

## **SUMMARY OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING FOR THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF DRRS 07 DECEMBER 2017.**

**Present:** The President (JM), The Chairman (PD), Messrs ;, Davies (DD), Hinshelwood (DH), Boraston (AB) , Hawkes(MH), Trueman (PT). Mr T Mitchell (TM) and Mr S Atkins (SA).

**1..Apologies:** Vice President (WT), Past President, Mrs Veacock (SV), Messrs Sutcliffe(CS) , Turner (MT), Healy (TH), Rose (DR), Steggall (RS) , Strawbridge (IS).

### **2. Matters brought forward at the discretion of the President:**

The Chairman welcomed Mr T Mitchell (DRFU) and Mr S Atkins to the meeting.

### **3.Minutes:**

The Minutes of the 01 November October Executive Meeting were approved and signed by the President.

### **4.Matters Arising:**

- a. The draft Assessment Form for MO's will be presented to the Assessor's Meeting in January 2018
- b. Purchase of Clipboards – TH to update the Committee in January.  
Purchase of Radios - **It was agreed that JM would purchase a set – after consulting other members of the Committee and trial it. On completion JM would forward his findings to DR .**
- c. Purchase of a Projector Screen – DR to update the Committee in January.
- d. Current Membership – WT and PT are working to get details of members joining dates placed on Who's The Ref.

### **5.Correspondence:**

None.

### **6. Chairman's Time:**

- a. Safeguarding – RS and PD attended a DRFU Safeguarding meeting. **RS is the Society's Safeguarding Officer and PD is his deputy.** RS will be circulating safeguarding updates.  
At the meeting DRFU stated that any adult who has more than three contacts with U18 per month has to be DBS cleared. TM stated that DRFU will cover the costs. DH pointed out that some members might be already DBS cleared by their clubs. This policy will be discussed at the Assessor's Meeting in January. **It was agreed that PT would insert a box on WTR so that DBS clearance is visible.**
- b. PD, MH and DR met with Michael Patz and Claire Daniels (RFU) for a meeting concerning the RFU engagement at Society level . The main topic was engagement and development especially for young match officials, ladies player development and attracting new lady referees.

- c. PD highlighted the lack of non league fixtures (2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> XV matches) and highlighted the Saturday when it was not a league weekend and only 12 matches in Devon were played.
- d. A short discussion took place over the Assessor's Meeting in January. It was agreed that **SA would forward an Agenda to MH to circulate prior to the meeting.**
- e. Clubs Cancelling Appointed Referees – PD raised the point that there is a trend for clubs to cancel DRRS appointed referees and use their club referees. It was acknowledged that some club referees were also DRRS members. PD also raised the question of competency of club referees (non DRRS members). It was agreed that the competency issue lay with the clubs.

## **7. Current Membership:**

CS submitted a brief report in which he highlighted the following points:

- a. For the first time in three years CS has received no applications for membership, no requests for training or no notifications of Members leaving.
- b. There is a possibility that two experienced referees will be retiring at the end of the season.

DD was concerned that about members who are on the Society's list of active members but have not refereed recently. CS suggested a review of membership.

DH expressed concern that some referees might be wearing DRRS kit and have not attended training session and are not competent or have assessed.

MH reported that he spoke to PRRS over the new build at Sherford (Plymouth) and the potential for recruitment. PRRS were going to look into the possibilities and TM suggested it might be a little early and the Society should wait until 2018.

## **8. Appointments Secretary:**

RS submitted a report and highlighted the following points:

- a. RS thanked PT and Mr S Atkins for their assistance in their various fields of responsibility.
- b. RS has complete the January 18 fixtures from the availability on WTR. Members must use WTR to indicate whether they are available or not.
- c. At present, in January there are 191 appointments and no exchanges.
- d. RS informed the Committee that there were 34 referees not available in January, 52 in February and 74 in March.

## **Reappointments Secretary:**

DD had nothing to add to his report. The report highlighted:

- a. **Members must update their availability on WTR.**
- b. Sunday pm games were proving difficult to appoint referees.
- c. Tavistock and South Molton RFC still claim they are not getting notification of appointments.

## **9. Grading Secretary:**

TH produced spreadsheets and summaries of performance for the members who had been assessed. A short discussion took place over the Society receiving reports from exchanges. **It was agreed that all members who receive a report on their exchange**

**should forward a copy to TH so that it can be entered onto their data base.**

PD inform the referees, who were reviewed, the outcome.

DD lead the discussion on the Federation Referees. The squad of referees would remain the same but with two members to be put forward for consideration for the SWG at the end of the season. This was subject to them getting sufficient L6 exchanges and favourable reports. PD raised the point that the Society should rationalise their policy of having referees assessed. Several have had multiple assessments so far this season and perhaps they were assessed so that MO's could be used. It was suggested that if a referee, after their initial assessment that season, was deemed to be competent and safe, they do not require frequent assessment.

PD thanked SA and TH for all their hard work .

### **10.Exchange Secretary:**

JM submitted a report. His main points were:

- a. In November there was an exchange with Somerset and we continue to support Cornwall with L6 / 7 referees.
- b. There are no exchanges in December and January 18.
- c. In February 18 there are L6 – 9 in London, Somerset and Cornwall.

JM informed the Committee that Mr P Clarke has been authorised to take a L11 exchange in Liverpool as his last match as a referee.

### **11. Training Secretary**

MH reported back from the PRRS meeting where the main focus was on working with teams of 3 plus the 4<sup>th</sup> Official. This was discussed with JM prior to the University match the previous Wednesday and the draft briefing notes, obtained from the internet, was handed to JM for consideration. It was agreed that this could be incorporated into the next Training Meeting.

### **12. Discipline:**

IS in his report, highlighted the need for referees to forward reports to him on SUNDAY as midday on Monday does not allow him to edit the reports or chase up referees for further details. IS spoke in depth about report writing at the recent Training Evening.

Since his last report, there have been 7 red card incidents (6 for striking an opponent) and one for a dangerous tackle. There was one game abandoned (Newcross v Tamar Saracens). This takes the total red card incidents to 26 compared to 35 for the whole of last season. IS stated that 70% of the incidents were for striking / punching.

TM emphasised that the information on the reports have to be accurate and as full as possible. He cited recent reports which were only four lines. This was totally insufficient. TM stated that DRFU would always support the referee but they require all the information.

PD assured TM that the matter had been already dealt with at the recent Training Meeting.

### **13. Finance:**

DH submitted a report .

- a. All referees claims to date have been paid.
- b. The majority of October invoices to clubs have been paid .

- c. There are still over ten referees who have not submitted any claims – DH will be emailing them.
- d. Clubs have responded very positively to being invoiced four times a year.

#### **14. Website Manager:**

PT reported that the first ‘mock up’ of the Society’s new website is going well. The new website will be able to be linked into WTR and there will be real time updates. There will be a separate page for Safeguarding and ‘Be a Ref.’

TM was assured that the DRFU website will have a link with our website.

DD confirmed that the Agame update is on the website, so members can purchase off field and training wear.

#### **14a Who’s The Ref Website (WTR).**

PT will investigate why Torrington / Tavistock and South Molton RFC are not receiving all the information from WTR.

#### **15. DRFU.**

PD reported on the main points, put forward by the Society, at the recent meeting of the DRFU :

- a. On a non-league Saturday there were only 12 games played in Devon. PD raised this point with DRFU and his observation was noted but they thought no action could be taken.
- b. The increase in red card incidents in the first two months of the season.
- c. The Society would welcome a DRFU representative to attend the Executive Meetings after the move away from DRFU. Mr M Turner, who had been attending the meetings on a regular basis, would be a very acceptable representative.
- d. DH informed the Committee that application to RFU would be submitted.
- e. DH / PD / MH had set up the Society’s account with Barclay’s Bank on Monday 4 December. **All Executive Committee Members are required to complete the forms circulated by DH before it can become active.**
- f. A discussion followed centred on the end date and the formalisation of accounts. TM informed the Committee that the RFU end of year was 30 June 2018 and he suggested the Society should follow the other CBs in using that date. TM also suggested that DH has a meeting with DRFU Treasurer, Mr K Jefferies, to formalise the final arrangements.

#### **16. SWG/FEDERATION/RFRU:**

##### **SWG / Federation**

Covered in previous discussions.

##### **RFRU:**

PD informed the Committee that Dr Tim Miller, Rugby Football Referees Union RFU Council Member will be attending the 4 February meeting.

#### **17. AOB**

- a. DD suggested that DRRS could run a course for Club Touch Judges. PD agreed and DRRS could run courses if there was a demand.
- b. TM spoke about problems discussed at DRFU Junior Meeting concerning Sunday games. There were instances where parents and coaches interfered with the running of the game and put undue pressure on the referees. This was partly due to there being no technical area or the pitch being roped off. TM requested that DRRS members enforce the code of practice.  
PD responded by saying that all Society members were regularly reminded about technical areas and roping off of pitches.
- c. DH suggested there was an end of season Coaching Session and that a record of attendance at Training Meeting should be on WTR.  
DD suggested a summary of training could go on WTR and the DBS form should also be available to download
- g. DH requested the Society write to Cullompton RFC thanking them for their hospitality. **MH was to write thanking them.**
- h. DH suggested that the Society thanked Mr Gooding for his sponsorship. **MH to write thanking him.**
- i. PT expressed concerns over the design of the MO jackets as they lacked suitable pockets and pouch to hold radios. He also thought that there should be the start date of the Society on the jacket.
- j. PT enquired how the planning was progressing for 125 Year Anniversary Dinner in 2018. **PD said he would consult CS.**
- k. JM spoke about the purchase of the Society's polo shirt. **It was agreed to contact Agame and it was urged that Committee members try to find fresh sponsor for the sleeve motifs.**
- l. JM stated there was a need to order 3 or 4 new sets of kit. **It was agreed he could submit the order**
- m. JM would write to the photographer to thank him. It was agreed to send a photograph to CS for inclusion in the Independent (post meeting note: pictured appeared in 10 Dec 17 edition).It was agreed that Team Tours would receive a framed shirt as a thank you for their sponsorship. **JM to action.**

**Meeting closed at 2120 hours.**

**Next Meeting of the Executive Committee: WEDNESDAY 3 JANUARY 2018 at 1900.**