltd
(Operating as Berkshire Rugby Referees)



Founded 1948

GRADING & ADVISERS REPORT – 2024/25 AGM

As ever, there have been many challenges for us all of over the last season due to the restructure of the Leagues, the reduction of games for some teams, and the inability of some Clubs to field adult sides below 1st and 2nd team level, or even a 1st team! The unfortunate cancellation of some games at short notice has continued with one club dropping out of the League. However, with the strenuous efforts of all concerned we were able to appoint Advisors and Coaches to adult games and Colts matches to cover as many games at all levels as best we could.

Many thanks again to the Appointments and Re-Appointments Team of Andy Green and Dave Elliott for their magnificent work in managing what was often a difficult if not, nigh-on impossible task.

The Grading committee has had to be reconstituted with the retirement of Richard Flower and now includes the new faces of Chris Parker and Dave Elliott along with Andy, and Peter Kruger who continue to make such a valuable contribution in helping us to identify the potential and strength of referees.

We are very lucky to have an Advisor team including Nick Curtin, our Chair, together with Peter Kruger, Chris Parker, Crispin Davis, Russ Clark (who has assisted by fitting advising in with his refereeing duties) together Dave Marsh and other experienced MOs including Paul Lee, Dave Watkins, and Dan White (both of whom provide valuable coaching for less experienced referees), as of course do Roger Naish and Mike Muston.

Whilst I appreciate the season has been pretty demanding for our 38 or so active referees, you should be pleased to know that from August 2024 to 26 April 2025 advisors have watched and reported on over 90 referee games in county, whilst coaches have watched over 35 referees in county, making a total of over 125 games in the Royal County.

In addition, over 30 Berkshire referee appointments have been exchanged to other counties with, of course, reports being generated and provide valuable evidence to the Grading Panel as to the progress and potential of individual referees.

The mid-season meeting in December 2024 enabled us to further evaluate and consolidate the progress of referees and as a result we were to grade new refs for the first time as well as regrade some 8 existing member referees. The end of season grading meeting will be held in May on a date to be fixed before the AGM and as always the results

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will be circulated immediately thereafter. We will consider reports for a healthy figure of at least 38 active referees.

The Grading Panel will be looking forward to identifying those individuals deserving of progression up the Grades and where possible for recommendation to the Southern Federation.

As previously stated, 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. (In fact, one recent new member to BRR has already volunteered to assist in mentoring a colleague next season!).

On behalf of the Grading Panel and all of us, I would like to thank Richard Flower for all his work for BRR, as a referee, adviser, appointments administrator and member of the Grading Panel for many years. He was recently granted a well justified Honorary Life membership of the Society and has continued to attend monthly members' meetings since his retirement from active duties. He will always be welcome at BRR events and functions.

David Levy

Grading & Advising Lead