



Treasurer's Report to AGM

3rd May 2018

Income and Expenditure:

Our main sources of income continue to be match fees and donations from our sponsors and supporters. This year I should again like to thank Bucks RFU and Arnold Funeral Services for their continued and generous support. We have also received donations from Bucks Schools Rugby and from the Rugby Football Referees' Union (RFRU) for which we thank them. The Society itself made a donation to Chesham RFC's campaign to raise finance for their new clubhouse.

Our objective is to keep costs to the county's clubs and schools to a minimum, in order only to cover the costs of our members, whilst investing in recruitment, training, development and assessment resources to keep standards as high as possible. I am pleased to say that we have continued to be able to appoint the appropriate referee to fixtures without financial considerations being a factor. This also means that we continue to benefit from the opportunity of sending referees on Exchange, an important part of our referee development activities. All of this is done while keeping match fees to our clubs at levels which I believe are somewhat below those of other societies.

Our referees, advisers and coaches give up considerable amounts of their time for which they receive no recompense other than fuel expenses. Their contributions are gratefully received. I should also like to thank those who choose not to claim their fuel expenses and recognise the significant financial benefit that this is to the Society.

Membership subscriptions for next season will remain at their current levels i.e. £50 for first year membership and £5 for returning members.

Website and Who's the Ref:

We have made further investments into the development of our website in order to help us communicate internally and with clubs in the county and to assist us in communicating with those who may be interested in becoming a referee. The website is an area in which we will make further investment in order to increase both the quantity and quality of content on the site. My thanks go to Rex da Rocha and our webmaster, Ivan who have exerted a great deal of energy to ensure that the site is robust and that when we do have any glitches to correct them as quickly as possible.

We continue to use Who's the Ref as our main system for administering appointments and expenses. While it remains a system which is far from perfect, it makes many of our administrative operations easier. As a result of an agreement being struck between the owner of the WTR system, Officials-for-Sport.com Ltd and the RFU, the system is now paid for by the RFU which results in a saving of several hundred pounds pa to the Society. WTR is now used by 33 of the 37 referee societies in England.

Expenses:

Expense claims for second half of the season (i.e. from pt January 2018) may now be made. Please submit all expense claims by 31st May using Who's the Ref to make your claim as this will speed up the process. When you submit your expenses via WTR, I automatically receive an email notifying me of your claim and will confirm to you by email when I have processed it. Please do not submit claims via any other route unless you have agreed it with me in advance. All payments will be made by internet banking to your bank account. If you have not previously given me, or have recently changed, your bank details, please let me know asap. If you submit a claim and do not receive an email from me confirming that I have paid it by 11^h June, please send me an email to treasurer@bucksreferees.com to let me know.

Note: if you happen to be appointed to a fixture between 3^{pt} May and 31st July (eg a sevens tournament) please do submit that claim separately but before 31st July 2018 as that is the end of our financial year.

Company Limited by Gurantee:

Subject to approval by the Members, it is expected that we will re-constitute the Society as a Company Limited by Guarantee. This will require, among other things, for members to make a small, limited commitment to pay an amount (often as low as £1) in the event that the Company becomes insolvent. It is likely therefore that we will have to be a little more formal in the collection and recording of Membership Subscriptions than we have in the past. In this regard, it would be helpful if those of you who have in the past paid by cash consider paying via Paypal. We should soon be able to collect subscriptions via Paypal using contactless card payments.

Email contact:

Finally, a polite reminder - for any matters relating to expenses, sponsorship payments etc. please contact me using the email address Treasurer@bucksreferees.com. This helps create an email history that at some point I hope will help my successor to make sense of what I have done!

Stephen Dowds
Treasurer
29 April 2018