



THE WHISTLEBLOWER

newsletter of the

CENTRAL COAST RUGBY UNION REFEREES ASSOCIATION

Edition 3, 2021

1 February

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Last week, the executive met via Zoom to ensure that we are getting things underway for a successful start to the 2021 season. Some of the more pertinent points discussed included:

- Retaining our membership fees at the same level as they have been for a number of years now - \$100 for senior members and \$50 for full time students. Details for payment will be sent in the near future.
- Updating our gear stocks for new referees and those requiring new gear. An order will be placed with Paladin this week.
- Our participation in the Lifeline/Rotary SOKS program with members to be trained in suicide awareness and support.
- Sponsorship - both supporting our existing sponsors and seeking additional sponsors.

Thanks go out to both David Hall and Mal Hunt who have both expressed interest in the vacant Assistant Secretary role. Both men have put their hands up to ensure that vital information and records are kept within our Association, and while not an onerous task, is one that is vital to our Association. There is the possibility that we could look at both sharing the role to split the workload.

This year, the CCRU will again be holding their President's Meeting. This will be held on 7 February and is an opportunity for all club and affiliate presidents to get together and discuss each club/affiliates needs and concerns for the year ahead. We have built a strong relationship with clubs and I look forward to sharing our perspectives at that meeting.

Tony Rudd

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REFEREE DEVELOPMENT OFFICER AND REFEREE COACH COORDINATOR

Last Saturday our RDO, Stuart Formston and RCC, Shane Snook met with members of the senior executive to discuss their roles and ideas for their respective positions for the 2021 season and beyond. This was a very fruitful meeting where each of the ideas/concepts discussed hinged around the provision of opportunities for both referees and referee coaches to develop skills and resources to improve their own performances and develop consistency across the Association.

In the initial stages, we hope to be able to hold a meeting of all referee coaches and referee mentors in the very near future to begin these processes.

We thank both Stuart and Shane for what they have already done in putting ideas in place and we look forward to seeing the benefits of their work as the season progresses.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Our Association still has sponsorship opportunities for businesses in 2021 and 2022. We are looking for a Major Sponsor and a Touch Flag sponsor to compliment what we already have through our valued partnerships with Fabric Architecture Studio and Callaway Plumbing.

If any of our members are aware of possible sponsors, please pass details on to any of our executive who will chase any leads that might come forward.

With further sponsorship, we will be better able to provide opportunities for referee education, travel to other zones to enhance refereeing experiences, both on and off field gear and coaching resources.

TRAINING

Training has continued over recent weeks with a very well attended session at Blacksmiths Beach combined with the Newcastle Referees Assn members. Referees were put through a series of beach runs, sand hill sprints, sprint and agility exercises, and various beach games. This was followed by some very good discussion about how our partnership will work in 2021, especially with the likelihood of combined junior competitions for at least some of the season.



Training continued on Saturday 30 January with our members being challenged by an indoor fitness session at Complete Boxing Gym at West Gosford. The gym kindly made their facilities and staff available to us free of charge on a trial basis and by all reports the session was quite brutal, testing both the fitness and stamina of our referees. Some of the comments from referees after the session included:

“That was a bloody hard leg session. I’ve only got short legs so I should have been given a discount on what I had to do.”

“I’m going home to have breakfast before I faint.”

“That should get me out of mowing the lawn for a couple of days.”

Thanks go to Adam McArdle for organising the session and to Complete Boxing Gym owner Joel (a former Gosford player) for running it.

Next week, back to Shelly Beach for our own training. As per requested, an 8:00am start to beat the heat and hopefully to have some more car parks available.

7s CARNIVALS

There is still the opportunity for our referees to join our Newcastle colleagues in refereeing at the Hamilton Sevens on Friday night 12th February and Saturday 13th February. If anybody else would like to go up, please let Tony Rudd know. Referees are paid for officiating at this carnival. It is the weekend before The Lakes, 7s By The Sea carnival held at Slade Park on 20 February. All of our members should be looking forward to this carnival.



REGISTRATION

At this stage, we only have 20 members registered through the Rugby Xplorer app. Last year, we had approximately 55 registered members. If you intend refereeing or taking on the role of a referee coach, please register asap. Remember, DO NOT pay subscriptions via the app.

Our competition kicks off on the 10 April, with many clubs arranging trial games for the coming weeks. Only registered members can be appointed to those games, as well as any 7s tournaments and even attendance at our own training sessions.

Once registered, please check your accreditation and make it a priority to update any aspect of accreditation that has lapsed. e.g. My Level 2 Referee Coach accreditation runs out on 31/12/2020. I will need to register via the Learning Centre to complete the Law exam and then have somebody assess me as a coach by sitting in on a feedback session, assess my written report on the referee etc early in the new season. No member will be appointed to games in 2021 who is not accredited, especially with SmartRugby.

COURSES AND QUALIFICATION UPGRADES

All referees and referee coaches are encouraged to consider upgrading their qualifications for 2021. e.g. upgrade from Level 1 to Level 2 in both refereeing and coaching. At this stage, dates for these courses have not been confirmed. But, keep an eye out on the Learning Centre on the Rugby Portal for these dates.

Even if it has been some time since you did your L2 Referee course (for example), it may be a good idea to do the course again to learn new skills and approaches. Many of our 'experienced' members have already indicated they will be resitting course in full rather than just do the minimal upgrade of Law exam and on-field assessment.