

SOMERSET RUGBY REFEREES SOCIETY

MINUTES OF THE 2019 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON

23 MAY 2019 AT 1930

TOR RUGBY CLUB

Present:- 26 members as per attendance list (Quorate).

Apologies:- As per attendance list.

Previous Minutes

These were sent out by e-mail prior to the meeting. Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by J Wallis, seconded B Perry and accepted by the membership.

Financial Statement

The Annual Financial Statement was presented to the meeting by G King. No independent audit had been conducted in this period. Questions were asked by R Owen and responses received to his satisfaction. The Statement was accepted.

Reports

Written Reports, where provided, are Enclosed.

Verbal Reports were made by C Hoadley (Grading), L Davies (Discipline), R Lewis (Appointments), C Daniels (Training & Development), RADO (C Murphy) and Recruitment & Retention (L Beere). C Murphy emphasised his thanks to all Match Observers, Coaches and Mentors for giving up their time to observe Match Officials.

The President accepted and thanked the reporters.

Election of President

M Curling announced his intention to step down as President of the Society. The Chairman (B Marshall) accepted his retirement and thanked him for his many years of sterling service. The committee nominated L Davies to succeed as Society President. L Davies accepted the nomination, was proposed by G King, seconded by H Garmston and accepted by the membership.

Election of Officers

G King announced his intention to step down as Honorary Secretary after 22 years' service. The Chairman accepted his retirement and thanked him for his huge contribution to the Society as a referee and Society Officer. One nomination had been received for the role from D Mealing in writing prior to the meeting, proposed by M Turfrey, seconded by H Garmston and accepted by the membership.

The other Officers of the Society agreed to continue in their roles, there being no other nominations. Proposed by G King, seconded by H Garmston and accepted by the membership. The Officers of the Society for Season 2019/20 are therefore:

President – L Davies

Chairman – B Marshall

Vice Chairman – R Lewis
Honorary Secretary – D Mealing
Honorary Treasurer – D Lyes

Appointed Committee Members

The appointed committee members all agreed to continue in their roles, there being no other nominations. Proposed by C Murphy, seconded by A Broad and accepted by the membership. The appointed committee members for Season 2019/20 are therefore:

Chair of Appointments Sub-Committee – R Lewis
Chair of Grading Sub-Committee – C Hoadley
Chair of Finance Sub-Committee – B Malpass
Chair of Recruitment & Retention Sub-Committee – L Beere
Chair of Training & Development Sub-Committee – C Daniels

Other Committee Members

Discussion was had as to the requirement for additional Committee members. The Society Rules require 2 additional elected members without portfolio. It was proposed that since there had been 3 additional members on the committee the previous year (L Davies, W Davis and C Murphy) and L Davies had been elected President, then there was no need for further nominations. W Davis and C Murphy were nominated to continue, proposed by P Connolly, seconded by R Owen and accepted by the membership.

Annual Subscription

The committee recommended that the Annual Subscription for members should remain at £10. Proposed by L Davies, seconded by J Wallis and accepted by the membership.

Any Other Business

Fitness - The Chairman informed the membership that work was being done by B Perry and T Evans-Jones and that a paper would be produced in time for the Society Training Day on 18 Aug 19.

Out-of-Season training – The Chairman informed the membership that out-of-season fitness sessions would be run by C Daniels at Keynsham and T Evans-Jones at North Petherton. Details to follow.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2010.

..... Chairman

Enclosed:

Attendance List

Reports on:

Finance	Appointments
Discipline	RADO
Training and Development	

SRRS AGM 23 May 19

Attendance List

Present:

M Curling (President)
B Marshall (Chairman)
R Lewis (Vice-Chairman and Chair of Appointments Sub-Committee)
G King (Hon. Secretary)
D Lyes (Hon. Treasurer)
B Malpass (Chair of Finance Sub-Committee)
C Daniels (Chair of Training & Development Sub-Committee)
L Beere (Chair of Recruitment & Retention Sub-Committee)
C Hoadley (Chair of Grading Sub-Committee)
L Davies (Committee Member and Discipline)
W Davis (Committee Member and Re-appointments)
C Murphy (Committee Member and RADO)
A Broad
B Perry
J Wallis
S Reeves
H Bowles
S Bassett
P Connolly
R Owen
A Wookey
M Hillman
M Turfrey
M Bowditch
H Garmston
D Mealing (meeting Secretary)

Total members present: 26

Apologies:

F Gannon
L Davies
J Moulding
A Spreadbury
B Branson
D Evans
G Leigh
M Weston
M Bath
P Box
T Evans-Jones

Finance Report (D Lyes)

SRRS Treasurers Report for season 2018/19

This season has been a learning curve for me as a new Treasurer, both from the software system used to process referee expenses and invoices issued to Clubs.

In summary, we have paid all submitted referee expenses totalling £ 22,143 for mileage claims on 154 expense claims submitted so far. Our referees have travelled a staggering 52,995 miles to fulfil their fixtures.

We have sent 166 invoices to 66 different clubs, colleges, schools and establishments totalling £ 32,805.00 of which £ 27,150.00 has been paid already and the remainder will be paid by the end of June.

The Society has invested in training events for referees, advisors, YMO and some social events for the society and continues to invest in equipment to progress the officials. Our non-mileage expense payments this year total £ 5,820.00 this year, with very minimal further expense expected.

Please can I ask that all outstanding expense forms are submitted by Friday 28th June at the latest so that I can finalise the payments before the summer break.

In line with Society rules, any expenses submitted after this date, without good reason, will not be paid.

Regards,

Dave Lyes
Hon Treasurer

Appointments Report (R Lewis)

Ladies and gents, another very successful season to report with the usual occasional hiccups, I can report the following details on the season.

1. From 1st August 2018 to 31st May 2019 we will have covered some 1140 fixtures, remembering that the number of match official appointments is far in excess of the above number when you factor in multi referee tournaments, games where team of 3/4 match officials were appointed etc.
2. We had a very active exchanges programme mainly involving Development Squad referees but also some occasional "Days Out " for others.
3. Our YMO programme is flourishing and several school 2nd XV and U16 were covered by them plus involvement in 7's tournaments and county youth games. Many thanks to Dan Evans as YMO coordinator he has done a great job pulling the group together and sorting out various appointments for them. They all did well in the County Junior Cup Finals, with the help of Dan and Paul Connolly.
4. Our involvement in play off games at the end of the season was limited but the various cup tournaments all went well and a range of developing referees and senior referees were used to good effect. My thanks as always to Wayne in helping iron out any "Senior Moments" on my part and covering for me when I was away.

5. Our 7's coordinator Harry Garmston did an excellent job in setting up and appointing our refs to numerous tournaments. He has forged strong links with neighbouring referee societies to ensure good relationships within these tournaments.

I am available at the AGM to take generic questions from the floor or if you have a specific query about your appointments or wishes for next season, feel free to phone/email me.

Reg Lewis - Chair of Appts. SRRS

Discipline Report (L Davies)

Somerset County Rugby Football Union Ltd
Referees Society
Annual General Meeting
Thursday 23rd May 2019
The TOR RFC at 19:30 hours
Chairman, Discipline
Report
Lawrence Davies

1. It is so pleasing to let you know that Somerset Referees have presented the least number of “problems” relating to the issue of Red Cards with some 98% of the reports being precisely to the point and portraying an accurate picture of the incident witnessed on the field of play. Increasingly however, representatives of Clubs affected will challenge the content of the Referees Report. That having been said, there is no room for complacency. I have continued to encourage referees to include ONLY the essential facts to prove their case; to discard the non-essential information; and to ensure I receive the reports within the statutory timescale...remember the player and his / her club will suffer if there is any delay

2. I would like to record my grateful thanks to Mike CURLING who readily volunteered to look after Discipline whilst I swanned off to the other side of the world

3. Continuing the subject of Red Card Reports may I emphasise the following

3.1. The RFU reports, on our website, are the only ones acceptable

3.2. If you have any “problems” with forms or any other related matters, then please contact me as soon as practicable

3.3. Please try to include the position of the player not just the number i.e #20 - scrum half

3.4. Remember the “new” RFU Regulation 19 - Discipline (Appendix 2). Merely entering “9.12” isn’t helpful but, “9.12 - Punching with fist” or “9.12 - Striking with knee”, is; and this applies to all the defined offences under this regulation

3.5. It’s always wise to re-read your report before firing it off to me...

4. Sending Off (Red Card Reports) 2018 / 2019 season statistics

4.1. Last season I dealt with 60 Red Card Reports

4.2. This season that number has fallen to 59 but I thought, this evening, that I

would spare you the full statistical analysis. Anyone desperate to immerse themselves in the minutiae should seek help...

4. Finally I would just like to emphasise the following points in readiness for next season

- 4.1. Only use the Official RFU Report forms available on the SRRS website
- 4.2. Read the Guidance and the check list on the SRRS website - it's for you
- 4.3. Be precise and accurate in your reports - ensure the evidence is clear to support what happened on the pitch - your credibility must not be in doubt
- 4.4. Define the offence committed by regulation number and explanatory text
- 4.5. Remember to include the number and position of the player
- 4.6. Email your reports to me asap - check with me before if you need to, as I am here to help
- 4.7. Ensure the report is with me so that I can submit it to the County Disciplinary Secretary within 48 hours of the incident
- 4.8. Enjoy your summer break and look forward to next season...

Lawrence Davies

Chairman, Discipline

RADO Report (C Murphy)

To all of the Membership,

I would urge everyone to take the opportunity to read through the RADO report in advance of the Annual General Meeting on Thursday 23rd May. Questions arising from the report will be taken on the night.

Despite being severely depleted with members of the Observing team at times, we have had in excess of 200 referees watched during the course of the 2018 - 2019 season. These were seen by our Referee Developers that has included Referee Coaches; Mentors or Match Observers.

- 51 of that figure were Exchange referees visiting Somerset.
- 163 of them were our own referees.
- Of the 163 matches involving our own membership, 22 games were officiated by the Young Match Official group.

Consequently, referees from all sides of the refereeing spectrum have benefitted from our Developers' constructive comments. In covering these matches, the membership owe the Developer Team their thanks for the work done across the season.

I would also like to add my own appreciation to the Team. Their flexibility during times of shortage has been terrific - and they have also adapted well to the use of the new RFU forms, which have become the everyday means of reporting on referee performances. Our thanks are also extended to our Cameraman who has also been out there in all winds and weathers.

We have held several training events for the Observer Team over the course of this season and can now look forward with greater confidence to the August training day and the new 2019 - 2020 season.

Thanks to one and all!

Chris Murphy (RADO).

Training & Development Report (C Daniels)

Ahead of the SRRS AGM on Thursday 23rd, please see below for a report on general training for the 2018/20 season.

It's been another successful year with regards to training within SRRS, although Spreaders and I are keen to ensure we continue to move the training provision forward for our members looking ahead to 2019/20.

Should you have any questions/queries/comments/suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact myself claredaniels@rfu.com

Training Report

Pre-season: Weekly fitness sessions were held at Keynsham RFC and most weeks saw 5-8 referees in attendance. I will continue to run these this summer, although we need a volunteer to run them in the south of the county as I cannot commit to two weekly sessions. Any willing volunteer please let get in touch (sessions plans will be provided).

August Meeting: Well-attended session at Hornets RFC, with optional fitness tests (Yo-Yo and Bronco) run for members. Extremely encouraging turnout of 25 active referees doing either test in order to benchmark their fitness. Indoor session well-attended, although facilities indoors at Hornets are not ideal.

Monthly General Meetings (Tor RFC): Attendance continues to be very encouraging, with numbers averaging 35-40 and a positive mixture of active referees, referee advisors/coaches/mentors and, encouragingly, Young Match Officials (YMOs). These meetings are our platform to provide members with society/RFU/World Rugby updates, provide training provision and a social occasion where people can catch up and engage with their peers. Our aim is to provide this balance and will continue to be so next season. The provision of food has been well received!

Three CMODs (England Rugby referee CPDs) were undertaken at these meetings (Match Prep/Tackle and Assistant Refereeing), with members who sign-up online via the RFU website having this recorded as official CPD on their records. While we understand there will always be some who chose not to engage with the RFU sign-up, members are encouraged to do so as this reflects well on their development and the society when it bids for Training and Development funding from the Rugby Football Referees Union (RFRU). A personal note of thanks to those who do so.

Further training meetings have included Darren Crompton (Scrummaging) and Spreaders (Game Reviewing) - my thanks also go to Spreaders for his support of training meetings and his own unique brand of delivery and energy!

The December meeting is always handed over to a social event, and again a good turnout for this (Reg doing a sterling job as quiz-master) saw a pleasant evening unfold, partners also being invited and adding to the occasion.

The final meeting of the season was held at the County Cup Final, where Chris Murphy and Spreaders ran a Referee Developer session alongside the appointed team of three from SRRS. Our thanks to Adam Wookey and his team for their flexibility, and to everyone who attended and made it an enjoyable event.

Pre-season 2019/20: SRRS Summer Training Event - as mentioned, we are keen to move training forward and try new ideas. To that end, our pre-season Training Day (yes, day!) will take place at Millfield School on **Sunday, August 18th**. Agenda TBC, but there will be three workshops in the morning, lunch, and afternoon session and the usual pre-season updates from Society/RFU and World Rugby. Further details to follow as soon as confirmed. ***Please pencil in your diary as we really would like to make this a successful event.***

Academy and Development Squad training updates should be available from Bruce Marshall and Chris Hoadley respectively.

In summary, well-attended meetings with a balance of updates/training/variety/formal CPD and social occasions has offered vibrant meetings that have been enjoyable to run and attend. Should anyone have any questions, I shall be happy to answer at the AGM if not before.

Best wishes,

Clare Daniels