



## **Berkshire Rugby Referees Membership Report 2024/25**

Our objectives last year were to:

1. Continue to Increase Membership:
2. Raise awareness to safeguarding challenges and be available for DBS Processing
3. Provide comprehensive pre-Season Training

### **Continue to Increase Membership**

BRR has seen a steady influx of new members this year, with the addition of 10 new referees, and a lot of interest shown by club referees who have recently completed ITR and ERRRA courses in the last year.

BRR provides several qualified trainers who deliver RFU Refereeing courses, and they are able to highlight the benefits of joining BRR to new candidates

### **Raise awareness to safeguarding challenges and be available for DBS Processing**

Russ and Laura gave a do's and don'ts talk to BRR this season. We're pleased to say that members have been proactive in considering this and in asking us about their concerns. There is no silly question and we're here to listen and advise.

### **DBS Checks and Compliance**

A key responsibility of the Membership Secretary 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 19 referees. However, we recognize the need to expedite this process to cover our growing membership base.

It's worth noting that the RFU now have an automatic update process but it's important for you to sign-up within 30 days of completing your DBS.

### **Pre-Season training**

We continue to pay for a professionally-curated and delivered pre-season fitness programme tailored to the specific needs of rugby referees, which all of our members (and their families) are welcome to participate in. These sessions run from the start of June until the end of September.

In addition, there is a wealth of online resources available through the BRR website, again specifically for rugby referees (put together by Ross Hanbury, who also manages the fitness programme for London RefSoc).