

Leicestershire Society of Rugby Union Referees

Chairmans Report

2017/18 Season.

The end of another season for LSRUR seems to have come round very quickly. This has been my second as Chairman and I am finding the role enjoyable and challenging.

Referees, Match Observers, mentors, coaches and all our other members, who facilitate the game of rugby in Leicestershire and beyond, are why LSRUR exists. I am proud to say that together, you all do a fantastic job and the excellent reputation of LSRUR extends far and wide.

There has been an increasing number of Sunday and midweek fixtures this season, as Schools and youth rugby flourish. Conversely, the number of Saturday fixtures is on a steady decline, as the local clubs who put 3 & 4 teams out each week become increasingly rare. The hard work of all the committee members, particularly the appointments secretaries, has ensured that almost all the 1515 fixtures received this season, have had a Society Referee allocated to them.

Whether you are a probationary referee, a mid-grade referee, a referee with potential to progress upwards towards the National Panel, a more mature, experienced referee or a referee coach and/or assessor, the Society, and the committee who run the Society on your behalf, is there for you.

It is my absolute commitment that all members of our Society are equally important and should be supported and helped in any way that they may require.

If that is not happening, I need to know and myself and the committee will endeavour to put that right.

There are challenges ahead for us. The increasing number of young match officials has, quite rightly, lead to us putting measures in place for safeguarding. All Match Observers and referee coaches are currently going through the DBS check process. The number of local, club games each Saturday is on the decline and has lead to referee's being frustrated due to late cancellations etc. We are working hard with the clubs to minimise this.

There is a drive from the RFU for all Referees Societies to become full voting members of the RFU by becoming voting members of the Rugby Football Refereeing Union(RFRU). We will have to fulfil a lengthy criteria to do so. One of the incentives for other Referee Societies to join is the provision of the RFU appointments system, called Who's the Ref (WTR). We are extremely fortunate in Leicestershire to already have an electronic appointments system that actually surpasses WTR, so there is not that incentive for us. The committee are watching the developments in this area carefully, but we are happy that we are OK as we are, just now.

Enjoy the break from rugby and I look forward to seeing you all at the AGM on Monday 21st May, at Vipers RFC.

Mark Elliott
Chairman
Leicestershire Society of Rugby Union Referees

