



ACT Rugby Referees Association 2021 Annual Report



ACT Rugby Referees Association

CONTENTS

Patron, Executive, Office Bearers, Life Members	3
2021 Award Winners	4
Vale	5
President's Report	6
Chair Coaching & Grading Report	11
U/19 Coaching & Grading Report	12
ACTRRA Referee Development Officer's Report	13
Brumbies Referee Department Report	15
2021 Statistics	17
Record of Matches Refereed	18
ACTRRA Milestones Honour Board	18
Record of 1 st Grade games refereed	20
Season totals	Separate attachment
Financial Statements	Separate attachment



ACT Rugby Referees Association

PATRON, EXECUTIVE, OFFICE BEARERS, LIFE MEMBERS

Patron	Peter Lawler, OAM
President	Sam Whittle
Vice President	Matt Huggins
Secretary	Mitch Egan
Treasurer	Amy Kilmister
Assistant Secretary	Nathan Mass
Welfare Officer (ex officio)	Matt Huggins

APPOINTMENTS

Chair, Coaching and Grading	Jack Cunningham
Senior appointments coordinator	Jack Cunningham
U/19 appointments coordinator.....	Peter Langford

RUGBY AUSTRALIA / BRUMBIES STAFF

Referee Development Officer, RA	Graham Cooper
Community Rugby Manager	Craig Leseberg
Senior Competition Manager	Matt Vowles
Rugby Services Manager	Caitlin Bokor

LIFE MEMBERS

1972	D. M. Blake	2008	D. Fryer
1976	P.J.Lawler, OAM	2011	I. Schubert
1988	P. M. Richards	2015	P. Janssens
1991	J. R. Smith	2016	M. Keogh
1996	P. J. Scholtens	2017	M. Cleary
1996	P. A. Larsen	2017	B. Bowden
1996	A. J. Casey	2018	J. Cunningham
2006	K. Lees	2020	W. Hedley
2007	B. McCormick		



ACT Rugby Referees Association

2021 AWARD WINNERS

Jim Healy Trophy	James Willemsen
B.A.R. Trophy	Harry Fenton
David Fryer Award	Peter Langford
Peter Lawler Trophy	Matthew Hogan
President's Trophy	Not awarded
Les Ramsay (Patron's) Trophy	Not awarded
Bruce Hawke Memorial Trophy	Not awarded
ACTRRA Executive Trophy	Not awarded
Australian Forestry School Trophy	Not awarded
Life Member's Trophy	Not awarded
HB (Barney) Ravenscroft Trophy	Not awarded
Old Boys Trophy	Not awarded
Monaro Rugby Trophy	Not awarded
William Boyle Trophy	Not Awarded
Refereeing Whistle	Ethan Gumbrell
JS Waters Whistle	James Charlton
Bruce Portway Whistle	Mitch Egan & Karl Hamlyn
Member's Whistle	Jo Brinkely

Members should note that finals trophies were not awarded in 2021 due to the cancellation of all finals matches due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



ACT Rugby Referees Association

VALE

GWEN FRYER

Earlier in 2021 it was saddening to hear of the loss of Gwen, wife of one of our esteemed life members David Fryer.

ACTRRA's sympathies are extended to David and his family at this difficult time.

MICHAEL CORIGGAN

Michael was a long-standing member of referee coach for ACTRRA. He was particularly known as an avid supporter and mentor to his daughter Sarah who as a result of Michael's backing, was an early breaker of glass ceilings in the male dominated refereeing circles. Sarah was the first ACTRRA female member to be appointed to international fixtures.

Michael was known as a proud and diligent family man who was always there for his daughter and represented ACTRRA with the highest of standards. He finished an Army career as a Major paymaster and in retirement continued to give his time as a medic in the SES.



ACT Rugby Referees Association

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2021

I am pleased to report to members of the ACT Rugby Referees Association on the activities of the Executive Committee and events within the Association during the 2021 rugby season, a season that after 2020, almost approached normality.

Following the bizarre 2020 season, with its pandemic disruptors, rugby in Canberra and the surrounding regions looked forward to returning to business as usual in 2021, and, we almost got there. Rugby had learned many management strategies for the COVID pandemic during 2020 but nothing could prepare us for the dramatic impact of the Delta variant that resulted in ACT and NSW lockdowns and the premature close to our 2021 season, and, the absence of finals for the first time in living memory.

Our season opener, the Will Boyle Run was planned for early February but had to be changed at late notice because of a clash with the Brumbies / Force trial and thus participation 2 days later was understandably low. However, it was pleasing to see a good turn-out at our pre-season seminar held at The RUC on 14 March, featuring Amy Perrett from Rugby Australia. To help foster a greater sense of common purpose between match officials and team coaches, invitations were extended to senior club coaches to join us for the Game Management Guidelines part of the seminar. Feedback from the small number of coaches that attended was positive. We were also able to publicly acknowledge our 2020 award winners and presented framed jerseys to several of our sponsors.

After much searching, we were fortunate to secure the services of Jack Walker to run our training sessions at Brumbies HQ and it was pleasing to see good levels of early support for this activity. Jack continued these sessions throughout the season and members attending were grateful for his expertise and guidance and improvements in their individual fitness.

ACTRRA Referee Development Officer

During early planning for the 2021 season, Executive and CAGC decided to create a new position of a local Referee Development Officer, (RDO). In previous times, an ACTRU/Brumbies employed individual undertook this role, however with incremental changes over the last few years, Executive and Coaching and Grading leadership perceived the need for an internal means of assisting individual referees to manage their career, development, and aspirations with a very local focus. It was also felt that greater coordination of junior referees might result leading to better retention rates.

Executive appointed Denis Hughes as our Referee Development Officer from the beginning of the 2021 season. His role was to augment the roles and responsibilities of our Rugby Australia National Community Match Official Manager, Graham Cooper, and to coordinate with other elements of Brumbies Community Rugby and our Coaching and Grading Committee. Denis' role was planned to advocate, augment, and streamline processes between individual referees and CAG, Brumbies and RA. One of his major achievements was conducting multiple Referee Ready courses in Canberra and NSW detailed elsewhere in this annual report.

The new RDO position was created as a 'work-in-progress' and the duty statement published stated:

"The ACTRRA Executive recognises the need to enhance the enjoyment and performance of referees through their participation in the game of rugby. The ACTRRA endeavours to achieve this aim through the role of the ACTRRA Referee Development Officer.

The ACTRRA RDO assists in the development of ACT rugby referees through enhancing interpersonal communications with referees and assisting to generate greater understanding of the roles and function of the referee.

In addition to the above roles, the ACTRRA RDO will:

- *assist in coordinating the training and development needs of ACTRRA referees and referee coaches;*
 - *to ensure that referees and referee coaches are appropriately qualified for the level of the game at which they participate; and*
 - *are up to date with latest game management guidelines; and*
- *provide enrichment and development opportunities for members of the ACTRRA."*



ACT Rugby Referees Association

Military Round 2021

A 2021 initiative was an ACTRRA organised local extension of the Super Rugby Military Round on 24 April in conjunction with Anzac Day. Acknowledging a significant number of military members within ACTRAA and the Canberra rugby community, this event was a suitable avenue to support the local charity, SoldierOn who provide direct care to serving and veteran members of the Australian Defence Forces who have had, or are suffering from, the effects of post-traumatic stress and the needless waste that is reflected in the alarming number of suicides. In a small way, ACTRRA and Canberra Rugby was able to thank and support these individuals and their families. With the enthusiastic support of Brumbies Community Rugby and the generosity of The RUC at Turner and O'Neills Sportswear, referees for all senior matches that day were supplied with a stylised camouflage pattern jersey. At both Queanbeyan and Nicholls, Australian Defence Force buglers played the Last Post in what was widely regarded as a most fitting rugby commemoration of Anzac. Planning is underway to hold a similar event in 2022 with jerseys to be made available for all members officiating around Anzac Day 2022 in both senior and junior competitions.

Coaching and Grading.

I am extremely grateful to Jack Cunningham, (seniors) and Peter Langford (juniors) who agreed to take on their respective co-ordinator roles for 2021. The astounding volume of voluntary effort to arrange appointments on a weekly basis is often overlooked or trivialised by members and Jack's and Peter's contributions must be strongly recognised. With deep regret I accepted Peter's resignation part way through the season, however we were fortunate to secure the services of Shane Hughes, an ex-senior referee, who assumed the junior role before he was forced to resign for medical reasons. At that time, urgent negotiations between ACTRRA and Brumbies Community Rugby secured the services of Caitlin Bokor to administer junior appointments until the end of the season.

Exchange Programmes.

Given border closures, all referee exchanges were again cancelled for 2021. Preliminary discussions and planning have started for exchanges closer to home in 2022 with feelers put out to neighbouring referee associations. With the inclusion of the Penrith Emus into the senior men's and women's competitions next year there will most likely be opportunities for officiating beyond the Canberra region. No further details are available.

2021 Awards and presentations.

The ACT lockdown of August – October 2021 prevented us from holding our Annual Presentation function. For the second year running, we were denied our opportunity to meet and reflect on the season just finished and to honour our award winners. Uncertainties in the opening of society post-lockdown prevented an alternative event before the end of this year. Your executive had made the decision to hold a lunch rather than a dinner in the hope of generating more attendance from our junior members. This alternate concept could be followed next year.

As in 2021, it is planned to present awards in-person at our 2022 pre-season seminar. Congratulations to our 2021 award winners:

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| • The Peter Lawlor Trophy: Best referee voted by clubs | Matt Hogan |
| • The BAR Trophy: Most improved voted by coaches | Harry Fenton |
| • The David Fryer Award: Best coach voted by members | Peter Langford |
| • The Jim Healy Memorial Trophy: Best 'club member' voted by members | James Willemsen |
| • The Bruce Portway Whistle: Dux of level 2 assessment | Karl Hamlyn & Mitch Egan |
| • The Members' Whistle: Dux of Level 1 assessment | Jo Brinkley |
| • The Refereeing Whistle: Most improved junior competition referee | Ethan Gumbrell |
| • The JS Waters Whistle: Most deserving junior referee | James Charlton |



ACT Rugby Referees Association

Sponsorship.

ACTRRA is fortunate to have a very generous group of sponsors. I extend special thanks to Canberra Consulting, Aulich Law, Waitt Services, and The RUC at Turner for their support during the 2021 season. The disappointing cancellation of our annual Presentation function precluded our usual form of public thanks to our sponsors. Now that the ACT Government is easing post-lockdown restrictions, we will look to thank our sponsors in an appropriate manner, however with the timing of eased restrictions, this will necessarily fall to the incoming executive to arrange.

Of particular note is the additional support provided by Jason Pepper of Canberra Consulting for funding one of our new communications sets in addition to his generous multi-season sponsorship. This new equipment has lifted the standard of match-day on-field communications and in anticipation of the finals series and further sponsorship, ACTRRA Executive decided to purchase a further 2 sets to replace the ageing and less capable systems that have been in use for some years. The old sets however are to be re-deployed to higher level ACTJRU games, such as U/18 Black division, to facilitate building experience in our junior ranks for effective teams-of-three and to support enhanced coaching abilities.

The incoming 2022 executive will be tasked to negotiate sponsorships from 2023. Negotiations are already underway with 3 such organisations that promise to be mutually beneficial to ACTRRA and those businesses into the near future. One key element is that sponsors and ACTRRA derive mutual benefit and value-add from our collaboration. A major element of waste has been the purchase of excessive uniforms in the past and the Executive is exploring options to reduce this resource and financial waste in keeping with modern expectations.

Match Official Payments

My sincere thanks to Mike Dowsett who was the lone volunteer to help finalise the MOPP structure as agreed at the last AGM. To date we have in-principal agreement from the senior competition, ACTRU, but not yet from ACTJRU. Until these 2 elements are agreed it is counter-productive to release details prematurely. The addition of Penrith into the Senior Competition at late notice has complicated matters however, active negotiations are occurring to secure a valid MOPP agreement that is consistent at a national level. In this way for example, match payments for John I Dent would mirror those for similar Super Rugby feeder competitions such as Schute Shield [NSW] and Hospital Cup [Qld].

Brumbies Rugby.

It is important to acknowledge the significant support offered by the Community Rugby department at Brumbies. Craig Leseburg, Matt Vowles and Caitlin Bokor have all shown tremendous support to ACTRRA, often filling administrative voids. Thanks must go to Caitlin Bokor for her assistance running Referee Ready courses with our RDO and for stepping up to manage junior appointments at season's end. It was thrilling to hear of the arrival of Caitlin's son, Archer; our congratulations are extended to Caitlin and her husband Peter.

I would like to thank Matt Vowles for his time, effort, and support in acting as a vital communication conduit between ACTRRA and various clubs throughout the season, but importantly for his role in dealing with often emotive judicial matters. As your President, I see my role as advocating on behalf of members who submit reports and / or feel they have been wronged. This is a very time-consuming process, mostly with long phone discussions on a Monday morning during business hours. Further, members should be aware that when we as referees submit a red card or abuse report, it is subject to the processes of both common law and natural justice; indeed, for this reason senior professional lawyers are part of each judicial committee.

Brumbies Rugby have not been immune from the extreme financial hurt at all levels of the game in Australia, however the continued physical and administrative support from the Community Rugby team is greatly appreciated. Special thanks to Craig Leseberg who on numerous occasions has been working in support of ACTRRA behind the scenes.

Finally, I would also like to thank Peter Johnson, Brumbies Chairman for his candour, counsel, and advice during the season and to other members of the Brumbies Board of Directors for their support of ACTRRA's activities.



ACT Rugby Referees Association

Accolades.

Notable achievements by members this year include:

- Ben Reedy: debut 1st grade Referee
- Mitch Egan: debut 1st grade Referee
- Petrus Van Aswegan: Super W Referee/Assistant Referee
- Amy Kilmister: Super W Assistant Referee
- Harry Fenton: Rugby Australia U18's
- Brodie Ingram: Brumbies Runners/Rugby Australia U18's
- Hamish Innes: 2021 School Student Scholarship
- James Charlton: 2021 School Student Scholarship.

Abuse and Referee Welfare.

Thanks go to Matt Huggins for his role as welfare officer for the Association. He has often been the voice of support at the other end of the phone when members have suffered forms of abuse that sadly are still a feature of our game.

Unfortunately, there are too many examples of abuse remaining un-reported. As I wrote last year, any undesirable behaviour that is ignored or that goes unreported sets the standard and becomes the accepted norm. Any form of Match Official abuse is unacceptable and by not reporting an instance, members are encouraging repeat behaviour that could affect another member. Please, if you suffer any level of abuse - REPORT IT. If you ignore it then you accept it.

Too often abuse is facilitated by biased thinking on the part of coaches, players and supporter. As I wrote in August:

In sport, penalties are awarded for an offence against the Laws of the game. This reflects player skill, their ability to be coached, playing as a team, and team coaching per se. It is difficult to comprehend how a referee might award penalties in a game by applying different standards to each of the opposing teams. The term "Penalty Count" is best left to the ignorant commentators of another game.

The Coaching and Grading Committee of ACTRRA are most diligent in appointing referees at all levels of ACT Rugby in keeping with the known and assessed capabilities of our referee cohort. It is becoming tiresome that coaches, players, and supporters naively consider the referee as the primary reason why one team wins, and the other team loses a match. Winning in sport, and indeed avoiding penalties, probably occurs most predictably from internal effort rather than 3rd party blame.

Executive Committee.

On behalf of all members, I would like to thank your Executive team of 2021.

This year we introduced a series of newsletters to keep the membership up to date with issue often discussed at a previous Executive meeting. It is always difficult to strike a balance in the level of communication, however our overriding principle was to avoid over-burdening members' inbox and thus avoiding 'white noise'.

Early in February, the Executive and our senior and junior coaching and grading chairs spent a productive day workshopping several issues we felt deserved out attention. We spent considerable time discussing the implementation of our RDO, by any measure a success story for 2021 and beyond. Initiatives such as this and the introduction of a dedicated welfare officer are seen as ground-breaking initiatives compared to other associations around Australia. This workshop process was particularly useful as it allowed us to share our individual knowledge base, so often lost in the transition from one executive to another. The concept of succession planning for future executives should be strongly considered.

Thank you to Matt Huggins, Vice President and Welfare Officer for your perspective and for hard work. Matt was instrumental in organising our new communications sets. Thanks to Mitch Egan who has rapidly learnt the ropes as secretary and for calmly fielding an array of communications. Thanks to Amy Kilmister who juggled her treasurer role between a full-time job, university studies and extended family duties. Thanks to Nathen Mass whose readiness to travel up from the coast to Canberra to manage our kit. Nathan also organised our ACTRAA pop-up shelter that will feature as a referee focal point at pre-season carnivals and other events throughout the season.



ACT Rugby Referees Association

Thanks to Jack Cunningham, Peter Langford, and our cohort of referee coaches. Your efforts this year, as always, have been greatly appreciated. We look forward to a reinvigorated coaching group in season 2022 with further initiatives from Rugby Australia and our own coaching panel. Particular thanks to our RDO, Denis Hughes, whose efforts, in between his paid work, have been monumental.

It is easily forgotten that all the people mentioned above volunteer their free time on your behalf. We the membership should not overlook extending our gratitude for their generosity.

Graham Cooper, our Rugby Australia Referee Coordinator is greatly appreciated for all his support provided to members at all levels of ACTRRA.

I am also greatly appreciative for the wise council from Peter Lawler OAM, our Patron. Thankyou.

In closing I would like to thank all members for the support you have given me during this almost normal season. With COVID vaccinations in Canberra at a world leading level, we hope that season 2022 will allow full rounds of games, a finals series, the opportunity to meet face-to-face for education, training and even a bit of socialising.

To all members and their loved ones, I offer my best wishes for a relaxing and enjoyable Christmas holiday period and for a prosperous and safe 2022.

Sam Whittle
President
November 2021



ACT Rugby Referees Association

CHAIR of COACHING, GRADING and APPOINTMENTS' REPORT

To be made available for the AGM.



ACT Rugby Referees Association

U/19 COACHING and GRADING COORDINATOR'S REPORT

A season that started with a flourish and ended with a whimper due to COVID 19.

Our opening seminar at the RUC was well supported with a number of new faces and many referees returning yet again to carry the whistle for one more season. After a brief introduction, Amy Perret took us through the Game Management Plan, the appointment of a Referee Development Officer (Denis Hughes) was announced, some outstanding presentations from 2020 were made and the Coaching and Grading Committee members outlined their plans for 2021. The season got off to a good start with many referees putting up their hands to officiate at the Vikings preseason tournament. Approximately ninety-six games from U7 - U18 on one day at Gowrie. This encouraged several young and not so young people to enrol in referee courses and don the referee kit and have a go. Caitlin and Denis both did a sterling job conducting several courses both in Canberra and the local region. Unfortunately, it was difficult to get many of these onto the paddock as many also played. Next season we hope to utilise these referees in the U7-U9 games to give them experience and built their confidence and move those referees who officiated at the U10-U12 age groups up. Despite our efforts, fielding referees in the U15 and U16 games proved difficult. In order to address this, we continued with our practice from 2020 season to advise clubs as soon as practical if they would have a referee or not for the weekend. This meant that we needed everyone, as much as possible, to remain fit and healthy for the whole season. This also meant that some would be called upon to referee multiple games. To all those who did multiple games each week, the clubs and the association owes you a big vote of thanks. This continues to be a work in progress, and we have explored such things as; approaching retired players, parents of players and talking to the clubs.

This year saw the continuing use of zoom to conduct development meetings facilitated by Graham Cooper and led by Brodie Ingram and the senior referees. While these tended to have a senior focus, it was pleasing to see as the season progressed the junior referees' issues were also been addressed.

The girl's competition, with teams in the 14, 16 and 18 age groups continued to flourish. However, despite our best efforts we were not able to cover all their games this season. This should be remedied and not allowed to continue.

It was also good to see the continued growth in player numbers and skill level in our regional areas specifically, Batemans Bay, Broulee, Jindabyne, Yass and Goulburn. This season we have seen a number of referees from these areas coming forward to referee for the association on a regular basis. We still need to develop pods of referees in these regional areas to cover their home games.

Thanks, must go to John Cunningham who managed to find referees to cover the 18 Division 1 games from the senior ranks.

Thanks to all those who assisted me with the week-to-week appointments, ensuring we put the right people on the right games and that the gradings were right. In particular I would like to mention Shane Hughes and Caitlin Bokor who stepped into the role when I needed to step down and the Junior Coaches who ventured out each week to assist all referees, young and old.

In closing we need to ensure that Referee numbers across the various age ranges increase. A lot of work has been done this season to grow our numbers and this must continue if we intend to improve both our refereeing and the game itself. This can only be done by all parties supporting and developing our junior referee in all areas of the game.

Thanks again to everyone for your patience and support during my time in the position.

Peter Langford
U/19 Coaching and Grading Coordinator.



ACT Rugby Referees Association

ACTRRA REFEREE DEVELOPMENT OFFICER'S REPORT

The role of ACTRRA RDO has seen some highs and lows this year, with lots of early take up of courses and then... nothing, due to COVID-19 shutdown.

While I hope I've been helpful in progressing learning of new referees, what I've learned this year has demonstrated to me just how vital the roles of Chairs of the Coaching and Grading Committees and the Snr/Jnr appointers are to the role of the RDO. To be an effective RDO, whoever holds the position must be able to coordinate with those other positions in order to get new referees onto the paddock and seen by coaches. The new referee needs to be given the right level of game for their age and rugby experience, and then they need to be given the right level of coaching to keep them engaged and their skills advancing. I'd therefore like to offer my deep appreciation to Jack Cunningham, Peter Langford, and Caitlin Bokor for the tremendous work they did for the Association during 2021.

The ACTRRA Executive has also worked very hard to support each and every member of the Association. From my perspective - having been on previous ACTRRA Executives - this current team has shown repeatedly that they have the best interests of all members at heart and have dealt with a myriad of extraneous 'stuff' on behalf of us all that otherwise gets in the way of us enjoying our sport. I offer them my support and thanks.

I'd also like to acknowledge our sponsors, without which we would find it very difficult for coaching team to do our job, game after game after game. The often-maligned comms gear has been updated and is a great asset, as is the ability to access HUDL for games review.

Thanks to the Brumbies for making us a valued part of the rugby community - I had the privilege of working very closely throughout the year with Mat Vowles and Craig Leseberg. Rest assured they have a good understanding of, and commitment to furthering the role of match officials in the Brumbies area of responsibility. They have a deep interest in furthering the game of Rugby and deserve all our support. Together we will grow.

Thanks to the schools and clubs for letting me hold training courses, and thanks to RA for the support provided by Graham Cooper - Coops has a vast area of responsibilities and is always ready to assist. The courses he helped provide on our behalf this year were timely and well directed.

Helpful hints for next year - ACTRRA will continue to struggle to attract, train and retain referees while match officials continue to receive abuse from players/coaches and spectators. From my perspective, talking with clubs after a match official has been abused, doing so in private, does little to correct poor behaviour, and referees suffer as a consequence. I have a simple suggestion for a fix - if any club/school allows abuse of match officials to occur, ACTRRA should not provide them with match officials for the next week - whether it be home or away games. Leave it to the clubs/schools to explain to their opponents why there are no officials. The message will get across pretty quickly. The reality is, we have a total of approximately 110 members in our Association, and more than 150 games to officiate - and climbing - per week. No referee misses out, in fact, the Association will cover more games than we would normally.

The JRU needs to exert discipline over matches and competition rules. For decades now the JRU has been imposing imaginary rules on the junior competition regarding uncontested scrums etc. These imposed rules are not in keeping with the U/19 Laws of the Game. They are not safe, in my assessment. They add confusion on behalf of the newest referees who typically end up refereeing junior games - it makes it harder to learn the job of referee. Simple solution - ACTRRA referees apply U/19 laws - if the competition is concerned about teams not providing front rows, then that is a competition manager issue, not a point of law. Ask yourself how often we are asked during a senior game if the No 8 moves can be made when there are uncontested scrums - where do you think that learned bad law knowledge comes from...



ACT Rugby Referees Association

Constantly changing games/teams, times, venues of junior games, often at the last moment, causes unnecessary strain on referees/appointments and must be stamped out. This behaviour has also been going on for years, with Referees and their families suffering the consequences. Referees have voted with their feet as a consequence, and there has been no support from the JRU (that is visible to me anyway). This behaviour is also incredibly frustrating to the appointers, who as volunteers, are incredibly overworked as a result of the constant changes - and then they cop the abuse of referees who, rightly, complain that there was no game for them etc. I appreciate that the JRU has its struggles as well, but consideration needs to be given to the causes of why we lose referees. There is a fix - pretty simple too - plan as many games as possible on adjoining fields - 'gala days' if you like - so that ACTRRA can have the flexibility to ensure that there are officials available for games in the event of teams etc having to change - if the games are at one location, it's pretty easy for ACTRRA to adjust appointments without anyone missing out. The added bonus is that referee advancement can be better planned and progressed.

We need to plan and implement now for next season. We need to find ways to keep referees fit and engaged with the sport. We need to start the competition ready, not gradually build as the season progresses. We need to find ways to progress referee qualifications - trials matches can be used to 'sign-off' on qualifications if properly structured. This means that the Association must be involved with Community Rugby planning so that we can work together with the clubs/schools to get us all up to speed with the needs of all of us being addressed - leaving referees to 'magically' acquire skills/accreditation/experience outside of competition otherwise can't happen.

Lastly, the Association is desperately short of referee coaches and the ability to progress new referees is intrinsically linked to the availability of coaches - we need to call on all senior referees to support juniors/new referees. I know that that means that you are being asked to give up more of your precious time, but if I've learned anything this year, it's how rewarding it is to help others learn - it's been a great privilege.

Cheerio,

Denis Hughes
ACTRRA Referee Development Officer



ACT Rugby Referees Association

BRUMBIES RUGBY - REFEREE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Introduction

The 2021 season was an exciting prospect with competitions all resuming as normal. There were concerns over referee numbers again in 2020 which has carried over into the 2021 season, however, a number of new and returning referees helped to alleviate concerns at the start of the season. Only one change occurred to the 2021 committee with Mitch Egan being appointed as the secretary for ACTRRA.

President – Sam Whittle
Vice President – Matt Huggins
Secretary – Mitch Egan
Assistant Secretary – Nathan Mass
Treasurer – Amy Kilmister
Welfare – Matthew Huggins

After the challenging 2020, 2021 was a season of promise and hope that not only the community but the world would soon be back to normality. ACTRRA appointed another new role being the Referee Development Officer which was taken on by Denis Hughes. As well as this, Shane Barr handed his role over to Graham Cooper as the National Community Match Official Manager.

Referee Kids Rugby programs had over 12 clubs and schools committed to running the program before the commencement of the ACTJRU Season. Super Rugby was also underway with involvement from ACT Rugby Referees and pre-season training was commencing on Tuesdays and Thursdays for all referees in preparation for the John I Dent Cup and ACT Junior seasons.

Another new addition in 2021 was the implementation of the Referee Appointment system into Rugby Xplorer. Learning new things is always a challenge but through feedback from all unions and associations across Australia, the system has been slowly improving.

Unfortunately, COVID 19 disrupted the end of the community rugby season with the season being suspended and subsequently cancelled just prior to the commencement of the final's series.

Recruitment, Retention and Education

In 2021, ACTRRA had a total of 135 members registered to Rugby Xplorer compared to 131 registered in 2020 (3% increase).

The new Referee Ready Course was established by Rugby Australia and was aimed to be run online by Rugby Australia. 44 participants across the year were from the ACT region with 14 registering to the association. In conjunction with this, ACTRRA ran another six face-to-face junior courses that reached over 80 participants. Development nights were also run throughout the year with Rugby Australia for referee development. 80% of referees were retained from 2020 and the number of female referees grew to which is a great achievement.

Conclusion

The 2021 season saw some normality return but unfortunately was once again affected by COVID-19 with the season coming to an end just short of the final's series. It was good to see new and returning senior referees as well as many referees having the opportunity to referee at a higher level. A number of challenges were faced with the resignation of two junior appointments officers and the implementation of a new referee appointment system as well as the continuing issue of low referee numbers and a growing competition.



ACT Rugby Referees Association

Brumbies Rugby would like to congratulate the following ACTRRA members who were selected by Rugby Australia to perform at a representative level.

Petrus Van Aswegan – Super W Referee/Assistant Referee

Harry Fenton – Rugby Australia U18s

Brodie Ingram – Brumbies Runners/Rugby Australia U18s

Hamish Innes – School Student Scholarship 2021

James Charlton – School Student Scholarship 2021

Matt Vowles

Competitions & Rugby Services Manager



ACT Rugby Referees Association

2020 ACTRRA STATISTICS

<u>2020 New or Returning referees</u>				
Geoffrey Rodgers	Karl Hamlyn	Shaun Rigby	Steve Koh	Joseph Lui
Steve Partridge	Anthony Kirk	Hannah Blackwell	Hunter Howard	Jim Phillips
Jo Brinkley	Jordan Brooker	Nhat Tran	Mark Hastie	Shane Mass
Tim Hely	Tom Carson	Angus Pearce	Poppy Ritchards	

<u>2021 Accolades</u>			
<i>*Debut</i>			
Super Rugby		Super W	
Brodie Ingram	4/5	Petrus Van Aswegen	Referee / AR
Harry Fenton	4/5	Amy Kilmister*	AR
Dennis Beissner	4/5	Sam Whittle*	4/5
		David Murphy*	4/5

<u>ACTRRA Grand Final Appointments - Seniors</u>
No finals were held during the 2021 season due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

<u>ACTRRA Grand Final Appointments - Juniors</u>
No finals were held during the 2021 season due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



ACT Rugby Referees Association

RECORD OF MATCHES REFEREED

During 1991 it was agreed that referees should be given recognition for the total number of matches refereed. It was decided that this would be provided for members who reached milestones of 100, 200, 300 (etc.) games refereed in the ACTRU competitions (including juniors, midweek, school and other association appointed matches).

The association's manual reports back to 1954 were used as the basis for the number of games referred. Prior to 1954 details of games refereed cannot be located. The following is a listing of members who have reached milestones.

Current active members of the association are marked*.

Members reached milestones this year:

50 Games

Rhianna Burke	Kevin Cullen
Ethan Gumbrell	Harry Fenton
	Stuart Morrison
	Rohan Murphy

100 games

Trevor Hancock	Nathan Mass
	Glenn Zucchetto

150 Games

Christopher Cousins	Mitchell Tummers
---------------------	------------------

ACTRRA MILESTONES HONOUR BOARD

100 Games

Baker, John	Foster, Louis	Long, Nicholas	Piazza, Glen
Beck, Damien	Gane, Ron	Lonie, Michael	Quoyale, Chris
Beissner, Mitchell	Gentleman, Neville	Lulham, Brian	Reedy, Ben*
Billett, Graeme	Giffard, Peter	Lyons, Ray	Ridley, Andrew
Birss, John	Gilks, David*	Margules, Ray	Rush, Michael
Boorman, Clive	Gorrell, Bryce*	Martin, John	Ryan, John
Boyes, Robert*	Gregory, Bill	Mass, Nathan*	Saphin, Greg*
Boyle, William	Gwynn-Jones, Brian	McCarthy, John	Scholes, Gary
Burnell, Chad	Hancock, Trevor*	McGee, Dominic	Sek, Michael
Burton, Michael	Hawkins, Brian	McGurk, Gordon	Shelley, Andrew
Buseski, Chris	Healey, Jim	Meszes, Jim	Snell, Scott
Caldwell, Keith	Hefren, John	Mills, Chris	Snow, Mark
Capon, Geoff	Henshaw, Reece	Moriarty, Len	Spencer, Col
Carlyon, Justin	Hogarth, Bob	Mould, Alastair	Stone, Jeffrey*



ACT Rugby Referees Association

Carnahan, Michael	Howard, Warwick	Mrdak, Michael	Symonds, John
Carroll, Simon	Howden, Bruce	Murphy, Charles	Tanzer, Michael

Carruthers, Ian	Hughes, Owen	Murray-Jones, Alan	Temby, Warwick
Cassidy, Fred	Hurwitz, Steven	Nelson, Anne	Thompson, Greg
Coonan, John	Hogan, Matthew*	Nelson, Benjamin	Todhunter, Paul
Corboy, Alan	Ireland, Rosh	Nixon, Peter	Toirkens, Michael
Cousin, Christopher*	Jamieson, Michael	Norris, Max	Tonge, Alan
Cousin, Jac	Geoff Palmer*	Nutt, Doug	Tummers, Mitchell*
Cremer, Ron	Jones, Jennifer	O'Connell, Barry	Vallance, Gus
Crossman, Scott	Keane, Owen	O'Connor, Peter	Vest, Wally
Daly, Grant	Kedge, Jerry	Ohlmus, Fritz	Vincent, Rod
Daniels, James	King, Liam	Onus, Adam	Waddington, James*
Darby, John	King, William	O'Reilly, M	Walker, Ross
Davidson, Geoff	Knight, Ray	O'Shea, Tony	Whyte, Joseph*
Dey, Ian	Leach, Tony	Owner, Tim	Whyte, Robert
Dunsmore, John	Lee, Mal	Papas, Steve	Wickham, Glen
Dunstone, Chris	Lee, Trenton	Patterson, Patrick	Willemsen, James*
Dunstone, John	Leggoe, Ken	Payne, Eddie	Williams, Geoff
Fleming, Graeme	Lehmann, Peter	Pearce, Bob	Wood, Ken
Forsyth, Peter	Littleton, Jim	Peak, Steve	Zucchetto, Glenn*
French, Peter	Littlewood, Viv	Perkins, Hayden	
Foster, Bob	Logan, Gary	Petersen, Robin	

200 Games

Agnew, Michael	Edelman, Andrew	Kearns, Nathan	Peck, Mal
Bayliss, Chris	Gibson, Alan	Kirkland, John	Quinn, Joe
Beissner, Dennis*	Glasgow, Ian	Kitchen, John	Richards, Peter
Buckley, Brian	Gorham, Robert	Louttit, John	Rumble, Stephen
Burns, John	Hamlyn, Karl	Matthew, Graeme	Smith, Louise
Cheetham, Carl	Hanley, Michael	McGurk, Gordon	Sylvian, Stephen
Cook, Brian	Hibberson, Gary	McLachlan, Damien*	Thomas, Greg
Corin, Greg*	Hillsdon, Dick	McLennan, Bill	Thomas, Rodd
Cunningham, Jack	Hosking, Peter	Morris, James	Vest, Bert
Dale, Brad	Hughes, Shane	Nelson, Adam	Wallace, Robert
Davidson, Robert	Ingram, Brodie*	Nelson, Robert	Ward, Brian
Dodds, Cliff	Izod, Scott	Nishantha, Rohan*	Whitfield, Ray
Donoghoe, Phil	James, Don	Norman, Barry	Whittle, Samuel*
Dowsett, Mike	Johnson, Geoff	O'Keefe, Michael	Wilkinson, Kevin
Duffy, Tony (AD)	Jones, Doug	Overy, Stuart	Woodfield, John



ACT Rugby Referees Association

Duffy, Tony (AJ)	Jones, Irene*	Paloni, Robert	
------------------	---------------	----------------	--

300 Games

Bowden, Brett	Davis, Neal	Jones, Brett	McGrath, Damien*
Casey, Allan	Fryer, David	Keogh, Michael	McPhillips, Peter
Corrigan, Sarah – OAM	Gilmore, Len	Kimber, David	Nichols, Bede
Cowie, Rob	Hall, Michael	Lawler, Brian	Pook, Eddie
Daniels, Tony	Heaney, Brian	Madden, Shane	Poole, Bill

400 Games

Blake, Doug	Curtis, Leigh	Hedley, Wilf*	Langford, Peter*
Buttsworth, Ian	Girdlestone, John	Hurley, Brian	Sheville, Bernie
Conway, Peter	Hancock, Ted	Jones, Paul	vanGelder, Malcolm

500 Games

Cleary, Michael	Lawler, Peter – OAM*	Scholtens, Paul*
Humphrey, Elton	Lees, Kim	Janssens, Peter*

600 Games

Larsen, Paul	Smith, Jim
--------------	------------

RECORD OF FIRST GRADE MATCHES REFEREED

The following is a list of Association members who have refereed first grade matches in the ACTJRU competition from 1953 to 2020. The list is based on Association Annual Reports. Prior to 1953, details of first grade matches refereed are not available. Current active first grade referees are marked*. Referees on exchange to the QRU and NSW club competition (1st Grade) have their matches accredited to their first-grade total.

Name	Total	Name	Total	Name	Total
Agnew, Michael	16	Duffy, Tony (A J)	108	Lonie, Michael	46
Shane Barr	2	Dunstone, John	23	Louttit, John	71
Battle, Michael	1	Hagan, James*	42	MacPherson, Jim	3
Blake, Doug	202	Hall, Michael	102	Mitchelmore, Damien	7
Beissner, Dennis*	23	Hamilton, Caleb	1	Morris, James	69
Bowden, Brett	200	Hamlyn, Karl	62	Mould, Alastair	5
Bower, Doug	2	Hancock, Ted	190	Nelson, Benjamin	5



ACT Rugby Referees Association

Boyle, William	11	Heaney, Brian	95	Nelson, John	12
Buckley, Brian	65	Henshaw, Reece	22	Nishantha, Rohan*	2
Burnell, Chad	3	Hibberson, Gary	40	Nutt, Doug	3
Caldwell, Keith	3	Hodda, Darryl	2	O'Connell, Barry	2
Cardiff, Simon	33	Hogan, Matthew*	71	Paloni, Robert	43
Casey, Allan	10	Hogarth, Bob	33	Patterson, Don	3
Cassidy, Fred	100	Howse, Gavin	3	Paul, Chris	1
Cheetham, Carl	21	Hughes, Shane	8	Payne, Eddie	6
Christophersen, Sam	9	Humphrey, Elton	17	Pettit, Geoff	27
Cleary, Michael	133	Hurley, Brian	17	Piazza, Glen	10
Collins, Tony	2	Ingram, Brodie*	48	Portway, Bruce	1
Conway, Peter	12	Izod, Scott	34	Pritchard, Julian	15
Cook, Brian	114	Janssens, Peter	101	Quinn, Joe	1
Coonan, John	20	Johnson, John	2	Reedy, Ben*	2
Corin, Greg*	4	Jones, Doug	10	Rahilly, Ben	8
Corrigan, Sarah	57	Jordan, Bill	1	Richards, Peter	60
Cowie, Rob	25	Kearns, Nathan	62	Scholes, Gary	1
Cremer, Ron	61	Reuben Keane	7	Scholtens, James	5
Crowley, Joe	12	Keogh, Michael	144	Scholtens, Paul	56
Crozier, Andrew	31	King, Liam	3	Sheville, Bernie	117
Curtis, Leigh	38	Larsen, Paul	50	Shorney, Brian	24
Dale, Brad	15	Lawler, Brian	63	Siggee, Norm	3
Davis, Neal	13	Lawler, Peter, OAM	254	Smith, James	132
Davis, Patrick	1	Lees, Kim	205	Snow, Mark	9
Dodds, Cliff	50	Fenton, Harry*	7	Stevens, Ian	2
Taylor, Blair	29	Lehmann, Peter	12	Tanzer, Michael	14
Thomas, Greg	6	Long, Nicholas	33	Middleton, John	1
Tierney, Arthur	7	Gwynn-Jones, Brian	14	Toirkens, Michael	45
Egan, Mitch*	2	Maher, Owen	10	Toohey, Brian	3
Edelman, Andrew	14	Margules, Ray	1	Turner, Bob	18
Edwards, Graham	3	Martin, John	15	Vest, Bert	67
Evatt, Frank	6	Matthew, Graeme	12	Vest, Wally	2
Foster, Bob	25	McCarthy, Dominic	7	Wallace, Bob	26
Fry, Eric	21	McCarthy, John	43	Williams, Don	24
Gibson, Alan	1	McFarlane, Jim	22	Wills, Timothy	2
Gilmore, Ian	6	McLennan, Bill	30	Woodfield, John	38
Girdlestone, John	116	McPhillips, Peter	166	Wright, Graham	8