

Goodliffe appointment is boost for North RU Refereeing

Robin Goodliffe, one of the most experienced Northern officials ever to graduate from a successful playing career into top-class refereeing, has been given a full-time role in the North by the Rugby Football Union. His new brief is to help to promote and develop the work of non-Society referees, that crucial band of volunteers who each week turn out to supplement the work of the Referees' Societies by handling thousands of adult and youth level games that societies do not have the numbers to cover.



Robin Goodliffe - RefDO - North

The former Sheffield and Yorkshire county player joins the RFU Referee Department as the Referee Development Officer for the North and will work alongside Paul Renton, who is already engaged in referee development work in the North. Goodliffe's brief will embrace the support, training and development of non-Society referees; the identification and registration of non-Society referees; and the management of the delivery of the Entry Level Referee Award. This Award has recently been introduced to help give volunteers who are at the fledgling stage of their refereeing careers a much broader base of knowledge and skill to enable them to develop more quickly and provide a quality service to the players and the game at grass-roots level. Across the Rugby Union game there are hundreds of volunteers who each week don their kit and handle matches below club first-team level, but who do not have either the inclination or the time to become involved on a more regular basis.

As one of the more personable officials to have graced the International and Premiership stage, Goodliffe has never lost the common touch and has years of experience and know-how to bring to this important sector of the refereeing community. A retired police officer, he started refereeing in 1990 and joined the RFU panel in 1995. As a player he represented Sheffield RUFC and British Police 326 times. His refereeing experience includes World Seven's Series in Madrid, Kuala Lumpur, Twickenham, Shanghai, Hong Kong and Dubai. He has also handled international games Scotland A v Holland A and Italy A v Scotland A and has now been on the Elite Touch Judging panel for two years, officiating regularly in the Premiership and Europe.

Said Richard Glynne-Jones, Referee Manager, "We are delighted to welcome Robin to the Referee Development team. His experience of top flight Officiating, along with his ability to develop and inspire others, will undoubtedly make him a huge asset to the Referee Department as we seek to further impact on non-Society referees in the North".